

Bible Study/Interpretation Rules

1. The Bible is the Word of God and Reliable
2. Spirit is required to properly understand the Bible
3. Study from the definite to the symbolic
4. Obvious meaning, Principles, and then symbolic meanings
 - a. Especially when studying Prophecy
5. Precedence of Authority within the Bible
6. The Bible interprets itself
7. Let the Bible dictate your beliefs and not vice versa.
 - a. Example of “church” in the bible
 - i. Matt. 16:18; See pg. 2
 - ii. Rev. 12; See pg. 3
8. Treat the Bible as law when determining its meaning
9. Find out everything the Bible says on a subject before deciding what is true
10. Learn all you can about the culture of the times when the book/letter was written

7. a. i.

The word translated as "church" in the New Testament is the word *ekklesia* (which is where we get the English word

ecclesiastical). This word is formed from *ek*, meaning "out of" or "away from", and *kaleo* meaning "to call"; so it means literally "the called out assembly" [4]. And Who's doing the calling? God, of course. It's no mistake then that *ekklesia* is also translated as "assembly" and "congregation".

This is where it gets interesting. *Ekklesia* is used many times throughout the LXX to translate the Hebrew word *qahal* (or *kahal*). Recall that the LXX is using Greek to translate the Old Testament, the same Greek as used in the New Testament.

What we end up with is an entire Bible written in Greek. *Qahal* is translated into English as **multitude, company, congregation, and assembly** [5]. Notice that **two of the four definitions of *qahal* are identical to those of *ekklesia***. Now consider the following passages, paying special attention to how the words multitude, company, congregation and assembly are used:

*And said unto me, Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a **multitude of people**; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession. **Genesis 48:4***

*And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this **whole assembly** with hunger. **Exodus 16:3***

*Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the **assembly of the congregation** of the children of Israel. **Numbers 14:5***

*And Moses spake in the ears of all the **congregation of Israel** the words of this song, until they were ended. **Deuteronomy 31:30***

*And all **this assembly** shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands. **1 Samuel 17:47***

*I went mourning without the sun: I stood up, and I cried in **the congregation**. **Job 30:28***

*I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of **the congregation** will I praise thee. **Psalms 22:22***

*Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in **the congregation of saints**. **Psalms 149:1***

*For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an **assembly of great nations** from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows shall be as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain. **Jeremiah 50:9***

7. a. ii.

Compare: Rev. 12

The Woman, the Child, and the Dragon

12 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Satan Thrown Out of Heaven

⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them^[a] in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

The Woman Persecuted

¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ