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**Part 1: Introduction**

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

No revelation or spiritual insight is valid unless it can be found throughout scripture

Any revelation must supported by scripture that is used in context

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

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**Part 1: Introduction**

The first three times ekklesia is used in the New Testament, it was spoken by Jesus Christ

Matthew 16:18 NKJV "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My [ekklesia], and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 18:17 NKJV 17 "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the [ekklesia]. But if he refuses even to hear the [ekklesia], let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

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## Part 1: Introduction

There is an equivalent word 'qahal' [kaw-hal] found in the Old Testament that was translated as ekklesia in the Septuagint – which is the Greek translation of Hebrew text and was commonly used during the time Jesus was on the earth. The first time it was used in the Old Testament was Exodus 32:1

Exodus 32:1 NKJV 1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together [qahal] to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

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## Part 1: Introduction

The **First Mention Principle**: "God indicates in the **first mention** of a subject the truth with which that subject stands connected in the mind of God."

The **Progressive Mention Principle**: "God makes the revelation of any given truth increasingly clear as the word proceeds to its consummation."

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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## Part 1: Introduction

We don't speak Hebrew, Chaldean or Greek, but scripture was originally written in these languages and to a people who had clear concepts of the words being used.

We must remind ourselves that scripture was not written in a western hemisphere context

To read our experiences into scripture does grave disservice to the Word of God

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## Part 1: Introduction

Ephesians 2:2 NKJV 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Some have interpreted the 'prince of the power of the air' to mean that satan is over the radio signals used to transmit data – that clearly didn't exist when this was written. This passage was dealing with an age and system containing a natural propensity to sin

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## Part 1: Introduction

Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJV 11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

The work of ministry is not activities we do in our modern 'church systems'

Ushering, greeting, nursery, sound teams, food service, praise teams, and even the way ministry gifts are portrayed today did not exist when this was written

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## Part 1: Introduction

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Galatians 1:8-9 NKJV 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed [anathema]. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed [anathema].

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**Part 2: The Value of Words**

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

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When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

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**Part 2: The Value of Words**

The first three times ekklesia is used in the New Testament, it was spoken by Jesus Christ

Matthew 16:18 And Matthew 18:17

There is an equivalent word 'qahal' [kaw-hal] found in the Old Testament that was translated as ekklesia in the Septuagint – which is the Greek translation of Hebrew text and was commonly used during the time Jesus was on the earth. The first time it was used in the Old Testament was Exodus 32:1

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## Part 2: The Value of Words

The **First Mention Principle**: "God indicates in the **first mention** of a subject the truth with which that subject stands connected in the mind of God."

The **Progressive Mention Principle**: "God makes the revelation of any given truth increasingly clear as the word proceeds to its consummation."

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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## Part 2: The Value of Words

We don't speak Hebrew, Chaldean or Greek, but scripture was originally written in these languages and to a people who had clear concepts of the words being used.

Scripture was not written in a western hemisphere context

To read our experiences into scripture does grave disservice to the Word of God

Words paint pictures in our mind – the more vague they are – the greater the potential for disagreement will exist

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## Part 2: The Value of Words

Words make up our language which help create our worldview – our social reality – our spiritual beliefs

Our language – which is a composite of words – becomes the tool to express what is our is not important for us to notice in our worldview

Why is this important?

Words create the perimeters of what you will ultimately do, think and believe. If the words are incorrect – what you do, think and believe will also be incorrect.

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## Part 2: The Value of Words

**Revelation 12:7-9 NKJV** 7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world (oikoumene); he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Deception is the tool of the devil by redefining words

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## Part 2: The Value of Words

**Genesis 3:1-3 NKJV** 1 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'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 '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 3:4 NKJV 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

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## Part 2: The Value of Words

**Genesis 3:5-7 NKJV** 5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew (**sight corrupted**) that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

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## Part 2: The Value of Words

2 Corinthians 4:4 NKJV 4 ...the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Demonic deception becomes corrupted truth over time

The devil seeks to weaken the Body of Christ through layers of deception in each generation – what was taboo in one generation is acceptable in the next – until the sin becomes the norm

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## Part 2: The Value of Words

Ekklesia to church was a progressive deception complete with layers of 'rightness' that any challenge to it's system is deemed to be in error

Challenging the church system is often equated to a personal attack. It suggest that all the good things experienced in 'church' have been wrong

It is difficult to separate the system from personal experiences

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## Ekklesia In The Word

ESTABLISHING THE LORD'S EKKLESIA THROUGHOUT  
SCRIPTURE

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### Part 3: The 'Deception' Factor

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

The first three times ekklesia is used in the New Testament, it was spoken by Jesus Christ

Matthew 16:18 And Matthew 18:17

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There is an equivalent word 'qahal' [kaw-hal] found in the Old Testament that was translated as ekklesia in the Septuagint – which is the Greek translation of Hebrew text and was commonly used during the time Jesus was on the earth. The first time it was used in the Old Testament was Exodus 32:1

The **First Mention Principle**: "God indicates in the **first mention** of a subject the truth with which that subject stands connected in the mind of God."

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### Part 3: The 'Deception' Factor

The **Progressive Mention Principle**: "God makes the revelation of any given truth increasingly clear as the word proceeds to its consummation."

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

Scripture was not written in a western hemisphere context – but to a people who had a clear understanding of the original words used both in meaning and context

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### Part 3: The 'Deception' Factor

To read our experiences into scripture does grave disservice to the Word of God

Words paint pictures in our mind – the more vague they are – the greater the potential for disagreement will exist

The wrong words can cause us to come to the wrong conclusions

Deception finds strength in the redefinition of words

Genesis 3 The serpent redefined the Word of God

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### Part 3: The 'Deception' Factor

The pushback against ekklesia is understandable – but unfortunate. It reveals the depth of the deception. Some get angry at the suggestion that they have been deceived. Religion take a posture of correctness that elevates itself above being deceived.

The only way to overcome deception is to expose it to the light of truth. This will cause many to run to the light – and expose those whose hearts are complicit with the darkness (John 3:9 they love darkness because their deeds are evil)

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### Part 3: The 'Deception' Factor

Isaiah 60:1-3 NKJV 1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep (gross) darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

God is raising up a people who will walk in the light

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### Part 3: The 'Deception' Factor

Demonic deception becomes a corrupted truth over time – it is not truth

The language of the lie becomes hard to dispute as it appears as logical, rational and truthful. [who to love, pro-choice]

**Romans 1:25 NKJV** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie...

**Isaiah 5:20 NKJV** Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

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### Part 3: The 'Deception' Factor

The English word 'church' has become linguistically, emotionally and spiritual connected to faith – even now some teach that we are in the 'church age'

The concept of church is deeply enshrined in believers and unbelievers

It appears harmless to the point that anything that contradicts it appears as an attack on a divine institution established by God Himself

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### Part 3: The 'Deception' Factor

The English word 'church' is in most bibles 115 times.

It's presence in the 'book' gives the impression of its biblical correctness.

Doctrines, denominational systems and multiple ideologies have been built around the concept of 'church'

Ekklesia as a word and concept has been hidden – misunderstood – and ignored as unnecessary

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### Part 3: The 'Deception' Factor

**Hidden** – most of us had no reason to look into the original languages.

**Misunderstood** – ekklesia is often described as the original Greek word that is translated into church. This is etymologically wrong

**Ignored as unnecessary** – many scholars have not seen any importance in understanding ekklesia in comparison to church.

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### Ekklesia In The Word

ESTABLISHING THE LORD'S EKKLESIA THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE

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### Part 4: A Touch of History

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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### Part 4: A Touch of History

Scripture was not written in a western hemisphere context – but to a people who had a clear understanding of the original words used both in meaning and context

The wrong words can cause us to come to the wrong conclusions

Deception finds strength in the redefinition of words

Genesis 3 The serpent redefined the Word of God

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### Part 4: A Touch of History

**2Peter 3:15-16 NKJV** ...and consider that the long suffering of our Lord is salvation--as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

The lack of understanding of ekklesia is creating a flurry of people who are twisting it to conform to their own agendas

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### Part 4: A Touch of History

Demonic deception becomes a form of corrupted truth over time – it is not truth

The language of the lie appears as logical, rational and even truthful making it hard to dispute. [who to love, pro-choice]

**Romans 1:25 NKJV** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie...

**Isaiah 5:20 NKJV** Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

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### Part 4: A Touch of History

The English word 'church' is in most bibles 115 times. In contrast ekklesia is not seen at all. Neither is aion, kosmos or oikoumene – because we don't read scripture in the original language it was written

The overwhelming presence of the English word 'church' in the 'book' gives the impression of its biblical correctness because that is all you see

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### Part 4: A Touch of History

Doctrines, denominational systems and multiple ideologies have been built around the concept of 'church'

Lexicons, concordances and dictionaries refer to ekklesia in such a way that it appears to be the Greek word from which the English word church is translated

Ekklesia as a word and concept has been hidden – misunderstood – and ignored as unnecessary

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### Part 4: A Touch of History

**Hidden** – most of us had no reason to look into the original languages.

**Misunderstood** – ekklesia is often described as the original Greek word that is translated into church. This is etymologically incorrect

**Ignored as an unnecessary matter** – many scholars have not seen any importance in understanding ekklesia in comparison to church.

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### Part 4: A Touch of History

Jesus was the first to use the word ekklesia in the New Testament. The first time qahal, the Old Testament equivalent of ekklesia - it was written by Moses.

From Exodus 32:1 to Ezekiel 38:13 qahal is found in the original text and always related to the gathering together of a group of people, and always around a specific matter to be dealt with

The Septuagint used the word ekklesia to describe these gatherings – a word that traveled with Israel

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### Part 4: A Touch of History

Israel as a nation endured 400 years of slavery, Babylonian captivity, hardships under various dynasties, and at the time of Jesus day, they were under Roman oppression. This was a specific time that was prophesied by Daniel

Head of Gold/Chaldean – The breast and arms of silver/Medes-Persian – Belly and thighs of brass/Grecians – legs and feet of iron/Roman

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### Part 4: A Touch of History

The qahal or ekklesia was still being practiced during the Grecian dynasty. This is evidenced in the fact that the Romans began using this concept to govern its territories. To most people, ekklesia became known as an arm of the Roman government.

The ekklesia in Jesus day represented the policies, practices and purposes of Rome.

Its relationship to the government was clear

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## Part 4: A Touch of History

Daniel prophesied that a divine government would be raised up during the rule of these earthly kings of Rome.

Daniel 2:44 NKJV 44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Who would represent this kingdom?

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## Part 4: A Touch of History

This brings us to the first time Jesus mentions the entity that most people had solely associated with the government of Rome – the ekklesia

Matthew 16:18 NKJV 18 "...on this rock I will build My [ekklesia], and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Daniel 2:44 ...[the kingdom it represents] shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Who wouldn't want to represent such a powerful kingdom?

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## Ekklesia In The Word

ESTABLISHING THE LORD'S EKKLESIA THROUGHOUT  
SCRIPTURE

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## Part 5: First Mention

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

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Deception finds strength in the redefinition of words

Genesis 3 The serpent redefined the Word of God

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## Part 5: First Mention

The predecessor to ekklesia – qahal – survived from the time of the Exodus into the days of Jesus earthly ministry

Daniel had prophesied of a time when a kingdom would be established on the earth that would overcome all other kingdoms – that time was during the Roman empire.

It was during this period that Jesus was born into the world. The first message was “Repent – for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”

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## Part 5: First Mention

The **First Mention Principle**: "God indicates in the **first mention** of a subject the truth with which that subject stands connected in the mind of God."

First mention is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

The **Progressive Mention Principle**: "God makes the revelation of any given truth increasingly clear as the word proceeds to its consummation." – we will explore many passages to understand the depth of ekklesia to us today

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## Part 5: First Mention

Ekklesia had become known as an arm of the Roman government. This understanding established the role, capacity and perimeters of an ekklesia in the minds of the people

The Roman ekklesia could legislate – establish policies – elect officials – confer or deny citizenship in behalf of the government

Only those who met the criteria of Rome could serve in the ekklesia

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## Part 5: First Mention

Jesus led his disciples 20 miles out of the way of their destination to a forbidden place – Caesarea Philippi

This place became the backdrop for Jesus to declare His intent to build His version of the ekklesia.

Knowing the history of the word ekklesia helps us to understand the Lord's intentions. He did not explain ekklesia to the disciples but rather revealed its perimeters to them

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## Part 5: First Mention

Matthew 16:18 is the first time ekklesia is specifically mentioned in scripture. The fact that Jesus used this word suggests that the attributes of ekklesia have some clear bearing on the lives of believers

Why ekklesia and not 'temple' or 'synagogue'?

Who qualifies to serve in the Lord's ekklesia?

What perimeters would it have?

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## Part 5: First Mention

**Matthew 16:13-16 NKJV** 13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

These questions were more than an opinion poll – it was a test to determine if the disciples had seen beyond human comprehension

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## Part 5: First Mention

**Matthew 16:17-20 NKJV** 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My [ekklesia], and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

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## Part 5: First Mention

Jesus had to tell Peter how He got the answer.

Flesh and blood could not discern Jesus (how people saw Jesus)

Through Peter's response, Jesus saw that the capacity to hear God in critical matters was possible

The ekklesia would be built with those who had the capacity to see Jesus as the Christ – Son of the Living God

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## Part 5: First Mention

The Roman ekklesia had the authority to call in the military to squash any resistance to Roman rule. Likewise, the first declaration Jesus made regarding the ekklesia is that the Gates of Hades would not be able to avail against it.

Second, the Lord's ekklesia would have full access to the government it represented – the Kingdom of Heaven.

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## Ekklesia In The Word

ESTABLISHING THE LORD'S EKKLESIA THROUGHOUT  
SCRIPTURE

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## Part 6: First Things First, Again

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

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The **First Mention Principle**: "God indicates in the **first mention** of a subject the truth with which that subject stands connected in the mind of God."

First mention is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

The **Progressive Mention Principle**: "God makes the revelation of any given truth increasingly clear as the word proceeds to its consummation." – we will explore many passages to understand the depth of ekklesia to us today

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## Part 6: First Things First, Again

Ekklesia had become known as an arm of the Roman government. This understanding established the role, capacity and perimeters of an ekklesia in the minds of the people

The Roman ekklesia could legislate – establish policies – elect officials – confer or deny citizenship in behalf of the government

Only those who met the criteria of Rome could serve in the ekklesia

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## Part 6: First Things First, Again

Matthew 16:18 is the first time ekklesia is specifically mentioned in scripture.

Jesus used this word suggests that the ekklesia He would build would carry similar authority to that of the Roman ekklesia.

This is the first hint that reveals why Jesus chose this particular word

From the beginning, the Lord ekklesia would be entrusted with authority to carry out its mission

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## Part 6: First Things First, Again

Jesus could have said He would build His synagogue or temple. They were both hubs for Jewish activities, rituals, debates and ceremonies.

If He had used either of these, we would not be having this discussion today. The 'church' as we know it would fit perfectly into the religious pattern the synagogue and temple represented.

Jesus broke from the religious pattern and invoked a secular pattern equally familiar to the people of that day

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## Part 6: First Things First, Again

The Roman ekklesia served under the Roman government. Everything it did represented the desires of Rome. Likewise, the Lord's ekklesia would represent His government – The Kingdom of Heaven.

The Roman ekklesia had the support of the military to put down any resistance to Roman rule. Jesus first declaration regarding His ekklesia was that 'the gates of Hades' would not prevail against it. What would this mean to a person in the first century?

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## Part 6: First Things First, Again

In Jesus day, and in the Old Testament, gates represented the place of power and authority.

Ruth 4:1-2 Boaz met the elders at the gate regarding Ruth

2Samuel 15:1-4 Absalom conspired against his father David

Proverbs 31:23 The husband of the virtuous woman was known in the gates as he sat among the elders

The gates is where business of the city or kingdom took place

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## Part 6: First Things First, Again

Jesus specifically mentioned the 'gates of Hades'. Why is this significant?

First, the physical location of the disciples at Caesarea Philippi was near a cave that bore the name 'The gate of Hades'. It was a place of human and animal sacrifices.

Second, to the Greeks, Hades was one of a trilogy of gods that included Zeus and Poseidon. Jesus was not invoking Greek mythology, but rather the influence of the enemy in the earth

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## Part 6: First Things First, Again

The gate of Hades represent the place where demonic influences were planned and released into the earth. It is the demonic spirit realm that seeks to find manifestation in the lives of God's creation.

Jesus declared that its plans, policies and purposes would not prevail against His ekklesia. This becomes the first thing we need to understand today. Any dark system we see cannot withstand the authority of the Lord's ekklesia. This is a fact that satan wants to keep hidden from believers.

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### Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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### Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

Matthew 16:13-17 NKJV 13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

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## Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

Matthew 16:18-20 NKJV 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My [ekklesia], and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

Ekklesia is inserted in lieu of 'church' because they are different

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## Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

The **First Mention Principle**: "God indicates in the **first mention** of a subject the truth with which that subject stands connected in the mind of God."

First mention is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

The **Progressive Mention Principle**: "God makes the revelation of any given truth increasingly clear as the word proceeds to its consummation." – we will explore many passages to understand the depth of ekklesia to us today

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## Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

There are 6 key factors surrounding the first use of the word ekklesia in the New Testament

### 1. Jesus is the first person to use ekklesia.

- Even though it was a secular word – Jesus choice of this word as deliberate and purposeful
- The fact that Jesus was the first person to mention ekklesia suggests the importance surrounding its contextual meaning

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### Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

2. The ekklesia Jesus said He would build was introduced as a corporate entity implicit with the parallel authority to that which was known of the Roman ekklesia
  - The Roman ekklesia could legislate, establish policies, confer or deny citizenship, and elect officials on behalf of Rome
  - The Lords ekklesia would similarly be able to legislate, establish policies, confer or deny citizenship and elect officials on behalf of the Kingdom of Heaven

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### Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

3. The ekklesia Jesus said He would build would be designed in such manner that the gates of Hades (demonic opposition) would not be able to prevail against it
  - This suggest the reality of warfare as well as the location of such battles.
  - Battles will be fought in the spirit realm in order to establish manifested presence in the earth. There is a 'kingdom coming on earth as it is in heaven' component injected into the role of the ekklesia

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### Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

4. Jesus commitment of the 'keys of the Kingdom of Heaven' reveals that the ekklesia the Lord is building will have full access to all the resources of the Kingdom of Heaven  
 These resources are accessed by prayer and meted out in divine strategies, legislative and judicial acts, that uproot demonic strongholds in the earth  
 The keys are not to be used outside of kingdom purposes

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## Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

5. The ekklesia Jesus is building activates heavens patterns and policies in the earth through binding and loosing
  - Whatever is to be bound or loosed is not the choice of the ekklesia. Their role is to carry out the purposes, patterns and policies determined in the Kingdom of Heaven. This emphasizes why prayer is critical to the effective operation of the ekklesia
  - Binding and loosing reinforces the original kingdom mandate to 'be fruitful, to multiply, to replenish the earth and subdue it

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## Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

6. Access into the Lord's ekklesia is limited to those who have the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the Living God
  - Matthew 16:17 NKJV 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
  - Matthew 16:20 NKJV 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.
  - What Jesus said to Peter and the disciples suggests access in the ekklesia is outside of religious means

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## Part 7: Six First Things About Ekklesia

If we don't know what we have in the ekklesia, we will mishandle and corrupt its use.

The 'church' system is filled with teachers who have a cerebral understanding of Jesus Christ, and have reduced 'kingdom resources' to philosophies for personal gain. Prosperity doctrines for personal wealth tops the misuse of kingdom resources.

With the current restoration of ekklesia will be the realignment of divine truth to divine purpose. The Holy Spirit will establish the line between 'church systems' and the ekklesia Jesus is building

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

The **First Mention Principle**: you discover the foundational truth of a word or phrase in scripture. This principle is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

The **Progressive Mention Principle**: this produces increasing clarity of the word or phrase by the way it is used throughout scripture

Ruling council is a root phrase used to express the primary concept of ekklesia. Other words could include congregation and assembly – but never the English word church

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

The first two times that ekklesia was mentioned in the New Testament was by Jesus Christ. They are the only times He mentioned them.

Mathews 16 Jesus declared He would build His version of the ekklesia. Six things we discovered:

1. The fact that Jesus (Word made flesh) specifically chose this word over other religious word options (temple or synagogue) suggests there is a divine intent

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

2. The ekklesia Jesus said He would build was introduced as a corporate entity modeled after the Roman ekklesia
  - The Roman ekklesia could legislate, establish policies, confer or deny citizenship, and elect officials on behalf of Rome
  - The Lords ekklesia would similarly be able to legislate, establish policies, confer or deny citizenship and elect officials on behalf of the Kingdom of Heaven

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

3. The ekklesia Jesus said He would build would be designed in such manner that the gates of Hades (demonic opposition) would not be able to prevail against it.
4. **Jesus committed of the 'keys of the Kingdom of Heaven' to His ekklesia indicating it would have full access to all the resources of the Kingdom of Heaven**
5. The ekklesia Jesus is building is authorized to activate heavens patterns and policies in the earth through binding and loosing

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

6. Access into the Lord's ekklesia is by revelation that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the Living God.
- Matthew 16:17 NKJV 17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
  - Matthew 16:20 NKJV 20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.
- The keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and the authority to bind and loose are given to those who have this primary revelation

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

Fourth factor among the first things we learn about ekklesia. Jesus committed of the 'keys of the Kingdom of Heaven' to His ekklesia indicating it would have full access to all the resources of the Kingdom of Heaven

Late Myles Monroe: "When you don't know the purpose of a thing – abuse is inevitable"

The keys of the kingdom are given to provide resources necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Father in the earth – not for self-gratification

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

2Kings 20:12-13 NKJV 12 At that time Berodach-Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick. 13 And Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures- the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory-all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

Seeking relevance will cause you to compromise things of value

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

2Kings 20:14-16 NKJV 14 Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" So Hezekiah said, "They came from a far country, from Babylon." 15 And he said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them." 16 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD:

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

2Kings 20:17-18 NKJV 17 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. 18 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'

The world has seen too much of our treasures

New Age has taken meditation and used it to the point that believers shun it – it is biblical

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## Part 8: Understanding What We Have

Music – given to worship and glorify God – has been taken by world systems and exploited for personal gain. We are bogged down in styles and genres while the world is selling our tools through demonic platforms

Technology has been taken by the world, at the same time that 'church systems' are declaring systems that could be used to spread the gospel as tools of the devil

It's time to take back what was 'given away'

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

The **First Mention Principle**: you discover the foundational truth of a word or phrase in scripture. This principle is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

The **Progressive Mention Principle**: this produces increasing clarity of the word or phrase by the way it is used throughout scripture

Ekklesia can be defined conceptually as a ruling council, but also could be translated as congregation or assembly, but never as church

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

The first two times that ekklesia was mentioned in the New Testament was by Jesus Christ. They are the only times He mentioned them.

Mathews 16 Jesus declared He would build His version of the ekklesia. Six things we discovered:

1. The fact that it was Jesus who used ekklesia, rather than temple or synagogue as His model suggest both the importance and the intent of what He would build

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

2. Ekklesia was modeled after the Roman ekklesia which could legislate, establish policies, confer or deny citizenship, and elect officials on behalf of Rome. Implicit is that the Lord's ekklesia would be able to do the same on behalf of the Kingdom of Heaven
3. The gates of Hades will not prevail against the ekklesia Jesus said He would build. It has the structural integrity capable of overcoming demonic opposition.

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

4. Jesus committed the 'keys of the Kingdom of Heaven' to His ekklesia indicating it would have full access to all the resources of the Kingdom of Heaven
5. The ekklesia Jesus is building is authorized to activate heavens patterns and policies in the earth through binding and loosing
6. Access into the Lord's ekklesia is by revelation – specifically that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the Living God.

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

Matthew 16 established the ekklesia in concept, its governing perimeters and its authority in the earth

In contrast, the 'church' carries none of these attributes even though we have been taught to believe it has.

The foundation for church began in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century with Constantine. It sterilized the faith and shifted the trajectory of the Body of Christ from impacting the earth to an audience in a building.

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

The word 'Church' was purposely introduced in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when King James instructed his translators to mistranslate ekklesia.

His motive was to solidify his hierarchal rule over the Church of England, and when you consider his other writings, actions and statements, the word church would obscure the authority vested in the Lord's ekklesia

The second time Jesus mentioned the ekklesia, it revealed both the authority and perimeters

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

What difference does this make today? Why not use the word 'church' because of people's familiarity with it?

**1Corinthians 2:9-11 NKJV** 9 But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

**1Corinthians 2:12-13 NKJV** 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

From a scriptural standpoint – you cannot compare something spiritual with something carnal. You cannot compare the intent of the Lord Jesus Christ with the motives of a nefarious king

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

Words paint pictures in our mind. Even with our discussion of this subject, if asked to define church, most people immediately think of a building, a place to go to, or a denomination. Rarely do people speak of it in the concept of ekklesia

Ekklesia was never a building, a place to go to, or a denomination. It is a called-out group authorized to represent the Kingdom of Heaven in the earth

Some are suggesting that we use the word church – and that doing so would do no harm

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## Part 9: Don't Mince Words

This idea is an affront to people's intelligence. It assumes people cannot learn the difference between two words. It is embracing a lie and defining it as truth

Ekklesia and church are completely different. Until will embrace that, we will continue to perpetuate the false identity imposed upon the Body of Christ in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Transition demands choices. You cannot hang on to what is wrong until you feel comfortable with what is right. You have to sever your ties from one in order to fully embrace the other

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### Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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### Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

The first two times that ekklesia was mentioned in the New Testament was by Jesus Christ. They are the only times He mentioned them.

Mathews 16 Jesus declared He would build His version of the ekklesia. Six things we discovered:

1. Ekklesia only mentioned twice in the 4 gospels – both times by Jesus. He did not use temple or synagogue. His choice of ekklesia gives us a picture of His intent for us as believers.

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## Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

2. Ekklesia was a secular entity modeled after the Roman ekklesia, which could legislate, establish policies, confer or deny citizenship, and elect officials on behalf of Rome. This suggests that the Lord's ekklesia would be able to do the same on behalf of the Kingdom of Heaven
3. The gates of Hades will not prevail against the ekklesia Jesus said He would build. This speaks to its structural integrity. God has specific design and order

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## Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

4. Jesus committed of the 'keys of the Kingdom of Heaven' to His ekklesia indicating it would have full access to all the resources of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is critical that we use them with care and only to expand God's Kingdom rule in the earth.
5. The ekklesia Jesus is building is authorized to activate heavens patterns and policies in the earth through binding and loosing
6. Access into the Lord's ekklesia is by revelation – specifically that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the Living God.

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## Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

Within the **First Mention Principle**: you discover the foundational truth of a word or phrase in scripture. This principle is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

The **Progressive Mention Principle**: this produces increasing clarity of the word or phrase by the way it is used throughout scripture

Ekklesia can be defined conceptually as a ruling council, but also could be translated as congregation or assembly, but never as church which is an entirely different word and concept

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## Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

Ekklesia is the combination of two Greek words:

Ek – out from and kaleo – to call

The most basic definition could be to call out – or the called out, but that is only the surface understanding.

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word qahal was the equivalent of the New Testament word ekklesia. From it we see that those who were called out or who gathered together had a specific purpose for doing so

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## Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

When Jesus used the word ekklesia, He also included its capacity, its authority and its purpose. In other words, His ekklesia would be called out for clear and specific purposes

In contrast to the 'church concept' to be among the called out you are expected to be active in Kingdom advancement. Being a spectator in a pew is not an option.

Ekklesia demands a biblical expression of maturity. Church measures maturity by attendance – ekklesia is measure by your capacity to understand and exercise the Word of Righteousness

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## Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

How biblical maturity is defined

Hebrews 5:13-14 NRSV 13 for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties (KJV = senses) have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

Your faculties/senses cannot be trained outside of the opportunity to choose between good and evil.

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## Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

Leaving Church Becoming Ekklesia Chapter 6 – Activating Ekklesia > based on the perimeters of the Roman ekklesia we summarized ekklesia as a ruling council.

Matthew 16:18 ...upon this rock I will build my 'ruling council'...

Matthew 18:17 Jesus used ekklesia which could be construed as a ruling council

Ephesians 3:10 principalities and powers will know Gods wisdom by the 'ruling council'

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## Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

At times there are multiple English words necessary to convey the concept of one Greek word. It doesn't mean that the Greek word has multiple meanings, instead it requires multiple English words to convey it to us.

Acts 2:47 in the Tyndale Bible translated ekklesia as congregation. '...the Lord added daily to the congregation...'

Acts 19 the translators for King James translated ekklesia as assembly

These will be important as we go deeper into grasping ekklesia

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## Part 10: Ekklesia Uncovered

Under no circumstances is it appropriate to translate ekklesia as church. It is a willful mistranslation. When we discover that a word has been changed willfully, we should be more vigilant to understand what it was changed from, and why it was changed.

Jesus use of ekklesia as recorded in the Book of Matthew gives us a clear picture of what was expected, and it reveals the motive King James had for trying to hide it.

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## Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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## Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

The first two times that ekklesia was mentioned in the New Testament was by Jesus Christ. They are the only times He mentioned them.

Mathews 16 Jesus declared He would build His version of the ekklesia. Six things we discovered:

1. **Ekklesia only mentioned twice in the 4 gospels** – both times by Jesus. He did not use temple or synagogue. His choice of ekklesia gives us a picture of His intent for us as believers.

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## Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

2. Ekklesia was a secular entity modeled after the Roman ekklesia.  
This suggests that the Lord's ekklesia would be able to do the same on behalf of the Kingdom of Heaven
3. The gates of Hades will not prevail against the ekklesia
4. Jesus committed of the 'keys of the Kingdom of Heaven' to His ekklesia
5. Only the ekklesia is authorized to bind and loose

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## Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

6. Access into the Lord's ekklesia is by revelation that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the Living God.

With the **First Mention Principle**: we discover the foundational truth of ekklesia. This principle is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

The **Progressive Mention Principle** produces increasing clarity of the ekklesia by the way it is used throughout scripture

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## Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

Ekklesia can be defined conceptually as a ruling council, but also could be translated as congregation or assembly, but never as church which is an entirely different word and concept

Ekklesia is the combination of two Greek words:

Ek – out from and kaleo – to call

The most basic definition could be to call out – or the called out, but that is only the surface understanding.

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### Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word qahal was the equivalent of the New Testament word ekklesia. Those who were called out or who gathered together had a specific purposes for doing so

When Jesus used the word ekklesia, He included its capacity, its authority and its purpose. His ekklesia would be called out for clear and specific purposes

To be among the called out you are expected to be active in Kingdom advancement. Being a spectator in a pew is not an option.

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### Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

Ekklesia demands a biblical expression of maturity. Church measures maturity by attendance – ekklesia is measure by your capacity to understand and exercise the Word of Righteousness

Matthew 18:15-20 is the second time Jesus referred to the ekklesia. This time we see the ekklesia in action

The Lord's Ekklesia – legislate, confer or deny citizenship, establish policies, and elect officials.

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### Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

**Matthew 18:15-16 NKJV 15** "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

This is framed around a conflict resolution. What Jesus says reveals the capacity of His ekklesia by invoking subtle hints that paralleled the Roman ekklesia.

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### Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

The attempt to resolve any conflict should begin with the effected parties. If it is not resolved by person to person interaction, Jesus said to take the matter to the next level by calling two or three witnesses.

On the surface, this appears to be prudent to have more people hear the matter at hand – it was done so that every word would be established – but the next verse (vs 17), says ‘IF HE NEGLETS TO HEAR THEM...’

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### Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

**Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15** required two or three witnesses to invoke the death penalty, or to be able to rise up against someone who had sinned

It appears that this conclave of two or three witnesses has some authority to suggest or possibly invoke a resolution to the conflict in question.

Dr. Ed Silvoso – Ekklesia: Rediscovering God’s Instrument for Global Transformation (Page 25)

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### Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

**Conventus iruridicus** – Again, two or three specialized officials representing the interest of Rome. They created the administrative mechanism by which the Romans managed legal interactions and handled disputes between Roman citizens and non-citizens of the provinces.

The people during Jesus day could have easily drawn the correlation between Jesus mentioning the two or three witnesses and the conventus iruridicus

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## Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

What happens next?

If the two or three could not resolve the matter – it would be taken to the ekklesia – the ruling council. At this point we see the authority of the ekklesia as the final arbiter.

**Matthew 18:17-18 NKJV 17** "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the [ekklesia]. But if he refuses even to hear the [ekklesia], let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. **18** "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

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## Part 11: Ekklesia The First Time Again

**Matthew 18:19 NKJV 19** "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

The outcome was implemented in concert with the policies of the Kingdom of Heaven

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## Ekklesia In The Word

ESTABLISHING THE LORD'S EKKLESIA THROUGHOUT  
SCRIPTURE

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

With the **First Mention Principle**: we discover the foundational truth of ekklesia. This principle is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

The **Progressive Mention Principle** produces increasing clarity of the ekklesia by the way it is used throughout scripture

Ekklesia can be defined conceptually as a ruling council, but also could be translated as congregation or assembly, but never as church which is an entirely different word and concept

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

Ekklesia is the combination of two Greek words:

Ek – out from and kaleo – to call

The most basic definition could be to call out – or the called out, but that is only the surface understanding.

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word qahal was the equivalent of the New Testament word ekklesia. Those who were called out or who gathered together had a specific purposes for doing so

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

When Jesus used the word ekklesia, He included its capacity, its authority and its purpose. His ekklesia would be called out for clear and specific purposes

To be among the called out you are expected to be active in Kingdom advancement. Being a spectator in a pew is not an option.

Ekklesia demands a biblical expression of maturity. Church measures maturity by attendance – ekklesia is measure by your capacity to understand and exercise the Word of Righteousness

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

Matthew 18:15-20 is the second time Jesus referred to the ekklesia. This time we see the ekklesia in action

The Lord's Ekklesia – legislate, confer or deny citizenship, establish polices, and elect officials.

This is framed around a conflict resolution. What Jesus says reveals the capacity of His ekklesia by invoking subtle hints that paralleled the [lesser] Roman ekklesia.

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

Matthew 18:15-16 NKJV 15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you,

1. go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 "But if he will not hear,
2. take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

The two or three is more than just more ears to hear the dispute

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

The ekklesia Jesus said He would build was modeled after the Roman ekklesia that included some key components we need to consider.

Jesus invoking the 'two or three' could easily have implied another Roman pattern we should know.

Conventus Civium Romanorum (conventus) when a group of Roman citizens, as small as two or three who gathered anywhere in the world constituted a local express of Rome

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

Conventus Iruridicus – an administrative mechanism by which the Romans managed legal interactions and handled disputes between Roman citizens and non-citizens of the provinces. To have a conventus iruridicus in a territory was considered an honor

Failure to hear the two or three took the dispute to the next level – the ekklesia – the ruling council – the final arbiter of the matter

Failure to hear them changed how the trespasser would be viewed – as a heathen and publican

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

Notice what Jesus said next:

Matthew 18:18 NKJV 18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

**Amplified:** ...whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

Why did Jesus repeat the same binding and loosing from Caesarea Philippi?

1. The way this matter was to be handled was in sync with the policies of the Kingdom of Heaven
2. We bind or loose whatever had already been determine to be bound or loosed in heaven

Jesus reiterated the power of the two or three

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

**Matthew 18:19-20 NKJV** 19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Conventus of the Kingdom – wherever two or three believers come together – they (we) represent a local expression of the Kingdom of Heaven – with all its authority and power – because Jesus the King of the Kingdom is among them (us).

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## Part 12: The Ekklesia In Action

What about the trespasser?

The ekklesia can confer or deny citizenship

This will be hard for 'religious minds' to accept. There will be those who cannot be allowed to take part in kingdom activities

Reconciliation and forgiveness is always appropriate – but remember it was the trespasser who 'refused to hear' inter-personally – the two or three – or even the ruling council

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### Part 13: The Matthew 18 Model

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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### Part 13: The Matthew 18 Model

With the **First Mention Principle**: we discover the foundational truth of ekklesia. This principle is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

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Ekklesia can be defined conceptually as a ruling council, but also could be translated as congregation or assembly, but never as church which is an entirely different word and concept

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### Part 13: The Matthew 18 Model

If we assert that the English word 'church' is a mistranslation of ekklesia, it must be proven by clear evidence. Once proven, it is also necessary to understand why this has any importance to you and me today.

The biblical fact that in the New Testament, it was Jesus who first used the Greek word ekklesia, it would be wise to glean from His use why He chose that word.

Remember in the context of what He said, He could have used either 'temple' or 'synagogue' to express what He would build

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### Part 13: The Matthew 18 Model

Matthew 16 would present a different view of His purpose if He had said '...I will build my temple'. Everything we have learned about the temple would have been the model - including the outer courts, inner courts, the Holy of Holies, the rituals and more would find place in our worship today.

The conflict resolution in Matthew 18 would have implicitly given the authority to the Chief priests and Judaic leaders, which in turn would perpetuate the hierarchal caste system among the people

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### Part 13: The Matthew 18 Model

By choosing the Greek word ekklesia, Jesus was sending a clear message relating to the intent, the capacity, and purpose of what He would build.

The word ekklesia is found 118 times in the original Greek text. It was erroneously translated as the English word 'church' 115 times in the New Testament. The 3 times it wasn't translated as 'church' is revealing

Every time you see the word 'church' in your bible, you will find it was erroneously translated from ekklesia

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### Part 13: The Matthew 18 Model

Throughout the New Testament, other writers reinforced various aspects of the Lord's ekklesia. By inserting the English word 'church' the translators obscured the depth of the Lord's intent.

The model Jesus chose was the Roman ekklesia. Everything about it was thoroughly understood by the people in Jesus day.

Legislate – confer or deny citizenship – make policies – elect officials on behalf of the government it represented. The government we represent is the Kingdom of Heaven

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### Part 13: The Matthew 18 Model

**Acts 15:3-4 NKJV 3** So, being sent on their way by the [ekklesia], they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren. 4 And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the [ekklesia] and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.

**Acts 15:22 NKJV 22** Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole [ekklesia], to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.

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### Part 13: The Matthew 18 Model

Matthew 18 the ekklesia [ruling council] was the final arbiter when a brother had sinned against another.

Acts 15 begins with a dispute between some from Jerusalem and Paul and Barnabas over the matter of circumcision. It appears that those from Jerusalem recommended that the matter be resolved in Jerusalem by the apostles and elders.

See the Matthew 18 pattern beginning to unfold – if it wasn't resolved at the first level – take it to the next (Kingdom conventus iuridicus)

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### Part 13: The Matthew 18 Model

They were sent by the Jews and the [ekklesia] in the field and received by the [ekklesia] in Jerusalem with the apostles and elders. Don't miss the lines of order.

After much intense discussion, James – an apostle, gave a solution that everyone – specifically the whole ekklesia – was pleased with.

The people 'did not neglect to hear' at the apostles and elders' level and the matter was resolved

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### Ekklesia In The Word

ESTABLISHING THE LORD'S EKKLESIA THROUGHOUT  
SCRIPTURE

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### Part 14: Inside Ekklesia

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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## Part 14: Inside Ekklesia

With the **First Mention Principle**: we discover the foundational truth of ekklesia. This principle is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

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## Part 14: Inside Ekklesia

Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus teaches how to resolve a conflict when one brother offends another.

1. Interpersonal – but if they refuse to hear
2. Two or three witnesses (a type of the Roman Conventus Iruridicus) – but if they refuse to hear
3. Ekklesia – the ruling council and final arbiter of the matter – if they refuse to hear, consider them a heathen or publican

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## Part 14: Inside Ekklesia

Acts 15 (entirety) shows the Lord's pattern working when it was practiced, as well as the failure that occurs when it is not. This is all about the inner working of the ekklesia

1. Conflict: when 'believing Jews' from Jerusalem felt it necessary to circumcise the new Gentile believers. This was rejected by Paul and Barnabas. They were not able to settle the dispute among themselves, so the 'believing Jews' recommended that the matter be dealt with by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem
2. Numerically, the apostles and elders in Jerusalem could have been more than two or three – but it was the pattern of taking a dispute to a higher level being practiced.

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## Part 14: Inside Ekklesia

3. Also note that Paul and Barnabas was sent forth by the ekklesia in the area and were received by the ekklesia (with the apostles and elders) in Jerusalem.
  - Why didn't the ekklesia in the area where the disagreement originated get involved in resolving the matter? Withing the inner working of ekklesia we discover an expression of order. [this is my view of this matter]
  - Acts 11:22-30 Gentiles received the Lord – apostles and elders of Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch to check it out – who went to Tarsus to find Saul[Paul] and brought him back to Antioch – served the ekklesia there for a year

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## Part 14: Inside Ekklesia

- **Acts 12:25 NKJV** 25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.
- **Acts 13:1-3 NKJV** 1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

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## Part 14: Inside Ekklesia

- Paul and Barnabas were where they were as a direct result of originally being sent by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. Those who came from Jerusalem requiring circumcision, as well as Paul and Barnabas were accountable to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem.
- The ekklesia in the region of the dispute did not have jurisdiction over those from Jerusalem, Paul or Barnabas which suggests why they went back to Jerusalem to settle the matter
- KEY: the importance of accountability is critical to maintaining order in the ekklesia.

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## Part 14: Inside Ekklesia

4. In Jerusalem that matter was settled by the apostles and elders because everyone was pleased by the solution. Those who had initiated the issue as well as Paul and Barnabas accepted the resolution (they did not refuse to hear) making it unnecessary to be dealt with by the whole ekklesia
- Acts 15:36-41 Another dispute between Paul and Barnabas with a totally different outcome
  - Not settled interpersonally – no two or three involved – no ekklesia involved – a ministry work was dissolved

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## Part 14: Inside Ekklesia

**1Corinthians 6:1-4** NKJV 1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? 4 If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the [ekklesia/ruling council] to judge?

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## Ekklesia In The Word

ESTABLISHING THE LORD'S EKKLESIA THROUGHOUT  
SCRIPTURE

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## Part 15: What's In A Word

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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## Part 15: What's In A Word

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Ekklesia can be defined conceptually as a ruling council, but also could be translated as congregation or assembly, but never as church which is an entirely different word and concept

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## Part 15: What's In A Word

Ekklesia was and is a word that invoked some level of activity from those involved.

Several times ekklesia was mentioned in connection with gathering in the homes of believers. After the believers scattered from Jerusalem, gathering in homes was where you found the believers.

The concept of a ruling council, congregation or an assembly was clearly evident when ekklesia was used to describe a specific gathering

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## Part 15: What's In A Word

Malapropism - the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar-sounding one, often with unintentionally amusing effect (Example: I resemble [resent] that statement)

Steve Simms – Beyond Church – included a quote from Mark Twain

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug

Unfortunately the English word 'church' has over time absorbed the essence of ekklesia into its definition, while simultaneously preserving its pagan and historical definition.

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## Part 15: What's In A Word

Another fact is that words over time take on new meanings and completely obscure its original meaning

The word church never meant 'to be called out' – yet that is how we define it. Ekklesia was never a dedicated building for worship – yet our incorrect rendering of it implicitly suggests that is the case

You can find many opposing views as to the origin of the word church, but none of them make church and ekklesia the same. Time has created the similarities we embrace today.

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## Part 15: What's In A Word

Nothing about Jesus declaration to build His ekklesia suggests any of the attributes of 'church'. We can disagree its etymology, but you cannot escape the reality that the original Greek word it is translated from IS NOT what Jesus said at Caesarea Philippi.

It was not a building, or even the concept of it or it would have been better for Him to use 'temple or synagogue'

Although ekklesia generally means to 'be called out' – it was not defined as a place to go to (i.e. go to church).

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## Part 15: What's In A Word

The historical meaning of ekklesia involved its common usage in the first century. You can't eliminate that if you want to grasp what Jesus intended.

Matthew 12:35-37 NKJV 35 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. 36 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. 37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

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## Part 15: What's In A Word

Your words generally reflect what you believe and embrace

The word church seems to have the upper hand in the minds of most believers. Dealing with the mistranslation is extremely low on the list of priorities

Those of us who bring it to the fore are at best considered making a big deal out of a small matter – or at worst we are leading people down the wrong path. ACTS 17:11

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## Ekklesia In The Word

ESTABLISHING THE LORD'S EKKLESIA THROUGHOUT  
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## Part 16: A Picture of Power

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## Part 16: A Picture of Power

The authority vested in the ekklesia is clear. The gates of hades won't prevail against it. The ekklesia has the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Ekklesia has the authority to bind and loose on earth in concert with what heaven has determined. Can this be seen throughout the New Testament?

Paul spoke of the ekklesia on several occasions. His primary thought was to validate that Jesus Christ is the head of the ekklesia, and will reign over it until all enemies are made His footstool.

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## Part 16: A Picture of Power

**Ephesians 1:15-17 KJV** 15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Did you catch the inference in this? Paul asked that God, of our Lord Jesus Christ (the same from Caesarea Philippi) give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation. Remember the ekklesia begins with the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Christ Son of the Living God

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## Part 16: A Picture of Power

**Ephesians 1:18-19 KJV** 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; [you cannot respond to what you cannot see]

that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, [there are no possibilities when you have no expectation]

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, [if you can comprehend his power, you will never embrace the supernatural]

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## Part 16: A Picture of Power

**Ephesians 1:20-21 KJV** 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Everything rises and falls in Jesus Christ

Note where Jesus is now – this is critical to you understanding the authority you have been entrusted with as a participant in the ekklesia

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## Part 16: A Picture of Power

**Ephesians 1:22-23** KJV 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the [ekklesia], 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

All things are under His feet which is a picture of His superiority over all things – including you and I

Key: He has been given headship over the ekklesia. The same ekklesia He said He would build at Caesarea Philippi

Note the definition of the ekklesia – His body – the fulness of Him that fills everything (massive influence in the earth – his footstool)

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**Ephesians 2:1-3** KJV 1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 **Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Prince power of the air is about normalizing anti-Christ lifestyles – not frequencies in modern gadgetry

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

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## Part 16: A Picture of Power

**Ephesians 2:4-6** KJV 4 But God (who gives us the revelation of Jesus Christ), who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;); 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

The ekklesia is seated with Christ in heavenly places – far above principalities, power, might and dominions

In Christ, you are positionally above ANYTHING you will ever face

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## Part 16: A Picture of Power

The authority of the ekklesia emanating from our position in Christ is an underlying theme throughout the book of Ephesians.

**Ephesians 3:10-11 KJV** 10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the [ekklesia] the manifold wisdom of God, 11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

It was God's intent from eternity that the ekklesia would show His wisdom to all dimensions of the universe

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## Ekklesia In The Word

ESTABLISHING THE LORD'S EKKLESIA THROUGHOUT  
SCRIPTURE

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

With the **First Mention Principle**: we discover the foundational truth of ekklesia. This principle is critical for setting the tone for everything we learn about ekklesia

The **Progressive Mention Principle** produces increasing clarity of the ekklesia by the way it is used throughout scripture

Ekklesia can be defined conceptually as a ruling council, but also could be translated as congregation or assembly, but never as church which is an entirely different word and concept

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

We have established that Christ is the Head of the Ekklesia

**Ephesians 1:22-23 NKJV** 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the [ekklesia], 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

The ekklesia is not only His body – but also a reflection of the ‘full expression’ of who He is.

Filling all in all reveals the existence Christ through the ekklesia in every sphere of life

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

Paul's writings give us a panoramic view of the ekklesia from so many dimensions

He begins first by giving us a clear picture of Christ – without it we miss the magnitude of our own existence, purpose and divine intent

**Colossians 1:16-17 NKJV** 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

**Colossians 1:18-19 NKJV** 18 And He is the head of the body, the [ekkleisia], who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

You cannot separate His preeminence in all things from the [ekkleisia]

'All the fullness' dwells in him and has direct bearing on who we are and our capacity in the earth

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

**Colossians 2:9-10 NKJV** 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Bodily = the ekklesia is His body – this means we are complete in Him

The 'body' has many parts

**1Corinthians 6:19 NKJV** 19 Or do you not know that your [humon/plural] body is the temple [singular] of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

The multifaceted dimensions of ekklesia as a ruling council – a congregation – an assembly – do not exist outside of Jesus Christ

**Acts 20:28 NKJV** 28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the [ekkleisia] of God which He purchased with His own blood.

There is an earthly order and governing aspect to the life of the ekklesia – but the point here is that the ekklesia was purchased by God with His blood

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

**Ephesians 5:21-32** Paul's teaching on the relationship between the husband and wife is concluded with one key phrase that reveals the intimate relationship between Christ and the ekklesia.

**Ephesians 5:32** NKJV 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the [ekklesia].

There are key phrases that we need to grasp:

Vs 23 headship of husband to the wife is expression of Christ being head of the ekklesia – AND savior of the BODY

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

Multi-expressions of 'His body' exists in scripture

1Corinthians 12 we make up the parts of His body with Him being the Head

Ephesians 4:13-16 parts that are fitly joined together that grow up into the full stature of Christ

Romans 12:4-5 many members but one body

At other times the body appears as separate but fully joined to Christ – thus the analogy of the husband and wife

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

Acts 20 shows the ekklesia – His Body - requires governing – and that it has been purchased by His blood – revealing His rightful redemptive ownership

Ephesians 4:24 the ekklesia – His body – is subject to Him

Vs 25-26 husbands love for His wife must reflect Christ love for His ekklesia – His Body – to the point of complete personal sacrifice – to sanctify and cleanse [it-not her] 'the ekklesia'

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## Part 17: Ekklesia As The Body

**Ephesians 5:27-31** NKJV 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious [ekklesia –His body], not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the [ekklesia-His body]. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."[indistinguishable]

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## Ekklesia In The Word

ESTABLISHING THE LORD'S EKKLESIA THROUGHOUT  
SCRIPTURE

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## Part 18: Ekklesia And The Coming Shift

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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## Part 18: Ekklesia And The Coming Shift

**First Mention Principle:** Jesus was the first to mention ekklesia in the New Testament, by which we have established its core definition

Because He used a secular model that was well known to the people in the first century, ekklesia can be defined conceptually as a ruling council, but also could be translated as congregation or assembly

Ekklesia was purposely mistranslated into the English word church, an entirely different word and concept, by King James and the effect of this has been detrimental to the Body of Christ

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## Part 18: Ekklesia And The Coming Shift

Ekklesia can be defined conceptually as a ruling council, but also could be translated as congregation or assembly, but never as church which is an entirely different word and concept

The word 'church' is what is written in nearly every bible translation we know – this is a major mental and literary blind spot – use ekklesia where you see church

**Progressively (Progressive Mention Principle)** as ekklesia is used throughout the New Testament, it produces increasing clarity of the ekklesia

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## Part 18: Ekklesia And The Coming Shift

The impact of this change of words on the surface seem so insignificant.

Historians and scholars alike who know there is an etymological, historical and conceptual difference between ekklesia and kurikon (the Greek word for church), have overlooked, ignored and treated this switch as insignificant

What we experience as 'church' today seems to be a harmless blip and to challenge its foundation appears to be in error

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## Part 18: Ekklesia And The Coming Shift

**Luke 10:21 NKJV 21** [after the 70 returned] Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.

**1Corinthians 1:19 NKJV 19** [Paul using OT text]

**Isaiah 29:14 NKJV 14** Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work Among this people, A marvelous work and a wonder; For the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, And the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden."

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## Part 18: Ekklesia And The Coming Shift

**Jeremiah 8:9 NKJV 9** The wise men are ashamed, They are dismayed and taken. Behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD; So what wisdom do they have?

**1Corinthians 1:19 NKJV 19** "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

**1Corinthians 1:27 NKJV 27** [God has not stopped using this pattern] [He] has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and [ ] has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

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## Part 18: Ekklesia And The Coming Shift

**Acts 4:13 NKJV 13** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

**Acts 4:15-16 NKJV 15** But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.

KEY: Evidence overrides intellect

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## Part 18: Ekklesia And The Coming Shift

The Holy Spirit is highlighting ekklesia in this season through believers like you and me.

Not biblical scholars – seminarians – theological educators but rather everyday believers who are seeing something beyond what we have ever known

If I were the only one teaching this – it should be suspect to you.

Believers around the world are simultaneously seeing ekklesia as the Lord's original intent and now we are entering a time of proof

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## Part 18: Ekklesia And The Coming Shift

Five questions to consider:

1. If changing ekklesia to church is so insignificant, why would King James give specific instruction to have it changed?
2. If ekklesia and church have no real difference – why would the translators translate it right 3 times in Acts 19 but wrong 115 times throughout the New Testament?
3. If ekklesia is synonymous with church, why is our definition and concepts more in line with 17<sup>th</sup> century order than with first century understanding of ekklesia?

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## Part 18: Ekklesia And The Coming Shift

4. What is gained by maintaining the concept of church rather than at least exploring ekklesia?
5. What changes will ekklesia create in comparison to what we do now as church?

**Isaiah 43:18-19 NKJV** 18 "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.

Ekklesia will birth new patterns in non-traditional people and places –get ready for the shift!

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### Part 19: Understanding Ekklesia Prophetically

The purpose of this teaching is to show that ekklesia, both as a word and concept is supported by strong biblical evidence

When this series is completed you should be able to see and understand ekklesia with clear scriptural evidence and know why it is important for believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

(2Timothy 3:16) If we believe all scripture is given by God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness, we need to pay attention to what is said and its significance to us today

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### Part 19: Understanding Ekklesia Prophetically

Why is ekklesia important to you and I as believers?

#### 1. We cannot do God's things – our way

- Deception often comes subtly disguised as correctness but is not in alignment with the Father
- Proverbs 14:12 NKJV 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
- Judges 17:6 NKJV 6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

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### Part 19: Understanding Ekklesia Prophetically

- God speaks to us in our present season to prepare us for what is to come in the next season
- Noah was instructed to build an ark in a season when its very presence was an anomaly. The pattern for the ark was designed in heaven and produced in the earth (see the pattern of heavens impact on the earth)
- Genesis 6:8 NKJV 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.
- God raises up a people with the potential to align with Him (remember Abram was seen by God in a hedonistic place)

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### Part 19: Understanding Ekklesia Prophetically

- Comprehension is difficult when there is nothing to compare the new insight in the current place – faith is mandatory
- The Word of God is our barometer and ultimate guide – the enemy is well aware of this and works non-stop to corrupt our understanding of it
- The appearance of ‘rightness’ often blinds us from ‘divine purpose’. As we follow the path of human rightness we veer further and further off the path and into a place of destruction

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### Part 19: Understanding Ekklesia Prophetically

- **Matthew 16:21-23 NKJV 21** From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."
- Peter's intent was 'rightness' but it was not within God's 'divine purpose'

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### Part 19: Understanding Ekklesia Prophetically

2. **There is a shift coming in the structure of 'church as we know it'**
- Incorrect structures and patterns will be challenged in the coming days
  - **1Chronicles 15:13** NKJV 13 "For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."
  - **Acts 17:29-30** NKJV 29 "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. 30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

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### Part 19: Understanding Ekklesia Prophetically

- God is not mad at 'church people' but He uprooting the system that He never intended or designed
- What was overlooked or winked at, is now being made clear for what it is – something shaped by man's devising.
- There is a people who have been hidden in a cave of 'church' who have been prepared for the coming season.
- Repentance is necessary to become aligned with divine order, structure and patterns.

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### Part 19: Understanding Ekklesia Prophetically

3. **The design of the Lord's ekklesia alone positions it to defeat the coming assault on the purposes of God in and for the earth**
- The coming assault will be on 'divine purpose' but it will impact the church as we know it (many blinded about divine purpose)
  - The gates of hades have positioned itself within the church system through ideology, separatism, racism, divisive doctrine and will rise from within
  - Again, repentance is necessary to become aligned with divine order, structure and patterns.

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