

3 Church and Assembly in the KJB

- Following the normal-literal method of interpretation, the purposed goal of this chapter is to demonstrate that the finished doctrine of Ecclesiology, study of church, as found in the King James Bible (KJB) was not planned by the translators in their original work of 1604-1611. The authors believe this is partly due to various views of the translators as to the importance each placed upon membership in the Church of England. Nevertheless, God used the translators' varying strengths, weaknesses, and even disagreements to give a view of church doctrine in the KJB, that surpasses each individual or group translation effort.
- When did the church begin according to the KJB? This request usually means to give a chapter and verse of scripture with a date or specific Biblical event when or where the church began.
- There are two main views as to what the term "church" means, and it is important to know how a person understands or interprets the term "church".

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- This study accepts the fact that both local church and the church which is the body of Christ are indeed within the KJB revelation of the doctrine of the church. Those who believe a true church is only composed of those who hold a dogma such as water baptism for the remission of sins, works for salvation, etc., will disagree.
- No serious Bible student disagrees that there are local churches in the Bible. Therefore, we will not spend much time or space to discuss that primary and evident fact. We will take space to show why we believe there is justification for the church, which is the body of Christ, as well as local churches in the KJB.

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- The question of when the first local church met is not difficult. It is recorded:
 "37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. 38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:" (Acts 7:37-38)

The etymology of the word and its usage

- The KJB translates the Greek word ekklesia as "church" in all occurrences except Acts 19 where "assembly" is found in Acts 19:32,39, and 41. An unusual occurrence is also found in the translation of the Greek hierosulos, as "robbers of churches" in one instance (Acts 19:37).
- See Table B below for the usage of Assembly in the English New Testament Translations and Editions from Wycliffe to the KJB.

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- The Greek word ekklesia is composed of a preposition ek "out of" and a verb kaleo "call." The Greek term simply means a group of people called out. In itself, the word has no religious definition at all except by context. Greek ekklesia also called a pagan mob a secular gathering, or a political meeting.
- Therefore, a definition of the Greek term is: "A group of people called out for a specific purpose, the nature and purpose of which must be determined by the context." There is nothing in the English or the Greek word that demands a "local church only" definition. The context must determine the full meaning of the word church.