THE ECCLESIA OF YAHSHUA MESSIAH

THE ONLY ECCLESIA BUILT BY YAHSHUA

AD 33 to AD 100

Fifty days after the Pesah/Passover Feast had been celebrated in the year 33 AD, a day in which there was another important feast day in the lives of the Yisra’el and Messiah’s ecclesia, was the day in which they celebrated the giving of the commandments by Mosheh/Moses which is called Shavuot, Feast of Weeks and Feast of Pentecost, which means fifty. Fifty days from Pesah. Something very outstanding happened because it was on this day that another command or another order was set in motion. We read in the book of Luke that YAHSHUA led his followers out to Bethany and blessed them, on the fortieth day from Pesah and his death. Acts 1:1-3 Then he was parted from them up into heaven, but before he went home, he instructed them to return to Yerushalayim and wait for the Holy Ghost/Holy Spirit which he had promised them not many days before. Luke 24:44-53, Luke 3:16 Ten more days. Yeshua even told them and showed them how his Spirit would come, he breathed or blew on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit/ Ghost.” Yohanan 20:22 But around fifty days when his Spirit came, he was mighty Spirit again and he came as a rushing mighty wind. Acts 2:1-4 We follow them back to Yerushalayim and find them waiting, praying, expecting in unity for the promise Yeshua had made. The Bible says in Acts 2:1-4, that upon the fiftieth day, Pentecost, when they were assembled and were in complete unity, suddenly the Holy Ghost/Holy Spirit came upon them, with tongues of fire, and they all began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Then if we read on in the same chapter, we find Kepha/Peter standing up with the rest of the other Apostles preaching the very first sermon that was recorded in the renewed covenant assembly. Kepha went ahead to explain how they should repent and be baptized in the name of YAHSHUA Messiah and separate themselves from the world. Everyone will agree that Kepha was the spokesman for the early assembly, ecclesia. Something else we should notice is that all the Apostles were in complete unity on the message as far as what one must do to be saved. If you will notice when Kepha stood up, all the rest of the Apostles stood up, ALL THE APOSTLES STOOD! As far as the Bible is concerned no argument came to the Apostle when he commanded the people to be baptized in the name of YAHSHUA Messiah. Mattithyahu was there and it seems that he would have said something if Kepha was not right about baptism. Any Bible student knows, Mattithyahu is the author of the book of Mattithyahu and recorded the words of Yeshua (Matt. 28: l9) to baptize/immerse in the name of the Father and the name of the Son and the name of the Holy Ghost. Not a hint of disagreement between them arose. They were all in Spirit and Truth with good common sense, knowing that Father, Son, and Holy Ghost were titles to the heavenly family name. The Apostles went everywhere preaching the same message with Yahweh confirming his word. For all the apostles knew and understood all the words of their heavenly leader after they were filled with his Spirit. Luke 24:45 Paul said later, “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Adonai YAHSHUA Messiah, from whom the whole family of heaven and earth is named.” Eph. 3:14-15 And YAHSHUA had said that he came to earth in his heavenly Father’s name. Yohanan/John 5:43, John 17:1-6 All normal families on this earth are named of the father who begets his own family. And Matthew had said to be baptized into the heavenly family name, the only heavenly name, Yahshua, family name above all names. Amen. Acts 4:10-12, Phil. 2:9-11

When the apostles were alive it was easy to hear the true message on, ''What must I do to be saved?” History bears out that after the Apostles were killed, (the last one being Yohanan, the Apostle, who wrote the book of Yeshua’s Revelation of all his word and was the only one of the twelve apostles to die a natural death) that there were doctrines brought into the assembly which were contrary to the doctrine of the Apostles. Acts 20:26-32, 2 Tim. 4:1-5 Thus the death of the Apostle Yohanan brought a new era of ecclesia history. The period from 33 AD to 100 AD was known as the Apostolic Ecclesia Period.

PERSECUTED PERIOD

AD 100 to AD 313

To show our connection with the Bible story or history and believing that his people should be familiar with at least the elementary facts of ecclesia history is the purpose of this article. It is impossible to understand the present condition of his ecclesia unless we have some knowledge of the history of the assembly. Many people will ask or at least the thought is in their mind, where did all the denominations come from? In the beginning of his renewed covenant period there were none of the denominations as we know them today, such as Baptist, Methodist, Church of Christ, etc. There were only two major factions that played a part in the program of Elohim and that was Torah law and grace.

No one could boast, I am a Baptist, or a Methodist, Catholic, or anything else, he was either under law or under grace, (that is he was circumcised in the flesh and trying to keep the law in oldness of letter; Rom. 7:6, 2 Cor. 3:2-6 or he was baptized in YAHSHUA’S name, born again from above, Yohanan3;1-8 and filled with the Holy Ghost by Yeshua’s grace, and fulfilling the law. Gal. 5:14, Ya’aqob/James 2:8) From 100 AD after the ecclesia’s beginning, the Roman government and so-called church, really a Catholic Cult encouraged persecution the holy ones of the true ecclesia, and were martyred by the thousands. (Foxe’s Book of Martyrs)

During Constantine’s evil reign he made a false confession of faith by saying that he had seen a cross in the sky and the writing on it was, "By this sign you shall conquer." Of course, this sounded good to Yeshua’s ecclesia, which had been under terrible persecution for its entire life span. Some were willing and ready to align themselves with Constantine who had ordered all persecution to cease. The ecclesia at that time was in such a low spiritual condition, it was unable to distinguish right from wrong. As a matter of fact, many joined forces with a heathen king and helped him to overthrow the emperor of Rome, then ascended the throne himself.

During 300 years of persecution this church grew at a very rapid pace. (A worldly church.) Tertullian wrote, "Though we are of yesterday we have filled your empire, your towns, your cities, your islands, your tribes, your camps, castles and palaces. By the year 313 AD, Christians (most were so called) numbered about one half of the Roman Empire. From the year 100 AD to 313 AD is known as the Persecuted Church Period.

ROMAN (so called) CHURCH PERIOD

AD 313 to AD 476

Constantine made Sunday a day of rest and (not Creator YAHVEH’s Sabbath day of rest that he gave to his followers,) and gave the Soldiers a privilege to go to his church. This rest meant much to the slaves. Christianity, (so called) became the state religion of the Roman empire. Though Constantine had in effect made it so, it became so under Theodosius (378 AD) who made church membership compulsory. This was the worst calamity that has ever befallen Yeshua’s ecclesia. YAHSHUA had designed to conquer purely by spiritual means, born again from above and by holy living. Yohanan 3:1-8 One can readily see what this meant to the true ecclesia. Imagine a man who was a sinner with all his sins becoming a member of this church.

The downfall of the heathenism of Theodosius, when he had made the church a state institution, undertook the suppression of all other religions and prohibited idol worship. Under his decrees, heathen temples were torn down by mobs of church people, (apostates) there was much blood shed. This church had now entered its Great Apostasy it had conquered the Roman Empire, but, the Roman Empire had conquered the church.

By this time, around 400 AD the church had lost all its passion for lost souls, it had lost all its first love, lost all the fruit of the spirit. The Trinity Doctrine, a God in three persons, three gods, was all that was preached concerning the God head, and they had completely stopped baptizing in YAHSHUA’S name. The only way one could be baptized; was to be sprinkled, (not baptized) in the phrase, and titles, of Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Not the name that Creator’s word said to do. The truth of Creator Elohim’s word is the one and only Yahweh of all life is manifested or made known in three great manifestations of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit/ Ghost; and not three persons: for you would have three gods! 1 Tim. 3:16, Yohanan 14:21, 1:1, 14 No one received the infilling of the Holy Ghost/Holy Spirit; yes by this time the former promised by the prophet Yo’el had just about quit coming down (or it had just about stopped raining.) I am so glad he also promised the later rain of the Spirit would come and it did. We believe Yahweh again in this last century has been pouring out the same kind of rain his former ecclesia had and he has sent the same witness, speaking in tongues as he did on the Day of Shabu’ot/Pentecost.

We believe that Yahweh has according to his Great Plan again given us a continuation of the same experience. We believe from the scriptures it can be proven that Yahweh Elohim in his divine providence knew his ecclesia would fall away from the original truth and that he would send a latter rain or a latter refreshing from the presence of Elohim. Hosea 6:3

We believe that Baptism in YAHSHUA’s name is the original way the apostles baptized and we also believe that speaking in tongues is the original way and proof the apostles received the Holy Ghost .We do not believe that we the Apostolic Church is some 20th Century or any Century concoction or figment of imagination, but we do believe the Apostolic Church is the continuation of his ecclesia that started on the day of Shabu’ot/Pentecost. A careful study of Elohim’s word will confirm this to anyone who is honest at heart. The Acts of the Apostles does not end, it is continuing with, the (latter rain) YAHSHUA said "Matt. 13:24" The Kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field. But while men slept his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. While men slept, one could say after the apostles were dead (asleep in Yeshua) the devil takes advantage to creep in and sow tares or false doctrines, discord, hate and so on.

To me this is exactly how the falling away of the ecclesia came into being, as a result the devil sowed something that looked like truth, something that was very hard to distinguish between the true, wheat and tares. One of the best ways to tell wheat from tares is to examine the head. Wheat always has a full head, but tares are empty headed no grain there. Sometimes I wonder if when a person is instructed to the true meaning of Matt. 28:19 and Acts 2:38 that their head has anything in it. The Bible says a fool need not error in this way. I believe it is an applying proposition to examine their souls, minds, spiritual hearts, and see if they have anything heavenly in there.

MEDIEVAL CHURCH PERIOD

AD 476 to AD 1453

476 AD is another landmark in the history of the church. It was in this year the Roman Empire toppled leaving all its power the emperor and the pope had shared together to the pope. This makes the Pope an earthly king. The Latin Empire of the Roman Catholic Church. Time and space will not permit the writing of everything we know happened during the dark medieval church period. A few things we might say: images were placed in the church, the church and the state were ruled by the same man, Priests were forbidden to marry, 1 Tim. 4:1-3 the pope of Rome practiced simony (that is he bought the office of pope with money) you had to belong to the church in order to hold a political office. So great was this darkness that men stumbled around and never could find the glorious gospel which had been hidden for centuries. The pope had an army which he sent out to keep people in line and to keep them in darkness. For instance, the Albigenses, 1170 AD in southern France were often heard speaking in other tongues and praising Elohim, but this rejoicing was for a short time, because the pope of Rome sent his militia to Southern France and so destroyed these people that they even killed many Catholics. All was not too easy for this old hypocritical usurper of authority, for he made one mistake which dealt himself and the Catholic Church a very hard blow. He forced the emperor of Germany to stand in the snow for three days barefooted. This caused the emperor to lead a war against the pope of Rome and this led to his downfall. There were many other things too ridiculous to put in writing.

Later on, in the 13th century John Wycliffe translated the first New Testament into English and as a result of his action he was sentenced to be burned at the stake. The pope of Rome died before the sentence was carried out. John Wycliffe died with two paralytic strokes later. Thirty years later after his death a new pope ordered his body to be exhumed and burned because of the sentence upon him.

JOHN HUSS

Because of his preaching against the Catholic Church, especially the sale of indulgences caused him to be excommunicated from the Catholic Church. He was guaranteed safe passage back home if he appeared before the council. He was kidnapped by the Pope’s men and was burned at the stake July 6, 1415. Largely he contributed to the success of the reformation which followed in the next century.

REFORMATION PERIOD

AD 1453 to AD 1648

In the following paragraphs I have enumerated some definite periods from the year 1517 AD to 1648 with a short explanation of each. They are known as the reformation period.

LUTHERN CHURCH

1517 marks the beginning of the reformation of the church because of the preaching of Martin Luther against the Catholic Church. He had been to Rome and while there saw all the ungodly acts of the pope and the bowing down to images, etc, which led him to discourage these practices. One of the other things which caused Martin Luther to discourage the Catholic Church was the sale of indulgences (that is freedom to sin if you pay money into the fund to pay for the building of St. Peters Cathedral in Rome.) The pope of Rome sent John Tetzel throughout Germany collecting money and telling those who would drop a coin in the collection box, as soon as the sound of the coin was heard clinking in the box the souls of the dead loved ones who were in purgatory would rise up to heaven.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Church of England gained a real foothold in England in the year 1559 under the Elizabeth reform. Smashing of images and removing of memorials from the church was accomplished. This was an Orthodox Church much like the Catholic Church with a form of godliness without truth and the power of Almighty Elohim 2 Tim. 3:5 This false church still had much of the false Catholic Church doctrines. These kept calling themselves Christians but so demonic in their works and lives everywhere they went, to make the people there like them and make them do all things in life as they do or get rid of them. They did this on Turtle Island here, Australia, Canada, Africa, and all other places they went. But could not do the Mongolians that way as true history tells us, the Mongolians sent the “bloody British” home with their tails between their legs.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church gained its first recognition in Scotland under the direction of John Knox in the 16th century. They believed the Lord's Supper was a memorial and not a sacrifice. They opposed the rule of the church and state together, retained infant baptism, trinity, three gods doctrine, sprinkling and much of the traditions of the Catholic Church.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1518 AD the Congregational Church under Robert Browne immigrated to Holland from England, to escape terrible persecution from King Charles I, seeking to find a place where they could have individual congregational church rule. They believed each congregation should be able to decide their own method of worship. That is how they received their name. Jud. 17:6

BAPTIST CHURCH

1609 AD The Baptist Church first originated in England when John Smyth began to preach a doctrine that was different. He preached that water baptism was to be done by immersion in water. Since there was no one who shared his opinion, he had to baptize himself by immersing himself. This is the practice of the Baptist church. In America, Roger Williams who had come to America in 1636 on the Mayflower began to preach the same doctrine among the Salem Massachusetts colony, only to find himself forced to quit the Salem church. He fled to Providence R. I. and took up the assistant pastor of the church in Providence which resulted in his expulsion from the Providence colony. Going back to Salem Massachusetts he and John Cotton entered many arguments about the land, whether the land belonged to Charles I or to the Indians. This resulted in him having to quit the colony altogether, he had to live with and preach to the Indians. He had his greatest controversy over the doctrine of water baptism, whether it was to be done by immersion or by sprinkling, the method of baptism since the Catholic Church took control and forced their beliefs upon the people. Thank God for the line of truth that was taken to the rapidly reforming church. There are around thirty different Baptist church groups today, with one preacher saying, “You are not Baptist unless you are Southern Baptist.” All denominations fuss and fight about which one is right and are at odds of one another of taking some of their people. All kinds of wicked things in all of them.

QUAKERS

1641-1691 consequence of the preaching of George Fox held the name Society of Friends until after George Fox had to stand trial. It was at this trial, Fox told the judge he should tremble or quake at the word of the lord, the judge then replied, "you Quaker. " Many of these people were heard speaking in tongues and dancing in the spirit. One woman in particular, Ann Lee (Mother Ann) was summoned to appear before the court and when questioned about her dancing in the spirit, the power of the Lord moved upon her and she spoke in seventy-two different languages for four hours. This movement split later. Shaking and quaking began to become unpopular to some of the church leaders and they wanted to suppress the actions of those who did. As a result, the church divided, and one segment was labeled or named Shakers.

One of the strong holds of the shakers was Shaker town, so named for its first settlers on U.S. Rt. #68, between Lexington and Harrodsburg, Kentucky. The Quakers have since almost become extent, because when their persecution ceased their missionary zeal relaxed and they failed to grow anymore. Most of the members have become affiliated with other movements.

MODERN CHURCH PERIOD

AD 1648 to AD 1901

THE METHODIST CHURCH

1739 The Methodist Church is a direct result of the preaching of John Wesley. He preached to the poor and to those in jail, teaching better methods of living, thus they received the name Methodists. John Wesley began preaching when he was a student at Oxford England, College. Then when James Oglethorpe came to America, he went with him to Savannah Geo. and helped to settle that city. Then after six years of unsuccessful ministry he returned to England where he attended a revival meeting by Peter Boler and other Moravian leaders. It was there he had a trance, and the Lord gave him a deeper experience with God. From this experience he began to set the revival Fire burning everywhere he went. He traveled over 4500 miles per year and preached over 42, 000 sermons. He chanced to meet Peter Boler and some of the Moravian Christians aboard a ship at sea, when a violent storm was in progress, the Moravians were singing and praising the Lord. John Wesley was very much afraid and prayed a lot. He asked the Moravians if they were Christians, and they said yes. Then said he, ''Why then are you not praying? They promptly told him they had already prayed through, and everything was going to be alright. This one thing had very much influence upon his future connection with them. From the Wesley Methodist Church sprang all other Methodist Churches.

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

1766 William Otterbein and Martin Boehan were holding a revival meeting in a barn. So great was this revival that it was a direct result of the founding of the United Brethren Church.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1813 The Church of Christ (or the Disciples of Christ) came as a breaking away of certain people from the Baptist church. Led by Alexander Campbell, this sect is sometimes called Campbellites. The major difference between them is the purpose of Baptism.

SEVEN DAY ADVENTEST

1782 - 1849 They had their origin in the teaching of William Miller whose active ministry began 1831, when he preached the second advent of Jesus would occur between March 21, 1843, and March 21, 1844, backing his conclusions on certain passages in the book of Daniel. Members were from many different denominations. The disappointment over the failure of the coming of Messiah led Jonathan Cummings to announce there had been an error in calculation and that 1884 would be the year, after this disappointment differences came in and the Advents split into six different bodies. Many other denominations such as Holiness Movements were numerous, Nazarenes, Trinity Pentecost, Christian Science, Salvation Army and many others which it is impossible to mention. In 2003 it was calculated to be over 45,000 denominational groups; all with just what they want to believe and teach. All kinds of false teachings that have been taught for hundreds of years. It was all brought about by man’s long search for the wonderful spirit of Elohim which was completely lost during the first three centuries. But most of all mankind keeps going to manmade doctrines and churches instead of going to Creator Elohim and his Holy Word! He has only one assembly of believers who were purchased in his Hebrew name by his blood in the book of Acts with his apostle’s teachings. Acts 1:1-26, 2:1-47.

THE LATTER RAIN

1900 to Now

Thanks be unto Yahweh for his wonderful guiding hand, which led man back to the same experience he gave them on the day of Shabu’ot/Pentecost. The only difference in the former and latter rain is the time element, no difference in his Word of faith. They preached repentance so do we, they preached baptism in YAHSHUA’s Name, so do we, they preached the Holy Ghost infilling, with speaking in tongues as the evidence, proof, so do we, they preached YAHSHUA is Creator Elohim, so do we, they preached the fruit of the spirit, so do we, they preached humbleness of mind and spirit, so do we. Yahveh’s great love and truth

For one to boast we are the oldest assembly in existence, the only way one can do this is to have the same experience of the apostles in the book of Acts, using his true Hebrew names that were used then, and teaching his Holy Word with his Hebrew roots used then, and not all the pagan Gentile names of today. Let us all take heed lest any of the promises left us are lost because we have failed Elohim.

There have been so many things in church history in the past almost two thousand years it would be impossible to write it all, so we have written about some of the high points in church history. I have tried to bring you a few of the most modern everyday religions so we can all locate ourselves and can see from where we have come. This article has been written with the thought in mind that it might draw us closer to Yahshua and make us appreciate our great salvation in his complete Truth more. This great salvation of Yahshua will set us completely free and take us all the way home! Yohanan 8:31-36, 14:1-6 Yahshua’s complete Truth is in his Holy Word; knowing and rightly dividing his Holy Word; being born again from above, exactly as his Word says, and obeying Yeshua completely in Holy Ghost and with good common sense with his every WORD of TRUTH. Amen.

TIME FOR TRUTH MINISTRY

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