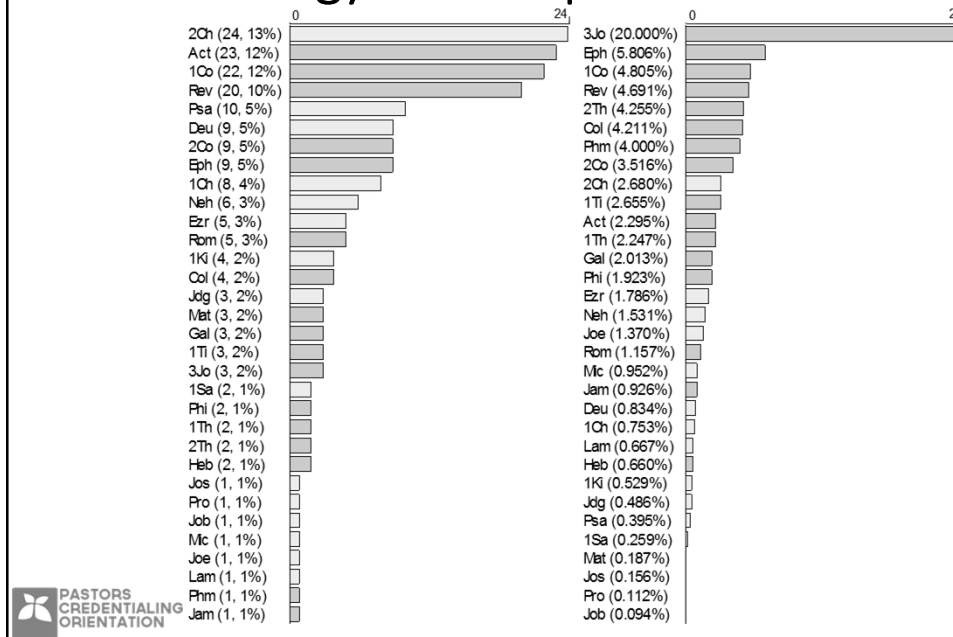


2. Ecclesiology and Scripture



2. Ecclesiology and Scripture

- Survey of usage in the LXX
 - 77x
- Core Question #1: Who is the ecclesia?
 - Almost always followers of God / Israelites
 - One exception: "I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked." (Psalm 26:5)
 - Seems to be focused on the physical assembly (no concept of a more universal ecclesia)

2. Ecclesiology and Scripture

- Survey of usage in the LXX
 - Core question #2: What does the ecclesia do?
 - Singing, celebration, blessing, offering, prayer ... 30x
 - “The whole assembly bowed in worship, while the musicians played and the trumpets sounded. All this continued until the sacrifice of the burnt offering was completed.” (2 Chronicles 29:28)
 - Receiving, discerning God’s commands and will ... 12x
 - “Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.” (Deuteronomy 4:10)



2. Ecclesiology and Scripture

- Survey of usage in the LXX
 - Core question #2: What does the ecclesia do?
 - Military or political decisions ... 10x
 - “They went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites and the heads of Israelite families from all the towns. When they came to Jerusalem, the whole assembly made a covenant with the king at the temple of God. Jehoiada said to them, “The king’s son shall reign, as the LORD promised concerning the descendants of David.” (2 Chronicles 23:2-3)
 - Restrictions and requirements to enter ... 7x
 - “No one born of a forbidden marriage nor any of their descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, not even in the tenth generation.” (Deuteronomy 23:2)



2. Ecclesiology and Scripture

- Survey of usage in the LXX
 - Observations:
 1. Ecclesia existed almost exclusively in relationship to God
 - No God = no ecclesia
 2. Ecclesia's primary purpose was relationship with God
 - Ritual, teaching, prayer, listening, singing, discerning, etc
 3. Ecclesia's influence extended beyond itself
 - Military, political, and socio-economic impact
 - Side note:
 - Synagogue is localized expression of another entity (the temple), qahal is much broader (any assembly)



2. Ecclesiology and Scripture

- Survey of usage in the New Testament
 - 114x
 - Core Question #1: Who is the ecclesia?
 - Almost always followers of Jesus or God
 - One exception: The community / legal assembly in Acts 19:32-41
 - Context can be local (approx. 60x), universal (approx. 20x), or regional (approx. 10x)
 - Primary designation is "of God" (12x)



2. Ecclesiology and Scripture

- Survey of usage in the New Testament
 - Core Question #2: What does the ecclesia do?
 - Endure and resist attacks (4x)
 - "... on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matthew 16:18)
 - "King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them." (Acts 12:1)
 - "You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews." (1 Thessalonians 2:14)



2. Ecclesiology and Scripture

- Survey of usage in the New Testament
 - Core Question #2: What does the ecclesia do?
 - Utilize gifts and roles (9x)
 - "Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel on those that build up the church." (1 Corinthians 14:12)
 - "If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God." (1 Corinthians 14:28)



2. Ecclesiology and Scripture

- Survey of usage in the New Testament
 - Core Question #2: What does the ecclesia do?
 - Teach, pray, moral assessment, display wisdom, report mission (10x)
 - "... through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known." (Ephesians 3:10)
 - "So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him." (Acts 12:5)
 - "... they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them." (Acts 14:27)
 - "... God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth." (1 Timothy 3:15)



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2. Ecclesiology and Scripture

- Survey of usage in the New Testament
 - Core Question #2: What does the ecclesia do?
 - Financial support, help widows, hospitality (3x)
 - “Now about the collection for the Lord’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.” (1 Corinthians 16:1)
 - “... not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only.” (Philippians 4:15)
 - “... so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.” (1 Timothy 5:16)



2. Ecclesiology and Scripture

- Survey of usage in the New Testament
 - Observations:
 1. Ecclesia exists almost exclusively in relationship to Jesus
 - No Jesus = no ecclesia
 2. Ecclesia has many geographical expressions
 - Local, regional, global
 3. Ecclesia is grounded in theology
 - Teaching, wisdom, truth
 4. Ecclesia is engaged in the world
 - Persecution, mission, prayer, service

