#### **TITLE PAGE 1**

- A look at the first century "church".
- And what is:
- "KEHILA KHAVERUT", translated as:
  THE ASSEMBLY OF CALLED OUT ONES
- This presentation provides an overview of the topics studied in a 12 part Bible study and fellowship meetings held at the Berning's during the summer 2013 - River Falls, Wisconsin.

#### **TITLE PAGE 2**

- The 12 part 2013 Bible study can be downloaded from:
- Link: http://bobberning.ws/BBM\_Inc.\_2
- A copy of this presentation can be downloaded from
- Link: www.grafted-promise.net
  - See "Andy's Corner"
  - ◆ .pdf for Adobe Reader
  - .ppt power point slide presentation,
  - ♦ File format: Microsoft PowerPoint 97 SR-1

#### **TITLE PAGE 3**

### **Bible references:**

- Scripture references are taken from the KJV and NKJV, and "e-Sword" which is a free Bible software supported by donations.
- E-Sword Includes the Strong's Concordance module.
- Many other language modules are available.
- Link: http://www.e-sword.net/downloads.html.net

### **Summary overview of the 2013 study series**

	Group	Subject:	No. Slides:
	0	Overview	5
	1	Words	4
	2	Sources Jesus, Peter, Paul	6
	3	No NT only Hebrew Scriptures	3
	4	Fellowship locations	6
	5	The Feasts of The Lord	7
ĸ.	6	Pentecost, Shavuot	5
ı.	7	Sabbath and Passover	4
	8	CONCLUSIONS	4
		TOTAL # SLIDES:	44

- When do most Christians believe the "church" started?
- What does the word "church" really mean?
- When was the word "church" introduced and where does it's concept originate?

- What were 1<sup>st</sup> Century congregations like?
- When did they meet?
- How did they operate and what was it's structure?

  reference 1st cent. Church manuscript article by Robert D. Heidler, published in Sid Roth's newsletter Messianic Vision, March 2006. Title: "A visit to the early Church".
- How did the congregations with followers of Yeshua (Jesus) grow and spread out from Jerusalem?
- How common was it for the followers of Yeshua to experience miracles?

- What is included in "living to do the commandments of God"?
- Are the Covenants in the Torah, The Prophets, and The Writings, still valid for the Christian today?
- When were churches and the recognition of church buildings introduced?
- For what purpose were buildings as churches introduced?
- What Scriptures were available to the early believers?

- When were the Jewish things removed?
- 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?
- What are God's commands regarding "mixing"?
- How common was it for the 4<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> century believers in Jesus (Yeshua) to experience miracles?

### The importance of God's Word and "words"

### Word study:

- ◆ Ekklesia, Strongs Index 1577 e????s % ekklesia ek-klay-see'-ah
- ◆ John Fenn: "a group of believers who each individually have received the revelation from The Father that Yeshua-Jesus is the Son of the living God".
- **♦ Synagogue,** Strongs Index 4864 s??a????' sunagoge⁻ soon-ag-o-gay'
- ♦ Kehilah, Strongs Index 6951 ??? qaħaト kaw-hawl
- ◆ Khaverut, "fellowship" similar to the Greek Ek-klay-sia (Ecclasia): "fellowship, Assembly"
- John Fenn Paraphrased translation of Matthew 16:18-19:
- "upon this Rock of revelation from The Father, I will build my gathering of citizens who are meeting to conduct the business of the kingdom, and the leadership of hell will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom and whatever heaven reveals to you that isn't lawful, it won't be lawful, and whatever heaven reveals is lawful, it will be lawful, (and the leadership of hell will not prevail against it....)"

### The importance of God's Word and "words"

- Word study:
  - ◆ Churche, old English "churche" = circle.
  - **♦ William Tyndale**
- The word "Church" is NOT in the original Scriptures.
- Church is only used in Translations of the Bible!
- The King James Translation (KJV), uses the word "church" 80 times, and "churches" 37 times.

### The importance of God's Word and "words"

- Tyndale used "churche" (church) only twice in the ENTIRE Scriptures,
- Tyndale understood "church" as:
  - a building connected to idol-worship,
  - representing a pagan house of worship and translated it as thus.
- "church" as used in Acts 14:13 and 19:37;
- A building connected to idol-worship,
  - Acts 14:13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.
  - Acts 19:37 For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess.

### The importance of God's Word and "words"

- Hebrew word "assembly".
- Rabbi Jonathan Cahn defines Hebrew "Kehilah" as:
  - "an assembly of called out ones".
  - "Jewish organization, population of a community, deals with charities, communal affairs."
  - ◆ Source: (Saphires, September (5) Edition, 2012.
  - ◆ Khaverut is another Hebrew word:
- "assembly such as a church or meeting which is translated "fellowship".
- Greek Ek-klay-sia (Ecclasia): "fellowship, assembly".
- Name of Thursday evening River Falls study group: "KEHILA KHAVERUT", or "THE ASSEMBLY OF CALLED OUT ONES"

- Question: What version of the "Bible" did the first century believers commonly use?
- Answer: Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Writings.
- Jesus said, .... I have come not to do away with, or undo, but to complete and fulfill them.
- [ Christ Fulfills the Law ] "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. Matt 5:17

- Where did Jesus get His answers?
- What were the only "Scriptures" that existed before the 5th century?
- Answer: The Tanakh, or what is commonly known as the Old Testament.
- The entire so called New Testament was built on the foundation of "The Jewish Scriptures".
- Paul taught everything he knew from the Old Testament, (Tanakh The Torah [five books of Moses], The Prophets, and The Writings).

- Jesus:
- Luk 24:27, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."
- Deut 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.
- Lev 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

- Peter:
- Peter taught everything he knew from the Old Testament. (Tanakh).
- Example 1: 1 Peter 2:21-25 quotes Isaiah 53
- Example 2: 1 Peter 1:24 quotes Isaiah 40:6-8
- Example 3: 1 Peter 2:6 quotes Isaiah 28:16

- Paul:
- Paul taught everything he knew from the Old Testament. (Tanakh).
- 5 Examples from Romans 3:
- Romans 3:12 Psalm 14:1-3, 53:1-3, Eccl 7:20
- Romans 3:13 Psalm 5:9, 140:3
- Romans 3:14 Psalm 10:7
- Romans 3:17 Isaiah 59:7-8
- Romans 3:18 Psalm 36:1

### The Sources Jesus, Peter, Paul used.

### Summary:

- The examples from Jesus, Peter, Paul, and James, demonstrate that everything they knew and taught was derived from the Old Testament. (Tanakh).
- The more appropriate name for the New Testament would be the Good News and the Epistles (letters) revealing, explaining and witnessing to The Scriptures. (Tanakh).
- The sources used by Jesus and the disciples:
- All O.T. (Tanakh, or the Jewish Scriptures).
- The Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms.
- The disciples, John, Peter, Paul, and James did NOT have a N.T. available to them!

### **No New Testament, ONLY Hebrew Scriptures**

- The 1st century congregations had NO New Testament, only the Hebrew Scriptures, or Tanakh.
- Jesus taught from Deut 6:5, Lev 19:18, the (O.T.) Hebrew Scriptures.
- The traditions of the Pharisees and Scribes and the resulting additions to the scriptures, ("fences around fences").

### No New Testament, ONLY Hebrew Scriptures

- Tanakh is an acronym of the first Hebrew letter of each of the Masoretic Text's three traditional subdivisions.
- Torah ("Teaching", also known as the Five Books of Moses),
- Nevi'im ("Prophets"),
- Ketuvim ("Writings"),
- hence TaNaKh, or Tanakh.
- Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenach 3/21/2014

### No New Testament, ONLY Hebrew Scriptures

- Jesus His Dialogues with the religious leaders, a direct assault on their traditions and additions to the scriptures.
- Mat 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
- Mar 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.
- "Teaching for doctrines the commandments of men", result: the Pharisees were offended ..
- Mat 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,
- Mat 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.
- Mat 15:12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

- Where and how did the 1<sup>st</sup> Century church conduct it's "services"?
- Constantine the Roman Emperor introduced the recognition of buildings as churches (visible object)
- Question: What was the reason that anything Jewish was removed from the church?
- Syncretism defined.
- Why were church councils still fighting to stamp out these influences seven hundred years later?

- 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.

- Scripture examples: 1<sup>st</sup> Century meetings were in the houses of the believers.
- Scripture references with "house" or "houses":
- Acts 12:12 is "being church". Acts 16:40 gathering at the river, Lydia; "come stay at my home" Acts 17:1 Philipians 4:16 Acts 17:4 Acts 17:5 1 Thes 1:8 Acts 18:1-3
- Acts 18:6-8 Romans 16:5 Romans 16:22-23 Acts 20:20 Acts 28:16, 30-31 Col 4:15 Philemon 1:1-2 1 Cor 16-19
- References with "events in houses":
- Acts 8:3 · Acts 10:44 · Acts 21:8-11 · 1Cor16:15 · 1 Tim 5:13

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- Which Feast of The Lord does today's Church still celebrate?
- Answer: Pentecost
- Which Feast of The Lord starts the yearly celebration cycle?
- Feast of Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits
- Question: What are the most essential parts of Pesach, or Pass-Over?
- Meaning of "Pesach": to "leap over and show mercy".
- Three things are important in the Pesach story
  - ◆ The Matzah, (the unleavened bread)
  - ◆ The Maror, (the bitter herbs)
  - ◆ The Pesach Lamb. (the lamb was eaten standing)

- The Seder meal:
- a Big part of the Seder is "THE TELLING" before the Pesach Meal is served.
- The Telling The "Hagada" includes the 4 cups, three with water and wine, and one with full strength wine.
- The third cup, Redemption, is taken after the Pesach Meal, (Shulchan Orech), has been served.
- In the broken Matzah we see a picture of Yeshua HaMashiach, born in the "house of bread", Beit Lechem.

- We trust Yeshua HaMashiach, and believe He is the Lamb of YHVH, our Pesach.
- Like the ancient Israelites, we know that it was YHVH Himself, and NOT a messenger, who achieved final redemption from sin and death.
- It is YHVH Himself through Yeshua, Who redeems the world from sin!
- One lamb for each household!
- Each household needs Jesus, The Lamb!

- Pass-over prophetic fulfillment
- During the second Temple time, for centuries the Jews would travel a great distance to come to Jerusalem to observe the holiday.
- They would go to the Temple area to select a lamb.
- The priest would indicate a lamb by pointing to the animal and say: "Behold the lamb".
- John the Baptizer, "son of a Priest" saw Yeshua coming in the distance, pointed and said: "Behold the Lamb ...... the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". Connecting Yeshua's coming to Pesach. (John 1:29).
- The Apostle Paul states in 1 Cor. 5:7, "Yeshua, our Passover is sacrificed for us".

- 4 cups At Pesach, we celebrate by drinking from our cups four times.
  - ◆ The first cup is Sanctification,
  - ◆ The second cup is **Deliverance**,
  - The third is Redemption, ===> "Communion"
  - ◆ The fourth is the **Praise** cup.
- Sanctification, showing that we are set aside for YHVH's purposes only.
- Deliverance: "out of Egypt/slavery/bondage/sickness in this world"
- Redemption: purchased back by the Creator to His intended original plan
- Praise: cup of the Kingdom, living the glorious restored live in fellowship WITH God.
- With each of the 4 cups, we will remember the intimate union that YHVH desires with each of us.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> cup: Redemption,
- This cup of Redemption symbolizes the Pesach lamb's blood.
  When an engaged couple sealed their engagement, they drank from a cup of engagement, also called a Cup of Redemption.
- This 3rd cup of Redemption is known in The Gentile church as The Lord's Supper, or Communion.
- We also remember the wedding at Cana where Yeshua changed the water into wine. (John 2:7-10, the account of the 1st miracle in the Gospel of John).
- On the cross Yeshua did indeed drink the cup of Redemption in the sour wine He was given. Mat 27:34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

- DAY of First Fruits
- He was Resurrected after 3 days and 3 nights, sign of Jonah.
  Mat 12:40 Sign of Jonas.
- The very FIRST new Man with a Glorified Body,
- Now sitting as HIGH Priest in the very presence of The Father.
- HIGH Priest in the order of Melchizedek: King of Righteousness, Prince of Peace.

### **Pentecost - Shavuot**

- Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost
- Shavuot, Pentecost is one of the 7 Festivals and is a God ordained form of worship.
- This Church Holiday most of us know only as "a remembrance of Acts chapter two".
- Pentecost (Shavuot) is still remembered in Christianity.
- The rest of the Biblical Festivals have long ago been discarded.

#### **Pentecost - Shavuot**

- Feast of Weeks, Shavuot or Pentecost
- Pesach, Rosh HaShanna, Yom Kippur and Sukkot all disappeared from Christian observance within three hundred years.
- "A Remembrance of Mount Sinai"
- Just as Passover is a memorial of the Exodus from Egypt,
- So too Shavuot memorializes an Exodus event.
- According to Jewish tradition, Shavuot is the anniversary of God's descent onto Mount Sinai.
- Therefore Shavuot is celebrated as the anniversary of the giving of the Torah.

#### **Pentecost - Shavuot**

- Shavuot or Pentecost
- Pentecost (Shavuot) is still remembered in Christianity.
- Countdown of 49 days from day after the Sabbath of First Fruits of the Barley harvest.
- 50th day is the appointed time of the Festival of Pentecost.
- Shavuot is also called the festival of Mattan Torah, the "Giving of the Torah" on Mt. Sinai.
- Voice of God speaking in every language known to man, (Rabbinic lore), 70 mother languages.
  37

#### **Pentecost - Shavuot**

- The Spirit and the Torah
- Shavuot draws a line of connection between Exodus 19 and Acts chapter 2.
- The festival superimposes the giving of the Spirit in Jerusalem in living hearts, over the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai to stony hearts.
- 3000 perished at the giving of the TORAH. ('the letter of the Law killeth").
- 3000 were added into Yeshua on the day of Shavuot. (the Spirit brings life).
- These two events are forever inseparably linked.
- The Torah and Holy Spirit are substantially of the same essence.

#### **Pentecost - Shavuot**

- ◆ Jeremiah 31:31-33: "Behold, I will make a new covenant..., Hebrew meaning is: RENEW My Covenant . . . (RENEW the Covenant that already is in existence.....).
- ◆ I will put My Torah within them and on their heart.
- ....and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."
   (Jeremiah 31:33)
- ◆ Ezekiel 36:27: " ..... I will put My Spirit within you ......to observe My ordinances."

#### Sabbath and Passover

- Covenants establish the foundation of our walk with God.
- The Biblical feasts of the Lord: Covenant, and the festivals and the God ordained form of worship.
- **Sabbath:** Friday sunset to Saturday sunset. The day begins at sunset. (established during the week of creation).
- Spring Feast
  - ◆ Passover
  - ◆ Unleavened Bread
  - **♦** First fruits

#### Sabbath and Passover

- Pentecost End Barley Harvest, begin Wheat harvest, The Word, Holy Spirit.
- Fall Feasts -
  - **◆** Trumpets
  - ◆ Atonement
  - **♦** Tabernacles

#### Sabbath and Passover

The cycles are:

◆ First Month Passover Spring time

◆ Third Month Pentecost Summer

◆ Seventh Month Tabernacles Fall time

- The feasts correspond to the three courts in Moses' tabernacle.
  - **♦** Outer Court
  - ◆ Holy Place (Veil)
  - ♦ Holy of Holies

#### Sabbath and Passover

- During a later time two more feasts were celebrated by the Jews: Chanukah and Purim.
- The book of the Maccabees gives a historical account of Chanukah and the book of Ester for Purim.
- Both feasts have powerful prophetic meanings for the end times.
- Yeshua did observe Chanukah, the "Feats of Lights", the rededication of The Temple.
- Some Bible scholars believe that Yeshua was conceived during the "Feast of Lights", ("the Light of the World"), which certain years also happens to fall nine months before the feast of Tabernacles.

## A look at the first century church 8-1 Conclusions:

- Side effect of the "Constantine CHURCH Structure". (325 AD)
- "Church structure" facilitates burn-out among the congregational pastors: one person can not do it all !!
- "Church structure" tends to result in a powerless assembly of believers lacking true fellowship.
- "Church structure" hinders the work, mission, and purposes of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not given place to "settle".
- The fellowship model Jesus instructed the disciples to use allows The Holy Spirit to operate in the Body of Christ and minister to the lost world through the believers.

#### **Conclusions:**

#### satans' deception at work: 1

- Removed fellowship and worship from the believer's houses
- Separated Gentile believers from their Hebrew roots, key years 70 and 92 A.D.
- Rejection of the Gifts of The Holy Spirit by many of the denominations:
  - ◆ EXTREME example: In Germany in particular, after early 1900s revivals, declaration that Gift of the Holy Spirit were "from below", a form of intellectualism developed called "higher criticism"
  - ◆ GOOD NEWS: During the mid-1990s and late 1990s there were public prayers and confessions in Germany to invite the Gifts of The Holy Spirit back into Germany—see David Hathaway's book on Europe.
- Banned the Hebrew roots knowledge of the Bible.
- Banned the Feasts of The Lord (history), Body of Believers "LOST" the prophetic Time Line.
- Introduced buildings as the center of religion
- Introduced a power structure similar to military/political government.

# A look at the first century church 8-3 Conclusions:

#### satans' deception at work: 2

- Introduced state supported religious systems, bishops and overseers.
- Introduced a system with laymen and the clergy (Moses-Jethro)
- Re-introduced priests as a go-between between the believer and God.
- Re-introduced a system similar in effect like the Mosaic Law, system of "do's and don'ts".
- Removed daily communion from the believers (within 200 years of ACTS)
- ONLY Bishops could administer communion
- Healings decreased, therefore TEACHING ON HEALING were removed
- The Scriptures were removed from the possession of the common people
- The term "Old Testament" introduced by Bishop Melito of Sardis, ca 170 AD.
- After introduction of "Old Testament", REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY flourished.

# A look at the first century church 8-4 Conclusions:

#### The Holy Spirit's RESTORATION AT WORK

- The solutions: RE-INTRODUCED by The Holy Spirit, "as it was in the beginning' (1st Century model)
- Restore Fellowship and Worship back to the believer's houses.
- Restore the relationship between Gentile and the Jewish believers (through the Hebrew roots).
- Gifts of The Holy Spirit re-introduced, in particular during the 1800s during
- Introduce the Hebrew roots knowledge of the Scriptures.
- Restore the 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath as day of rest, restore knowledge and teaching of The Feasts of The Lord
- Remove buildings as the center of religion.

#### **Conclusions:**

#### The Holy Spirit's RESTORATION AT WORK

- Remove the military/political government power structure, REPLACED BY "DISCIPLESHIP structure", according to Yeshua-Jesus' command.
- Many man made religious systems along with their structure is imploding.
- Remove the system with laymen and the clergy (Moses-Jethro) see John Fenn
- Remove the "go-between" person, believer → God "HEARING FROM God you yourself!
- Restored daily communion to the believers.
- Healings INCREASED, BECAUSE TEACHING ON HEALING and MIRACLES increased.
- The Scriptures were re-introduced INTO THE HANDS and possession of the common people 1400s
- The Scriptures do NOT speak of an "Old and New Covenant", but "Covenant" and "Re-Newed" Covenant or "Covenant Enlarged".
- Teaching on the Re-newed Covenant is increasing as of the late 1900s (Hebrew Christian Dr. Garr, How to Obtain God's Blessings, Dr. Jay Snell, Michael Rood Ministries, Discovering the Jewish Jesus, Rabbi Schneider), One New Man Bible William J. Morford.