

Dear reader's,

You may have noticed that I sent this issue a little early. This is because my family and I are going to Pennsylvania on the 28th and will be there for two weeks.

Last month I asked what you thought about the word "church." Thank you, Mrs. Knight, for replying to my question. I agree with this.

## *Ekklesia*

by Mrs. Julie Knight

To me, "ekklesia" means the assembly of believers in YHVH/Yeshua. The assembly of believers in YHVH has historically meant the people of Israel. In the letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, Paul explains that "you who **were once** Gentiles, who were aliens to the **commonwealth of Israel**, strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world," are brought near by the blood of Messiah. "For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore **ye are no more strangers and foreigners**, but **fellowcitizens** with the household of God; built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yeshua Messiah himself being the chief cornerstone;" Paul goes on to explain that the mystery being revealed is that "the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Messiah by the gospel." Good news, indeed! Through Messiah, we are engrafted into YHVH's chosen people, Israel, and able to share in His covenants with them. HalleluYah!

In His teachings and instructions, YHVH commands us to have a "holy convocation" on His holy day, the seventh-day Shabbat. "Convocation" means assembling together, so this is made possible by having the "ekklesia" of believers with whom to assemble!

The purpose of the assembly is to function as a body made up of many parts, with each part fulfilling a different function according to its unique design and capability. The ultimate goal of all the parts should be to accomplish the plan and will of the Designer, transmitted through the head, Yeshua our Messiah.

YHVH's purpose for His people is given in Deut. 4:8, "Now, Israel, listen to the laws and rulings I am teaching you, in order to follow them, so that you will live; then you will go in and take possession of the land that YHVH, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In order to obey the commandments of YHVH your God which I am giving you, do not add to what I am saying, and do not subtract from it. You saw with your own eyes what YHVH did at Ba'al P'or, that YHVH destroyed from among you all the men who followed Ba'al-P'or; but you who stuck with YHVH your God are still alive today, every one of you. Look, I have taught you laws and rulings, just as YHVH my God ordered me, so that you can behave accordingly in the land where you are going in order to take possession of it. Therefore, observe them; and follow them; **for then all peoples will see you as having wisdom and understanding. When they hear of all these laws, they will say, 'This great nation is surely a wise and understanding people.'** For what great nation is there that has God as close to them as YHVH our God is, whenever we call on Him? What great nation is there that has laws and rulings as just as this entire Torah which I am setting before you today?" By obeying all YHVH's commandments, Israel was to be an example to the nations, so that all peoples would desire to be like them, and all would be brought near to YHVH and learn His ways.

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