

# A look at the first century church 4-01

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Century Church series

### Series subjects:

- ◆ 1. The importance of God's Word, and "words" (Heb 4:12).
- ◆ 2. The sources used by Jesus and the disciples
- ◆ 3. The 1st century churches had NO New Testament, only the Hebrew Scriptures.
- ◆ 4. First Century church "services", Constantine - Roman Emperor, introduced the recognition of buildings as churches. Why anything Jewish was removed from the church. Syncretism defined. Church councils still fighting Jewish influences seven hundred years later.
- ◆ 5. The Scriptural definitions of 3 words: Righteousness, Covenant, and Holiness.
- ◆ 6. Passover, Unleavened Bread, Day of Firstfruits, 3 "connected" feasts.
- ◆ 7. Shavuot or Pentecost.
- ◆ 8. Rosh HaShannah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles.

# A look at the first century church 4-02

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- **Questions:**
- **Where did the followers of Yeshua, Jesus, meet?**
- When were churches and the recognition of church buildings introduced?
- For what purpose were buildings as churches introduced?
- When were the Jewish things removed from the early church?
- What was the reason that anything Jewish was removed from the early church?
- What things were newly introduced into the early church, and by whom were they added?

# A look at the first century church 4-03

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- **Question:** Where did the followers of Yeshua, the disciples of Jesus meet?
- **Answer:** 1<sup>st</sup> Century meetings were in the houses of the believers.
- See the .pdf article by Heidler for what a typical meeting could have been like.
- Jesus told the 70 to meet in **houses** (Luke 10:4-7).
- The power the 70 walked in didn't happen in "church" (or the Synagogue).
- The believers met in their houses until the beginning of the 4th century when Constantine got **“saved”** in A.D. 312.

# A look at the first century church 4-04

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- For 3 centuries: There were NO “Church” buildings (along with the Roman hierarchy, structure, system, **control or oversight**).
- But, after about 3 centuries, around 325AD the way believers were meeting and ministering was restructured and **started to operate differently**.

# A look at the first century church 4-05

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- Question:
- How was this transition accomplished and made possible?
- Constantine (280-337), the Roman Emperor converted many pagan temples to churches.
- This was the official beginning of recognizing **buildings as churches**, something we can see with our eyes.

# A look at the first century church 4-06

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- Question:
- How was Constantine able to get this transition from the Jewish model, (THE ASSEMBLY OF CALLED OUT ONES), past the leadership, elders or the mature believers?
- Answer: He did not have to fight for the approval of the elders in the faith community.
- The “leadership” had already been eliminated by “**Diocletianus**”, Constantine’s predecessor, during the previous years before 325AD.

# A look at the first century church 4-07

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- Some information on **Diocletianus, also named Diocletian:**
- **Diocletian** lived from 245 - 316, was Roman emperor from 284 to 305.
- established the largest and most bureaucratic government in the history of the empire.
- Link [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletianic\\_Persecution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletianic_Persecution)”

# A look at the first century church 4-08

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- The persecution varied in intensity across the empire:
- weakest in Gaul (today's France), and Britain, where only the first edict was applied, and strongest in the Eastern provinces.
- Persecutory laws were nullified by different emperors at different times.
- The later edicts targeted the **elders and leaders**.
- Constantine and Licinius's Edict of Milan (313) has traditionally marked the end of the persecution. This was about 12 years before Constantine in 325AD.



# A look at the first century church 4-09

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- In future generations, both Christians and pagans would look back on Diocletian as, in the words of theologian [Henry Chadwick](#); "the embodiment of irrational ferocity".[\[353\]](#)
- **To medieval Christians, Diocletian was the most loathsome of all Roman emperors.**[\[354\]](#)
- \*) Diocletianus *lived from c. 22 December 244 - 3 December 311 (aged 66)). Caesar Gaius Aurelius Valerius Diocletianus Augustus. Born as Diocles. (full name at birth unknown).*

# A look at the first century church 4-10

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- From the 4th century on, Christians would describe the "Great" persecution of Diocletian's reign as a bloodbath.<sup>[355]</sup>
- The *Liber Pontificalis*, a collection of biographies of the popes, alleges **17,000 martyrs within a single thirty-day period.**<sup>[356]</sup>
- *Note: strategic move of satan: cut off the head c.q. remove the mature sheperds/leadership first, then deal with the flock.*

# A look at the first century church 4-11

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- 313AD traditionally marked the end of the persecution. This was about 12 years before Constantine in 325AD.
- Answered question 1: When were churches and the recognition of church buildings introduced?
- Answered also the question: How was Constantine able to get this transition from the Jewish model, (THE ASSEMBLY OF CALLED OUT ONES), past the leadership, elders or the mature believers? *Note: strategic move of satan: cut off the head c.q. remove the mature leadership first then deal with the flock.*
- Continue with question 2: For what **purpose** were buildings as churches introduced?

# A look at the first century church 4-12

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- Answer question 2:
- The structure put in place emulated Constantine's own imperial organization, and added **oversight and control of the religion**.
- Under Constantine's leadership, suddenly the church was free to worship as it saw fit.
- **The Roman form of worship based on pagan beliefs, and pagan styles of worship were incorporated.**
- *Note: There is a long list of examples what "beliefs and styles" were incorporated in the book "Babylon Mystery Religion, Ancient and Modern", see final slide for Author and ISBN nr.*

# A look at the first century church 4-13

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- To prevent “unemployment” of people working in the pagan temples;
- the gods and goddesses were incorporated into the Christian form of worship.
- Take what you have and convert it all to Christianity,
- Simply **rename** and restructure Christianity to fit the pagan mold.
- This process is also known as “Syncretism”.

# A look at the first century church 4-14

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- Syncretism is defined in the on-line dictionary as:
- “the attempted reconciliation or **union of different or opposing principles, practices, or parties**, as in philosophy or religion”.
- Source: <http://dictionary.reference.com/>
- Syncretism also includes the practice: Take something and change the meaning of it.

# A look at the first century church 4-15

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- The **result** was: The next 5 centuries anything Jewish was eliminated.
- **Question:** Why were church councils still fighting to stamp out these influences seven hundred years later?
- **ANSWER:** Some people did not follow and obey Church leadership because the Roman Empire had no control at the fringes of the Empire.
- Examples: Scottish islands, Moravians, Waldensians, West coast in India, Ethiopia.

# A look at the first century church 4-16

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- **The followers of Jesus on the outskirts of the Roman Empire** did NOT follow the Roman Empire church leadership, and were more successful in reaching other areas with spreading The Gospel, enabling The Holy Spirit to work thru the believers.
- Scottish islands, evangelism to most regions in Scotland.
- Moravians, started 1457 in Bohemia (former Tsjecho-Slovakia).
- Waldensians, started 1170-ies, Italian ALPS and southern France.
- Certain churches in India in 1700-ies were still “Messianic Jewish in nature’.  
Potuguese tried to convert to Roman Catholicism by force.
- The church in Ethiopia, is among the “oldest continuous” Christian church in the world.



# A look at the first century church 4-17

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- The RESULT for the believers following the Constantine model, and being separated from the Jewish understanding of the Scriptures resulted in:
- Failing to recognize the way God set things up leads to a **powerless social church,**
- resulting in lack of power to get the message out,
- lack of power to **demonstrate the message,**
- lack of power to **get people healed spiritually, emotionally, and physically!**

# A look at the first century church 4-18

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- **OVERALL RESULT** for the Community of believers:
- **no longer anticipating the return** of The Messiah (Christ),
- no longer being connected to **God's prophetic Time Line** (The Biblical Feasts).
- Literally: "My people perish for lack of knowledge".

# A look at the first century church 4-19

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- Today's church does not have anywhere near **the Glory** of the "Ekklesia" set up in the scriptures.
- In other words: NO resemblance of **the Glory of the 1<sup>st</sup> century "Ekklesia" / "kahelia"**.
- For this reason, this study upholds the original meaning and use of the word **"assembly"** as God intended.
- **"KEHILA KHAVERUT"**
- **"THE ASSEMBLY OF CALLED OUT ONES"**

# A look at the first century church 4-20

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

### ■ CONCLUSIONS:

- The **1st century fellowships** met in their houses.
- **Constantine** Introduced many new concepts to the believers:
  - the recognition of buildings as churches.
  - anything Jewish was removed from the church.
  - Syncretism defined.
  - Church councils still fighting Jewish influences seven hundred years later.
- **Jesus told the 70** to meet in **houses** (Luke 10:4-7).
- The power the 70 walked in didn't happen in "church" (or the Synagogue).

# A look at the first century church 4-21

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

### ■ CONCLUSIONS:

- The **1st century fellowships** met in their houses.
- For 3 centuries: NO “Church” buildings, NO Roman hierarchy, NO structure of system and control or oversight.
- Constantine converted many pagan temples to churches.
- Beginning of recognizing buildings as churches, something we can see with our eyes.
- Rename and restructure Christianity to fit the pagan mold, incorporate pagan beliefs and forms of worship into the Christian form of worship.
- **Syncretism defined:**
- “the attempted reconciliation or union of different or opposing principles, practices, or parties, as in philosophy or religion”.

# A look at the first century church 4-22

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

### ■ CONCLUSIONS:

- The **1st century fellowships** met in their houses.
- **Question:** Why were church councils still fighting to stamp out the Jewish influences seven hundred years later?
- **ANSWER:** Some people did not follow and obey Church leadership because the Roman Empire had no control at the fringes of the Empire.
- **Examples:** Scottish islands, Moravians, Waldensians, pockets in certain areas of India in 1700-ies, Ethiopia.
- **Conclusion:** Being separated from the Jewish understanding of the Scriptures resulted in failing to recognize the way God set things up leads to a powerless social church.

# A look at the first century church 4-23

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- **A detailed list of pagan beliefs and styles of worship that were incorporated in the Roman form of worship can be found in the book: “Babylon Mystery Religion, Ancient and Modern, by Ralph Edward Woodrow, 1966, 27th edition 1993, ISBN: 0-916938-12-3”.**
- 1. Page 12 -13, Mother and child worship: the queen of Heaven, Jer 7:18-20, Phoenician Astarte, goddess of fertility, Egyptian goddess of fertility Isis.
- 2. Mary worship, undue prominence.
- 3. Saint worship, continuation of pagan devotion to gods and goddesses of paganism.
- 4. Ancient obelisks, elaborate church buildings, religious towers
- 5. Use of the cross symbol and ancient origin.
- 6. Relics of Romanism
- 7. Indulgence selling , Tetzels sales in Germany, paying for prayers, Molech worship, Lev 21:21.
- 8. Pagan origin of the papal office, the mystic keys, Janus, the tiara, fish-god mitre, Dagon worship, the pallium, Peter’s chair, kissing an idol, papal processions, the flabella fans

# A look at the first century church 4-24

## Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- **Pagan beliefs and styles of worship that were incorporated in the Roman form of worship: (continued)**
- 9. Papal immorality, more on the unholy origin of the papal office
- 10. Papal infallibility
- 11. The inhuman inquisition
- 12. The origin of the Cardinal's office, red garments,
- 13. The celibacy doctrine of Babylon, priests in black garments, the sun symbol tonsure
- 14. The origin of transubstantiation, the "finished" work at Calvary and the Mass, the "round" host and sun symbols and use.



# A look at the first century church 4-25

Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?

- **END** - Where did followers of Yeshua, Jesus meet?