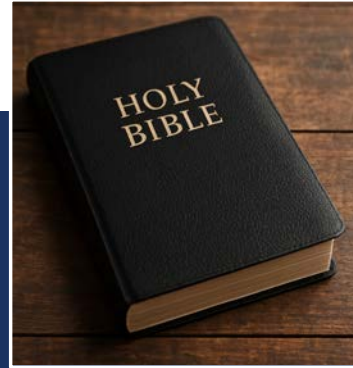


THE ECCLESIA

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE—ITS PURPOSE & IMPORTANCE

“a called-out assembly or congregation”

Great Lakes Christadelphian Bible School
June 27 - July 4, 2026



1

GREETINGS FROM THE ANN ARBOR ECCLESIA



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2

A GENAI ANSWER TO WHAT IS A GOOD BIBLE VERSE FOR ECCLESIA?

A good Bible verse that describes an *ecclesia* is **Matthew 16:18**, where Jesus says, “I will build my *ecclesia*,” which translates to “I will build my assembly of called-out ones.” This verse emphasizes that an *ecclesia* is not a building, but a gathering of people called by God, with other relevant verses including **1 Corinthians 1:2**, which refers to the *ecclesia* as those who are “sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,” and **Hebrews 10:25**, which speaks to the importance of not forsaking “our own assembling together.”

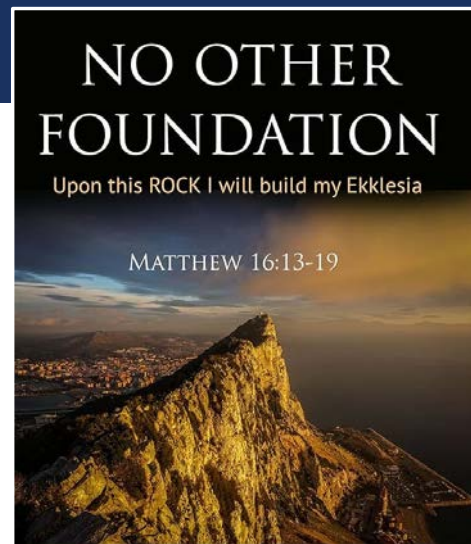
What rock is God's ecclesia built on?

3

3

A SURE FOUNDATION

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
Matt 16:16



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WHAT IS THE ECCLESIA

I Peter 2:9-10 “But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now **you are the people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

***We are the ecclesia...
and what a blessing it is.***

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5

Study Outline

The Ecclesia: A Journey from Foundation to Future

FOUNDATIONS AND ANCIENT ROOTS



Establishing the Biblical Construct

Laying the groundwork for understanding the foundational nature of the Ecclesia.



The Wilderness and Promised Land

Examining the early Ecclesia during the journey of the Children of Israel.



Christ and the First Century

Insights gained from Christ's initiation of the original first-century Ecclesias.



Persistence Through the Centuries

Proof that God's word and the Ecclesia have never died out.



Addressing Modern Spiritual Crises

An urgent call for communal action to face contemporary faith challenges.



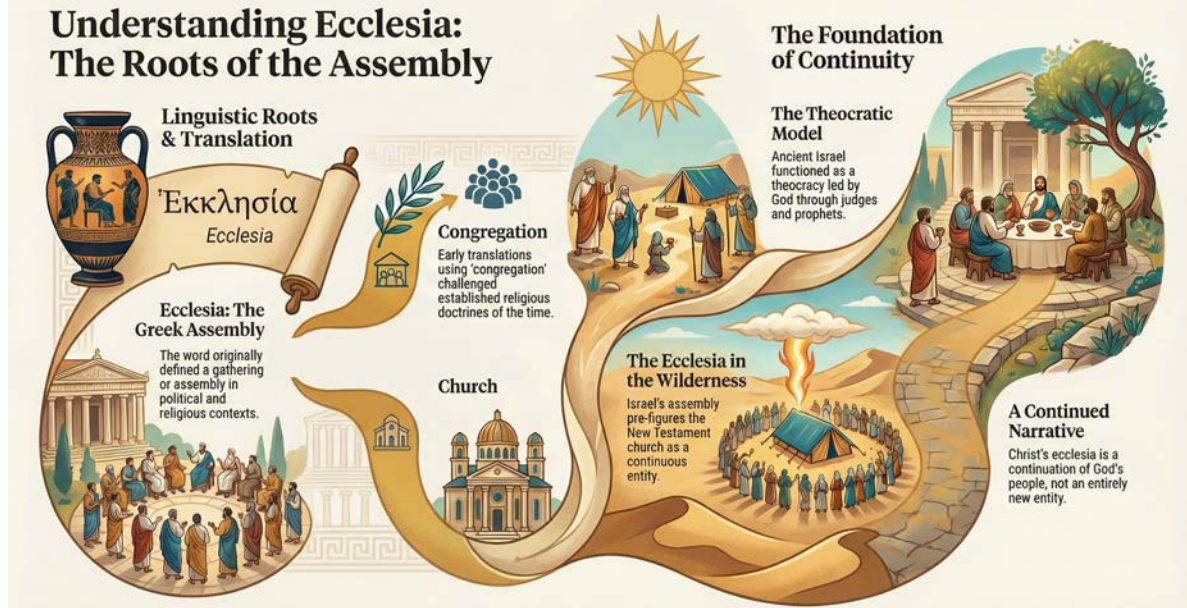
Revival and the Kingdom Age

Strategies for avoiding spiritual death and maintaining the Ecclesia's future.

6

Key Takeaways (1/5)

Understanding Ecclesia: The Roots of the Assembly



7

Key Takeaways (2/5)

The 1st-Century Synagogue: Heart of Community and Faith

A Multi-Purpose Community Hub

Beyond Religious Services



Synagogues hosted political meetings, social gatherings, local courts, schools, and even functioned as hostels.

A Center for Social Welfare

The institution served as a primary site for community charity and local judicial functions.



The Foundation of Modern Worship

Liturgical Focus

The core religious practices centered specifically on Scripture reading and prayer.



The Roots of Christian Worship

Early Christian congregational structures are historically rooted in the synagogue model, not the Temple.



The Synagogue at Nazareth

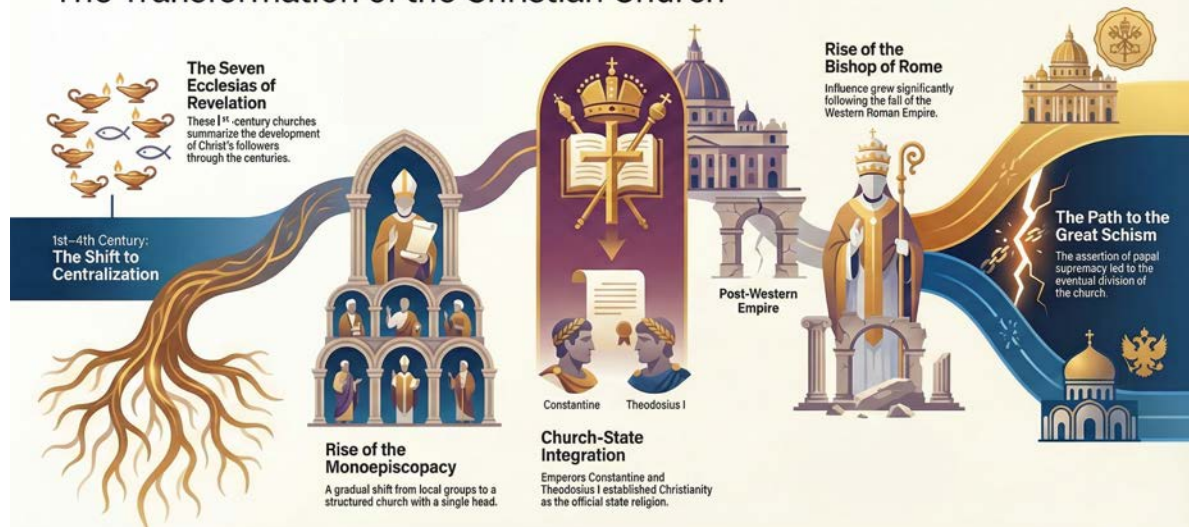
Jesus' visit to this synagogue illustrates the typical structure and practices of the era.



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Key Takeaways (3/5)

From Ecclesia to Empire: The Transformation of the Christian Church

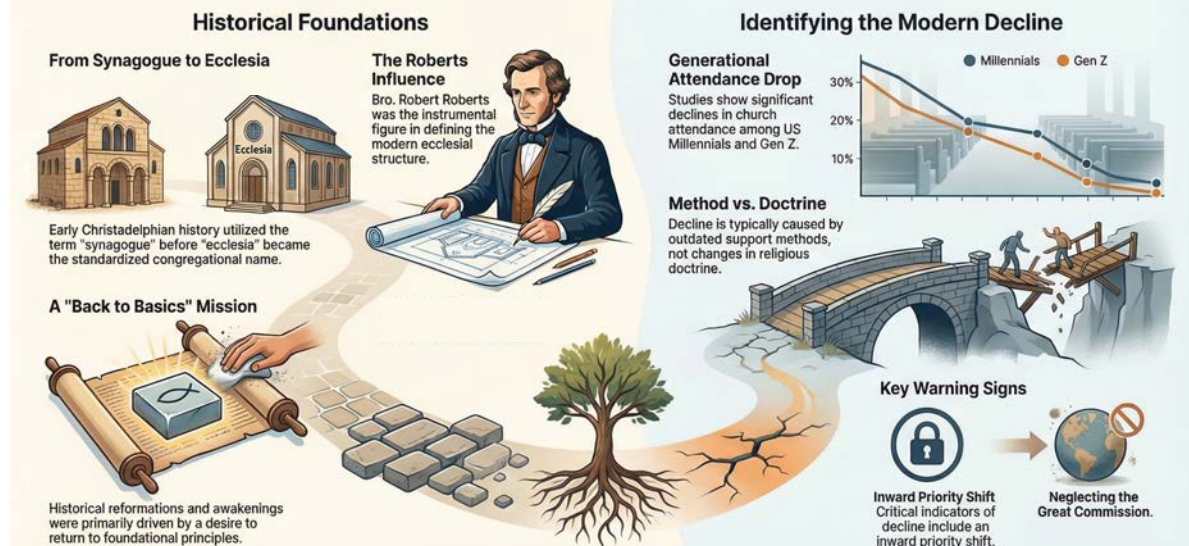


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Key Takeaways (4/5)

The Ecclesia: Understanding Roots and Modern Decline

Explores the historical formation of the ecclesia and identifies specific factors leading to modern congregational decline, highlighting failures in method over doctrine.



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Key Takeaways (5/5)

The Path to Church Revival: 5 Keys to Reversing Decline



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