

THE CHURCH AND ITS ORDINANCES (ECCLESIOLOGY)

I. The Nature of the Church

A. Old Testament Background

1. Old Testament terms

- a. "My special treasure" -- Exodus 19:5
- b. "a kingdom of priests" -- Exodus 19:6
- c. "a holy nation" -- Exodus 19:6
- d. "the Lord's portion" -- Deuteronomy 32:9
- e. "His people" -- Deuteronomy 32:9
- f. "the allotment of His inheritance" -- Deuteronomy 32:9
- g. "Jacob My servant" -- Isaiah 45:4
- h. "Israel My chosen" -- Isaiah 45:4
- i. "Zion" -- Isaiah 51:16
- j. "congregation" (EDAH -- קָהָל)

This term is used 149 times in the Old Testament. In the A.V. it is translated "congregation" 124 times, "company" 13 times, "assembly" 9 times, and "multitude", "people", and "swarm" one time each. In the LXX it is translated SUNAGOGE 127 times. Selected references include:

Exodus 12:3 -- "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, "On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their father's households, a lamb for each household."

Exodus 12:19 -- "Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is an alien or a native of the land."

Leviticus 4:13 -- "Now if the whole congregation of Israel commits error, and the matter escapes the notice of the assembly (QAHAL), and they commit any of the things which the Lord has commanded not to be done, and they become guilty."

Leviticus 4:15 -- "Then the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands on the head of the bull before the Lord, and the bull shall be slain before the Lord."