

~CONGREGATION (2379)

[Hebrew, *qa-hal'*, Greek, *ek-kle-si'a*]

- The Congregation Of Israel
- The Christian Congregation Of God
- Organization Of The Christian Congregation

- A group of people gathered together for a particular purpose or activity. The Hebrew word usually rendered congregation in the New World Translation is *qa-hal'*, which is from a root meaning call together, congregate.
- Take the rod and call the assembly together, you and Aaron your brother, and you must speak to the crag before their eyes that it may indeed give its water, and you must bring out water for them from the crag and give the assembly and their beasts of burden drink. (Numbers 20:8)
- The day that you stood before Yehowah your God in Horeb, when Yehowah said to me, Congregate the people together to me that I may let them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they are alive on the soil and that they may teach their sons. (Deuteronomy 4:10)
- It is frequently used for an organized body, being found in the expressions congregation of Israel.
- And no other man should happen to be in the tent of meeting from when he goes in to make atonement in the holy place until he comes out, and he must make atonement in behalf of himself and in behalf of his house and in behalf of the entire congregation of Israel. (Leviticus 16:17)
- There proved to be not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read aloud in front of all the congregation of Israel, together with the women and the little ones and the alien residents who walked in their midst. (Joshua 8:35)
- Then the king turned his face and began to bless all the congregation of Israel, while all the congregation of Israel were standing up. (1 Kings 8:14)
- Congregation of the true God,

- On that day there was a reading from the book of Moses in the ears of the people, and there was found written in it that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the **congregation of the true God** to time indefinite. (**Nehemiah 13:1**)
- **Congregation of Yehowah,**
- No illegitimate son may come into the **congregation** of Yehowah. Even to the tenth generation none of his may come into the **congregation of Yehowah**. (**Deuteronomy 23:2**)
- No Ammonite or Moabite may come into the **congregation** of Yehowah. Even to the tenth generation none of theirs may come into the congregation of Yehowah to time indefinite. (**Deuteronomy 23:3**)
- Therefore you will come to have no one casting out the cord, by lot, in the **congregation** of Yehowah. (**Micah 2:5**)
- **And Yehowah's congregation,**
- And why have you men brought **Yehowah's congregation** into this wilderness for us and our beasts of burden to die there? (**Numbers 20:4**)
- And now, before the eyes of all Israel, **Yehowah's congregation**, and in the ears of our God, take care and search for all the commandments of Yehowah your God, in order, that you may possess the good land and may certainly pass it on as an inheritance to your sons after you to time indefinite. (**1 Chronicles 28:8**)
- *Qa-hal'* designates various kinds of human gatherings, as for religious purposes.
- Then Yehowah gave me the two tablets of stone written upon with God's finger, and upon them were all the words that Yehowah had spoken with you in the mountain out of the middle of the fire in the day of the **congregation**. (**Deuteronomy 9:10**)
- In response to all that you asked of Yehowah your God in Horeb on the day of the **congregation**, saying; Do not let me hear again the voice of Yehowah my God, and this great fire do not let me

- see anymore, that I may not die. (**Deuteronomy 18:16**)
- And Solomon proceeded to carry on at that time the festival, and all Israel with him, a great **congregation** from the entering in of Hamath down to the torrent valley of Egypt, before Yehowah our God seven days and another seven days, fourteen days. (**1 Kings 8:65**)
 - From you my praise will be in the large **congregation**, my vows I shall pay in front of those fearing him. (**Psalms 22:25**)
 - And let them extol him in the **congregation** of the people, and in the seat of the elderly men let them praise him. (**Psalms 107:32**)
 - For dealing with civil affairs,
 - Then they sent and called him. After that Jeroboam and all the **congregation** of Israel came and began to speak to Rehoboam, saying; (**1 Kings 12:3**)
 - Warfare,
 - And all this **congregation** will know that neither with sword nor with spear does Yehowah save, because to Yehowah belongs the battle, and he must give you men into our hand. (**1 Samuel 17:47**)
 - And they must bring up against you a **congregation** and pelt you with stones and slaughter you with their swords. (**Ezekiel 16:40**)
 - In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon is identified as **the congregator**, Hebrew, *qo-he'leth*.
 - The words of the **congregator**, the son of David the king in Jerusalem. (**Ecclesiastes 1:1**)
 - I, the **congregator**, happened to be king over Israel in Jerusalem. (**Ecclesiastes 1:12**)
 - As the **king**, he **congregated** or **assembled** the people to the worship of Yehowah, one notable instance being when he gathered his subjects to the newly constructed temple in Jerusalem.
 - At that time Solomon **proceeded to congregate** the older men of

- Israel, all the heads of the tribes, the chieftains of the fathers, of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of Yehowah out of the City of David, that is to say, Zion. (1 Kings 8:1)
- So all the men of Israel **congregated** themselves to King Solomon in the lunar month of Ethanim in the festival, that is, the seventh month. (1 Kings 8:2)
 - To all the older men of Israel **came**, and the priests began to carry the Ark. (1 Kings 8:3)
 - And they came bringing up the ark of Yehowah and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the tent, and the priests and the Levites came bringing them up. (1 Kings 8:4)
 - And King Solomon and with him all the assembly of Israel, those keeping their appointment with him, were before the Ark, sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. (1 Kings 8:5)
 - It was then that Solomon proceeded to **congregate** the older men of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chieftains of the paternal houses of the sons of Israel, to Jerusalem, to bring the ark of the covenant of Yehowah up from the City of David, that is to say, Zion. (2 Chronicles 5:2)
 - So all the men of Israel **congregated** themselves to the king at the festival, that of the seventh month. (2 Chronicles 5:3)
 - So all the older men of Israel came, and the Levites began to carry the Ark. (2 Chronicles 5:4)
 - And they came bringing up the Ark and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the tent. The priests the Levites brought them up. (2 Chronicles 5:5)
 - And King Solomon and all the assembly of Israelites that were keeping their appointment with him before the Ark were sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. (2 Chronicles 5:6)
 - In the **Christian Greek Scriptures** the **Greek** word rendered **congregation** is *ek-kle-si'a*, from which the **English** word **ecclesia** is

derived. *Ek-kle-si'a* comes from two Greek words, *ek*, meaning **out**, and *ka-le'o*, meaning **call**.

- Hence, it pertains to a group of **persons called out or called together**, either officially or unofficially. It is the word used with reference to the congregation of Israel at;
- This is he that came to be among the **congregation** in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him on Mount Sinai and with our forefathers, and he received living sacred pronouncements to give you. (**Acts of Apostles 7:38**)
- And is also employed for the **assembly** stirred up by the silversmith Demetrius against Paul and his associates in Ephesus.
- At that particular time there arose no little disturbance concerning The Way. (**Acts of Apostles 19:23**)
- For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, by making silver shrines of Artemis furnished the craftsmen no little gain. (**Acts of Apostles 19:24**)
- So the city became filled with confusion, and with one accord they rushed into the theater, taking forcibly along with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, traveling companions of Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 19:29**)
- The fact is, some were crying out one thing and others another, for the **assembly was in confusion**, and the majority of them did not know the reason why they had come together. (**Acts of Apostles 19:32**)
- And when he had said these things, **he dismissed the assembly**. (**Acts of Apostles 19:41**)
- Most often, however, it is used with reference to the Christian **congregation**. It is applied to the Christian **congregation** in general.
- And God has set the respective ones in the **congregation**, first, apostles, second, prophets, third, teachers, then powerful works, then gifts of healings, helpful services, abilities to direct, different tongues. (**1 Corinthians 12:28**)
- To a **congregation** in some city such as Jerusalem.

- Saul, for his part, was approving of the murder of him. On that day great persecution arose against the **congregation** that was in Jerusalem, all except the apostles were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria. (**Acts of Apostles 8:1**)
- **Antioch**
- Now in Antioch there were prophets and teachers in the local **congregation**, Barnabas as well as Symeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who was educated with Herod the district ruler, and Saul. (**Acts of Apostles 13:1**)
- **Corinth**
- Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through God's will, and Timothy our brother to the **congregation** of God that is in Corinth, together with all the holy ones who are in all of Achaia. (**2 Corinthians 1:1**)
- **Or to a specific group meeting in someone's home.**
- And greet the **congregation** that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is a firstfruits of Asia for Christ. (**Romans 16:5**)
- And to Apphia, our sister, and to Archippus, our fellow soldier, and to the **congregation** that is in your house. (**Philemon 1:2**)
- **Accordingly, individual Christian congregations or congregations of God are also mentioned.**
- But he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the **congregations**. (**Acts of Apostles 15:41**)
- However, if any man seems to dispute for some other custom, we have no other, neither do the **congregations** of God. (**1 Corinthians 11:16**)
- Some **English** versions use **church** in texts pertaining to the Christian **congregation**, as at, **AS, KJ**
- The **congregations** of Asia send you their greetings. Aquila and Prisca together with the **congregation** that is in their house greet

you heartily in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 16:19)

Since many persons think of a **church** as a **building for religious services** rather than a **congregation** engaging in worship, the rendering **church can be misleading**.

• The **Greek** word *ek-kle-si'a* is employed in the **Septuagint** at times to translate the **Hebrew** word *qa-hal'*, as at, **LXX, NW Footnote**

• I will declare your name to my brothers, in the middle of the **congregation** I shall praise you. (**Psalms 22:22**)

• I will declare your name to my brothers, in the middle of the **congregation** I shall praise you. (**Psalms 22:22**)

•• The Congregation Of Israel

• From the time of Moses onward, the nation of Israel was referred to as a **congregation**. Yehowah arranged for the **congregation** to be ruled, not democratically by the people, but **theocratically, by God himself**. To that end the nation was taken into the Law covenant.

• And Moses went up to the true God, and Yehowah began to call to him out of the mountain, saying; This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and to tell the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 19:3**)

• You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, that I might carry you on wings of eagles and bring you to myself. (**Exodus 19:4**)

• And now if you will strictly obey my voice and will indeed keep my covenant, then you will certainly become my special property out of all **other** peoples, because the whole earth belongs to me. (**Exodus 19:5**)

• And you yourselves will become to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you are to say to the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 19:6**)

• So Moses came and called the older men of the people and set before them all these words that Yehowah had commanded him. (**Exodus 19:7**)

• After that all the people answered unanimously and said; All that

- Yehowah has spoken we are willing to do. Immediately Moses took back the words of the people to Yehowah. (**Exodus 19:8**)
- At this Yehowah said to Moses; Look! I am coming to you in a dark cloud, in order, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and that in you also they may put faith to time indefinite. Then Moses reported the words of the people to Yehowah. (**Exodus 19:9**)
 - Then Moses took half the blood and put it in bowls, and half the blood he sprinkled upon the altar. (**Exodus 24:6**)
 - Finally he took the book of the covenant and read it in the ears of the people. Then they said; All that Yehowah has spoken we are willing to do and be obedient. (**Exodus 24:7**)
 - So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it upon the people and said; Here is the blood of the covenant that Yehowah has concluded with you as respects all these words. (**Exodus 24:8**)
 - As Moses was the mediator of that covenant, it could be said,
 - Moses laid as a command upon us a Law, a possession of the **congregation** of Jacob. (**Deuteronomy 33:4**)
 - Yehowah was their Judge, Statute-Giver, and King.
 - For Yehowah is our Judge, Yehowah is our Statute-giver, Yehowah is our King He himself will save us. (**Isaiah 33:22**)
 - Thus, the nation was a **congregation** of God and could be referred to as the **congregation** of Yehowah and Yehowah's **congregation**.
 - So they **congregated** themselves against Moses and Aaron and said to them; That is enough of you, because the whole assembly are all of them holy and Yehowah is in their midst. Why, then, should you lift yourselves up above the **congregation** of Yehowah? (**Numbers 16:3**)
 - And now, before the eyes of all Israel, Yehowah's **congregation**, and in the ears of our God, take care and search for all the commandments of Yehowah your God, in order, that you may possess the good land and may certainly pass it on as an inheritance to your sons after you to time indefinite. (**1**

Chronicles 28:8)

- At times, the word **Hebrew *qa-hal'* congregation** is used in conjunction with the word **Hebrew *'e-dhah'* assembly**.
- Now if the entire **assembly** of Israel makes a mistake and the matter has been hidden from the eyes of the **congregation** in that they have done one of all the things that Yehowah commands should not be done and so have become guilty. (**Leviticus 4:13**)
- Take the rod and call the **assembly** together, you and Aaron your brother, and you must speak to the crag before their eyes that it may indeed give its water, and you must bring out water for them from the crag and give the **assembly** and their beasts of burden drink. (**Numbers 20:8**)
- After that Moses and Aaron called the **congregation** together before the crag, and he proceeded to say to them; Hear, now, you rebels! Is it from this crag that we shall bring out water for you? (**Numbers 20:10**)
- **'E-dhah'** is from a root meaning appoint, thus signifying a group **assembled by appointment**, and is frequently applied to the community of Israel, as in the expression **assembly of Israel**.
- Speak to the entire **assembly of Israel**, saying; On the tenth day of this month they are to take for themselves each one a sheep for the ancestral house, a sheep to a house. (**Exodus 12:3**)
- In the nation of Israel those who actually constituted the Hebrew population made up the **congregation Hebrew *qa-hal'***.
- You who are of the **congregation** and the alien resident who is residing as an alien will have one statute. It will be a statute to time indefinite for your generations. The alien resident should prove to be the same as you before Yehowah. (**Numbers 15:15**)
- Whereas the assembly **'e-dhah'** seems to have embraced both the Israelites and alien residents associated with them.
- Seven days no sourdough is to be found in your houses, because anyone tasting what is leavened, whether he is an alien resident or a native of the land, that soul must be cut off from the **assembly of Israel**. (**Exodus 12:19**)

- So membership in the **congregation**, in an extended general application, seems to have included circumcised alien residents.
- And in case there should be residing as an alien with you an alien resident or one who is in your midst for generations of you, and he must render up an offering made by fire, of a restful odor to Yehowah, just as you should do, so he should do. (**Numbers 15:14**)
- You who are of the **congregation and the alien resident who is residing as an alien will have one statute**. It will be a statute to time indefinite for your generations. The alien resident should prove to be the same as you before Yehowah. (**Numbers 15:15**)
- There should prove to be one Law and one judicial decision for you and for the alien resident who is residing as an alien with you. (**Numbers 15:16**)
- However, there were exceptions as to membership in the **congregation of Yehowah**. No castrated man or one having his male member cut off could enter it, illegitimate sons, male Ammonites, and male Moabites were barred therefrom even to the tenth generation. But sons born to Edomites and Egyptians as the third generation could come for themselves into the **congregation of Yehowah**.
- No man castrated by crushing the testicles or having his male member cut off may come into the **congregation of Yehowah**. (**Deuteronomy 23:1**)
- No illegitimate son may come into the **congregation of Yehowah**. Even to the tenth generation none of his may come into the congregation of Yehowah. (**Deuteronomy 23:2**)
- No Ammonite or Moabite may come into the **congregation of Yehowah**. Even to the tenth generation none of theirs may come into the congregation of Yehowah to time indefinite. (**Deuteronomy 23:3**)
- For the reason that they did not come to your aid with bread and water in the way when you were going out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia to call down evil upon you. (**Deuteronomy 23:4**)

- **And Yehowah your God did not want to listen to Balaam, but Yehowah your God in your behalf changed the malediction into a blessing, because Yehowah your God loved you. (Deuteronomy 23:5)**
- **You must not work for their peace and their prosperity all your days to time indefinite. (Deuteronomy 23:6)**
- **You must not detest an Edomite, for he is your brother. You must not detest an Egyptian, for you became an alien resident in his country. (Deuteronomy 23:7)**
- **The sons that may be born to them as the third generation may come for themselves into the congregation of Yehowah. (Deuteronomy 23:8)**
- **The exclusion to the tenth generation of the sons of one who was illegitimate upheld Yehowah's Law against adultery.**
- **You must not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)**
- **And though the sexually mutilated were excluded from the congregation of Yehowah, such ones could draw comfort from words recorded by Isaiah, as found at;**
- **This is what Yehowah has said; Keep justice, you people, and do what is righteous. For my salvation is at hand to come in, and my righteousness to be revealed. (Isaiah 56:1)**
- **Happy is the mortal man that does this, and the son of mankind that lays hold of it, keeping the Sabbath in order not to profane it, and keeping his hand in order not to do any kind of badness. (Isaiah 56:2)**
- **And let not the foreigner that has joined himself to Yehowah say; Without doubt Yehowah will divide me off from his people. Neither let the eunuch say; Look! I am a dry tree. (Isaiah 56:3)**
- **For this is what Yehowah has said to the eunuchs that keep my Sabbaths and that have chosen what I have delighted in and that are laying hold of my covenant. (Isaiah 56:4)**
- **I will even give to them in my house and within my walls a monument and a name, something better than sons and**

daughters. A name to time indefinite I shall give them, one that will not be cut off. (**Isaiah 56:5**)

- **And the foreigners that have joined themselves to Yehowah to minister to him and to love the name of Yehowah, in order to become servants to him, all those keeping the Sabbath in order not to profane it and laying hold of my covenant. (**Isaiah 56:6**)**
- **I will also bring them to my holy mountain and make them rejoice inside my house of prayer. Their whole burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be for acceptance upon my altar. For my own house will be called even a house of prayer for all the peoples. (**Isaiah 56:7**)**
- **Of course, individuals excluded from the **congregation** of Yehowah in ancient Israel had the possibility of coming under provisions and blessings Yehowah made for people of the nations in general.**
- **And Yehowah's angel proceeded to call to Abraham the second time out of the heavens (**Genesis 22:15**)**
- **And to say; By myself I do swear, is the utterance of Yehowah, that by reason of the fact that you have done this thing and you have not withheld your son, your only one. (**Genesis 22:16**)**
- **I shall surely bless you and I shall surely multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens and like the grains of sand that are on the seashore, and your seed will take possession of the gate of his enemies. (**Genesis 22:17**)**
- **And by means of your seed all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves due to the fact that you have listened to my voice. (**Genesis 22:18**)**
- **Persons who were members of the **congregation of Israel** were shown mercy if they sinned by mistake. But they were cut off in death for doing something wrong deliberately.**
- **And if any soul should sin by mistake, then he must present a female goat in its first year for a sin offering. (**Numbers 15:27**)**
- **And the priest must make atonement for the soul who made a mistake by a sin unintentionally before Yehowah, so as to make**

- atonement for it, and it must be forgiven him. (**Numbers 15:28**)
- **As to the native among the sons of Israel and the alien resident who is residing as an alien in their midst, there should prove to be one Law for you as respects doing something unintentionally. (**Numbers 15:29**)**
 - **But the soul that does something deliberately, whether he is a native or an alien resident, he speaking abusively of Yehowah, in that case that soul must be cut off from among his people. (**Numbers 15:30**)**
 - **Because it is Yehowah's word that he has despised and his commandment that he has broken, that soul should be cut off without fail. His own error is upon him. (**Numbers 15:31**)**
 - **For instance, an individual would be cut off from the **congregation**, and from life itself, for refusing to purify himself when he was ceremonially unclean, for eating some of the flesh of the communion sacrifice while in that condition, for partaking of fat of offerings or blood, or for eating holy things while unclean.**
 - **But the man who may be unclean and who will not purify himself, well, that soul must be cut off from the midst of the **congregation**, because it is Yehowah's sanctuary that he has defiled. The water for cleansing was not sprinkled upon him. He is unclean. (**Numbers 19:20**)**
 - **And in case a soul touches anything unclean, the uncleanness of a man or an unclean beast or any unclean loathsome thing, and actually eats some of the flesh of the communion sacrifice, which is for Yehowah, that soul must be cut off from his people. (**Leviticus 7:21**)**
 - **And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Leviticus 7:22**)**
 - **Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; You must not eat any fat of a bull or a young ram or a goat. (**Leviticus 7:23**)**
 - **Now the fat of a body already dead and the fat of an animal torn to pieces may be used for anything else conceivable, but you must not eat it at all. (**Leviticus 7:24**)**

- **For anyone eating fat from the beast from which he presents it as an offering made by fire to Yehowah, the soul that eats must be cut off from his people. (Leviticus 7:25)**
- **And you must not eat any blood in any places where you dwell, whether that of fowl or that of beast. (Leviticus 7:26)**
- **Any soul who eats any blood, that soul must be cut off from his people. (Leviticus 7:27)**
- **As for any man of the house of Israel or some alien resident who is residing as an alien in your midst who eats any sort of blood, I shall certainly set my face against the soul that is eating the blood, and I shall indeed cut him off from among his people. (Leviticus 17:10)**
- **For the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood by the soul in it. Consequently I said to the sons of Israel; You must not eat the blood of any sort of flesh, because the soul of every sort of flesh is its blood. Anyone eating it will be cut off. (Leviticus 17:14)**
- **Say to them; Throughout your generations any man of all your offspring who comes near to the holy things, which the sons of Israel will sanctify to Yehowah, while his uncleanness is upon him, that soul must be cut off from before me. I am Yehowah. (Leviticus 22:3)**
- **Persons were also cut off for working on the Sabbath day.**
- **And you must keep the Sabbath, for it is something holy to you. A profaner of it will positively be put to death. In case there is anyone doing work on it, then that soul must be cut off from the midst of his people. (Exodus 31:14)**
- **For giving their offspring to Molech, for turning to spirit mediums and professional foretellers of events, for certain kinds of sexual immorality, and for not afflicting themselves on the annual Atonement Day. (Leviticus 20:1-6,17,18)**
- **However, on the tenth of this seventh month is the day of atonement. A holy convention should take place for you, and you must afflict your souls and present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (Leviticus 23:27)**

- **And you must do no sort of work on this very day, because it is a day of atonement to make atonement for you before Yehowah your God. (Leviticus 23:28)**
- **Because every soul that will not be afflicted on this very day must be cut off from his people. (Leviticus 23:29)**
- **As for any soul that will do any sort of work on this very day, I must destroy that soul from among his people. (Leviticus 23:30)**
- **And you will speak to the sons of Israel, saying; This is to continue as a holy anointing oil to me during your generations. (Exodus 30:31)**
- **It is not to be rubbed in the flesh of mankind, and with its composition you must not make any like it. It is something holy. It is to continue as something holy for you. (Exodus 30:32)**
- **Anyone who makes an ointment like it and who puts some of it upon a stranger must be cut off from his people. (Exodus 30:33)**
- **As for any man of the house of Israel who slaughters a bull or a young ram or a goat in the camp or who slaughters it outside the camp (Leviticus 17:3)**
- **And does not actually bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to present it as an offering to Yehowah before the tabernacle of Yehowah, bloodguilt will be counted to that man. He has shed blood, and that man must be cut off from among his people. (Leviticus 17:4)**
- **And you should say to them; As for any man of the house of Israel or some alien resident who may be residing as an alien in your midst who offers up a burnt offering or a sacrifice (Leviticus 17:8)**
- **And does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to render it to Yehowah, that man must be cut off from his people. (Leviticus 17:9)**
- **In case anyone does any of all these detestable things, then the souls doing them must be cut off from among their people. (Leviticus 18:29)**

- **Now in case you should sacrifice a communion sacrifice to Yehowah, you should sacrifice it to gain approval for yourselves. (Leviticus 19:5)**
- **On the day of your sacrifice and directly the next day it should be eaten, but what is left over till the third day should be burned in the fire. (Leviticus 19:6)**
- **If, though, it should at all be eaten on the third day, it is a foul thing. It will not be accepted with approval. (Leviticus 19:7)**
- **And the one eating it will answer for his error, because he has profaned a holy thing of Yehowah, and that soul must be cut off from his people. (Leviticus 19:8)**
- **While individuals made up the **congregation** of Israel, the nation itself was comprised of tribes, families, and households. The incident involving Achan seems to show this organizational arrangement, for in this case Israel came forward, first tribe by tribe, then family by family, next household by household, and finally able-bodied man by able-bodied man, until Achan was picked as the wrongdoer.**
- **In turn Yehowah said to Joshua; Get up, you! Why is it that you are falling upon your face? (Joshua 7:10)**
- **Israel has sinned, and they have also overstepped my covenant that I laid as a command upon them, and they have also taken some of the thing devoted to destruction and have also stolen and also kept it secret and have also put it among their own articles. (Joshua 7:11)**
- **And the sons of Israel will not be able to rise up against their enemies. The back is what they will turn before their enemies, because they have become a thing devoted to destruction. I shall not prove to be with you again unless you annihilate the thing devoted to destruction out of your midst. (Joshua 7:12)**
- **Get up! Sanctify the people, and you must say; Sanctify yourselves tomorrow, for this is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; A thing devoted to destruction is in your midst, O Israel. You will not be able to rise up against your enemies until you people have removed the thing devoted to destruction from your midst. (Joshua 7:13)**

- And you must present yourselves in the morning, tribe by tribe, and it must occur that the tribe that Yehowah will pick will come near, family by family, and the family that Yehowah will pick will come near, household by household, and the household that Yehowah will pick will come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man. ([Joshua 7:14](#))
- And it must occur that the one picked with the thing devoted to destruction will be burned with fire, he and all that belongs to him, because he has overstepped the covenant of Yehowah and because he has committed a disgraceful folly in Israel. ([Joshua 7:15](#))
- Then Joshua rose early in the morning and had Israel come near, tribe by tribe of it, and the tribe of Judah got to be picked. ([Joshua 7:16](#))
- Next he had the families of Judah come near and picked the family of the Zerahites, after which he had the family of the Zerahites come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man, and Zabdi got to be picked. ([Joshua 7:17](#))
- Finally he had his household come near, able-bodied man by able-bodied man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, got to be picked. ([Joshua 7:18](#))
- Then Joshua said to Achan; My son, render, please, glory to Yehowah the God of Israel and make confession to him, and tell me, please, What have you done? Do not hide it from me. ([Joshua 7:19](#))
- In Israel responsible representatives often acted in behalf of the people.
- So, please, let our princes act representatively for all the **congregation**, and, as for all in our cities who have given a dwelling to foreign wives, let them come at the times appointed and along with them the older men of each individual city and its judges, until we have turned back the burning anger of our God from us, on account of this matter. ([Ezra 10:14](#))
- Thus, chieftains of the tribes made presentations after the setting up of the tabernacle.

- **Now it came about on the day that Moses finished setting up the tabernacle that he proceeded to anoint it and to sanctify it and all its furnishings and the altar and all its utensils. Thus he anointed them and sanctified them. (Numbers 7:1)**
- **Then the chieftains of Israel, the heads of the house of their fathers, made a presentation, they being the chieftains of the tribes and standing over the ones registered. (Numbers 7:2)**
- **And they brought their offering before Yehowah, six covered wagons and twelve cattle, a wagon for two chieftains and a bull for each one, and they presented them before the tabernacle. (Numbers 7:3)**
- **At this Yehowah said to Moses. (Numbers 7:4)**
- **Accept them from them, as they must serve for carrying on the service of the tent of meeting, and you must give them to the Levites, each one in proportion to his own service. (Numbers 7:5)**
- **O Moses accepted the wagons and the cattle and gave them to the Levites. (Numbers 7:6)**
- **Two wagons and four cattle he gave to the sons of Gershon in proportion to their service. (Numbers 7:7)**
- **And four wagons and eight cattle he gave to the sons of Merari in proportion to their service, under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. (Numbers 7:8)**
- **But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because the service of the holy place was upon them. They did their carrying on the shoulder. (Numbers 7:9)**
- **Now the chieftains made their presentation at the inauguration of the altar on the day of its being anointed, and the chieftains proceeded with presenting their offering before the altar. (Numbers 7:10)**
- **So Yehowah said to Moses; One chieftain on one day and another chieftain on another day is the way they will present their offering for the inauguration of the altar. (Numbers 7:11)**

- **Also, representatively attesting by seal the trustworthy arrangement of Nehemiah's day were priests, Levites, and the heads of the people.**
- **So in view of all this we are contracting a trustworthy arrangement, both in writing and attested by the seal of our princes, our Levites and our priests. (Nehemiah 9:38)**
- **Malluch, Harim, Baanah. (Nehemiah 10:27)**
- **During Israel's wilderness trek, there were chieftains of the assembly, summoned ones of the meeting, men of fame, 250 of whom joined Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On in congregating themselves against Moses and Aaron.**
- **And Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, proceeded to get up, together with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben. (Numbers 16:1)**
- **And they proceeded to rise up before Moses, they and two hundred and fifty men of the sons of Israel, chieftains of the assembly, summoned ones of the meeting, men of fame. (Numbers 16:2)**
- **So they congregated themselves against Moses and Aaron and said to them; That is enough of you, because the whole assembly are all of them holy and Yehowah is in their midst. Why, then, should you lift yourselves up above the congregation of Yehowah? (Numbers 16:3)**
- **In keeping with divine direction, Moses selected 70 of the older men of Israel who were officers to help him carry the load of the people that he was unable to bear alone.**
- **In turn Yehowah said to Moses; Gather for me seventy men of the older men of Israel, whom you do know that they are older men of the people and officers of theirs, and you must take them to the tent of meeting, and they must station themselves there with you. (Numbers 11:16)**
- **And I shall have to come down and speak with you there, and I shall have to take away some of the spirit that is upon you and place it upon them, and they will have to help you in carrying the**

**load of the people that you may not carry it, just you alone.
(Numbers 11:17)**

- **After that Moses went out and spoke to the people the words of Yehowah. And he went gathering seventy men from the older men of the people and proceeded to have them stand round about the tent. (Numbers 11:24)**
- **Then Yehowah came down in a cloud and spoke to him and took away some of the spirit that was upon him and put it upon each of the seventy older men. And it came about that as soon as the spirit settled down upon them, then they proceeded to act as prophets, but they did not do it again. (Numbers 11:25)**
- **And the older men of the assembly must lay their hands upon the bulls head before Yehowah, and the bull must be slaughtered before Yehowah. (Leviticus 4:15)**
- **Mentions the older men of the assembly, and it appears that the representatives of the people were the nations older men, its heads, its judges, and its officers.**
- **And some men should be with you, one man to a tribe, each is a head to the house of his fathers. (Numbers 1:4)**
- **These are the ones called of the assembly, the chieftains of the tribes of their fathers. They are the heads of the thousands of Israel. (Numbers 1:16)**
- **That Joshua proceeded to call all Israel, its older men and its heads and its judges and its officers, and to say to them; As for me, I have grown old, I have advanced in days. (Joshua 23:2)**
- **And Joshua proceeded to assemble all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem and to call the older men of Israel and its heads and its judges and its officers, and they went taking their stand before the true God. (Joshua 24:1)**
- **In the wilderness, two silver trumpets were used to convene the assembly and to break up the camp. The assembly would keep their appointment with Moses at the entrance of the tent of meeting if blasts were blown on both of these trumpets. If just one was sounded, the chieftains as heads of the thousands of Israel would put in an appearance there.**

- **And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Moses, saying; (Numbers 10:1)**
- **Make for yourself two trumpets of silver. You will make them of hammered work, and they must be at your service for convening the assembly and for breaking up the camps. (Numbers 10:2)**
- **And they must blow on them both, and the whole assembly must keep their appointment with you at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (Numbers 10:3)**
- **And if they should blow on just one, the chieftains as heads of the thousands of Israel must also keep their appointment with you. (Numbers 10:4)**
- **Sometimes kings convened gatherings,**
- **And King Solomon and with him all the assembly of Israel, those keeping their appointment with him, were before the Ark, sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. (1 Kings 8:5)**
- **Eventually those of Judah were collected together to inquire of Yehowah. Even from all the cities of Judah they came to consult Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 20:4)**
- **Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the **congregation** of Judah and of Jerusalem in the house of Yehowah before the new courtyard. (2 Chronicles 20:5)**
- **Hezekiah using runners to summon the people to Jerusalem for the grand Passover celebration of his day.**
- **And Hezekiah proceeded to send to all Israel and Judah, and even letters he wrote to Ephraim and Manasseh, to come to the house of Yehowah in Jerusalem to hold the Passover to Yehowah the God of Israel. (2 Chronicles 30:1)**
- **However, the king and his princes and all the **congregation** in Jerusalem resolved to hold the Passover in the second month. (2 Chronicles 30:2)**
- **However, the king and his princes and all the **congregation** in**

- Jerusalem resolved to hold the Passover in the second month. (**2 Chronicles 30:2**)
- However, the king and his princes and all the **congregation** in Jerusalem resolved to hold the Passover in the second month. (**2 Chronicles 30:2**)
 - In later times, considerable power was wielded by the judicial body known as the Sanhedrin, composed of 71 members the High Priest and 70 other principal men of the nation, the assembly of older men.
 - Meantime the chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin were looking for false witness against Jesus in order to put him to death. (**Matthew 26:59**)
 - At length when it became day, the assembly of older men of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they haled him into their Sanhedrin hall, saying; (**Luke 22:66**)
 - During the Jews Babylonian exile, or shortly thereafter, synagogues came into general use as buildings where the Jews **congregated**. In time, synagogues were established in various places, Jesus imparted instruction at the synagogue in Nazareth, for example.
 - And he came to Nazareth, where he had been reared, and, according to his custom on the Sabbath day, he entered into the synagogue, and he stood up to read. (**Luke 4:16**)
 - So the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, and he opened the scroll and found the place where it was written: (**Luke 4:17**)
 - Yehowah's spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare Good News to the poor, he sent me forth to preach a release to the captives and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the crushed ones away with a release. (**Luke 4:18**)
 - To preach Yehowah's acceptable year. (**Luke 4:19**)
 - With that he rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue were intently fixed upon him. (**Luke 4:20**)

- Then he started to say to them; Today this scripture that you just heard is fulfilled. ([Luke 4:21](#))
- **Synagogues were actually schools where the Scriptures were read and taught, and they were places of prayer and for the giving of praise to God.**
- For from ancient times Moses has had in city after city those who preach him, because he is read aloud in the synagogues on every Sabbath. ([Acts of Apostles 15:21](#))

See Also SYNAGOGUE

- The **congregation** of Israel was in a unique position. Moses reminded them; You are a holy people to Yehowah your God. It is you **Yehowah your God has chosen to become his people, a special property**, out of all the peoples that are on the surface of the ground.
- For you are a holy people to Yehowah your God. It is you **Yehowah your God has chosen to become his people, a special property**, out of all the peoples that are on the surface of the ground. ([Deuteronomy 7:6](#))
- But the Jewish **congregation** ceased to be the **congregation** of God, being cast off because of rejecting his Son.
- Upon hearing this they with one accord raised their voices to God and said; Sovereign Lord, you are the One who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all the things in them. ([Acts of Apostles 4:24](#))
- And who through Holy Spirit said by the mouth of our forefather David, your servant; Why did nations become tumultuous and peoples meditate upon empty things? ([Acts of Apostles 4:25](#))
- The kings of the earth took their stand and the rulers massed together as one against Yehowah and against his anointed one. ([Acts of Apostles 4:26](#))
- Even so, both Herod and Pontius Pilate with men of nations and with peoples of Israel were in actuality gathered together in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ([Acts of Apostles 4:27](#))

- In order to do what things your hand and counsel had foreordained to occur. (**Acts of Apostles 4:28**)
- From the offspring of this man according to his promise God has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 13:23**)
- After John, in advance of the entry of that One, had preached publicly to all the people of Israel baptism in symbol of repentance. (**Acts of Apostles 13:24**)
- But as John was fulfilling his course, he would say; What do you suppose I am? I am not he. But, look! One is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie. (**Acts of Apostles 13:25**)
- Men, brothers, you sons of the stock of Abraham and those others among you who fear God, the word of this salvation has been sent forth to us. (**Acts of Apostles 13:26**)
- For the inhabitants of Jerusalem and their rulers did not know this One, but, when acting as judges, they fulfilled the things voiced by the Prophets, which things are read aloud every Sabbath. (**Acts of Apostles 13:27**)
- And, although they found no cause for death, they demanded of Pilate that he be executed. (**Acts of Apostles 13:28**)
- When, now, they had accomplished all the things written about him, they took him down from the stake and laid him in a memorial tomb. (**Acts of Apostles 13:29**)
- This is why I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and be given to a nation producing its fruits. (**Matthew 21:43**)
- Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the killer of the prophets and stoner of those sent forth to her, how often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks together under her wings! But you people did not want it. (**Matthew 23:37**)
- Look! Your house is abandoned to you. (**Matthew 23:38**)
- And when he got nearby, he viewed the city and wept over it.

(Luke 19:41)

- **Saying; If you, even you, had discerned in this day the things having to do with peace, but now they have been hid from your eyes. (Luke 19:42)**
- **Because the days will come upon you when your enemies will build around you a fortification with pointed stakes and will encircle you and distress you from every side. (Luke 19:43)**
- **And they will dash you and your children within you to the ground, and they will not leave a stone upon a stone in you, because you did not discern the time of your being inspected. (Luke 19:44)**

.. The Christian Congregation Of God

- **Prior to the rejection of the Jewish nation and the end of its position as the **congregation** of God, Jesus Christ identified himself as the rock-mass upon which he would build what he termed my **congregation**.**
- **Also, I say to you, you are Peter, and on this rock-mass I will build my **congregation**, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. (Matthew 16:18)**
- **This is as Peter, to whom he spoke, understood matters, for the apostle later identified Jesus as the figurative stone that was rejected by men but was chosen, precious, with God and as the foundation cornerstone on which a person could rest his faith without disappointment.**
- **Coming to him as to a living stone, rejected, it is true, by men, but chosen, precious, with God. (1 Peter 2:4)**
- **You yourselves also as living stones are being built up a spiritual house for the purpose of a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)**
- **For it is contained in Scripture: Look! I am laying in Zion a stone, chosen, a foundation cornerstone, precious. No one exercising faith in it will by any means come to disappointment. (1 Peter 2:6)**

- The stone that the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. (**Psalms 118:22**)
- Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said, Here I am laying as a foundation in Zion a stone, a tried stone, the precious corner of a sure foundation. No one exercising faith will get panicky. (**Isaiah 28:16**)
- Paul also definitely identified Jesus Christ as the **foundation** upon which the Christian **congregation** is built.
- Certainly, therefore, you are no longer strangers and alien residents, but you are fellow citizens of the holy ones and are members of the household of God. (**Ephesians 2:19**)
- And you have been built up upon the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, while Christ Jesus himself is the **foundation cornerstone**. (**Ephesians 2:20**)
- In union with him the whole building, being harmoniously joined together, is growing into a holy temple for Yehowah. (**Ephesians 2:21**)
- In union with him you, too, are being built up together into a place for God to inhabit by spirit. (**Ephesians 2:22**)
- For no man can lay any other foundation than what is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (**1 Corinthians 3:11**)
- And, belonging to Yehowah as it does, it is appropriately referred to as the **congregation of God**.
- Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the **congregation of God**, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. (**Acts of Apostles 20:28**)
- You, of course, heard about my conduct formerly in Judaism, that to the point of excess I kept on persecuting the **congregation of God** and devastating it. (**Galatians 1:13**)
- This Christian **congregation** Greek, *ek-kle-si'a*, founded on Christ, also has him as its head. Thus it is stated; He, **God** also subjected all things under his feet, and made him head over all things to the

congregation, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills up all things in all.

- He also subjected all things under his feet, and made him head over all things to the **congregation**. (**Ephesians 1:22**)
- Which is his body, the fullness of him who fills up all things in all. (**Ephesians 1:23**)
- And he is the head of the body, the **congregation**. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that he might become the one who is first in all things. (**Colossians 1:18**)
- The Christian **congregation** of God took the place of the congregation of Israel at Pentecost of **33 C.E.**, when Holy Spirit was poured out on Jesus followers in Jerusalem. The first prospective members of that **congregation** were chosen shortly after Jesus baptism, at the beginning of his ministry on earth.
- Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. (**Acts of Apostles 2:1**)
- And suddenly there occurred from heaven a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. (**Acts of Apostles 2:2**)
- And tongues as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them. (**Acts of Apostles 2:3**)
- And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. (**Acts of Apostles 2:4**)
- Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples. (**John 1:35**)
- And as he looked at Jesus walking he said; See, the Lamb of God! (**John 1:36**)
- And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. (**John 1:37**)
- Then Jesus turned and, getting a view of them following, he said

- to them; What are you looking for? They said to him; Rabbi, Which means, when translated, Teacher. Where are you staying? (John 1:38)
- He said to them; Come, and you will see. Accordingly they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, it was about the tenth hour. (John 1:39)
 - Andrew the brother of Simon Peter was one of the two that heard what John said and followed Jesus. (John 1:40)
 - First this one found his own brother, Simon, and said to him; We have found the Messiah which means, when translated, Christ. (John 1:41)
 - He led him to Jesus. When Jesus looked upon him he said; You are Simon the son of John; You will be called Cephas, which is translated Peter. (John 1:42)
 - The next day he desired to depart for Galilee. So Jesus found Philip and said to him, Be my follower. (John 1:43)
 - From among his early followers Jesus selected 12 apostles.
 - In the progress of these days he went out into the mountain to pray, and he continued the whole night in prayer to God. (Luke 6:12)
 - But when it became day he called his disciples to him and chose from among them **twelve**, whom **he also named apostles**. (Luke 6:13)
 - Simon, whom he also named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip and Bartholomew. (Luke 6:14)
 - And Matthew and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who is called the zealous one. (Luke 6:15)
 - And Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who turned traitor. (Luke 6:16)
 - And later he chose Saul of Tarsus, who became **an apostle to the nations**.

- **But Saul, still breathing threat and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the High Priest. (Acts of Apostles 9:1)**
- **And asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, in order, that he might bring bound to Jerusalem any whom he found who belonged to The Way, both men and women. (Acts of Apostles 9:2)**
- **Now as he was traveling he approached Damascus, when suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. (Acts of Apostles 9:3)**
- **And he fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him; Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? (Acts of Apostles 9:4)**
- **He said; Who are you, Lord? He said; I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. (Acts of Apostles 9:5)**
- **Nevertheless, rise and enter into the city, and what you must do will be told you. (Acts of Apostles 9:6)**
- **Now the men that were journeying with him were standing speechless, hearing, indeed, the sound of a voice, but not beholding any man. (Acts of Apostles 9:7)**
- **But Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were opened he was seeing nothing. So they led him by the hand and conducted him into Damascus. (Acts of Apostles 9:8)**
- **And for three days he did not see anything, and he neither ate nor drank. (Acts of Apostles 9:9)**
- **There was in Damascus a certain disciple named Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision; Ananias! He said; Here I am, Lord. (Acts of Apostles 9:10)**
- **The Lord said to him; Rise, go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man named Saul, from Tarsus. For, look! He is praying. (Acts of Apostles 9:11)**
- **And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands upon him that he might recover sight. (Acts of Apostles 9:12)**

- **But Ananias answered; Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how many injurious things he did to your holy ones in Jerusalem. (Acts of Apostles 9:13)**
- **And here he has authority from the chief priests to put in bonds all those calling upon your name. (Acts of Apostles 9:14)**
- **But the Lord said to him; Be on your way, because this man is a chosen vessel to me to bear my name to the nations as well as to kings and the sons of Israel. (Acts of Apostles 9:15)**
- **For I shall show him plainly how many things he must suffer for my name. (Acts of Apostles 9:16)**
- **So Ananias went off and entered into the house, and he laid his hands upon him and said; Saul, brother, the Lord, the Jesus that appeared to you on the road over which you were coming, has sent me forth, in order, that you may recover sight and be filled with Holy Spirit. (Acts of Apostles 9:17)**
- **And immediately there fell from his eyes what looked like scales, and he recovered sight, and he rose and was baptized. (Acts of Apostles 9:18)**
- **And he took food and gained strength. He got to be for some days with the disciples in Damascus. (Acts of Apostles 9:19)**
- **Now I speak to you who are people of the nations. Forasmuch as I am, in reality, an apostle to the nations, I glorify my ministry. (Romans 11:13)**
- **The 12 faithful apostles of the Lamb Jesus Christ, including Matthias who replaced Judas, constitute secondary foundations of the Christian congregation.**
- **So they put up two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. (Acts of Apostles 1:23)**
- **And they prayed and said; You, O Yehowah, who know the hearts of all, designate which one of these two men you have chosen. (Acts of Apostles 1:24)**
- **To take the place of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas deviated to go to his own place. (Acts of Apostles 1:25)**

- So they cast lots over them, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was reckoned along with the eleven apostles. ([Acts of Apostles 1:26](#))
- And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea is no more. ([Revelation 21:1](#))
- I saw also the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ([Revelation 21:2](#))
- The wall of the city also had twelve foundation stones, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. ([Revelation 21:14](#))
- This **congregation** is referred to as the **congregation** of the firstborn who have been enrolled in the heavens, the full number of which, under Christ the head, is 144,000.
- In general assembly, and the **congregation** of the firstborn who have been enrolled in the heavens, and God the Judge of all, and the spiritual lives of righteous ones who have been made perfect. ([Hebrews 12:23](#))
- And I heard the number of those who were sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel. ([Revelation 7:4](#))
- These called-out ones are bought from among mankind to carry out a special work here on earth and then to be with Christ in heaven as his bride. As there were requirements for membership in the Hebrew **congregation** of God, so there are requisites for membership in the Christian **congregation** of God. Those making it up are spiritual virgins who keep following the Lamb, Jesus Christ, no matter where he goes, and no falsehood was found in their mouths, they are without blemish.
- And I saw, and, look! The Lamb standing upon the Mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand having his name and the name of his Father written on their foreheads. ([Revelation 14:1](#))

- **And I heard a sound out of heaven as the sound of many waters and as the sound of loud thunder, and the sound that I heard was as of singers who accompany themselves on the harp playing on their harps. (Revelation 14:2)**
- **And they are singing as if a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders, and no one was able to master that song but the hundred and forty-four thousand, who have been bought from the earth. (Revelation 14:3)**
- **These are the ones that did not defile themselves with women, in fact, they are virgins. These are the ones that keep following the Lamb no matter where he goes. These were bought from among mankind as firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. (Revelation 14:4)**
- **And no falsehood was found in their mouths, they are without blemish. (Revelation 14:5)**
- **The members of the Christian congregation of God are selected by Yehowah.**
- **Moreover, those whom he foreordained are the ones he also called, and those whom he called are the ones he also declared to be righteous. Finally those whom he declared righteous are the ones he also glorified. (Romans 8:30)**
- **However, we are obligated to thank God always for you, brothers loved by Yehowah, because God selected you from the beginning for salvation by sanctifying you with spirit and by your faith in the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:13)**
- **The first members thereof were called out from the rejected Jewish congregation, which had not accepted God's Son as their Messiah. However, beginning with Cornelius in 36 C.E, members of the Christian congregation were also called out from the nations in general, so that Paul could say;**
- **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one person in union with Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)**
- **At this Peter opened his mouth and said; For a certainty I perceive that God is not partial. (Acts of Apostles 10:34)**

- **But in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. (Acts of Apostles 10:35)**
- **For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for there is the same Lord over all, who is rich to all those calling upon him. (Romans 10:12)**
- **Therefore keep bearing in mind that formerly you were people of the nations as to flesh. Uncircumcision you were called, by that which is called circumcision, made in the flesh with hands. (Ephesians 2:11)**
- **That you were at that particular time without Christ, alienated from the state of Israel and strangers to the covenants of the promise, and you had no hope and were without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:12)**
- **But now in union with Christ Jesus you who were once far off have come to be near by the blood of the Christ. (Ephesians 2:13)**
- **For he is our peace, he who made the two parties one and destroyed the wall in between that fenced them off. (Ephesians 2:14)**
- **By means of his flesh he abolished the enmity, the Law of commandments consisting in decrees, that he might create the two peoples in union with himself into one new man and make peace. (Ephesians 2:15)**
- **And that he might fully reconcile both peoples in one body to God through the torture stake, because he had killed off the enmity by means of himself. (Ephesians 2:16)**
- **Whereas the Law covenant mediated by Moses and under which the congregation of Israel was regulated was fulfilled by Christ and was taken out of the way by Yehowah God.**
- **Do not think I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I came, not to destroy, but to fulfill. (Matthew 5:17)**
- **But their mental powers were dulled. For to this present day the same veil remains unlifted at the reading of the old covenant, because it is done away with by means of Christ. (2 Corinthians**

3:14)

- **Furthermore, though you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcised state of your flesh, God made you alive together with him. He kindly forgave us all our trespasses ([Colossians 2:13](#))**
- **And blotted out the handwritten document against us, which consisted of decrees and which was in opposition to us, and He has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the torture stake. ([Colossians 2:14](#))**
- **Members of the Christian **congregation** of God partake of the benefits of the New Covenant mediated by the Greater Moses, Jesus Christ.**
- **For this means my blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out in behalf of many for forgiveness of sins. ([Matthew 26:28](#))**
- **But you have approached a Mount Zion and a city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, and myriads of angels. ([Hebrews 12:22](#))**
- **In general assembly, and the **congregation** of the firstborn who have been enrolled in the heavens, and God the Judge of all, and the spiritual lives of righteous ones who have been made perfect. ([Hebrews 12:23](#))**
- **And Jesus the mediator of a New Covenant, and the blood of sprinkling, which speaks in a better way than Abel's blood. ([Hebrews 12:24](#))**
- **Repent, therefore, and turn around so as to get your sins blotted out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the person of Yehowah ([Acts of Apostles 3:19](#))**
- **And that he may send forth the Christ appointed for you, Jesus. ([Acts of Apostles 3:20](#))**
- **Whom heaven, indeed, must hold within itself until the times of restoration of all things of which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets of old time. ([Acts of Apostles 3:21](#))**
- **In fact, Moses said; Yehowah God will raise up for you from**

- among your brothers a prophet like me. You must listen to him according to all the things he speaks to you. (**Acts of Apostles 3:22**)
- **Indeed, any soul that does not listen to that Prophet will be completely destroyed from among the people. (Acts of Apostles 3:23)**
 - **Also, while the priests and kings of Israel were anointed with oil.**
 - **And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (Exodus 30:22)**
 - **As for you, take to yourself the choicest perfumes, myrrh in congealed drops five hundred units, and sweet cinnamon in half that amount, two hundred and fifty units, and sweet calamus two hundred and fifty units. (Exodus 30:23)**
 - **And cassia five hundred units by the shekel of the holy place, and olive oil a hin. (Exodus 30:24)**
 - **Then you must make out of it a holy anointing oil, an ointment, a mixture that is the work of an ointment maker. It is to be a holy anointing oil. (Exodus 30:25)**
 - **And you must anoint with it the tent of meeting and the ark of the testimony. (Exodus 30:26)**
 - **And the table and all its utensils and the lampstand and its utensils and the altar of incense. (Exodus 30:27)**
 - **And the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils and the basin and its stand. (Exodus 30:28)**
 - **And you must sanctify them that they may indeed become most holy. Anyone touching them is to be holy. (Exodus 30:29)**
 - **And you will anoint Aaron and his sons, and you must sanctify them for acting as priests to me. (Exodus 30:30)**
 - **So he got up and came into the house, and he proceeded to pour the oil out upon his head and say to him; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; I do anoint you as king over Yehowah's people, that is, over Israel. (2 Kings 9:6)**

- **Those chosen by God to be members of the Christian congregation are anointed with Holy Spirit.**
- **But he who guarantees that you and we belong to Christ and he who has anointed us is God. (2 Corinthians 1:21)**
- **He has also put his seal upon us and has given us the token of what is to come, that is, the spirit, in our hearts. (2 Corinthians 1:22)**
- **And you have an anointing from the holy one, all of you have knowledge. (1 John 2:20)**
- **And are adopted by Yehowah God as his sons.**
- **For he foreordained us to the adoption through Jesus Christ as sons to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will. (Ephesians 1:5)**
- **Basically the Hebrew congregation was composed of natural Israelites. Persons comprising the anointed Christian congregation of God are Spiritual Israelites, forming the tribes of Spiritual Israel.**
- **And I heard the number of those who were sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel. (Revelation 7:4)**
- **Out of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand sealed, out of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, out of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand. (Revelation 7:5)**
- **Out of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, out of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, out of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand. (Revelation 7:6)**
- **Out of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, out of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, out of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand. (Revelation 7:7)**
- **Out of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, out of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, out of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand sealed. (Revelation 7:8)**

- **Inasmuch as the majority of the natural Israelites rejected Jesus Christ, not all who spring from Israel are really Israel, that is, Spiritual Israel.**
- **However, it is not as though the word of God had failed. For not all who spring from Israel are really Israel. (Romans 9:6)**
- **Neither because they are Abraham's seed are they all children, but: What will be called your seed will be through Isaac. (Romans 9:7)**
- **That is, the children in the flesh are not really the children of God, but the children by the promise are counted as the seed. (Romans 9:8)**
- **For the word of promise was as follows; At this time I will come and Sarah will have a son. (Romans 9:9)**
- **And, regarding the Christian congregation of God comprised of spiritual Jews, Paul stated;**
- **For he is not a Jew who is one on the outside, nor is circumcision that which is on the outside upon the flesh. (Romans 2:28)**
- **But he is a Jew who is one on the inside, and his circumcision is that of the heart by spirit, and not by a written code. The praise of that one comes, not from men, but from God. (Romans 2:29)**
- **Usually when the Christian Greek Scriptures mention the congregation in a general sense, reference is being made to the 144,000 members thereof, the anointed followers of Christ exclusive of Jesus himself.**
- **This sacred secret is great. Now I am speaking with respect to Christ and the congregation. (Ephesians 5:32)**
- **In general assembly, and the congregation of the firstborn who have been enrolled in the heavens, and God the Judge of all, and the spiritual lives of righteous ones who have been made perfect. (Hebrews 12:23)**
- **And Jesus the mediator of a New Covenant, and the blood of sprinkling, which speaks in a better way than Abel's blood. (Hebrews 12:24)**

- However, the inspired application of David's words recorded at;
- I will declare your name to my brothers, in the middle of the **congregation** I shall praise you. ([Psalms 22:22](#))
- To Jesus Christ at;
- As he says; I will declare your name to my brothers. In the middle of the **congregation** I will praise you with song. ([Hebrews 2:12](#))
- Shows that the term **congregation** can be applied to include the head thereof, Jesus Christ. Partly quoting David, the writer to the Hebrews stated;
- For both he who is sanctifying and those who are being sanctified all stem from one, and for this cause he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ([Hebrews 2:11](#))
- As he says; I will declare your name to my brothers. In the middle of the **congregation** I will praise you with song. ([Hebrews 2:12](#))
- Like David, who was a member of the **congregation** of Israel in the middle of which he praised Yehowah, Jesus Christ can, in this instance, be viewed as one of the spiritual congregation, the others in it being called his brothers.
- When did we see you sick or in prison and go to you? ([Matthew 25:39](#))
- And in reply the king will say to them; Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. ([Matthew 25:40](#))
- David belonged to the Israelite **congregation** of Yehowah God, and Jesus Christ was also a member of it while on earth, preaching amidst its members. A remnant of that **congregation** became part of Jesus **congregation**.

· Organization Of The Christian Congregation

- While Christian **congregations** of God were established in various places, they did not function independently of one another. Instead, they all recognized the authority of the Christian older men at Jerusalem. This older men was comprised of the apostles and older men of the Jerusalem **congregation**, there being no rival bodies elsewhere seeking to supervise the **congregation**.
- It was to the faithful Christian older men of the **First Century C.E.** that the issue of circumcision was submitted for consideration. When the older men made its decision, as directed by the Holy Spirit, that decision was accepted and became binding upon all Christian congregations, these willingly submitting to it.
- Then the apostles and the older men together with the whole **congregation** favored sending chosen men from among them to Antioch along with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was called Barsabbas and Silas, leading men among the brothers. (**Acts of Apostles 15:22**)
- And by their hand they wrote; The apostles and the older men, brothers, to those brothers in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia who are from the nations. Greetings! (**Acts of Apostles 15:23**)
- Since we have heard that some from among us have caused you trouble with speeches, trying to subvert your souls, although we did not give them any instructions. (**Acts of Apostles 15:24**)
- We have come to a unanimous accord and have favored choosing men to send to you together with our loved ones, Barnabas and Paul. (**Acts of Apostles 15:25**)
- Men that have delivered up their souls for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (**Acts of Apostles 15:26**)
- We are therefore dispatching Judas and Silas, that they also may report the same things by word. (**Acts of Apostles 15:27**)
- For the Holy Spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to you, except these necessary things. (**Acts of Apostles 15:28**)
- To keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication. If you carefully keep yourselves from these things, you will prosper. Good health

to you! (**Acts of Apostles 15:29**)

- Accordingly, when these men were let go, they went down to Antioch, and they gathered the multitude together and handed them the letter. (**Acts of Apostles 15:30**)
- After reading it, they rejoiced over the encouragement. (**Acts of Apostles 15:31**)
- **The Christian older men in Jerusalem sent out Paul and Barnabus as representatives along with others to deliver their decree.**
- Now as they traveled on through the cities they would deliver to those there for observance the decrees that had been decided upon by the apostles and older men who were in Jerusalem. (**Acts of Apostles 16:4**)
- Therefore, indeed, the **congregations** continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number from day to day. (**Acts of Apostles 16:5**)
- **Earlier, when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they dispatched Peter and John to them, and these went down and prayed for them to get Holy Spirit.**
- When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they dispatched Peter and John to them. (**Acts of Apostles 8:14**)
- And these went down and prayed for them to get Holy Spirit. (**Acts of Apostles 8:15**)
- **The individual **congregations** adhered closely to the direction of the Christian older men, which supervised the appointment of older men.**
- Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ according to the faith of God's chosen ones and the accurate knowledge of the truth which accords with godly devotion (**Titus 1:1**)
- For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might correct the things that were defective and might make appointments of older men in city after city, as I gave you orders. (**Titus 1:5**)

- **So it was that, as directed by the Christian older men under the influence of the Holy Spirit, overseers as well as assistants, ministerial servants, were appointed for each congregation. The men placed in these positions of trust and responsibility had to meet specific qualifications.**
- **That statement is faithful. If any man is reaching out for an office of overseer, he is desirous of a fine work. (1 Timothy 3:1)**
- **The overseer should therefore be irreprehensible, a husband of one wife, moderate in habits, sound in mind, orderly, hospitable, qualified to teach. (1 Timothy 3:2)**
- **Not a drunken brawler, not a smiter, but reasonable, not belligerent, not a lover of money. (1 Timothy 3:3)**
- **A man presiding over his own household in a fine manner, having children in subjection with all seriousness. (1 Timothy 3:4)**
- **If indeed any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he take care of God's congregation? (1 Timothy 3:5)**
- **Not a newly converted man, for fear that he might get puffed up with pride and fall into the judgment passed upon the Devil. (1 Timothy 3:6)**
- **Moreover, he should also have a fine testimony from people on the outside, in order, that he might not fall into reproach and a snare of the Devil. (1 Timothy 3:7)**
- **Ministerial servants should likewise be serious, not double-tongued, not giving themselves to a lot of wine, not greedy of dishonest gain. (1 Timothy 3:8)**
- **Holding the sacred secret of the faith with a clean conscience. (1 Timothy 3:9)**
- **Also, let these be tested as to fitness first, then let them serve as ministers, as they are free from accusation. (1 Timothy 3:10)**
- **Women should likewise be serious, not slanderous, moderate in habits, faithful in all things. (1 Timothy 3:11)**

- **Let ministerial servants be husbands of one wife, presiding in a fine manner over children and their own households. (1 Timothy 3:12)**
- **For the men who minister in a fine manner are acquiring for themselves a fine standing and great freeness of speech in the faith in connection with Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 3:13)**
- **For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might correct the things that were defective and might make appointments of older men in city after city, as I gave you orders. (Titus 1:5)**
- **If there is any man free from accusation, a husband of one wife, having believing children that were not under a charge of debauchery nor unruly. (Titus 1:6)**
- **For an overseer must be free from accusation as God's steward, not self-willed, not prone to wrath, not a drunken brawler, not a smiter, not greedy of dishonest gain. (Titus 1:7)**
- **But hospitable, a lover of goodness, sound in mind, righteous, loyal, self-controlled. (Titus 1:8)**
- **Holding firmly to the faithful word as respects his art of teaching, that he may be able both to exhort by the teaching that is healthful and to reprove those who contradict. (Titus 1:9)**
- **Traveling representatives of the older men, such as Paul, followed Christ and set a fine example to be imitated.**
- **Become imitators of me, even as I am of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)**
- **The things that you learned as well as accepted and heard and saw in connection with me, practice these, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:9)**
- **In fact, all of those in the position of spiritual shepherds were to become examples to the flock.**
- **Shepherd the flock of God in your care, not under compulsion, but willingly, neither for love of dishonest gain, but eagerly. (1 Peter 5:2)**

- Neither as lording it over those who are God's inheritance, but becoming examples to the flock. (**1 Peter 5:3**)
- **Were to show loving concern for individuals within the congregation.**
- In fact, at no time have we turned up either with flattering speech, just as you know, or with a false front for covetousness, God is witness! (**1 Thessalonians 2:5**)
- Neither have we been seeking glory from men, no, either from you or from others, though we could be an expensive burden as apostles of Christ. (**1 Thessalonians 2:6**)
- To the contrary, we became gentle in the midst of you, as when a nursing mother cherishes her own children. (**1 Thessalonians 2:7**)
- So, having a tender affection for you, we were well pleased to impart to you, not only the Good News of God, but also our own souls, because you became beloved to us. (**1 Thessalonians 2:8**)
- Certainly you bear in mind, brothers, our labor and toil. It was with working night and day, so as not to put an expensive burden upon any one of you, that we preached the Good News of God to you. (**1 Thessalonians 2:9**)
- You are witnesses, God is also, how loyal and righteous and unblamable we proved to be to you believers. (**1 Thessalonians 2:10**)
- In harmony with that you well know how, as a father does his children, we kept exhorting each one of you, and consoling and bearing witness to you. (**1 Thessalonians 2:11**)
- To the end that you should go on walking worthily of God who is calling you to his kingdom and glory. (**1 Thessalonians 2:12**)
- **And were to be of real assistance to those spiritually sick.**
- Brothers, even though a man takes some false step before he is aware of it, you who have spiritual qualifications try to readjust such a man in a spirit of mildness, as you each keep an eye on yourself, for fear you also may be tempted. (**Galatians 6:1**)

- Is there anyone suffering evil among you? Let him carry on prayer. Is there anyone in good spirits? Let him sing psalms. (**James 5:13**)
- Is there anyone sick among you? Let him call the older men of the **congregation** to him, and let them pray over him, greasing him with oil in the name of Yehowah. (**James 5:14**)
- And the prayer of faith will make the indisposed one well, and Yehowah will raise him up. Also, if he has committed sins, it will be forgiven him. (**James 5:15**)
- Therefore openly confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may get healed. A righteous man's supplication, when it is at work, has much force. (**James 5:16**)

See Also **OLDER MAN**

See Also **OVERSEER**

See Also **MINISTER**

- Hence, just as Yehowah organized the **congregation** of Israel under **older men, heads, judges, and officers**.
- That Joshua proceeded to call all Israel, its **older men** and its **heads** and its **judges** and its **officers**, and to say to them; As for me, I have grown old, I have advanced in days. (**Joshua 23:2**)
- He saw to the supervision of the Christian **congregation** by having older men appointed to positions of trust therein.
- Moreover, they appointed older men for them in each **congregation** and, offering prayer with fastings, they committed them to Yehowah in whom they had become believers. (**Acts of Apostles 14:23**)
- And, as responsible men sometimes acted representatively for the entire **congregation** of Israel, as in judicial matters.
- You should set judges and officers for yourself inside all your gates that Yehowah your God is giving you by your tribes, and they must judge the people with righteous judgment. (**Deuteronomy 16:18**)

- **God arranged for each individual Christian **congregation** to be similarly represented in such matters by responsible men placed in positions of authority by the Holy Spirit.**
- **Pay attention to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, to shepherd the **congregation** of God, which he purchased with the blood of his own Son. (**Acts of Apostles 20:28**)**
- **Actually fornication is reported among you, and such fornication as is not even among the nations, that a wife a certain man has of his father. (**1 Corinthians 5:1**)**
- **And are you puffed up, and did you not rather mourn, in order, that the man that committed this deed should be taken away from your midst? (**1 Corinthians 5:2**)**
- **I for one, although absent in body but present in spirit, have certainly judged already, as if I were present, the man who has worked in such a way as this. (**1 Corinthians 5:3**)**
- **That in the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are gathered together, also my spirit with the power of our Lord Jesus. (**1 Corinthians 5:4**)**
- **You hand such a man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, in order, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. (**1 Corinthians 5:5**)**
- **However, should difficulties develop between members of the Christian **congregation** of God, the words of Jesus Christ recorded at;**
- **Moreover, if your brother commits a sin, go lay bare his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. (**Matthew 18:15**)**
- **But if he does not listen, take along with you one or two more, in order, that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every matter may be established. (**Matthew 18:16**)**
- **If he does not listen to them, speak to the **congregation**. If he does not listen even to the congregation, let him be to you just as a man of the nations and as a tax collector. (**Matthew 18:17**)**

- Spoken before the Jewish congregation of God had been rejected by Yehowah and thus initially applicable to it, served as a basis for settling or handling such problems.
- Yehowah God has set the members in the spiritual body of Christ just as he pleased. And Paul stated; God has set the respective ones in the **congregation**, **first, apostles, second, prophets, third, teachers, then powerful works, then gifts of healings, helpful services, abilities to direct, different tongues**. Not all performed the same functions, but all were needed by the Christian congregation.
- For just as the **body** is one but has many members, and all the members of that **body**, although being many, are one **body**, so also is the Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)
- For truly by one spirit we were all baptized into one **body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink one spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- For the **body**, indeed, is not one member, but many. (1 Corinthians 12:14)
- If the foot should say; Because I am not a hand, I am no part of the **body**, it is not for this reason no part of the **body**. (1 Corinthians 12:15)
- And if the ear should say; Because I am not an eye, I am no part of the **body**, it is not for this reason no part of the **body**. (1 Corinthians 12:16)
- If the whole **body** were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If it were all hearing, where would the smelling be? (1 Corinthians 12:17)
- But now God has set the members in the **body**, each one of them, just as he pleased. (1 Corinthians 12:18)
- If they were all one member, where would the **body** be? (1 Corinthians 12:19)
- But now they are many members, yet one **body**. (1 Corinthians 12:20)
- The eye cannot say to the hand; I have no need of you. Or,

again, the head cannot say to the feet; I have no need of you. (**1 Corinthians 12:21**)

- But much rather is it the case that the members of the **body** which seem to be weaker are necessary. (**1 Corinthians 12:22**)
- And the parts of the **body** which we think to be less honorable, these we surround with more abundant honor, and so our unseemly parts have the more abundant comeliness. (**1 Corinthians 12:23**)
- Whereas our comely parts do not need anything. Nevertheless, God compounded the **body**, giving honor more abundant to the part which had a lack. (**1 Corinthians 12:24**)
- So that there should be no division in the **body**, but that its members should have the same care for one another. (**1 Corinthians 12:25**)
- And if one member suffers, all the other members suffer with it, or if a member is glorified, all the other members rejoice with it. (**1 Corinthians 12:26**)
- Now you are Christ's **body**, and members individually. (**1 Corinthians 12:27**)
- And God has set the respective ones in the **congregation**, **first, apostles, second, prophets, third, teachers, then powerful works, then gifts of healings, helpful services, abilities to direct, different tongues.** (**1 Corinthians 12:28**)
- Not all are apostles, are they? Not all are prophets, are they? Not all are teachers, are they? Not all perform powerful works, do they? (**1 Corinthians 12:29**)
- Not all have gifts of healings, do they? Not all speak in tongues, do they? Not all are translators, are they? (**1 Corinthians 12:30**)
- But keep zealously seeking the greater gifts. And yet I show you a surpassing way. (**1 Corinthians 12:31**)
- Paul explained that the **supplying of apostles, prophets, evangelizers, shepherds, and teachers for the Christian congregation** was with a view to the readjustment of the holy ones, for ministerial

work, for the building up of the body of the Christ, until we all attain to the oneness in the faith and in the accurate knowledge of the Son of God, to a full-grown man, to the measure of stature that belongs to the fullness of the Christ.

- **And he gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelizers, some as shepherds and teachers. (Ephesians 4:11)**
- **With a view to the readjustment of the holy ones, for ministerial work, for the building up of the body of the Christ. (Ephesians 4:12)**
- **Until we all attain to the oneness in the faith and in the accurate knowledge of the Son of God, to a full-grown man, to the measure of stature that belongs to the fullness of the Christ. (Ephesians 4:13)**
- **In order, that we should no longer be babes, tossed about as by waves and carried hither and thither by every wind of teaching by means of the trickery of men, by means of cunning in contriving error. (Ephesians 4:14)**
- **But speaking the truth, let us by love grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)**
- **From him all the body, by being harmoniously joined together and being made to cooperate through every joint that gives what is needed, according to the functioning of each respective member in due measure, makes for the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:16)**
- **The congregation of Israel was provided with the laws of God and was made to appreciate that not by bread alone does man live but by every expression of Yehowah's mouth does man live.**
- **Every commandment that I am commanding you today you should be careful to keep, in order, that you may continue living and indeed multiply and go in and take possession of the land about which Yehowah swore to your forefathers. (Deuteronomy 8:1)**
- **And you must remember all the way that Yehowah your God made you walk these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, to put you to the test so as to know what was in**

- your heart, as to whether you would keep his commandments or not. (**Deuteronomy 8:2**)
- So he humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you with the manna, which neither you had known nor your fathers had known, in order to make you know that not by bread alone does man live but by every expression of Yehowah's mouth does man live. (**Deuteronomy 8:3**)
 - Jesus Christ also recognized that man could not live on bread alone, but on every utterance coming forth through Yehowah's mouth.
 - Then Jesus was led by the spirit up into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. (**Matthew 4:1**)
 - After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, then he felt hungry. (**Matthew 4:2**)
 - Also, the Tempter came and said to him; If you are a son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread. (**Matthew 4:3**)
 - But in reply he said; It is written: Man must live, not on bread alone, but on every utterance coming forth through Yehowah's mouth. (**Matthew 4:4**)
 - Hence, adequate provision has been made for the Christian **congregation** to have needed spiritual food, Christ himself mentioning the slave through whom such food is dispensed to Christian domestics. Jesus, as part of his prophecy concerning his own presence and the conclusion of the system of things, showed that, on arriving, the master would appoint this faithful and discreet slave over all his belongings.
 - While he was sitting upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples approached him privately, saying; Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things? (**Matthew 24:3**)
 - Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time? (**Matthew 24:45**)
 - Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. (**Matthew 24:46**)

- Truly I say to you, he will appoint him over all his belongings. **(Matthew 24:47)**
- Gatherings for the worship of Yehowah and a consideration of his Law were important in the **congregation** of Israel.
- **Congregate** the people, the men and the women and the little ones and your alien resident who is within your gates, in order, that they may listen and in order, that they may learn, as they must fear Yehowah your God and take care to carry out all the words of this law. **(Deuteronomy 31:12)**
- And all the people proceeded to gather themselves as one man at the public square that was before the Water Gate. Then they said to Ezra the copyist to bring the book of the Law of Moses, which Yehowah had commanded Israel. **(Nehemiah 8:1)**
- Accordingly Ezra the priest brought the Law before the **congregation** of men as well as of women and of all intelligent enough to listen, on the first day of the seventh month. **(Nehemiah 8:2)**
- And he continued to read aloud from it before the public square that is before the Water Gate, from daybreak till midday, in front of the men and the women and the other intelligent ones, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the Law. **(Nehemiah 8:3)**
- And Ezra the copyist kept standing upon a wooden podium, which they had made for the occasion, and there were standing alongside him Mattithiah and Shema and Anaiah and Uriah and Hilkiyah and Maaseiah to his right hand, and at his left Pedaiah and Mishael and Malchijah and Hashum and Hash-baddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam. **(Nehemiah 8:4)**
- And Ezra proceeded to open the book before the eyes of all the people, for he happened to be above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood up. **(Nehemiah 8:5)**
- Then Ezra blessed Yehowah the true God, the great One, at which all the people answered, Amen! Amen! With the lifting up of their hands. They then bowed low and prostrated themselves to Yehowah with their faces to the earth. **(Nehemiah 8:6)**

- And Jeshua and Bani and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, even the Levites, were explaining the Law to the people, while the people were in a standing position. (**Nehemiah 8:7**)
- And they continued reading aloud from the book, from the Law of the true God, it being expounded, and there being a putting of meaning into it, and they continued giving understanding in the reading. (**Nehemiah 8:8**)
- Similarly, meetings for the worship of Yehowah and a study of the Scriptures are an essential feature of the Christian **congregation** of God, the writer to the Hebrews admonishing the recipients of his letter not to be forsaking such gathering of themselves together.
- And let us consider one another to incite to love and fine works. (**Hebrews 10:24**)
- Not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together, as some have the custom, but encouraging one another, and all the more so as you behold the day drawing near. (**Hebrews 10:25**)
- Activities in the synagogues of later Jewish history included the reading and teaching of the Scriptures, the offering of prayers, and the giving of praise to God. Such features were carried over into places of Christian **assembly**, though without the ritualistic accretions that had eventually developed in synagogue services.
- In the synagogue no sacerdotal class was set apart, sharing in Scripture reading and exposition being open to any devout male Jew. Comparably, no clergy-laity or similar division existed within the early Christian **congregation**. Of course, neither therein nor in the synagogue did the women teach or exercise authority over the men.
- Let a woman learn in silence with full submissiveness. (**1 Timothy 2:11**)
- I do not permit a woman to teach, or to exercise authority over a man, but to be in silence. (**1 Timothy 2:12**)
- The maintaining of proper order at meetings of the Christian **congregation** of God harmonized with the fact that Yehowah, who made provision for the **congregational** arrangement among Christ's

followers, is a **God, not of disorder, but of peace**. This orderliness also worked to the great spiritual benefit of all in attendance.

- **What is to be done, then, brothers? When you come together, one has a psalm, another has a teaching, another has a revelation, another has a tongue, another has an interpretation. **Let all things take place for upbuilding.** (1 Corinthians 14:26)**
- **And if someone speaks in a tongue, let it be limited to two or three at the most, and in turns, and let someone translate. (1 Corinthians 14:27)**
- **But if there be no translator, let him keep silent in the congregation and speak to himself and to God. (1 Corinthians 14:28)**
- **Further, let two or three prophets speak, and let the others discern the meaning. (1 Corinthians 14:29)**
- **But if there is a revelation to another one while sitting there, let the first one keep silent. (1 Corinthians 14:30)**
- **For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all be encouraged. (1 Corinthians 14:31)**
- **And gifts of the spirit of the prophets are to be controlled by the prophets. (1 Corinthians 14:32)**
- **For God is a God, not of disorder, but of peace. As in all the congregations of the holy ones. (1 Corinthians 14:33)**
- **let the women keep silent in the congregations, for it is not permitted for them to speak, but let them be in subjection, even as the Law says. (1 Corinthians 14:34)**
- **If, then, they want to learn something, let them question their own husbands at home, for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in a congregation. (1 Corinthians 14:35)**
- **But let all things take place decently and by arrangement. (1 Corinthians 14:40)**

See Also ASSEMBLY

