

...UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY
[EKKLESIA]; AND THE GATES OF [HADES]
SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT

JESUS CHRIST
MATTHEW 16:18

CHAPTER 4: HOW EKKLESIA BECAME CHURCH



In the first three chapters I have regularly alluded to the fact that there is a difference between ekklesia and church. In this chapter, you will learn that difference. It will undoubtedly be the most critical part of this entire book for you.

In this chapter, I need to accomplish three specific things. First, you need to be convinced that ekklesia and church are completely different. Second, you will learn that the word *church* was substituted for ekklesia, and why the switch was made. Three, most importantly you need to see the impact this substitution has had on you and the Body of Christ. Please read this chapter prayerfully. Acknowledge whatever doubts, concerns, and questions you may have, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you through this learning process (John 16:13).

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MATTHEW 16:18 IN NINE TRANSLATIONS

New International Version

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will *build my church*, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Revised Standard Version

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will *build my church*, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.

New American Standard Bible

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will *build My church*; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.

Bible in Basic English

And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock *will my church be based*, and the doors of hell will not overcome it.

American Standard Version

And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will *build my church*; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Weymouth's New Testament

And I declare to you that you are Peter, and that upon this Rock I will *build my Church*, and the might of Hades shall not triumph over it.

Amplified Bible

And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, *Petros* – a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, *petra* – a huge rock like Gibraltar] I will *build*

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my church, (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].

World English Bible

I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will ***build my assembly***, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

King James Version

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will *build my church*; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Nearly any translation of the bible you choose, Matthew 16:18 will record Jesus as declaring that He would *build His 'church'*. I checked over a dozen translations and only found two that used the word *assembly* instead of *church*. They were the World English Bible Translation, and The Emphasized New Testament¹. There may be a few more, but I believe you get my point that the great majority of bible translations use *church*. I never questioned this, and I doubt that until now, you had either.

For those who like to dig a little deeper and investigate the original Greek words used in this passage, you will find *ekklesia* is the word that is often translated as *church*. Therefore, you can easily assume that *ekklesia* and *church* are the same. Again, we have been given no reason to explore this further. But just on whim, why not look up the word *church* in your own dictionary. Specifically, investigate its

¹ Kregel Publications. *The Emphasized New Testament* by Joseph Bryant Rotherham.

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origin and the root word from which it is translated. See for yourself how it is defined, and if it is translated from the Greek word *ekklēsia*.

In case you don't want to put this book down and do some research, I will give you two of the definitions I found. Take specific note of the origin of the word church.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

- 1 : a building for public and especially Christian worship
- 2 : the clergy or officialdom of a religious body
- 3 often capitalized : a body or organization of religious believers:
as a : the whole body of Christians b : denomination <the Presbyterian church>c : congregation
- 4 : a public divine worship <goes to church every Sunday>
- 5 : the clerical profession <considered the church as a possible career>

Origin of the word 'church' (etymology)

Middle English *chirche*, from Old English *cirice*, ultimately from Late Greek *kyriakon*, from Greek, neuter of *kyriakos* of the lord, from *kyrios* lord, master; akin to Sanskrit *śūra* hero, warrior

Dictionary.com

1. a building for public Christian worship.
2. public worship of God or a religious service in such a building:
to attend church regularly.
3. (*sometimes initial capital letter*) the whole body of Christian believers; Christendom.

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4. (*sometimes initial capital letter*) any division of this body professing the same creed and acknowledging the same ecclesiastical authority; a Christian denomination: *the Methodist Church*.
5. that part of the whole Christian body, or of a particular denomination, belonging to the same city, country, nation, etc.
6. a body of Christians worshipping in a particular building or constituting one congregation: *She is a member of this church*.
7. ecclesiastical organization, power, and affairs, as distinguished from the state: *separation of church and state; The missionary went wherever the church sent him*.
8. the clergy and religious officials of a Christian denomination.
9. the Christian faith: *a return of intellectuals to the church*.
10. (*initial capital letter*) the Christian Church before the Reformation.
11. (*initial capital letter*) the Roman Catholic Church.
12. the clerical profession or calling: *After much study and contemplation, he was prepared to enter the church*.
13. a place of public worship of a non-Christian religion.
14. any non-Christian religious society, organization, or congregation: *the Jewish church*.

Origin of the word church

before 900; Middle English *chir* (*i*) *che*, Old English *cir* (*i*) *ce* ≪ Greek *kyri* (*a*) *kón* (*dóma*) the Lord's (house), neuter of *kyriakós* of the master, equivalent to *kyri* (*os*) master (*kýr* (*os*) power + *-ios* noun suffix) + *-akos*, variant of *-ikos* -ic; akin to Dutch *kerk*, German *Kirche*, Old Norse *kirkja*.

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Using the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, and Dictionary.com you can see how ‘church’ is defined. But did you notice its origin? In neither dictionary do you find the Greek word *ekklesia*. Check most dictionaries and you won’t find *ekklesia* there either. Why? Because, the word *church* is not translated from *ekklesia*. The actual root word for church is *kyriakon*. Jesus specifically said, “. . .upon this rock I will build my *ekklesia*” not *kyriakon aka church*.

The original languages of scripture all have the word *ekklesia*, yet it somehow became translated as church. The facts show us that church *is not* the proper translation of *ekklesia*. How did this happen? Was this a literary mistake? Is it just a matter of words evolving over time, as some have suggested? The answer is rooted in the history of both words.

I don’t claim to be a biblical expert. I don’t have a string of letters, Th.D, M.Div, or Ph.D, behind my name. I am just a believer, like you, with the ability to read and comprehend information. Many of the books I’ve read, many of the sermons and lectures I’ve listened to, and in nearly every bible translation I have, has implied that *ekklesia* is the word translated as *church* – but it just ain’t so.

Whenever I am confronted with new information, it is my personal policy to research it to the best of my ability. It did not take much digging to uncover the facts behind this switch of words. Once again I challenge you to go online and google ‘*origin of the word church*’. I guarantee that you will find more information than you ever knew existed. Article after article will concur that *ekklesia* is not the *church* and vice-versa. I encourage you to do your own research. By

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doing so, you will be more convinced of the reality of this word switch.

One of the startling revelations you will discover is why this change occurred. If you are not sitting down, you may want to take a seat before you read this next statement. *The word ekklesia was deliberately mistranslated by the authority of King James.* Let that sink in for a moment. The switch from *ekklesia* to *church*, was done on purpose. It was not an accident. *Ekklesia* is the original word, and should have been kept. At the very least it should have been translated as *an assembly or congregation*, but King James appeared to want every hint of its true meaning erased.

*Ekklesia is what Jesus
said He would build*

Ekklesia is what Jesus said He would build. In the original language of the New Testament, *ekklesia* is found in over one hundred scriptures. If you consider the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew text, you will find *ekklesia* used many times in the Old Testament as well. *Ekklesia* is the right word and should have been kept, and *church* is the wrong translation, and should be discarded. *Church* is what King James inserted – not what Jesus said He would build. Because of King James willful switch, nearly every translation of the bible uses the incorrect word *church*.

On the surface, this may not seem like a big deal. However, as we explore the *ekklesia* and *church* in detail, you will discover the damage this word switch has done to the Body of Christ.

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WHO WAS KING JAMES?

To understand the reason behind this change, let's consider some historical facts about King James. Surely if there is a bible named after him, it would be wise to understand as much as possible about who he was.

From his own writings, it is he considered himself a god. For example, during a dispute over the marriage of one of his sons, he disbanded the parliament for their criticisms. He is quoted as saying,

"Monarchy is the greatest thing on earth. Kings are rightly called gods since just like God they have power of life and death over all their subjects in all things. They are accountable to God only ... so it is a crime for anyone to argue about what a king can do."

This statement coincides with his publishing of two books, *The Divine Right of Kings* and *The True Law of Free Monarchies*. Both show the absolute godlike authority he felt he, and all kings had. His line of thinking was demonstrated when the Puritans attempted to challenge the hierarchal order of the Church of England. They had proposed the use of a presbytery, along with the bishops. King James angrily rebuked them. He saw this as an attempt to diminish his power in the church.² Remember, he felt as king that he had absolute power. His mindset is important to understand in relationship to the *ekklesia*.

Prior to commissioning what we know as The King James Version of the bible, he had made himself the head of the Church of

¹ <http://www.greatsite.com/timeline-english-bible-history/king-james.html>

² King James favored the system where the he could rule the church through bishops

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England. From his encounter with the Puritans, he clearly wanted to maintain its top down hierarchal order. The mistranslation he ordered protected his interest.

EKKLESIA

This is a good point to get a better understanding of the word *ekklesia*.¹ It is a combination of two root words: *ek*, meaning *out from* and *kaleo*, which means *to call*. So, it is easy to conclude that *ekklesia* simply means *to be called out*.

Words have basic definitions, but are at times, defined by culture. For example, in 1916, if I were to have said that, “Robert has a cool house”. Those around me would have believed that I was referring to the temperature of Robert’s home. In 2016, my statement would be commonly understood as complementing the style and look of his home. The basic definition of cool has not changed. However, its use in contemporary culture has created a different understanding of it.

In his book, *Ekklesia Rising*, Dean Briggs wrote:

Some words have a clear cultural and/or historical context that greatly illuminates their meaning and usage. *Ekklesia* is such a word.²

It is only when you grasp historically how *ekklesia* was understood in the culture of Jesus day that you will be able to comprehend why King James purposely mistranslated it. Surface definitions of

¹ <https://www.ecclesia.org/truth/ekklesia.html>

² *EKKLESIA RISING: The Authority of Christ in Communities of Contending Prayer* © 2014 by Dean Briggs Published by Champion Press Page I08

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ekklesia won't give you the context you need to transition from church.

In my book, *NO LONGER CHURCH AS USUAL*,¹ I wrote that the people in Jesus day understood the ekklesia to be an arm of the Roman government.² The Romans assimilated this concept into their culture from the Greeks. The ekklesia operated in public affairs long before the Romans decided to use it. Ekklesia was not a Christian term in those days.

What was so unique about ekklesia, and why did Jesus specifically use that particular word? Ekklesia had been practiced for hundreds of years. It was commonly understood by everyone. When the religious elite, government officials, or any average Joe on the street heard you mention the ekklesia, they understood it and its purpose. It wasn't simply a called-out assembly. It was much more than that. The ekklesia was a governing council that established policies, legislated, conferred or denied citizenship, and elected officials. The ekklesia had ruling powers. Don't let this fact escape you. It is the very basis for Jesus using this word.

When Jesus declared that He would build His ekklesia, He knew those around Him would understand the implications. Jesus surely knew that the ekklesia was a ruling and governing body. That is why He immediately outlined its' authority by giving it the keys of the

¹ *NO LONGER CHURCH AS USUAL: Restoring First Century Values and Structure to the 21st Century Church* Second Edition © 2013 T. Lemoss Kurtz

² *Ibid* Page 31 (at the time of publication, I equated ekklesia as being synonymous with church)

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Kingdom of Heaven. He expected the authority His ekklesia to far exceed the authority of the earthly ekklesia. His ekklesia would be authorized to bind and loose on earth anything that was already bound and loosed in Heaven. The borders of the Kingdom of Heaven would expand into the hearts, homes, neighborhoods, cities and regions. The criteria for being included in His ekklesia was having a revelation that He was the Christ, Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:15-19).

Get this picture in your spirit. The ekklesia that Jesus said what He is building has authority to rule on earth from Heaven. The ekklesia Jesus is building is a divine ruling and governing body of believers to impact the earth from Heaven. ‘Thy Kingdom come and Thy will be done...’ is the mandate and rallying cry of the

The ekklesia was a governing council that established policies, legislated, conferred or denied citizenship, and elected officials

Lord’s ekklesia (Matthew 6:10). The Ekklesia has access to keys that unlock doors that have kept the masses in darkness. The Ekklesia, when necessary, is authorized to break down gates that keep people in bondage (Micah 2:13). The Ekklesia has authority and power to act.

The ekklesia that Jesus is building must be reactivated today. The first thing that must be addressed is the system that has contained the Lord’s people. It is called the church. The ekklesia must break free of the church system. This transition will require access to heavens keys,

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or maybe authorization to forcefully break down some gates. Therefore, it is critical that you be clear in your heart about what the ekklesia is and is not. It is not a passive called out group of people who get together each week, sing kumbaya, eat cookies and punch and wait for the rapture. It is a divinely called out, ruling, governing authority that challenges the Gates of Hades at every opportunity.

KING JAMES HAD AN AGENDA

I tend to believe the devil used King James to distort our understanding of our identity as the ekklesia. You act according to what you think (Proverbs 23:7). Even with the best and most pious intentions, if you think in terms of church, and all its trappings, you will never rise above that mindset. When you better understand the ekklesia, you will recognize the divine intent to empower you to impact your family, your neighborhood, your city, your state, your nation and yes, the world itself. In the ekklesia, you are only limited by the assignment given to you by the Lord. As you learn more about King James, you will understand why he was the perfect candidate to implement the word change that has affected your spiritual life – without you knowing it – until now.

King James was well educated. Some historians say that he was more of a scholar than warrior. This can also be documented by his several writings. He understood the original languages of scripture, and the word ekklesia, and its implications, most likely, did not escape

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him. Think about it. When the Puritans suggested the use of a Presbytery¹, King James brutally rebuffed them purely because he saw this concept as a threat to his authority.

At the Hampton Court Conference in 1604 he was reported to have said, “No Bishops – No King!” He was completely vested in the hierarchal system in the Church of England, of which he was the self-appointed head. He controlled the church through the bishops. He supported them because he believed the Apostolic Succession of Bishops² reinforced The Divine Right of Kings.³ This is the mindset King James had when he commissioned the now famous King James Version of the Bible.

The king gathered several scholars to tackle the task of translating the bible that would carry his name. He then gave them a list of fifteen instructions they had to use in the process. It was the third instruction that reveals his intent regarding the use of the word *ekkle-sia*. In his instructions, he wrote:

The old ecclesiastical words to be kept; as the word *church*, not to be translated *congregation*, &c.⁴

¹ The Puritans believed the church should be governed by presbyters elected by the congregations, rather than bishops.

² The Apostolic Succession of Bishops is the belief that all bishops can be traced back to one of the original apostles.

³ The Divine Right of Kings asserts that the monarchy is subject to no earthly authority.

⁴ You can document this instruction by researching KING JAMES INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TRANSLATORS. This is the third of fifteen guidelines he gave them. http://www.kjvonly.org/other/kj_instructs.htm

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In other words, he specifically told them to use the word *church* instead of correct the translation *ekklesia*. The translators obeyed him without question¹. Why did he oppose the use of *ekklesia*? Go back and review his mindset. (1) He believed in The Divine Right of Kings. (2) He did not believe anyone had authority over a king. (3) He rebuffed the Puritans because they suggested a Presbytery, which would have shared the power over the Church of England. (4) He ruled the church through the bishops. These four reasons help to explain his instructions to the translators. When you consider that King James was well educated, and that he had a keen understanding of biblical language and history, this suggests that he knew the *ekklesia* could potentially threaten his authority, possibly more than the Puritans. Using the word *church* would effectively hide the truth from the masses.

So, what's in a name? Everybody saved and unsaved, young and old, rich or poor can tell you something about 'church'. It is deeply ingrained in our social and cultural psyche. This one word has established a religious culture that dominates how most people measure their spiritual identity. Because the word 'church' seems so harmless, some may be tempted to dismiss any arguments for *ekklesia* as chasing shadows. The word *church* was not new to King James. Like *ekklesia*, it had been around for centuries before he commanded it to be used. For that reason, I want to share with you the root word, and the other

¹ In Acts 19, *ekklesia* was translated as assembly. For them to have used the word *church*, would have implied the possibility of illegal churches. It appears Acts 19 had to be translated accurately to protect the agenda of King James.

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words that have been translated as church. You will see how we have lived out these false definitions and have missed becoming the *ekklesia* Jesus said He would build.

Again, the word King James used to mistranslate *ekklesia* was *church*. Notice in his instructions to the translators he said, “The *old ecclesiastical words* to be kept...” This suggests that other words for *ekklesia* had been used prior to him commissioning his bible translation. Let’s explore these *old ecclesiastical words* and their true historical meanings.

The Greek word *church* is translated from is *kyriakon*.¹ In Scotland *church* was known as *kirk*; in Germany, it was known as *kirche*; and to the Dutch, the word was *kerk*. Basically, it is defined as ‘the lord’s house’. I purposely did not capitalize the word ‘lord’, because of the confusion around what *lord* is being referenced. Some would suggest this is a reference to Jesus Christ, while others believe it is a reference to the sun god, Christo Helios, worshipped by the pagans.

It is important to note that *kyriakon* was primarily a ‘house’. You can easily see the impact that this has had on us today? Church is most commonly identified as a building. If you ask most people to describe ‘church’ to you, they will most likely describe either a building they go to, or a sectarian group they belong to. Even those who say that the ‘church’ is called out believers, usually end up describing a group called out and into a building or denomination.

¹ Earliest use of the word church can be traced back to the 12th century.

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Let's look at the pagan connection to the word church. Church is also translated from the Anglo-Saxon word *Circe* (pronounced *ser see*). In Greek mythology, Circe was the name of a goddess who was the daughter of the Sun God, Christos Helios. She supposedly had the power to turn men into swine. What makes this interesting is that many pagans worshipped Helios, including Constantine. This explains why he ordered the first day of the week, SUN day, as the day of worship for the 'church' (aka the lord's house). Even today, the clear majority of all 'churches' gather on Sunday with no thought as to why.¹

The 'church world' is a far cry from the ekklesia. It promotes doctrinal insecurity, which accounts for the thousands of denominational sects. Most people identify more with their sectarian belief system than they do with Jesus Christ. The church world is a containment system, and denominations deepen the level of that containment. I often say that when a person tells me what denomination they identify with, they are revealing the perimeters of their belief.

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. (2Peter 1:20)

Before you get angry and throw this book across the room and send a posse to hunt me down, I want you to think about something. When you submit to a denomination, you submit to an established belief system. You are taught, explicitly and implicitly, that you must

¹ This book will not explore the arguments relating to contemporary Sabbath Day observances. My purpose is to reveal words that are translated as church.

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measure everything by the beliefs of that denomination. This is often presented as *judging everything by the Word of God*. That statement most accurately means to *judge everything by our denominations interpretation of the Word of God*.

When you hear statements like, “*We don’t believe that*” or “*We don’t do that*”, you should first identify who ‘we’ is. Is ‘we’ the entirety of the Body of Christ, or is ‘we’ limited to those embracing a denominational interpretation of scripture? If it is the latter, then these statements may be an indication that you are connected with a belief system that may potentially limit your spiritual growth.

I believe sound doctrine is vital to the health of every believer. Transitioning from the church system into a functioning ekklesia will require clear doctrinal foundations. The first century apostles may have had different ministry disciplines, but generally their doctrine was the same. They all walked firmly in the same values: the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the priesthood of all believers, the full expression of the Holy Spirit, growing and expanding the kingdom through covenant relationships, and no one lacking the resources necessary to fulfill their purpose. From these values, doctrines were taught that brought clarity to the ekklesia in the first century.

To be free on the Lord’s terms means you must first identify who and what is holding you captive. That is the dilemma we are in today. The transition from church to ekklesia can be a daunting undertaking. Generally, the religious masses have no clue that there is a difference between the two. Someone said that it took ten plagues to get Israel out of Egypt, but it took forty years to get Egypt out of Israel.

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Many who read this will choose to remain ‘church folks’ and reject becoming the ekklesia simply because ‘church’ is the only thing they have ever known. They prefer the miserable comfort of the known, rather than the uneasy path to the unknown. Others will believe this is no big deal. “Why not just leave things the way they are?” Some will blatantly turn a blind eye to the undeniable, historical fact that there is a difference between what it means to be ‘the ekklesia’ against what they know of ‘church’. Simultaneously, there will be

The religious status quo has fought every major move of God since the Reformation

many ‘church leaders’ giving glowing lip service to ‘equipping the saints for the work of ministry’ while defining the work as task that ultimately benefit the church system they know.

There will also be the heresy hunters. These are people who believe it is their duty to find error in anything they deem to be new. The religious status quo has fought every major move of God since the Reformation. Frankly, I believe they are an asset to the purposes of God. Why? For those of us who are navigating and pioneering new horizons, it is good to have your path tried and tested. Even Paul wisely submitted his revelation privately to ‘those of reputation’ so that he would not run in vain (Galatians 2:2). Likewise, the manuscript of this book was submitted to others who had full authority to challenge anything I have written.

I am keenly and deeply aware of my own shortcomings. The necessity to transition from church to ekklesia is fresh in my spirit. I

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don't pretend to have all the answers, but I am not afraid to fire a shot across the bow to alert the hearts of those in the 'church as we know it'. I write this book to challenge believers to begin moving in the right direction.

Recently, I taught a five-part series entitled *Understanding What Jesus Is Building*. In the first three sessions, I laid the groundwork for the heart of the series, which was the historical mistranslation of ekklesia into the word church. To my grateful surprise, by the time we got to the third session, many in the class had discovered the facts on their own. The class quickly shifted from gaining information to seeking instruction for activation. There was a divine impartation that swept the room, and several began to 'connect the dots' of things they had learned in the past to the reality of the present truth. Scripture they had heard and quoted for years took on new life as they grasped the purpose of the ekklesia, even on the surface. I pray that you will experience this level of impartation too.

A WORD OF CAUTION

God imparts truth to draw us closer to Him. He imparts wisdom to strengthen us for His purpose. He releases fresh revelation to align us with His purposes. Yet, revelation can be dangerous in the wrong hands. Learning something new can become a fad for some, or a weapon for others.

As I studied, researched, and taught the material in this book, two serious and probing questions were brought to my attention. First, "If in our quest to discover the accurate wineskin, is it possible

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that the wine itself has been tainted?” Second, while teaching the class on ekklesia, one person asked, “If we have discovered that the word *church* was willfully mistranslated in our bibles, can we trust the rest of the bible to be accurate?” Both concerns must be addressed. First, let’s look at the potential tainting of the wine. This idea implies that the bible has been so corrupted by man, that it cannot be trusted.

Only Truth can overcome
lies or the misrepresentation
of historical facts

The internet has opened a floodgate of ideas, theories and access to information at the click of a mouse. One tactic of

the enemy in recent years is to twist historical information into propaganda intended to weaken and destroy Christianity. Yes, it is a fact that men have twisted scripture to justify many evil acts like the Crusades and slavery in the name of Christianity. It’s a fact that some pagan concepts and ideas have been mixed into the ‘church’ culture. Some teach that the bible is a mythological tool used to control people. There are people teaching that Christianity is a copycat religion, plagiarizing stories written thousands of years before Christ. And now, in this book you are being introduced to the *church ekklesia* switcheroo.

These things cannot be ignored. Sticking your head in the religious or denominational sand won’t make them go away. Only Truth can overcome lies or the misrepresentation of historical facts. Only Truth, not religious ideology, can bind the effect of dark and deadly theology on the minds and in the hearts of men and women. It is

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Truth that reveals the heart of the Father for every generation. Truth is not just a book we call the Bible, Truth is Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God (John 1:1; 14:6; Revelation 19:13). He will build His ekklesia with those who have the revelation that He is the Christ, Son of the Living God.

Let me remind you of the premise of this book. We must transition from *church* to *ekklesia*. *Ekklesia* was mistranslated *church* at the instructions of a man, King James. *Ekklesia* is what Jesus said He would build, *church* is what King James substituted. *Ekklesia* was historically understood to be a ruling council. *Church* is generally a building filled with people. But beyond these contrast, we must take hold of what Jesus intended. He made it known that the ekklesia would overcome the Gates of Hades.

Hades is the abode of death. Dead people. Dead ideology. Dead philosophies. Dead religion and dead gods. It's within this realm of this dead underworld that antichristian ideas are birthed and vomited out into an unsuspecting and gullible world. The target becomes anyone who would give ear to their dark

One tactic of the enemy in recent years is to twist historical information into propaganda intended to weaken and destroy Christianity

teachings. Their purpose is to foster fear, doubt and confusion in the earth, specifically within the ranks of Christendom. Truth sends light into dark places. Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God, exposes the thoughts and very intent of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). Thus, this is

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not a battle of philosophies and religion (flesh and blood) but an exposure of eternal intent to overcome darkness (Ephesians 3:10-11).

In these conflicts, we must realize that our warfare is not at the flesh and blood level. The enemy attempts to draw us into the fray at that level, because he knows that it would pit worldly intellectualism against spiritual truth. To the carnal mind, both secular or religious, the intellectual arguments would appear the most logical. Spiritual weaponry does not make sense to the carnal mind. The weapons we utilize are strategic in the spirit, and they must only be used at the instructions of the Holy Spirit. To the carnal mind our actions may seem futile, but in our obedience, they can:

- Open oceans with a rod (Exodus 14:16-21)
- Destroy impenetrable walls with a seven-day march (Joshua 6:1-20)
- Defeat massive armies with 300 men using trumpets and lanterns (Judges 7:16-25)
- Defeat trained gigantic warriors with a slingshot (1Samuel 17:47-51)
- Defeat massive armies with a choir (2Chronicles 20:20-23)

The greatest strategic move of the Father sent His Son to the cross, raised Him from the dead, and opened the way for billions of believers to carry out His will in the earth through Him (1Corinthians 26-8).

Some translators may have tainted the bible, but the Word of God remains pure. God is not intimidated by corruption. His Word

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will not be diminished by the nefarious actions of self-centered men (Psalms 119:140; Proverbs 30:5). Keep the original purpose of God in your heart. His intent from the beginning was to empower man to rule and manage the earth (Genesis 1:28; 2:15). Embracing the transition from the man-made church to the ekklesia, can empower you through the Holy Spirit. That is why this book was written. For we are not as the many, *corrupting the word of God*: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God, speak we in Christ (2Corinthians 2:17 ASV). Pray over this book and everything you read outside of scripture. The Holy Spirit will help you to discern Truth from trickery.

This leads us to the second question, “If we have discovered that the word *church* was willfully mistranslated in our bibles, can we trust the rest of the bible to be accurate?” My answer is emphatically, “Yes!” The Word of God is true, even though men have tampered with it in an attempt to appease their political and personal agendas. The foundation of satan’s deception in the Garden into this very day is to distort God’s word.

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;" but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die." (Genesis 3:1-3 NKJV)

This very first interaction between the woman and the serpent shows his intent to introduce doubt regarding God’s Word. The woman knew God’s instruction but allowed the devil to define it. The

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result was devastating to all humanity (Romans 5:12). This could have been repeated in a hot Judean desert when the same devil tried to tempt Jesus after forty days of fasting.

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17 NKJV)

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan river. Immediately, the heavens opened and a voice declared, "*This is my beloved Son...*" This was the last declaration Jesus heard from the Father before being driven into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. The devil tried to use the same tactic he did with the woman in the Garden by casting doubt on the Word of God. "*If you are the Son of God...*" was meant to cause Jesus to question what God had spoken. Praise God, Jesus' answer struck directly to the core of satan's intent. *It is not on bread alone that man is to live, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God* (Matthew 4:4)!¹ This time the results were devastating to the devil (Romans 5:19; IJohn 3:8).

Jesus said that we are to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. This begins with the written word. The logos. There are many translations of the written word; some good, some bad. Many are scholarly attempts to translate the original languages. Some are clearly interpretive translations that underscore a doctrinal

¹ Matthew 4:4 from the Twentieth Century New Testament Bible

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persuasion. Others are just translations of a translation. And then there are groups that teach that the King James Bible is the only 'authorized' version for Christians. It would be a daunting task for most of us to track down every mistranslated word or phrase in all these different versions.

I believe it is the Holy Spirit who brings clarity to the Word of God (John 14:26; 16:13). Beginning with the sixteenth century reformation, the Holy Spirit has been restoring biblical truths to the Body of Christ. Salvation by grace through faith, holiness, water baptism, the present-day manifestation of the Holy Spirit, the active gifts of the Spirit, and the restoration of the five-fold ministry gifts have brought us to this place in history.

It is God's intent to release millions of believers into the earth to expand His kingdom. To do this, He is recalibrating religious structures, challenging hierarchal systems, and revealing to the saints their identity and purpose in Christ Jesus. The facts about the word ekklesia is not new information. It's meaning and history has always been available. It is however, what the Holy Spirit is highlighting in this season. I believe this falls under one of those divine truths *which in other generations was not given to the sons of men, but the revelation of it has now been made to his holy Apostles and prophets in the Spirit* (Ephesians 3:5).

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We can trust the Word of God. The Word of God is strengthened by relationship. As you nurture your walk with the Lord, the Holy Spirit will release more and more to you. The information you are learning in this book is a tool to strengthen you. My prayer is that what you learn will provoke you to dig deeper into the Word of God. Only in His word will you find the foundation you need to pursue your destiny (Psalms 119:9).

Aren't you thankful that the Lord is opening your eyes to His purpose for you in this season? It is no accident that the facts surrounding the word *church* are being released now. God in His wisdom and timing gives us what we can handle. What He gives is accompanied with apostolic wisdom for implementation. That will be the focus of the remainder of this book. We will begin this next phase by looking at six factors that accompany a transition. Are you ready? Let's go.