

I Will Build My Church?



Servants' NEWS

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A newsletter for servants of the Almighty Eternal Creator, wherever they may be

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New Edition of How Does the Eternal Govern Through Humans? With This Issue

For those of you who have been waiting for this paper, we are sorry for the few months delay—but we hope it will be worth it. This edition of *How Does the Eternal Govern Through Humans?* is almost twice as long as the last edition, and much of the original material has been rewritten. Numerous evaluations and criticisms of the paper were considered in this rewrite. Errors were corrected, speculative material was removed, and much additional proof was added for the important points.

The basic message is the same as the last edition, but the explanation of church leaders is improved. The first edition de-emphasized most human authority in the church, whereas this edition affirms the human authority that is described by the Bible, but shows that these leaders must be appointed by the Eternal, not by the human system of ordination.

Another major change is the removal of names and terminology unique to "Church of God" groups—not because this terminology is bad, but so the paper can appeal to a wider audience. We must remember that the clergy-laity concept is a great hindrance to spiritual growth in numerous other Sabbatarian and Sunday-keeping organizations. The main reason that Seventh-Day Adventists do not keep the holy days is not because they have studied them in the Bible and found them unnecessary. It is because their church-ordained leaders do not teach it, so the people see no need to study it. Similarly, people in Sunday-keeping organizations do not study the Sabbath because their hierarchies or ministry assure them that Sunday is the day. Understanding individual responsibility to the Eternal should be one of the first steps to understanding truth.

We realize that *How Does the Eternal Govern Through Humans?* is now the size of a small book. But we encourage you to read it—in however many sittings it may take. The world is going to plunge into a great amount of confusion after January 1, 2000, if not before (see *Servants' News*, Dec 1997). Many people, some of them religious, will be standing up claiming to have the solution. You need to know what kind of religious leaders you should trust and accept, and why.

—Norman S. Edwards

How Narrow a Gate Are You Entering?

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it (Matt 17:13-14).



Neither main-stream Christianity nor Judaism has produced peace for their followers—neither between nations nor in the lives of their families. The average person who goes to a Church or Synagogue goes for an hour or so, then goes about his business—little affected by his religion. Most *Servants' News* readers are familiar with the above scripture and are also accustomed to a religious lifestyle that appears somewhat "odd" to most people.

That is the way it has to be. Those preaching salvation through Yeshua (Jesus) in the first century seemed odd to the other Jews. Later, Gentiles who stopped practicing their pagan religions to believe in Jesus seemed odd to their neighbors. These believers were almost always in the minority. Indeed, many were ostracized, and some were persecuted and killed for their beliefs. They had to worship the Eternal as they understood. They knew of the many warnings against incorporating false religion:

Take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them [false gods], after they [Canaanites] are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, "How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise." You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods (Deut 12:31-32).

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And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

ESV Matthew 16:18



ekklesia

- Strong's 1577
- Combination of:
 - ek (Strong's 1537) – out of
 - kaleo (Strong's 2564) to call
- ekklesia = to call out, an assembly
- a common Greek word – not a religious word

kahal (Hebrew)



ekklesia (Greek)



assembly (English)

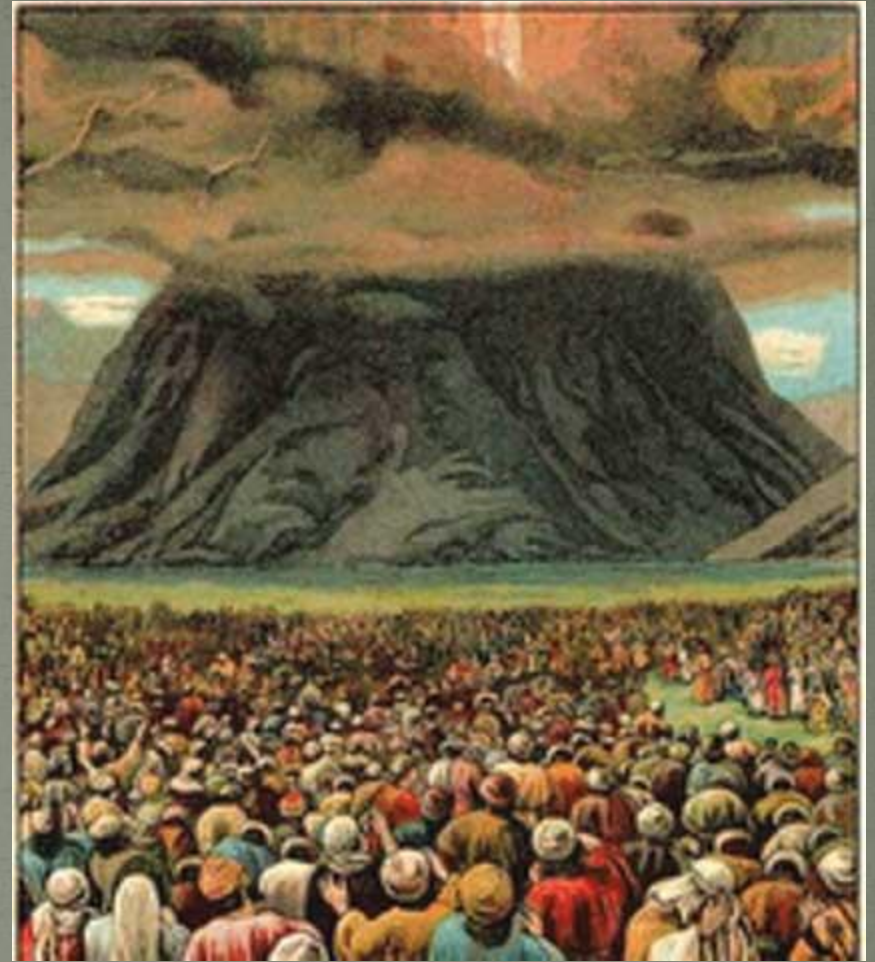


Fig. 1

NKJ Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church . . .

oikodomea
Strong's #3618

Oikodomea -

- to build a house, erect a building
- to build (up from the foundation
- to restore by building
- to rebuild, repair

Oikodomea -

^{NKJ} **Acts 9:31** Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were **edified**. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

Oikodomea -

NKJ 1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love **edifies.**

Oikodomea -

^{NKJ} **1 Corinthians 10:23** All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things **edify**.

Oikodomea -

NKJ Galatians 2:17-18 "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ "For if I **build again** those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

(Isaiah 49:6)

the Septuigint

banah (בנה) = *oikodomea*

- to build, rebuild, establish, cause to continue



NKJ Amos 9:11 " On that day I will
raise up The tabernacle of David,
which has fallen down, And repair
its damages; I will raise up its ruins,
And rebuild (*banah*) it as in the days
of old . . . ”

Acts 15:16 “After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it”



Fig. 2

anoikodomea

KJV Isaiah 58:12 And they that shall be of thee shall build (*banah*) the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

TNK Isaiah 58:12 Men from your midst shall rebuild (*banah*) ancient ruins, You shall restore foundations laid long ago. And you shall be called "Repairer of fallen walls, Restorer of lanes for habitation."

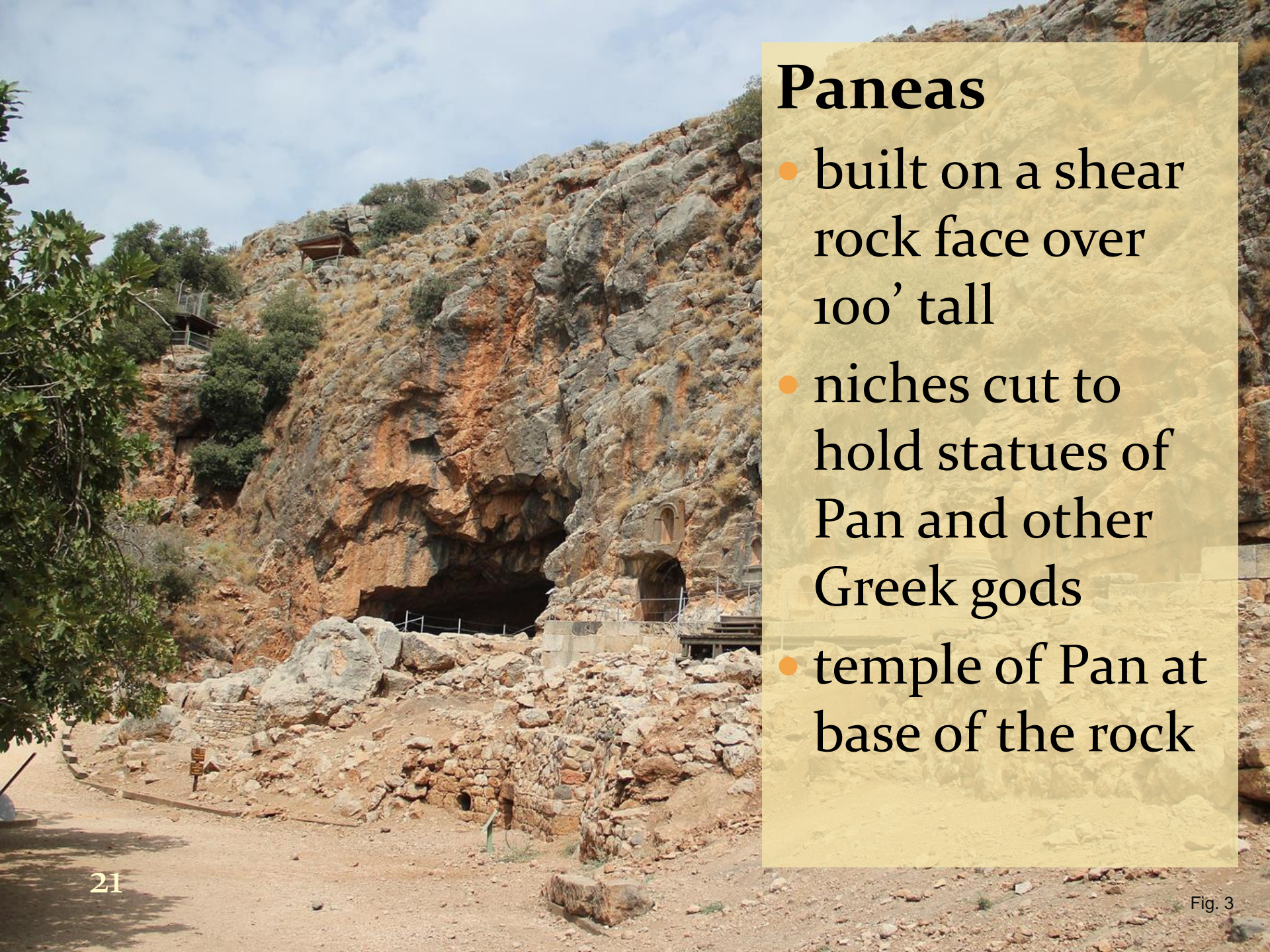
KJV Jeremiah 24:6 For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build (*banah*) them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up.

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will re-build my assembly, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

ESV Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Caesarea Philippi

- Located at the base of Mt. Hermon
 - the highest point in Israel
- Named after Herod the Great's son
- Anciently called Paneas
 - After the Greek god Pan



Paneas

- built on a sheer rock face over 100' tall
- niches cut to hold statues of Pan and other Greek gods
- temple of Pan at base of the rock

Pan

- God of the wild, nature, rustic music
- Hindquarters, legs, and horn of a goat
- Associated with fertility and spring
- The only Greek god who ends up dying



Gates of Hell



^{KJV} **Hosea 14:1** O Israel, return to the LORD
your God, For you have stumbled because of
your iniquity; ² Take words with you, And
return to the LORD. Say to Him, "Take away all
iniquity; Receive us graciously, For we will offer
the sacrifices of our lips. ³ Assyria shall not
save us, We will not ride on horses, **Nor will**
we say anymore to the work of our hands,
'You are our gods.' For in You the fatherless
finds mercy." ⁴ " I will heal their backsliding, I
will love them freely, For My anger has turned
away from him.

⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily, And lengthen his roots like Lebanon. ⁶ His branches shall spread; His beauty shall be like an olive tree, And his fragrance like Lebanon. ⁷ Those who dwell under his shadow shall return; They shall be revived like grain, And grow like a vine. Their scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon. ⁸ "Ephraim shall say, 'What have I to do anymore with idols?' I have heard and observed him. I am like a green cypress tree; Your fruit is found in Me."

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שְׁלֹמֹה לָכֶם

Shalom Aleichem

Peace be Unto You