

# **HARVEST ROCK CHURCH**

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## **GOD'S STRATEGY TO TRANSFORM NATIONS: THE EKKLESIA THE 7M EKKLESIA SERIES**

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**TEXT: Matthew 16:18** “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

**INTRO:** Last week, we looked at the Great Commission. To summarize:

1. All authority has been given to Jesus, and He has delegated the authority to us to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). We do this by:
2. Winning souls and making disciples. Transforming sinners into Christlike disciples.
3. Transforming society. We take the Great Commission literally to disciple nations, to transform nations.
4. If you divide each nation into seven mountains of society: 1) Church or Religion Mountain, 2) Family Mountain, 3) Education Mountain, 4) Business Mountain, 5) Government Mountain, 6) Media Mountain, 7) Arts and Entertainment Mountain. We are to bring heaven's rule and culture to each mountain. Each one of us is on one or more mountains. Characteristics of transformation look like:
5. **Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.**
6. **Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**
7. Social evils and injustices are eradicated from the institutions in a nation and replaced with love, joy, peace, righteousness, and justice in the Holy Spirit.
8. The church or *Ekklesia* is God's means to bring about that transformation.

This morning I want to continue what I ended with last week and talk more in depth about the *Ekklesia*.

### **I. THE EKKLESIA**

- A. Matthew 16:18** “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”



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1. Jesus takes a secular Greek word, *Ekklesia*, which was a legislative body in Athens. The Ekklesia or Ecclesia came from Athens, Greece, 400 years before Christ. It was a **legislative assembly of the citizens of Athens** who would make policies and important decisions for the nation of Athens, which was a city-state. For example, they would vote to send the male citizens to attack the city-state of Sparta from 431 to 405 B.C., in what was called "The Peloponnesian War."
2. Ekklesia became the word for "church" in the New Testament.
3. Jesus did not say, "I will build My synagogue" or "I will build My temple." **"He picked this word because the called-out ones are not just to meet and gather on Sundays, but they are called out to legislate in society through prayer (Matthew 16:19) and action seven days a week, 24/7."**

## II. FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT THE EKKLESIA FROM MATTHEW 16:18-19

- A. **YOU ARE THE EKKLESIA. "CALLED-OUT ONES" OR GOD'S PEOPLE. YOU ARE THE CALLED-OUT ONES!**
- B. **GOD WILL BUILD THE EKKLESIA (Psalm 127:1)**
- C. **GOD HAS GIVEN US THE AUTHORITY TO BIND AND LOOSE IN PRAYER (Matthew 16:19)**
- D. **THE EKKLESIA IS TO BE ON THE OFFENSE. WE ARE TO PROACTIVELY ATTACK THE GATES OF HELL.**
  1. **1 John 3:8 The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.**
  2. **1 John 4:17 as He is, so also are we in this world.**
  3. **Matthew 11:11 "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force."**

## III. HE HAS MADE THE EKKLESIA THE HEAD AND NOT THE TAIL

1. **Deuteronomy 28:13 "The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath."**
2. **Isaiah 2:2 Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains And will be raised above the other mountains; And all the nations will stream to it; 3 and many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That**

He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 And He will judge between the nations and will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

**3. THE EKKLESIA HAS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT INSTITUTION SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN ACTS 2**

**4. As the church goes, so goes our society!**

**IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT EKKLESIA MET FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE (IN THE MARKETPLACE) AND AT THE TEMPLE**

**A. Acts 2:42** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. 44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**1.** “House to house” means families but also employees. *Oikos* means household, more than the nuclear family. People had their businesses in their homes.

**V. WE ARE STARTING A NEW SMALL GROUP MINISTRY CALLED 7M EKKLESIAS (not “Micro-Church” because it means different things to different people)**

**A.** We have Sunday celebrations on five campuses or apostolic centers.

**B.** We have small groups called Life Groups. This is the way we disciple people.

**1.** We want to go to another level in discipleship by keeping the Life Groups small (not more than 12) and to be more discipleship oriented.

**C. WE ARE ADDING 7M SMALL GROUPS CALLED 7M EKKLESIAS**

**1.** The goal for each 7M Ekklesia is to find like-minded people to seek God in *prayer* and ask for His *divine strategy* to *transform* our society one step at a time.

2. We can't do everything to transform society, but I believe that we can do what the Father is doing. He will show us. (John 5:19)
3. We have established the Church Mountain and Family Mountain. We want to go after the: 1) Education Mountain, 2) Government Mountain, 3) Business Mountain, 4) Media Mountain, 5) Arts and Entertainment Mountain.

## VI. PAPA CHÉ AND MAMA SUE'S PROPHETIC JOURNEY

1. 1982: "Come to Los Angeles for a great harvest" and "the time of revival is at hand."
2. Pat Robertson: "If you go out in unity and harmony, God will give you great success."
3. November 2017: Ed Silvano's prophetic word, "God is going to give you apostolic strategy." By this he meant strategy to transform California.
4. **2018: God speaks to me from Genesis 24:60, "They blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of ten thousand. And may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them.'"** My interpretation of apostolic strategy of transforming California is to plant 10,000 churches in California.
5. Two weeks later, I was speaking at a conference in Northern California, and the other speaker named Jude came up to me and said, "I have a word for you, Pastor Ché. God told me to give you Genesis 24:60. He is going to give you 10,000 descendants!" I thought that this was a major confirmation, but it was a partial interpretation. Nevertheless, we started California Dreamin with the vision of planting 10,000 churches in 40 years.
6. In 2019, Sue and I were now reinstated as Senior Pastors of HRC. And in 2020, the lockdown shut down the churches in California. But during this time, Ed Silvano, Bill Johnson, and I did three Zoom conference events to encourage the church. We would gather in San Jose, Redding, and in Pasadena. When we were in San Jose, I shared the vision of 10,000 church plants, and Ed responded that he believed it was not 10,000 traditional churches but 10,000 *Ekklesias*.
7. **April 16, 2023: The penny dropped when Lance Wallnau spoke on Micro-Churches—for us, we are calling them the 7M Ekklesias.**
8. This summer, I and the other pastors will lay the theology for the Kingdom, the Church, community, and small groups.
9. In the fall, we will start a series on the Seven Mountains. Our goal is by January 2024, we will launch the 7M Ekklesias.