

Ecclesia vs Church

(Restoring the Mission that a Man-Made Religious System Stole from God's People)

Part 1 2019



JESUS:
"I WILL BUILD MY
~~CHURCH~~" ekklesia

*Today's message begins a series on the
Ecclesia vs Church*

*Purpose of message series is to emphasize our responsibility
as Believers/Disciples instead of focusing on the erroneous
Christian concept of what the church is.*

Matt 16/13-19

- Matt 16:13-19 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying,...
- Jesus takes His disciples to the furthest northern part of Israel, to the region of Caesarea Philippi, a region known for the vilest of occult activity and idol-pagan worship.



Matt 16/13-19

- Matt 16:13-19 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying,...
- This region was the location of temples and shrines for pagan gods such as the “Gates of Hades”, the “goat-man Pan”, Caesar, and Nemesis...this area was known for its temple prostitution which included bestiality, sex with goats...it was the epitome of spiritual darkness.



Matt 16/13-19

Matt 16:13-19 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."



Matt 16/13-19

15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.



God Initiated the Call – What a Privilege

- *John 15:13-16 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you (we have been given an assignment...an assignment that Satan does not want us to fulfill) that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

We, as well as others, have been chosen by God (what a privilege) to carry out the “mission/assignment” to advance His kingdom on this earth, and we are expected to bear much fruit.

Satan and his man-made religious system does not want us to carry out this God-given mission....so much so that the Scripture “I will build my church” has been corrupted to distract us from focusing on the “mission” given to us by God.

Matt 16/13-19

18 *And I also say to you that you are Peter (petros-stone), and on this rock (petra-boulder) I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*



These pagan temples, including the one built for the “Gates of Hades”, were built at the bottom of Mt. Hermon.

Matt 16/13-19

19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind (lock) on earth will be bound (locked) in heaven, and whatever you loose (unlock) on earth will be loosed (unlocked) in heaven."

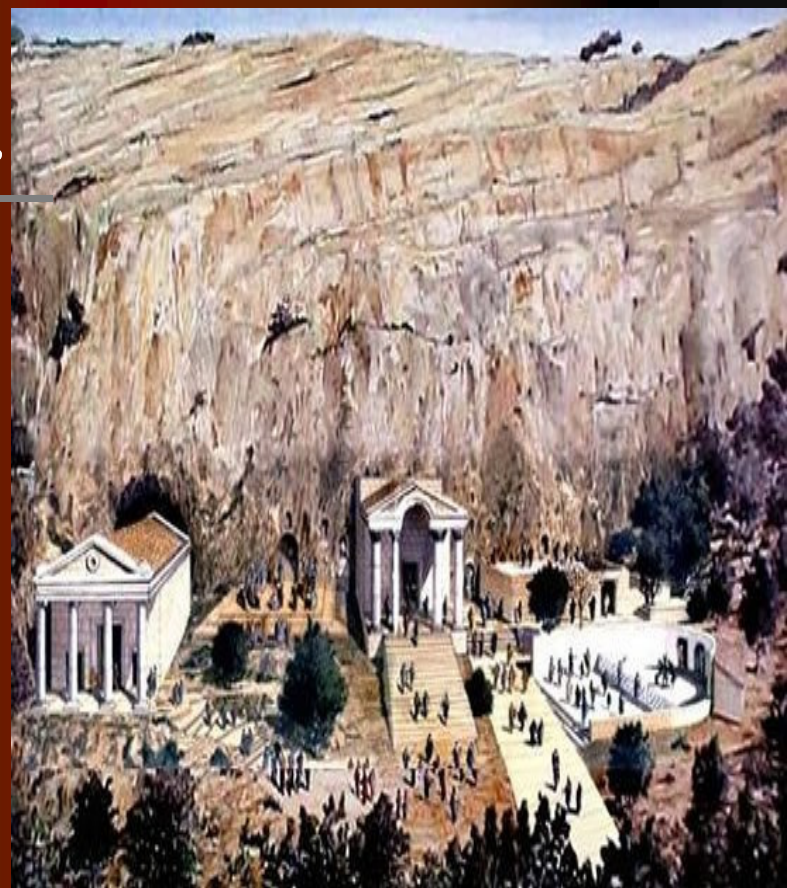


These pagan temples, including the one built for the "Gates of Hades", were built at the bottom of Mt. Hermon.

Matt 16/13-19

18I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

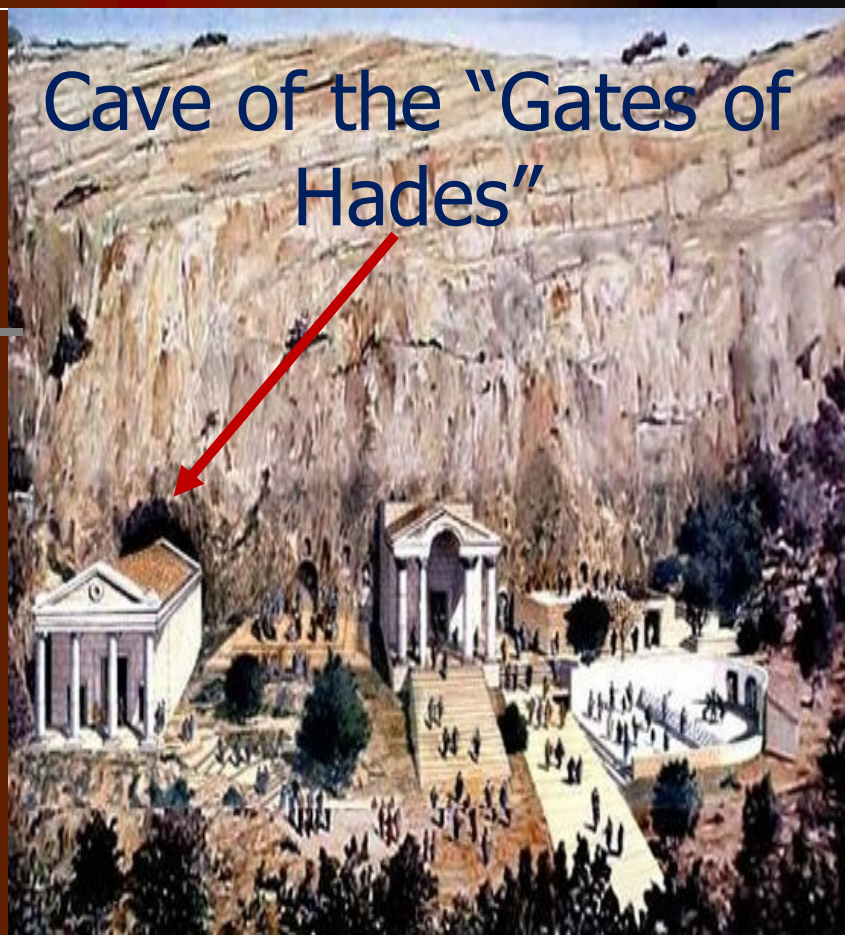
- *This is the backdrop (the darkest place on earth) that Jesus used to tell His disciples, "I will build My church".*
- *He did not use the "temple" or a "synagogue" (religious institutions), as the backdrop to teach His disciples. Why did he use this visual?*



Matt 16/13-19

18I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- *It is here that Jesus revealed two things: 1) That He was the Messiah, and 2) that He would build something that God would use as “the instrument to disciple nations”.*

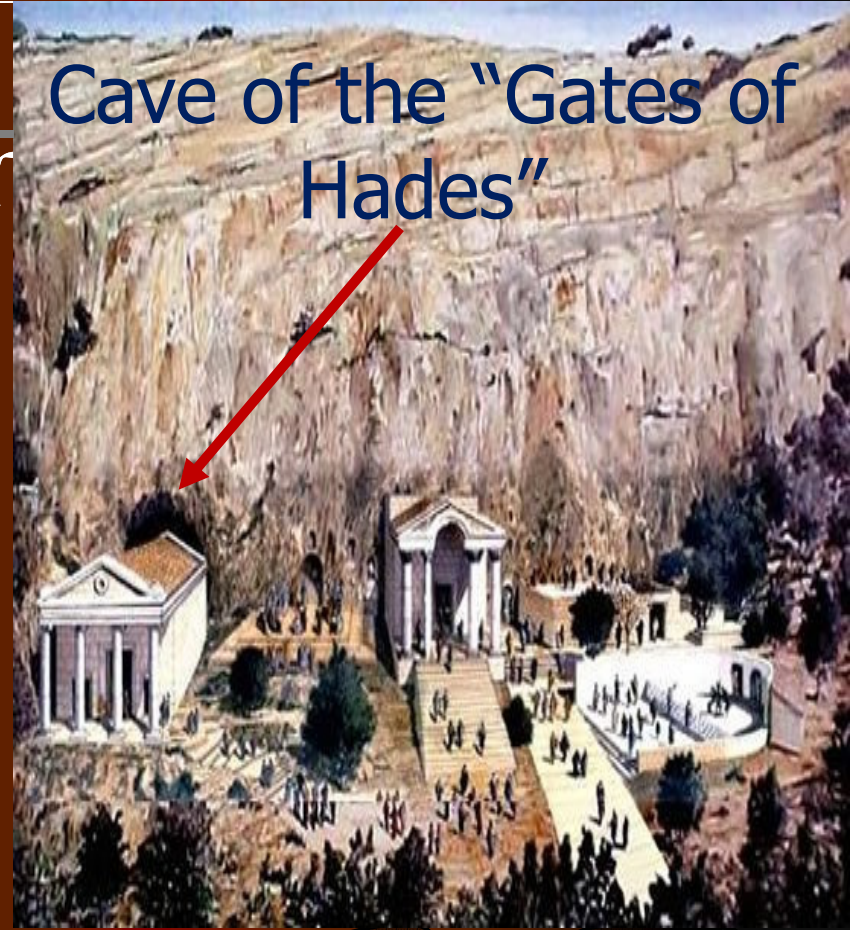


What Assignment Were They Given?

18 ... I will build My church,...

- Matt 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- God has given His empowered His people with "full authority" to carry out the mission which Satan does not want carried out.

Cave of the "Gates of Hades"

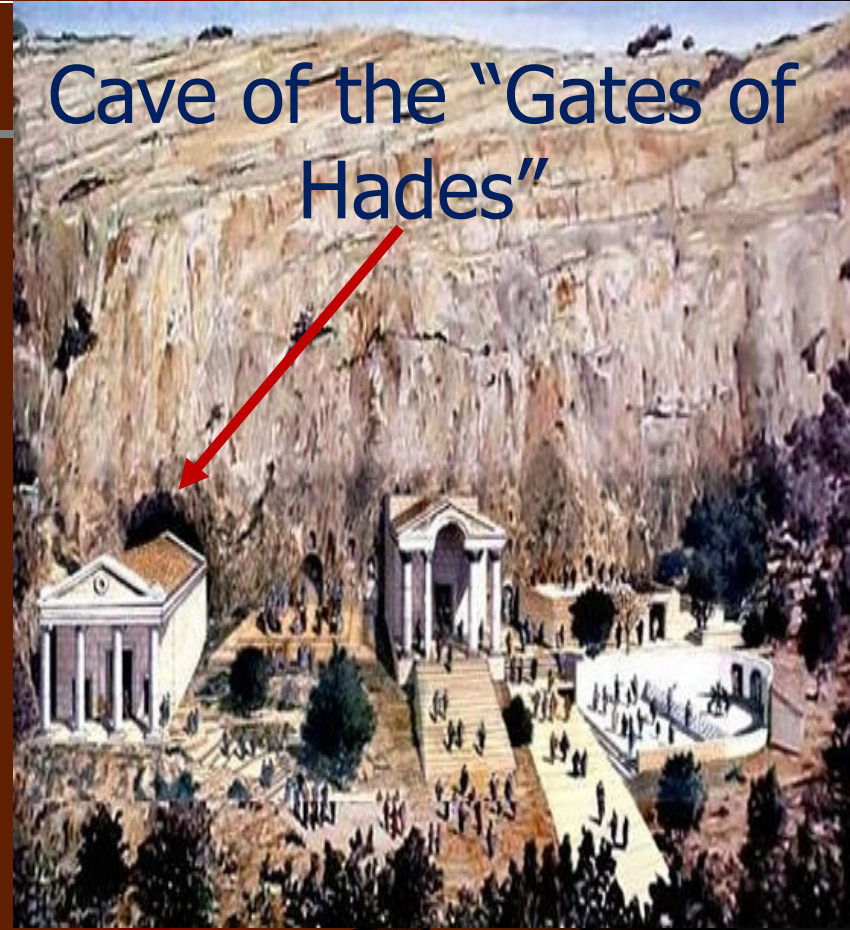


This is the Assignment

18 ... I will build My church,...

- 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Cave of the "Gates of Hades"



The verse that we will focus on today is....

Matt 16:18

....I will build My church,....

Matt 16:18

- *Matt 16:18I will build My church,....*
- *Jesus the Messiah did not say what this verse says He said.*
- *It's true that Jesus came to build something,...He promised that He would build this something, but that something was NOT the "church".*
- *The English word "church" is a deliberate mistranslation by a man-made religious system that intentionally perverted God's Word and God's assignment/mission that He gave to His people.*

Matt 16:18

- *Matt 16:18**I will build My church,....*
- *We are described as* “co-workers with Christ....we are to help Him build something....if we are to help him build something, we better know what it is that He wants to build....and He does not want to build a “church”.
- *Satan, through this man-made religious system* has perverted, contaminated, and twisted this Scripture (and the word “church”) to keep God’s people from carrying out the mission/assignment He has given to His people.

Matt 16:18

- *Satan is very happy when Christians spend their time, talents, and treasures to build something that Jesus had no intention of building.*
- *Satan is very happy when he sees God's people doing lots of "good/religious" things as long as we don't spend time doing the "right things"....as long as we don't spend our time doing what God has called Believers to do...as long as we fail to diligently carry out what God has assigned us to do.*

Christianity Has Been Focusing on Building the Wrong Thing

- *That's exactly what the Christian religion has been doing for centuries....building something that is a satanic perversion of what Jesus actually wants to build through us.*
- *Christianity has been focusing on building the wrong thing.*

What Is Christianity's View of the Meaning of "Church"?

- *Oxford Dictionary*: *A building used for public Christian worship.... 'the church was largely rebuilt at the end of the 15th century'.... 'some people go to church every Sunday'.... 'after church we went to a restaurant' ... where is your church... where do you go to church... there is my church.*

What Is Christianity's View of the Meaning of "Church"?

- *Oxford Dictionary:*
 - 1.1 *A particular Christian organization with its own clergy, buildings, and distinctive doctrines.... 'the Church of England'*
 - 1.2 *(the Church) The hierarchy of clergy within a particular Christian Church.*
 - 1.3 *[mass noun] Institutionalized religion as a political or social force.... 'the separation of church and state'*
- *Whatever dictionary* *you go to, the word "church" is described as a building for worship with its hierarchy of clergy and laity.*

God's Instrument to Disciple Nations Has Been Corrupted

- God never commissioned Believers to sit within the walls of “church buildings” and focus on using their time, talents, and treasure on “building” buildings for worship.
- Would Jesus have allowed Himself to be scourged, hung on a stake to die, and resurrect in order for us to build church buildings?
- When Jesus said, “I will build My church”, did he mean go out and build buildings with pulpits, pews, music, bands, steeples, etc?

Church Have Become Pastoral Instead of Apostolic

- *Pastoral thinking:*

- *Has turned Believers into “consumers” instead of “givers/workers”.*
- *Pastor, your job is to take “care of me and my family”....that’s what we are paying you for....your job is to meet my “needs” and “wants”.*
- *If you don’t meet my needs or I don’t like the “music entertainment”, or the way I am treated, I will leave (along with my money) and go to another church.*
- *Churches measure their success by “attendance, buildings, money”
INSTEAD of “how much influence am I having to advance KOG.*

Churches Have Become Pastoral Instead of Apostolic

- *Apostolic thinking:*

- *GO, make disciples....get out of the four walls of the church building, get to work, AND MAKE DISCIPLES.*
- *COGSA statement is: “Inwardly strong & outwardly focused”.*
- *Not concerned primarily with “me and my family” but with “them” who are not yet under the influence of God and His commandments.*
- *“It’s not about you”....it’s about “them” outside the walls of “church buildings”.*
- *Churches may do “good things” but not the “right things”.*

The Man-made Religious System Exists Today as It Did When the Word "Church" Became Corrupted

- Rev 17:1-6 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." 3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

The Man-made Religious System Exists Today as It Did When the Word “Church” Became Corrupted

- 4 *The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.*

The Man-made Religious System Exists Today as It Did When the Word "Church" Became Corrupted

- *Rev 18:4-6 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.*
- *There are many of God's people who love God and God loves them who are stuck in a man-made religious system that is being used by a demonic force that opposes the Plan of God.*

The Man-made Religious System Exists Today as It Did When the Word “Church” Became Corrupted

- *This same demonic force* existed when Jesus was on this earth countering the corruption by the Pharisees and other religious leaders of Judaism and their “oral law” that they claimed superseded God’s Written Law (see messages on Galatians).
- *It’s not a matter of Sabbath-Keepers vs Sunday-Keepers...* it’s a matter of “man-made religious systems” that corrupt God’s Word. The religion of Judaism as well as the Roman Catholic Church and its daughter churches are both guilty of corrupting God’s Word.

Next week we will cover how the word “church” became corrupted to mean something that Jesus the Messiah never intended.