

## Organizational Structure of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Congregation

This is a model of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century Congregation and it is based upon the Brit HaDashah (New Covenant) primarily using the books of Ma'asei (Acts), Romiyim (Romans), Galatiyim (Galatians), Eph'siyim (Ephesians), Qorintiyim Aleph & Qorintiyim Bet (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians) and others. This should be the model for the present day 21<sup>st</sup> Century Congregation.

The Congregation was originally organized with one central leadership, consisting of Emissaries (Apostles) and their main function was to guard and watch over the spiritual nature and growth of the Congregation. They later had the Congregation choose Deacons to handle the physical needs of the Congregation and to deal with the day to day operations which needed attending to. So the Emissaries (Apostles) did this so they could devote themselves continually to prayer and serving the Word. (Note: Since the Brit HaDashah did not exist at this time they were speaking of the Torah and Tanakh).

### Scripture Reference:

Act 6: 1-7

- 1 And in those days, when the taught ones were increasing, there arose a grumbling against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were overlooked in the daily serving.
- 2 So the twelve summoned the group of the taught ones and said, "It is not pleasing for us to leave the Word of Elohim and serve tables.
- 3 "Therefore, brothers, seek out from among you seven men who are known to be filled with the Set-apart Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint for this duty,
- 4 but we shall give ourselves continually to prayer and to serving the Word."
- 5 And the word pleased the entire group. And they chose Stephanos, a man filled with belief and the Set-apart Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nikanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nikolaos, a convert from Antioch,
- 6 whom they set before the emissaries. And when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.
- 7 And the Word of Elohim spread, and the number of the taught ones increased greatly in Yerushalayim, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the belief.

We see the introduction of the Gifts of The Ruach (Spirit) as outlined in Qorintiyim Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians) and Eph'siyim (Ephesians). These Gifts note official offices of the Congregation to include the Emissaries (Apostles), Nevi'im (Prophets), Evangelist, Shepherds (Pastors) and Rabbi (Teachers). In addition to these gifts to the Congregation there are 20 plus other Gifts mentioned.

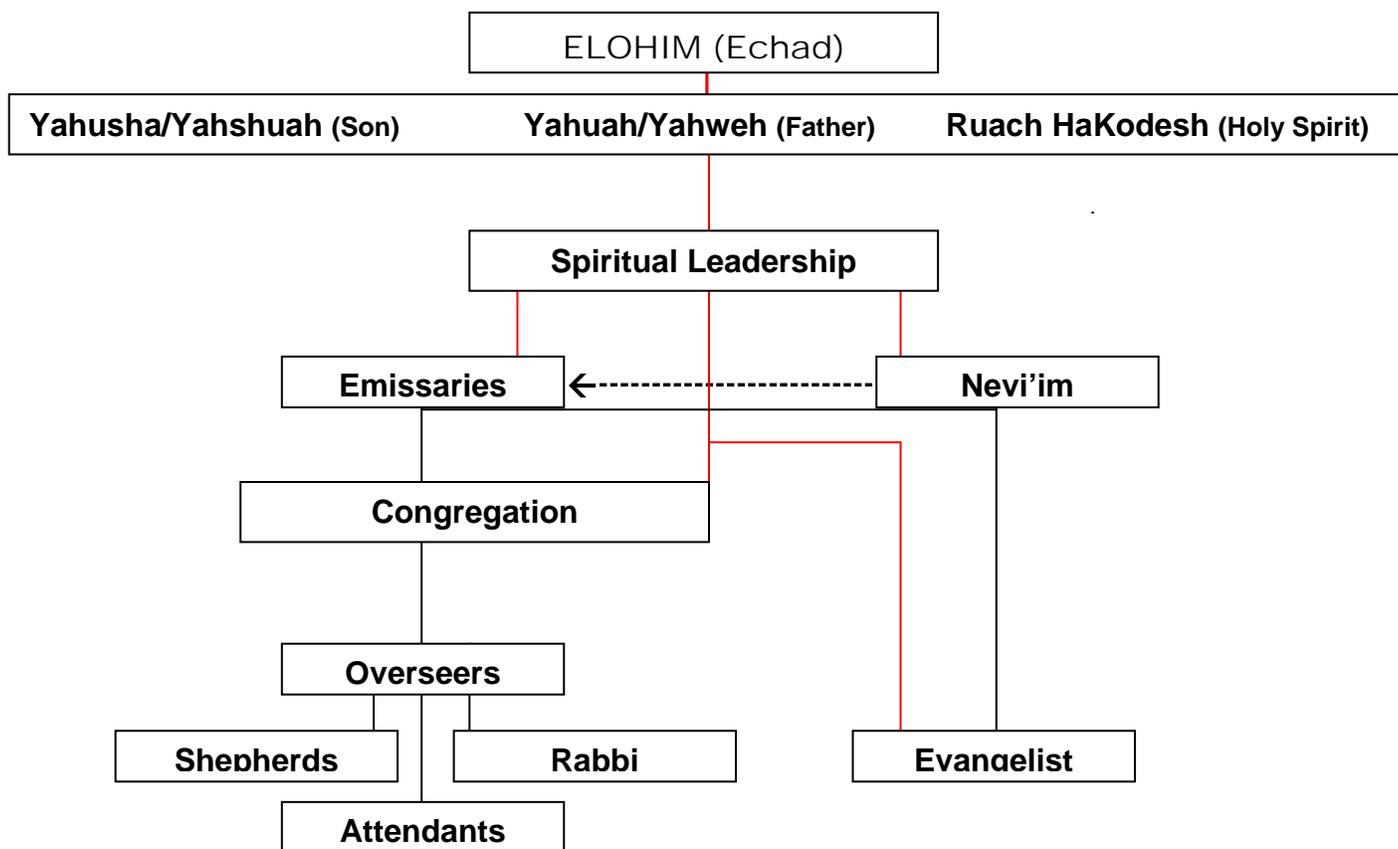
1Co 12:

- 28 And Elohim has appointed these in the assembly: firstly emissaries, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, ministrations, kinds of tongues.

Eph 4: 10-13

- 10 He who went down is also the One who went up far above all the heavens, to fill all.
- 11 And He Himself gave some as emissaries, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as shepherds and teachers
- 12 for the perfecting of the set-apart ones, to the work of service to a building up of the body of the Messiah,
- 13 until we all come to the unity of the belief and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the completeness of Messiah,

This outline shows us the organization of ELOHIM (Echad). The structure is as follows:



### Appointed Ministries

Ruach HaKodesh (The Holy Spirit) chooses these Individuals. None are added until the Ruach (Spirit) decides. Congregation members are required to be satisfied that the Ruach (Spirit) wishes to add these individuals. A consensus among the Congregation is not needed for these individuals to assume the duties to which they have been called and appointed. Decision making by the Appointed Ones is done as it is indicated in the Book of Acts, such as: when it was decided that Sha’ul (Paul) and Barnabah (Barnabas) were to be sent. There is debate over the qualifications for individuals appointed today, but following closely the Scriptures is the wise and correct course. One additional point, all Appointed Ones must be Mikvah (Baptism) in Ruach HaKodesh (The Holy Spirit) and have evidence of the Ruach (Spirit) in their lives through the Fruits, Maturity and a Good Report.

The Appointed Ministries of the Congregation are a gift given by Ruach HaKodesh (The Holy Spirit). Each Ministry has a specific job description and Ministry names are relevant because they provide insight to members of the Congregation as to the Appointment placed on each individual. There is no arrogance in an individual assuming the title which they have been called to because this appointment is a Divine Appointment and is not the decision of an individual or a Congregation. If one is ashamed of the calling that has been placed upon their

life by Yahuah/Yahweh or Yahusha/Yahshuah, then how can they properly function in the Appointment to which they have been called?

## **Ministries Defined:**

**Emissaries (Apostles).** Someone on a mission, such as: an Ambassador or Representative and have the Divine Authority from Elohim to render a decision in regards to a matter.

**Nevi'im (Prophets).** Speak the Word of Elohim which has been sent through The Ruach (Spirit), both to the Congregation and individuals. They may have a direct Word or a dream interpretation and they bring forth a Divine unction pertaining to the Will and Desires of Elohim as revealed by The Ruach (Spirit). The Word must be correct and in complete agreement with Scripture.

**Evangelist.** Presents the Truth both to the lost and backslidden. Can also help a Congregation regain focus and correctness.

**Shepherds (Pastors).** Known by their great love for guarding the Congregation and watching over the Set-Apart Ones.

**Rabbi (Teachers).** Have insight in the Word that is not common and ordinary. Teaches with clarity and simplicity. Can take the most difficult to understand Scriptures and explain them.

Anointing in all Appointed Ministries must be readily identifiable and there may be more than one individual occupying the Appointed Ministry in a Congregation. Of course Ruach HaKodesh (The Holy Spirit) determines seniority or area of concentration in an Appointed Ministry. Example: Ēliyahu (Elijah) and Elisha.

## **Attendants (Deacons)**

The Attendants (Deacons) are not over the Congregation and make no decisions regarding leadership appointments (Shepherds (Pastors) and Rabbi (Teachers)). They concern themselves with physical matters that are delegated by the Appointed Ones. These Attendants (Deacons) must have a great servant heart and reputation. Often, future leaders emerge from the Attendants (Deacons). These positions are the only ones chosen by the Congregation.

## **Congregation**

Placement in the body is determined by the particular Gift given to a member and in many cases, Gifts. A Gift assessment and the individuals beliefs should be determined within a reasonable time period after a individual becomes part of a local Congregation by those Appointed Ones who are in a position as Overseers. Also the it should be determined if the individual has received the Mikvah (Baptism) of Ruach HaKodesh (The Holy Spirit).

**Special Note: The Body of Mashiach is the Congregation and this model has no exception. All authority proceeds from Elohim and this is true for all positions in order for the Body to function properly. Further, all positions are equally important.**

## **The Gifts**

**The Gifts of the Ruach (Spirit) are more numerous than most people imagine or understand. The books of Romiyim (Romans), Eph'siyim (Ephesians), Qorintiyim Aleph & Qorintiyim Bet (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians) list 21 gifts and there is justification for others in other Books. A dividing line between Ministry and Laity differentiates the Gifts. For Ministry, the gifts have a definite anointing which defines their use in those called to serve in full-time ministry. Laymen have an anointing that is noticeably less. Whatever the case, the Gifts are for helping others, enabling the Set-Apart Ones to live a victorious life and for placing individuals in their appointed positions within the Body of Set-Apart Ones.**

## **End Comments**

**This Congregation model is completely based in Scriptural Doctrine and when understood from the correct spiritual perspective makes good sense. The intent is to return to that which was successful in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century. Yahuah/Yahweh and Yahusha/Yahshuah are the Head and the Congregation is the Body functioning fully through the Gifts given by the Ruach (Spirit) to carry out His Purposes and Will.**