

'LEADERSHIP IN THE LAST DAYS CHURCH' - a continuation

THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH

REVIVAL MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA

Paul Galligan

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INTRODUCTION

THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH

Luke 1:15b-17 *“He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*

JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS ‘ELIJAH COME’

Jesus confirmed later that John the Baptist was “Elijah come” (Matt.11:14). John’s ministry was in the power of the Holy Spirit. **The spirit and power of Elijah is the power of the Spirit of God, the Spirit of the Father and the Son.** The effect of such an anointing is *“to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children”*. The zenith of Elijah’s ministry in the Old Testament is seen in **1 Kings 18** where he gathered the whole nation and called them back to worship the LORD with mighty signs and wonders. He dealt with the demonic [occult] power and then the drought was able to be broken.

ELIJAH WILL COME BEFORE THE ‘GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY’

John turned many to the Lord; he went before Messiah, preparing a way, announcing Messiah, preparing a people to receive Him. John the Baptist was the first fulfilment of the prophecy that God will *“send you Elijah,” Malachi 4:5*. However, originally God said that Elijah would come before the *“great and terrible day of the LORD”*.

That great and dreadful day has not come yet, but is upon us even now and so there is a greater fulfilment of the prophecy now.

God is sending Elijah: He is giving a heart to fathers, apostles, for the people of God and He is giving the ‘children’ hearts to receive the apostolic leaders that He is raising. It is time to enter into sonship. Jesus is the captain of our salvation and is leading *“many sons to glory,” Heb.2:10*.

CALLING THE PEOPLE BACK TO GOD

This new manual **“The Spirit and Power of Elijah”**, a continuation of **“Leadership in the Last Days Church”**, is being published in the wake of Australia’s third largest church denomination, the Uniting Church, having voted by a large majority at their triennial national conference, to ordain homosexuals and lesbians as ministers of the church. This has happened within weeks of the Anglican [and Episcopalian] churches of England and North America, electing and ordaining practising homosexuals to the office of bishop. If ever the modern era needs an apostolic people raised up in the Spirit and power of Elijah to once again ask **“who is God?”** and to ask **“what does the Word of God say?”** and to lead a return to New Testament Christianity, **it is NOW!**

JEZEBEL MUST BE REMOVED

The spirit of Jezebel is still active in the spirit realm and is one of the devil’s commanding spiritual forces in his army of rebellion. The spirit of Jezebel is a world-

wide power of the devil and is especially active in the church of Jesus Christ, among God's people, seeking to draw them away from the will of God and into the captivity of ***“sexual immorality and eating food offered to idols” Rev.2:20.***

APOSTLES AND APOSTOLIC COMPANIES

The Spirit and power of Elijah is coming upon apostles who are being raised and apostolic companies that are being formed in relationship to the apostles. These companies are modelling New Testament Christianity and providing a leadership/headship for the churches and the pastoral leaders of the churches. **God's goal is clearly a united church: united in faith, united in the knowledge of the Son of God, growing unto a perfect [corporate] man (Eph.4:13).** This unity and maturity will only come as a result of the full restoration of the five-fold ministry and especially the restoration of apostles and prophets to re-lay proper foundations for the church and to build the church according to the Scriptural pattern.

THE KINGLY ANOINTING

The restoration of the apostolic includes the restoration of the kingly anointing that believers have received from Jesus Christ: ***“He has made us kings and priests to His God and Father” Rev.1:6.*** [Many modern versions of the Bible misinterpret this verse, calling us a 'kingdom of priests'. This misses the point totally.] For a long time the church has ministered a **Gospel of Salvation**, emphasising the wonderful priestly aspects [salvation, healing, prayer etc] of the ministry of Jesus. In fact **the Gospel of the New Testament is the Gospel of the kingdom of God;** it has a lot to do with authority, rulership and dominion. Elijah had authority over King Ahab: Elijah had the full anointing of a priest and a king. This is actually the anointing of Melchizedek, the king/priest and Jesus is of this order.

JEHU 'FOUND' JEHONADAB

In **2 Kings 10:15** we read of the meeting between King Jehu and Jehonadab, the son of Rechab. Two like-minded, one-hearted men found each other. Jehonadab was coming to 'meet' Jehu. Jehu asked him, ***“is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?”*** Jehonadab answered ***“It is.” ... So he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot.” V16 “Then he said, ‘Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD.”***

Jehu was on an apostolic mission; he had been called, anointed and commissioned by a prophet to fulfil the word of the Lord given to Elijah against Ahab's house and Jezebel. Jehonadab was coming to meet him. He had an unfulfilled heart; he wanted to be fully involved in the purpose of God. Together they went to serve the Lord, to fulfil His commission. So today God is bringing like-minded, one-hearted brethren together to serve the Lord and fulfil the Great Commission in going to the nations.

THE SPIRIT and POWER OF

ELIJAH

Chapter one

Apostles are Fathers

APOSTLES ARE FATHERS

God says, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD, and he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.” Malachi 4:5-6

The ‘great and dreadful day’ referred to here, has not yet come, and before that day, God is going to send Elijah the prophet.

In Lu.1:16-17 the angel of the Lord is prophesying the coming of John the Baptist, saying “And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

The manifestation of the spirit and power of Elijah was
‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children’
‘the disobedient to the wisdom of the just’,
‘to make ready a people for the Lord’.

This was speaking of John the Baptist’s ministry to prepare the way for the Lord’s first coming. But the spirit and power of Elijah is coming again before the coming of the ‘great and dreadful day of the LORD.’ This will be before His second coming. At the first coming of the Lord there was rejoicing, with an angelic choir singing in the heavens, (Lu.2:13-14). In other words this was not a ‘dreadful’ day. Before that day comes, God is going to give fathers who have a heart for His people.

WHO ARE FATHERS?

ADAM THE FIRST FATHER

Apostles are fathers! They carry a headship for the church that is not given to anyone else. The first apostle was Adam and he is the father of mankind. We are all by nature children of Adam. He was meant to be the father of a godly human race, but the covering we received from Adam was broken when he fell into sin and God could not repair that covering. God intended Adam to be fruitful and multiply and to fill the earth with godly children (Gen.1:28), but Adam failed. Before we were saved, we were children of Adam, who was a sinner and because we were under that broken covering we all are born sinners.

NOAH, AN APOSTOLIC LEADER

The next apostolic leader in the Scripture is Noah. Noah was used by God to build an ‘ark of salvation’ in his generation and bring deliverance to his family,
having preached God’s salvation to the whole human race.

ABRAHAM, A TRUE FATHER

Two thousand years after Adam, God raised up another apostolic father, Abraham. He was called by God, who changed his name from Abram, which means *'father'*, to Abraham, which means *'father of many'*, (**Gen.17:5**). God chose this man on the foreknowledge that he would rule his own household well and that he would train up his children to do righteousness and justice, (**Gen.18:19**). He was a father in his own household and trained them in the ways of God. Abraham is known as **the father of the faith** and **we are his children through faith in Jesus Christ** (**Rom.4:16**). God gave to Abraham the promise that through him every family on the earth would be blessed. God was replacing the fallen apostle [Adam], with His chosen one, Abraham. As believers we have a father in Abraham.

The blessing, promised through Abraham to the whole human race, could not come immediately. Until Jesus came it was confined to one small people group, the children of Israel. Isaac is Abraham's seed and from him came Jacob. Jacob is the father of the twelve tribes of Israel.

MOSES, FATHER OF A NATION

About four hundred years later, God raised up Moses who became an apostolic father to the children of Israel. Through Moses, God allowed one nation of people to come under an apostolic covering that separated them from all the other nations that were still under the fallen covering of Adam. The Bible says in **1 Cor.10:1-2**, that the children of Israel were all baptised into Moses. God gave them the law and formed them into a nation. They had a *'father'*; **they were under a covering and they had identity; they knew who they were**. To this day the Jewish religion is based on the law of Moses. However this covering was only partial and did not release the blessing promised through Abraham to all the nations.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE APOSTLE OF GOD

THROUGH CHRIST THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM COMES TO ALL

There are many apostolic figures throughout the Old Testament, but the next important apostolic figure is **Christ**. It is through Christ that the blessing of the promise given to Abraham is released to all. Moses could only give a covering to the Jews. Through Christ that which our father Adam lost, is restored.

The blessing of Abraham is the promise of the Spirit, *"that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith," Gal.3:14*. The blessing of the Spirit could not come until Christ came. It is through Christ that we receive our inheritance. **Gal.3:26** *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,"* and **verse 29** *"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."* When we are born again we become a child of God, and the inheritance is ours; but when we step into *'sonship'*, that is when we actually inherit.

JESUS, THE APOSTLE OF GOD, IS OUR FATHER

Jesus is the apostle sent by God, (Jn.20:21). He is our Apostle, Heb.3:1 “... *consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus.*” He became a ‘father’ to ‘children’, “*Here am I and the children whom God has given Me,*” Heb.2:13.

Jesus is our spiritual father. He is leading many sons to glory (Heb.2:10).

He was the Son to His Father and He has given us to the Father. We are the brethren of Jesus, but in the household of God, Jesus is our Father. He also knew we would need fathers for the church, so “*He Himself gave some to be apostles ...*”, Eph.4:11.

JESUS RECEIVED AND WALKED IN HIS INHERITANCE

Jesus had an inheritance promised to Him in Ps.2:7-8 “*I will declare the decree; the LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.’*” Jesus stepped into the inheritance of His ‘sonship’ at His baptism. He was always the Son of God, but He was born a babe and grew as a child being subject to His earthly parents (Lu.2:51). However it was at His baptism that He was publicly acknowledged by the Father as a Son. Matt.3:17 “*And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’*” It was after that, that He began to walk in His inheritance – taking authority over the devil, healing the sick, performing miracles, preaching the kingdom of God.

JESUS RAISED TWELVE APOSTLES TO BE THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH

One of the main aspects of Jesus’ ministry was to raise up twelve apostles, who were to be the foundational and leadership ministries of the church. **They were the apostolic fathers through whom Jesus gave birth to the church.** They are forever the foundation ministries of the eternal church. Rev.21:14 “*Now the wall of the city [representing the church of Jesus Christ] had twelve foundations and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*”

PETER THE APOSTLE HAD A SPECIAL COMMISSION IN BIRTHING THE CHURCH

He gave to Peter the keys of the kingdom, (Matt.16:19). Peter used these keys to release the Holy Spirit [the Spirit was promised to us through Abraham], to **Jews** on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), and to **Gentile believers** (Acts 10), and to **Samaritans** (Acts 8). Peter had a special place as an apostle and he fulfilled the commission given to him by Jesus. He was chiefly the apostle to the Jews, while Paul was raised up to be an apostle to the Gentiles, Gal.2:8.

WHAT IS AN APOSTLE?

A REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY OF THE ONE REPRESENTED.

An apostle is one sent on behalf of someone else, similar to a governor. The governor has absolute power because he is sent by his government and is to fully represent them, but also has authority to make decisions on their behalf. Jesus said to Peter in Matt. 16:19 “... *whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*”

JESUS GAVE HIS AUTHORITY TO APOSTLES

Jesus had authority to fully represent His Father, **Matt.28:18** *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”* Jesus commissioned His apostles and sent them out with His authority and power. **An apostle is one who will fully represent Jesus in the earth**, **Matt. 10:40** *“He who receives you receives Me and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”* That same authority and power that Jesus had, is released to the Body of Christ through the apostles or those exercising apostolic ministry. Not all are apostles but we are all meant to be apostolic.

A GRACE GIFT

The true nature of the apostle is that it is a grace gift, given by the Lord Jesus Christ. **Eph.4:7-8** *“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.’”* Grace saves us (**Eph.2:5**), empowers us and enables us to be the people of God He wants us to be. Both the apostle and the disciple are dependent on the grace of God. **2 Tim. 1:9** tells us that this grace was *“given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.”*

THE CHURCH IS APOSTOLIC

APOSTOLIC SIGNS

Jesus has commissioned the whole church to be apostolic and we are an apostolic people. We can expect apostolic signs to follow us. **Mark 16:17-18** *“And these signs will follow those who believe; in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”* These signs are to follow every believer. They are apostolic signs and they belong to the people of God. They are similar to the signs that Jesus gave to the apostles in **Matt.10:8**.

THERE HAS BEEN NO CHURCH LIKE THE EARLY CHURCH

When the persecution came, the disciples of the first church in Jerusalem went out preaching everywhere. Philip, who had been ordained as a deacon, proved to be a mighty evangelist. All the disciples, being apostolic, went out preaching. These disciples planted a new church in Antioch, **Acts 11:20-21**. Similarly in Ephesus in **Acts 19**, Paul the apostle quickly raised up an apostolic company of people who reached *“all of Asia”* with the gospel.

AN APOSTOLIC COMPANY

Jesus appointed apostles as the foundational and leadership ministry of the church, to bring it to completion. The church is not an institution: it is the Body of Christ. We, the church, are sent into the world to preach the gospel. Jesus said to make disciples not church members! The biblical pattern is of an apostolic company not church membership. You become part of an apostolic company by relating to an apostle, by identifying with an apostolic people, and all the grace and anointing of the Lord is released.

RELATIONSHIP TO A SPIRITUAL FATHER

The true church is made up of people, the *'called out ones'*. God does not dwell in buildings. The church is the house of God, made up of living stones, **1 Pet.2:5**. In the Scripture the church is also referred to as a *'city'* and *'the bride of Christ'*. The church is a living company of people. It is the family of God in the Spirit. We are the sons of God, male and female, (**Rom.8:14**). We can all be sons in God's family. **We are in relationship with a spiritual father**; we are all members of His body. It is being in relationship with an apostolic father that brings us together into apostolic companies.

GRACE AND APOSTLESHIP

The grace of God on the apostle testifies to who he is, *"...God has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,"* **2Tim.1:9**. True apostles are called and appointed by God through Christ and the Holy Spirit. There is an unlimited supply of God's grace and His anointing. It is the revelation of and the impartation of grace that enables us to come into apostleship. **Rom.1:5** *"Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name."* Apostleship does not only refer to the gift given to some, (**Eph.4:11**), but it refers to the grace given to the church, enabling us all to come into the apostolic, leading to the obedience of faith among all nations.

WE ALL NEED A 'FATHER'

Every human being needs a father. Without **'fathers'** there is a lack of peace and grace; instead there is a striving to prove oneself. Having a 'father' who loves unconditionally brings peace and security, and actually releases us into the call of God. The approval and acceptance that we long for comes to us from God our Father, but often only flows fully to us through an apostolic father. We need to know we belong in the family of God, and that 'knowing' comes through an apostolic father. **Receiving an apostle is receiving Jesus and the Father (Matt.10:40)**.

When we are given or sent an apostle by the Lord, and we receive that one, something happens: the grace of God is released to bring us into a real experience of sonship.

THE FAMILY OF GOD IS NOT HIERARCHICAL

1 Pet.5:5 *"... all of you be submissive to one another ..."*

Eph.5:21 *"submitting to one another in the fear of God."*

Jesus said that the greatest among you was to be the least. In the apostolic church there is no hierarchy. Each member is submitted to one another in love. Paul says that the part of the body that has the least honour deserves the most honour, (**1 Cor.12:23**).

Phil. 2:5-7 *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-servant and coming in the likeness of a man."*

Heb. 5:8 *"... though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered."* As a son Jesus learned obedience.

The apostle is as a father in the family of God: it is a family relationship. There are always at least three generations in the church: fathers, young men, little children, (**1Jn.2:12-14**). The fathers in this context refer to all who have grown into maturity.

Walking in 'sonship' is walking in maturity; walking in maturity will release the manifestation of the glory of God through the church.

GOD IS FATHER AND GOD IS SON JESUS IS THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD

Jesus related to and spoke of His Father. Even as a lad of twelve years, He said, ***“Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?”*** **Lu.2:49**. At His baptism, God spoke from heaven, acknowledging Jesus, ***“This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”*** **Lu.3:22**. **Hebrews 1:5-13** powerfully interprets Old Testament prophetic Scriptures to show the Sonship of Jesus and to testify to His Divinity: ***“Your throne O God”, “You are My Son”, “I will be to Him a Father and He shall be to Me a Son”***.

THE REVELATION OF FATHER AND SON

In the book of **John**, Jesus explains His relationship to the Father:

Jn.14:6 Jesus is the way to the Father;

Jn.14:9 ***“He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”***

Jn.14:10 ***“I am in the Father and the Father is in Me.”***
“The Father who dwells in Me.”

Jn.14:13 The Father is glorified in the Son through answered prayer;

Jn.17:3 Eternal life is knowing the Father and Jesus Christ;

Jn.17:5 Jesus shared the Father’s glory before the world began;

Jn.17:21 ***“That they all may be one as You, Father, in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us.”***

Jn.17:23 ***“I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one.”***

THE REVELATION OF FATHER AND SON APPLIED

True unity is being one with Jesus and the Father. The only way for this to happen is to receive the apostles that He sends. Remember **Matt.10:40** ***“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”*** God created us in His own image, according to His likeness (**Gen.1:26**), and that image is revealed to be God as Father and God as Son; God is Father to a Son and Son to a Father. God is bringing His church into this revelation: **He is restoring us to His own image and likeness.** Therefore He is raising up apostolic fathers and releasing His children into an experience of sonship, thereby **bringing us all into a closer relationship with God.**

GOD IS SENDING ELIJAH!

The spirit and power of Elijah has been restored and is being released.

Apostles are being raised

‘grace and apostleship’ is being received again
from God the Father through Christ.

This is releasing the children of God into apostolic relationships.

Apostolic fathers have been restored

and many are coming into this experience of grace and apostleship,
to be manifest as **‘sons’**.

THE SPIRIT and POWER OF
ELIJAH

Chapter two

Restoration -

Why we need Apostles

RESTORATION **WHY DO WE NEED APOSTLES?**

God is a God of restoration. Principles of restoration are clearly taught in the Scriptures. Restoration means that things are to be made as they were in the beginning.

TIMES OF RESTORATION

Acts 3:19-21. *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”*

This Scripture shows that there are certain things that have to happen before Jesus can return. Jesus is being retained in heaven *“until the times of restoration of all things.”* We are living in that time of restoration, and until all things are restored Jesus is not coming back to take the Church up to meet Him in the air.

Ephesians 5:25-27 *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”*

Jesus is coming back for a blood-washed, sanctified, and cleansed church. His plan for the church is to restore the church to be even more glorious than in the beginning.

RESTORATION OF THE CREATION

In **Genesis 1:26** God said, *“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”*

God intends for man to have dominion over created things. He wants us to exercise that authority. In **Mark 4:41** after Jesus had calmed the storm, His disciples said, *“who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”*

Gen.1:28 God told the man and the woman he had created *“be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”* Subdue is a military term meaning to take control over. God’s intention for His people is for them to subdue the devil and rule on the earth.

Back in **Gen. 1:2** we read that *“the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.”* The meaning of ‘was’ in this verse is ‘became’. The earth became empty and shapeless, water and darkness covered the face of the deep. Did God initially create the earth to look like this? Something had happened. God’s initial

creation would have been perfect, but something has happened to cause it to become formless, void and dark. Where there is emptiness and darkness the Spirit of God comes to restore. The Spirit of God hovered or moved over the face of the deep. The word literally means 'brood' [SC #7363], like a bird that sits on her nest to bring forth something new, something needed to be birthed.

RESTORATION BEGINS

v.3 *"Then God said, 'Let there be light'."* Light was already in existence because it was God's light. He was simply saying 'let there be light where the darkness is'. Where God is there is always light. The word 'let' in all these verses is a word of permission to do something. It is not a creative word as such. God is not creating in all these verses, but He is giving permission for things to come forth, **to be restored**. He had already created them.

v.6 *"God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament."* This speaks of the separation of the heavens from the earth. God made the 'firmament' (the atmosphere) Before this there was no atmosphere, just darkness and waters. When God made the firmament He separated the waters from above and below and there is still no dry land. The land was already created but now it has to appear. When it appeared God said, **v.11** *"Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree"* The seeds of the grass, the herbs and the trees were apparently already lying in the earth and were able to come forth.

Then in **v.26** God says *"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness ..."* **In creating a man and a woman, God is revealing His eternal purpose.** When Paul teaches us on marriage in **Ephesians 5**, he says, *"I speak of a great mystery"* (v.32). **He was speaking of Christ and the church.** When God created man and woman, and told them to be as one, He is performing a prophetic act. He is revealing to us His eternal purposes, which is for there to be **a perfect church, perfectly joined to Christ.** Even as Eve had to be restored so too does the church!

God is a God of RESTORATION! He is the God of creation and He has been restoring His creation from the very beginning of the Bible.

AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING

God's will is for everything to be restored **'as it was in the beginning'**. In **Matt.19:4** Jesus is speaking on marriage to the Pharisees who were questioning Him about divorce. He reminds them of how it was in the beginning. Marriage is one husband to one wife. This is how it was in the beginning. This is God's perfect will.

JESUS IS RESTORING HIS CHURCH

Matt.16:18 *"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."*

Jesus Christ laid the foundations of the church. He laid them by training up and appointing twelve apostles. God wants to restore His church as it was in the beginning. The early church in the Book of **Acts** was not made up of different denominations or institutions. Although there were many people meeting in different groups in houses, they were still part of the church in that city. Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, the church at Corinth, etc. **Jesus is coming back for a perfect church, as it was in the beginning!** The church in each city was one people with an eldership submitted to an apostle.

Jesus appointed twelve apostles on which to build His church. He gave Peter a particular foundational role in establishing the church.

PRINCIPLES OF RESTORATION

Matt.20:16 “*So the last will be first, and the first last,*” can be interpreted prophetically to say the church of the last days will be as the first church and the first church will be manifested in the last.

Haggai 2:9 “*The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former’, says the LORD of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace’, says the LORD of hosts.*”

The book of **Acts** church is the first church. The church has to go back to the beginning; it has to go back to the Biblical model. The church will be restored “*as it was in the beginning.*”

Eph.2:19-22. The first church was “*built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,*” v.20. To build the last days church **we need the restoration of apostles and prophets.**

In **Eph.3:3** the apostle Paul says “*that by revelation He made known to me the mystery.*” This mystery has “*now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets,*” v.5. Therefore we need the restoration of apostles and prophets.

Matt.10:40 “*He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.*” Apostles are commissioned by Jesus. No where else in the Bible does Jesus say this, **only** to the apostles. **Without apostles how much of Jesus are we receiving?**

THE RESTORATION OF APOSTLES -

WHY DO WE NEED APOSTLES?

1. APOSTLES REPRESENT CHRIST

Apostles are sent by Christ to represent Him. Jesus says this of no other minister.

Matt.10:40 “*He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.*”

2. APOSTLES HAVE THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

Apostles are given authority by Christ.

Matt.16:19 *“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Matt.28:18-19 *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’”*

Luke 10:19 *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy.”*

This authority is of the **kingly anointing**; it is a warring anointing. When the apostles are restored the church will exercise much greater authority in the realm of the spirit over principalities and powers.

3. **APOSTLES GIVEN POWER BY CHRIST**

Apostles are given power by Christ.

Mark 3:15 *“to have power to heal sicknesses and to cast out demons.”*

Matt.10:8 *“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.”*

Mark 16:17-18 *“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues, they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”* These are apostolic signs of power given to a properly functioning apostolic church – as a result every believer ministers in power.

Acts 2:43 *“... many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”*

4. **APOSTLES GIVEN GRACE BY GOD AND CHRIST**

Apostles are given grace by God.

Rom.1:5 *“Through Him we have received **grace** and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name.”*

Eph.4:7 *“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”* Grace is released to every member of the body through apostles as well as through the other fivefold ministers. Each fivefold ministry given by Christ is a grace gift that releases the grace of God to the members of the body. If we lack apostles we lack a portion of the grace of God.

5. **APOSTLES MINISTER ASCENSION LIFE**

Apostles minister the ascension life of Christ.

Eph.4:8-11 *“Therefore He says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men. Now this, ‘He ascended’-what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”* The fivefold gifts are ascension gifts. It is the preaching of the resurrection of Christ from the dead that is the delineating doctrine of Christianity. Resurrection life and ascension life are of the same realm and nature.

6. APOSTLES HAVE LEADERSHIP/HEADSHIP MINISTRY

Christ gives apostles leadership/headship ministry.

Ephesians 4:11 “*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.*” **Apostles first:** God sets apostles first in the church, **1 Cor. 12:28** “*And God has appointed these in the church; first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, ...*”

Matt.10:40 shows us that apostles directly represent Christ the head. Who should lead the church? A pope, a bishop, a senior pastor? In Scripture it is clearly the apostles who lead.

7. APOSTLES A NECESSARY FOUNDATION MINISTRY

Apostles are a necessary foundation ministry.

Eph.2:19-22 “*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*” These Scriptures teach us much about the building structure of the church. A building must have foundations. The sure foundation is Christ (**1 Cor.3:11**), but He has established the ministry of apostles and prophets as the foundation upon which the church is built.

A cornerstone is set in place upon the foundation which is laid first. The whole building is joined together in Christ, the chief cornerstone. That building, which is the church, grows into a holy temple – there is one church, one body (**Eph.4:4**). This temple is the whole church of Jesus Christ but **verse 22** is referring to another aspect of the church, the ‘local’ church, where ‘you’, whether in Ephesus, or Toowoomba, are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. We are members of, or living stones that make up, the temple of God, but we are also joined together in the Spirit in the local assembly, as part of the local city church, where we experience God in the Spirit.

Jesus chose twelve.

In **Acts 1** we see only eleven because of the fall of Judas. Peter is led by the Holy Spirit to appoint the twelfth into office, because there was to be twelve foundation apostles, (**Rev.21:14**). The twelve were also the leaders of the first church, (**Acts 2:14, 6:2**).

The number **12** means Gods government. It is **3 times 4**. **3** is God’s number, referring to the fullness of God and is also the number of perfect witness. **4** refers to the four directions, thus encompassing the whole earth. Through **12** apostles, the gospel of the kingdom of God will spread over all the earth.

Among the **12** Jesus chose **3**, Peter, James and John (**Mk.9:2, Lu.8:51**). When James, the apostle of the Lamb, was killed by Herod he was replaced by James – the brother of Jesus (**Gal.2:9**). Among the **3** there was **1**- Peter [the rock, head] (**Matt.16:18-19**). The **12** had headship/leadership and the **3** also had headship/leadership in Peter.

Later Paul was raised up as a special apostle and he exercised a powerful headship/leadership apostolic ministry. Again in **1** the Lord invested Himself in a special way to make manifest the revelation of the mystery to the church. Peter was the apostle to the Jews and Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles (**Gal. 2:8**).

8. CHURCH BUILT ON APOSTLES' DOCTRINE

The Church is built on the apostles' doctrine, that is the teachings of Christ (**Matt.28:20**) **Acts 2:42** *"and they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine..."* The first new disciples [3000 of them] devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles. That is how they found out about Jesus. Jesus had given

a

command in **Matt.28:20** *"teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."* The apostles' doctrine is the word of the four gospels of the New Testament. It is the teachings of Paul (**Acts 18:11**).

9. APOSTLES BRING REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY

Apostles bring revelation and understanding of the mystery.

Eph.3:5 & 10 *"which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets, ... to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places."* There is a revelation of the mystery given only to apostles. Thank God! He is restoring apostles today and the understanding of the deeper wisdom of God is being taught to bring the church to maturity (**1 Cor.2:7-8**).

WE ARE LIVING IN TIMES OF RESTORATION!!

10. APOSTLES NEEDED TO BUILD THE CHURCH

We need apostles to build the church.

1 Cor. 3:10 *"According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it."* God reveals to apostles His blueprint, His plans, so the church can be built. Moses alone received this blueprint [pattern] in the Old Testament. Paul received a big portion of it in the New Testament, but it requires apostles today to take up the mantle of apostleship and build the church according to revelation.

11. APOSTLES AND PROPHETS WILL SEE BABYLON FALL

Apostles and Prophets will be present to see Babylon fall.

Rev.18:20 *"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"* Finally apostles and prophets will be present in the earth to see Babylon fall. The church of Jesus Christ will have been set in order; the saints of the Most High will be equipped and functioning properly, *"every joint supplying, every part contributing to the upbuilding of the whole body."* Babylon will fall because of the judgement of God pronounced by the church. Remember **Eph.3:10** *"to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places."* As the church is restored and established as the Body of Him

who fills the all in all [the whole universe] God's authority will be released through the church. Babylon, representing all that is ungodly and opposed to God, will fall.

**Apostles are vital ministries:
In the founding of the church,
in the life and the development of the church of Jesus Christ.**

Apostles are needed today:
**to set the church in order,
to restore proper foundations,
to ordain elders in every place,
to bring the revelation of the mystery,
to release the grace of God,
to work mighty signs and wonders,
to bring the church to maturity.**

THE SPIRIT and POWER OF
ELIJAH

Chapter three

The Sons of Rechab:
an Apostolic Company

THE SONS OF RECHAB: **AN APOSTOLIC COMPANY**

THE RECHABITES

In **Jeremiah 35** we read of a clan of people called ‘Rechabites’. They are a demonstration of an apostolic family and the powerful influence that a true spiritual father can have. This clan was living under the covering of their apostolic father generations after he had lived.

THE RECHABITES ARE SET A TEST

The scene is set in **verses 1 & 2**, *“The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying, ‘Go to the house of the Rechabites, speak to them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink.’”*

Jeremiah was a trusted prophet of the LORD and God told him to do something very specific. He was to go to the Rechabites, bring them into the house of the LORD and give them wine to drink.

Jeremiah was obedient to the word of the LORD, **v.4** *“I brought them into the house of the LORD, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan the son of Igdaliah, a man of God ...”*. **V.5** *“Then I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites bowls full of wine, and cups; and I said to them, ‘Drink wine.’”*

THE RECHABITES PASSED THE TEST

However these sons of Rechab did not do as Jeremiah told them, **v.6** *“they said, ‘We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, ‘You shall drink no wine, you nor your sons, forever.’”* They knew how to respond on the basis of **‘sound doctrine’** that had been taught to them. Their conduct was based on the teachings that had been passed down to them from generation to generation. Paul, the apostle appointed Timothy to entrust to **“faithful men”** things he had learnt and received from Paul, so they could teach others. Sound doctrine, based on the word of apostolic fathers, specifically Jesus and Paul, is to be passed on from generation to generation and is to be adhered to, even in the twenty first century.

JONADAB’S INSTRUCTIONS COVERED ALL OF LIFE

This man Jonadab lived over 200 years before this event took place. None of the present generation would have ever known this man, but his descendants are still being obedient to the command given by their father, [their apostle]. **V8** *“Thus we have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, or our daughters.”* Their ‘father’ had also told them, *“You shall not build a house, sow seed, plant a vineyard, nor have any of these; but all your days you shall dwell in tents, that you may live many days in the land where you are sojourners,”* **v7**, and they had obeyed this word, (**v.9&10**).

These people are not sons of Israel, but they dwell in the land of Israel. For over 200 years they have remained faithful to the voice of their apostolic father who said, ‘If you obey my voice you will have success and be blessed’.

THE LORD WANTS US TO LEARN FROM THE EXAMPLE OF THIS APOSTOLIC COMPANY

The LORD gave some more instructions to Jeremiah, **v13-14** *“Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, ‘Will you not receive instruction to obey My words?’ says the LORD. ‘The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, which he commanded his sons, not to drink wine, are performed; for to this day they drink none, and obey their father’s commandment’.”* This is an example of an apostolic company – an apostolic household – who, after hundreds of years, were still obeying the voice of their apostolic father and because they have been obedient they are blessed.

AN APOSTOLIC PEOPLE ARE IDENTIFIABLE

God had kept this clan as an identifiable people group even though they were aliens and sojourners in a foreign land. They have a testimony among the people where they dwell as being people who are different. Everyone knew who they were. When the LORD told Jeremiah to go to the Rechabites, he didn’t have to ask, ‘who are they?’

KEEP THE COMMANDMENT OF THE FATHER

The LORD wanted to use the response of the sons of Rechab to speak to His people, **Jer.35:15-16** *“But although I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, you did not obey Me. I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, ‘Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.’ But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me. Surely the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them, but this people has not obeyed Me.”*

GOD REWARDS THE FAITHFUL

Through a prophetic act, God is using this apostolic family as an example to His people, to show them what He expected of them. God pronounces judgement on His people because they have not obeyed the word He spoke to them, (**v17**), through Moses and the prophets. This obedient apostolic family will always have a right standing before God, **v.19** *“therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Jonadab the son of Rachab shall not lack a man to stand before Me forever.’”*

APOSTOLIC COMPANIES

In the New Testament, there are clearly apostolic fathers and examples of companies, but as in the Old Testament, the majority of God’s people have not hearkened to the word of the fathers [apostles]. The Rechabites illustrate the nature of an apostolic company. Historical and contemporary Christian churches, have been divided into denominations, everyone with their own doctrines and dogmas, not agreeing with each other because they have no father whose word they are obeying.

APOSTOLIC FATHERS

Apostolic fathers wrote the Scriptures under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is our Apostle (**Heb.3:1**), and we are His sons (**Heb.2:13**), and specifically Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles (**Gal.2:8**). Therefore the church down through the ages should have been obedient to Jesus' word in the Gospels and words of the apostolic fathers in the Epistles. If the church had been obedient we would not have the divided, weak Christian church that is largely unrecognisable from the Scripture. However today God is restoring apostles [fathers] and raising up apostolic companies which are founded upon and being built upon the apostolic pattern of the Scripture.

When we humble ourselves and return to the LORD, to keep His word and do all He has commanded us through Jesus and through the writings of the apostles of Christ in the New Testament, we will be blessed, we will prosper and have success.

FIRST APOSTOLIC COMPANY

In **Acts 1** we see the formation of the **first apostolic company**. After Jesus had ascended back into heaven the eleven remaining apostles returned to Jerusalem and entered into an upper room where they *“all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”* They were being obedient to their father, the Lord Jesus. He had commanded them, *“Do not depart from Jerusalem until ...”* **Acts 1:4**. Peter was led by the Holy Spirit to set things in order; there had to be one appointed to take the place of Judas (v20). It was only when the twelfth apostle was set in place that the Day of Pentecost could *“fully come”* (**Acts 2:1**). The river of God can only flow when the foundation stones are in place. When the believers were *“all in one accord”*; when the foundations were properly set in place; only then could the Holy Spirit come.

This was **the formation of an apostolic company which became the foundation of the early church**. This apostolic company of 120 believers functioning in order, **was able to receive 3000 converts in one day**, who after being baptised and receiving the Holy Spirit, *“continued steadfastly ...”* **Acts 2:42**.

PETER WAS OBEDIENT TO JESUS' COMMAND

We also as *“living stones, are being built up into a spiritual house ...”* **1 Pet.2:5**. Jesus said to Peter the apostle in **Matt.16:18**, *“You are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”* Peter, a foundation apostle, was set in place by Jesus and given the keys of the kingdom to bind and to loose. Because Peter was an obedient son, he was used by God to set the church in order so the Holy Spirit could be released to the Jewish believers and also to release the Holy Spirit to Gentile believers in the household of Cornelius **Acts 10:44**.

IT IS TIME TO REDISCOVER APOSTOLIC LIFE

The word that the LORD has opened up in **Jeremiah 35** is very relevant. It is a living example in Scripture of an apostolic family – a family of people related through a common father, still being obedient to his commands over 200 years later and being blessed because of their obedience. However the church today has been like the people of Israel and has not been obedient to the commands of our apostolic fathers; therefore coming under God's judgement instead of His blessing.

It is time for the church to become obedient to the words of our apostolic fathers so that every member will be properly fitted together being ***“built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,”*** Eph.2:20. Then we will be ***“no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,”*** v19. Like the obedient Rechabites we will have a testimony and will have favour in the community as the first apostolic company had in Acts.2:42-47.

WHO IS JONADAB?

JEHU, THE KING ON A MISSION

2 Kings 10 gives more insight into this apostolic father, Jonadab [Jehonadab] who was the son of Rechab. The King of Israel at this time was Jehu, who was commissioned by the prophet Elisha [through a young prophet] to bring judgement on the house of Ahab (2 Ki.9:1-10). Jehu was clear about his mission to strike down the house of Ahab. He is an apostolic figure – he is a **king, anointed by a prophet, commissioned** and **told what to do** and he was **full of the zeal of the LORD**. He had the spirit and power of Elijah upon him to carry out the judgement that the word of the Lord had spoken against Ahab’s house, initially through Elijah in 1 Ki.21:21-24.

JEHU FOUND JONADAB

v.15 ***“Now when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab ...”*** Jehu **‘met’** Jehonadab. The word **‘met’** literally means **‘found’**. Jehu was looking for someone to help him. Even though he had already carried out some of his mission, he was looking for a **like-hearted, a like-minded person** to work with. In Acts Chapters 1, 2 & 4 there are frequent references to the believers being of ***‘one accord’***; of ***‘one heart and one soul’*** – there was unity among them. Jehu had an army with him but he still felt alone; so he was actively looking for a like-minded person with whom he could **be in one accord, to do God’s will**.

JONADAB WAS LOOKING FOR JEHU

“... he met [found] Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him ...”. This man was willing to be found. Jehonadab **was coming to meet him**. Something had already happened in his heart and he wanted to be part of what was happening even though he may have not fully understood it yet. He was not satisfied; he was searching for something, so he put himself in a place where he could be found. His forefathers had come to Israel many hundreds of years before. This man was not a natural born son of Israel, but he had a heart for the purposes of God. He had not been satisfied with what was happening in his lifetime. He had lived through the reign of Ahab and Jezebel. He had heard what Jehu the King of Israel was doing and wanted to find out for himself what was happening, and **become part of God’s purpose being outworked**.

DO YOU WANT TO BE ‘FOUND’?

Today there are those who are not satisfied with what they have lived through in their lifetime. God is doing something in their hearts and although they may not fully

understand what is happening, they want to be part of what God is doing. So they are going to apostolic conferences, attending the apostolic training school, putting themselves in a place **“where they can be found”**. God is bringing people together in Divine connections and bringing them into father/son relationships to ensure that no one misses out on what they are seeking. This is happening in Australia and it is happening in overseas nations. I met a pastor in West Kenya who had raised his own fares and costs to attend an apostolic training school in Malaysia. I have met brethren, ministers, in various countries whom we have “found”; men and women whose **“heart is right and ready”**.

IS YOUR HEART WITH MY HEART?

Jehu greets Jehonadab saying **“Is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?”** Jehonadab was able to reply **“It is”**. So Jehu reached out his hand and **“took him up to him into the chariot.”** Jehonadab went with Jehu; he knew the reputation of this man and he was like-minded, so he was prepared to go with him. This is what God is doing in these days, bringing like-minded people together and forming them into apostolic companies. He is raising up apostolic fathers and sending out apostolic teams to ‘find’ those are of the same heart. “Sons” are being found!

COME WITH ME

Then Jehu said **“Come with Me, and see my zeal for the LORD,” v16.**

Join the apostolic company! Come into father/son relationship! Be willing to be set in order so the House of the Lord can be built! Let us go on to maturity! Be preparing for the Lord’s return! Let us do the work of the ministry.

THERE IS GRACE [ZEAL] TO BE RECEIVED

Jehonadab had ‘caught’ something. He received the impartation of the zeal of Jehu. It changed his life, and released him to become the apostolic father whose word was still guiding his sons hundreds of years later. Likewise, those whom the Lord is raising up today as apostles, have met with Jesus, accepted the call and have a zeal inside them to obey His word.

APOSTOLIC, PROPHETIC AUTHORITY

Jehu is walking in apostolic prophetic authority. He is the one who was anointed by a young prophet sent by Elisha. He was given the Elijah commission at the command of the LORD.

THE SPIRIT AND POWER OF ELIJAH

Jehu’s anointing comes from God. It is the spirit and power of Elijah. Jehu received the same apostolic prophetic anointing given to Elijah. **God is restoring the spirit and power of Elijah to the last days church** to not only **destroy Jezebel and all her false prophets**; not only **to destroy the unfaithful and wicked house of Ahab as represented by churches today who promote and include all kinds of evil and sin in the life and ministry** of their churches, but to actually behold the overthrow and casting down of Babylon, **(Rev.18:20)**

The early church walked in the spirit and power of Elijah. Because of the spirit that was upon and at work through the first church, King Herod, who had instigated the murder of James the apostle, was struck down in public office, dying a terrible death. Ananias and

Sapphira died suddenly because of lying to the Holy Spirit in the apostolic community. Leaders, elders and rulers heeded the words of the apostles, or at least could not stop them preaching and teaching the resurrection of Christ. The early apostles **“turned the world upside down,” Acts 17:6.**

OUR HERITAGE IS IN JESUS CHRIST

The Rechabites enjoyed a living heritage of faith and obedience characterised by the zeal of the LORD, from their apostolic father, Jonadab, the son of Rechab.

The amazing reality today is that we can receive **our heritage from Jesus Christ:**

the apostle and high priest of our confession, (Heb.3:1)

the captain of our salvation, (Heb.2:10)

the forerunner within the veil, (Heb.6:19:20)

the one who has sat on His throne at the right of God, (Heb.12:2)

Once again we can be called Christians as at Antioch in Acts 11:26 and the glory of Jesus Christ will be seen in us.

This reality is being revealed as we come into true divine order,

set in the Body,

functioning in God-given gifts, callings and ministries.

God is preparing a people to actually inherit all things that have been promised.

He is preparing this people in apostolic companies:

companies of saints gathering in relationship to an apostle,

totally committed to the purposes of God,

fully willing to be obedient to and faithful to the word of the LORD in Holy Scripture and led by the Spirit of God.

THE SPIRIT and POWER OF
ELIJAH

Chapter four

Change of Leadership:
The Key of David -
From Shebna to Eliakim

A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP **WHO HOLDS THE KEY OF DAVID?**

THE OLD LEADERSHIP

The church has been led by “senior pastors”, by bishops, by successful ministers, by some evangelists, by some with healing gifts. Some of these successful ministers appear to be more like chief executive officers with business skills and entrepreneurial skills, than like the apostles of the New Testament. Denominational churches are led by far away administrators, teachers and bureaucrats, often with personal and political agendas that are actually opposed to the gospel and the word of God.

NEW TESTAMENT LEADERSHIP

Most churches do not talk about biblical leadership as set down in the New Testament. Senior leaders take up the office of senior pastor or are ordained as bishops exercising authority over many churches. Denominational boards and committees rule over denominations, claiming to be the legitimate leadership of the church. There is no biblical mandate for such rule. In the New Testament, leadership and church governance is **in the hands of apostles overall and in the hands of elders in the local towns and cities.**

CHURCH COLONIALISM

Imperialistic colonialism has ceased on the world stage. Now there are many independent nation states that were formally colonies of powerful European nations. However Christian churches have continued a form of colonialism with various denominations going into the same city or region and planting separate churches. These groups win adherents to their particular doctrine and organised Christian church, establishing themselves totally separate to other church groups being established in the city. Generally the headquarters of this church is in a faraway capital city. So we have institutionalised divisions in the Body of Christ. Many Christians are no longer satisfied with this arrangement and God certainly is not satisfied. It is time to reform the church in terms of leadership and governance, and only then can true unity become a reality.

RESTORATION OF BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

This is the most vital issue in the life of the church today and without the restoration of biblical leadership and governance, the church will continue to miss its vital calling to preach the kingdom of God and the things concerning Jesus and thus effectively impact the world, bringing a mighty harvest of souls to the kingdom of God.

GOD IS INITIATING A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP FROM SHEBNA TO ELIAKIM

In **Isaiah 22**, there is very instructive teaching concerning the change of leadership from Shebna, the steward, to Eliakim, the man God raised.

Shebna: a type of the leader raised by man such as the moderator voted into office, the bishop ordained by men, the senior pastor who assumes

leadership etc.

Eliakim: a type of the apostle, God-raised, God-appointed and God-anointed, and the thus the leader able to fulfil the calling and purpose of God.

GOD IS SPEAKING TO CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Isaiah 22:15 *“Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts; ‘Go, proceed to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the house, and say ...’* The word of the Lord is coming to the prophet Isaiah and it is addressed to Shebna who is the steward over the house. The house referred to, is the house of Judah and the city of Jerusalem. This man is the chief steward, in the reign of King Hezekiah. **He was man-appointed and God was not happy with his leadership or with the fruit of his ministry.**

What is a ‘steward’? In the context of the church, the steward is the ‘bishop’, or the administrator, or the ‘pastor’, the man in charge of the local church, the church of the city, or in charge of a whole denomination.

GOD IS JUDGING THE WORKS OF THE CHURCH

v.16 *“What have you here, and whom have you here, that you have hewn a sepulcher here, as he who hews himself a sepulcher on high, who carves a tomb for himself in a rock?”* The Lord is asking two questions, *“Who are you?”* and *“What have you been doing?”* The steward is answerable to God for what he has been doing. God is saying to this steward, **“You have been building something for yourself, making a name for yourself, so you will be remembered after you die.”** Instead of being a steward looking after God’s house, he has been busy building something for himself. So often we see the successful local church building a flash new worship centre with all sorts of facilities or we see the senior leader growing wealthy and amassing private things unto himself. Meanwhile, the command to preach the gospel to every person (**Mk. 16:15-16**), and to go to all nations to make disciples (**Matt.28:19-20**), is ignored.

There are many illustrations of this from the past in Europe. Large cathedrals, built by man, sometimes taking many decades to build and costing men their lives, are simply monuments to man, empty shells, **tombs** [sepulchers]! Many people visit these places but they do not meet with God; they merely admire the architecture and artwork that give glory to man. Such buildings are built by ‘stewards’ [bishops] who are meant to be overseeing the building of God’s house, but they have stumbled and focused on their own work, their own ‘house’, seeking to make a name for themselves.

GOD JUDGES THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

v.17-18 *“Indeed, the LORD will throw you away violently, O mighty man, and will surely seize you. He will surely turn violently and toss you like a ball into a large country; there you shall die, and there your glorious chariots shall be the shame of your masters house.”* God is saying that the ‘things’ that this steward has gathered for himself will be taken from him. The steward will lose his life. Jesus said, *“if we try to save our life we will lose it.”* In other words this steward made the mistake of trying to build something for himself. God called it a sepulcher, which is a burial tomb. That is what God thinks of our works.

v.19 *“So I will drive you out of your office, and from your position he will pull you down.”* The Lord is going to remove this steward from his office, because the things that he has been doing are not pleasing to God. It is God who raises up and it is God who casts down.

THERE IS GOING TO BE A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

v.20 *“Then it shall be in that day, that I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah.”*

Eliakim means *‘God of raising’*.

Hilkiah means *‘portion of Jah [Yahweh/LORD]’*.

God is raising up a new leadership:

God says, *“I will call”*

God says *‘I will raise the one whom I have chosen – My portion’*.

It is God who calls and raises up the apostles and the apostolic leadership for His church. **“God has set in the church first apostles” 1 Cor.12:28. A change of leadership is happening.** The old style of leadership which has been building a name for itself is being pulled down – put aside. God is raising up those who will lift up His name in the earth. The day is coming and now is when God is calling His servants – **the ones He is raising to be the leaders of His church.**

SAUL WAS THE PEOPLE’S CHOICE - DAVID WAS GOD’S CHOICE

In **1 Samuel 8 – 10** Saul is raised up out of the will of the people to be their king. He is like the steward over God’s nation Israel. But he proved to be unreliable; he compromised; he refused to obey God’s instructions; he chose to do things his own way. He had a fear of man, which resulted in him making an unlawful sacrifice rather than obey God, **1 Sam.13**. God replaced Saul with the one of His choice, David. The transition from Saul to David is similar to the change of leadership in **Is.22**. God is replacing the ones who will not obey Him with **the ones He chooses, who will obey His word and fulfil His will.**

THE NEW LEADER

v.21 *“I will clothe him with your robe and strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem”*

There are four things to note from this verse:

1. CLOTHED WITH THE ROBE

This new leader is going to be **clothed with the robe.** This is **a mantle of authority, of leadership.** There is **a new covering coming over the church.** No longer the covering of the steward/the bishop; no longer the denominational or institutional covering; but the covering of the one that God raises!

Jesus is the one that God raised to take over from the Pharisaical leadership of the church in His day. Eliakim is a type of Christ, but he is also a type of the apostolic leadership that God is raising up in these last days. God is putting this mantle of authority on a new leadership, which will provide a covering for His household.

Even as Jesus trained twelve whom He chose to be apostles, and later the Holy Spirit raised a new generation of apostles in the New Testament church beginning with Paul and Barnabas in **Acts 13**, so today God **is raising** a new generation of apostles for the last days church.

2. STRENGTHEN WITH A BELT

God is going to **strengthen** this new leader with a belt. **Eph.6:14** speaks of this belt as a belt of truth, and **Jn.17:17** says “*your word is truth*”. Peter tells us to “*gird up the loins of your mind,*” **1Pet.1:13**. We do this by having the word of God in us and believing what the word of God says. Apostles come with the covering of the Lord Jesus Christ and authority and freedom to speak the word of truth, not under the control and restrictions put in place by man. Apostles proclaim the “*whole counsel of God,*” **Acts 20:27**.

3. COMMIT RESPONSIBILITY INTO THE HAND

Responsibility is going to be committed **into the hand** of this new leader. The hand represents authority. God is saying that He is going to take the responsibility out of the hand of the existing leadership and give it into the hand of the ones He raises. In **Ex.28:41** there are two Hebrew words translated ‘ordain’ in the NAS Bible, meaning ‘to fill the hand’. God is giving His authority to those whom He knows will obey Him. The authority that the steward had [that is, the old leadership] is being given by God to the apostle [the new leadership]. **It is God that raises up leadership, commissions them and ordains them by imparting to them His authority.**

4. A FATHER TO THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM

The one that God raises is going to be a **‘father’**. No longer a steward but a father. There is a change happening here: church leaders are no longer going to be administrators, they are going to be fathers, apostles, ones chosen by God not the ones chosen by men. Apostle means ‘sent’. Eliakim means ‘God of raising’. **Apostles are ones that Jesus calls, raises and sends.**

THE KEY OF DAVID IS GIVEN TO THE ONE GOD RAISES

v.22 “*The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open.*” This is the verse quoted in **Rev.3:7**, and it is referring to Jesus as the one who holds the key of David. He is the one who opens and no one shuts and shuts and no one can open.

WHAT IS THE KEY OF DAVID?

It is the key that the steward of the house of Judah held. The steward was the man who represented the king and who oversaw the work of the kingdom. There is a similarity to the signet ring used by kings as the sign of their authority. Pharaoh gave this ring to Joseph and it gave him the authority to open and to shut, to command all of Egypt, her people and economy.

THE SIGNET RING

In **Haggai 2:23** the Lord says to Zerubbabel the governor [the church builder], ***“I will ... make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you.”*** God is acknowledging the apostle as the one who wears the ring of authority. The ring of authority is similar to the key of David. When the prodigal son came home, the father put a ring on his finger and put his own robe on him. The father was acknowledging him as his son and saying, “you have a full inheritance”. He was receiving a spiritual inheritance.

JESUS HOLDS THE KEY OF DAVID

Jesus was the one who was given that authority. He has the key of David. He gave this key to the apostle Peter, **Matt. 16:18-19** telling him ***“whatever you bind [shut] on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose [open] on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*** This is the authority that Jesus has given to His apostles.

ELIJAH WAS ABLE TO OPEN AND SHUT HEAVEN

Elijah had this authority; he had the keys to open and shut. He was able to say to King Ahab, ***“As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years except at my word.”*** He had the authority to shut up the heavens.

PETER, THE APOSTLE, WAS GIVEN THE KEY

Jesus said to Peter, ***“You are Peter, [a large stone or a small rock] and on this rock [meaning a large rock – speaking of Jesus] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”*** Peter, the apostle, is the foundation stone that the church will be built on. Jesus gave to the apostle the keys to open and shut and said that nothing would stop His church from being built. **This is the apostolic leader – appointed by Jesus, to found the apostolic church.**

**God is raising a new leadership for His church.
Shebna, the steward represents the old leadership.
Eliakim represents the new leadership that God is raising,
a leadership by apostles who will be ‘fathers’ to His people
and who will preach apostolic doctrine.**

THE EFFECT OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP

v.23 ***“I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, and he will become a glorious throne to his father’s house.”*** When apostolic leadership is back in place, it will be like a secure peg which will bring **security** to God’s people. Because the apostles are in place, the church will ***“become the glorious throne to his father’s house.”*** The church will begin to be the glorious church it is meant to be, so that the throne of the Lord Jesus Christ, the kingship of Jesus Christ, will be revealed in the earth. Jesus will be enthroned in the midst of His church. ***“God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,”*** Phil.2:9-11.

It is time to make Jesus King; it is time to set things in order; it is time for the church to receive a new leadership according to God's order – ***“first apostles, second prophets, third teachers ...”*** **1 Cor.12:28**. It is time for the church to be sanctified and cleansed so that we can be presented ***“a glorious church”*** **Eph.5:26-27**.

THE GLORY SHALL BE REVEALED

v.24 ***“They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the posterity, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers.”*** When the apostles are raised up, the ones who represent Christ, then there will be ‘fathers’ in the house, and ‘fathers’ beget ‘sons’. God will remove the ones who have been raised by man as stewards, bishops or administrators. When the church has been set in order and apostles are in place, then all the glory of the Father will be revealed in Jesus who will be in the midst of His church. **Every member from the smallest [least significant] to the greatest will reveal the Father's glory.** The whole of creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God in glory (**Rom.8:19**).

Isa.22:25 ***“In that day, says the LORD of hosts, the peg that is fastened in the secure place will be removed and be cut down and fall, and the burden that was on it will be cut off; for the LORD has spoken.”*** If apostolic leadership is not in place everything falls down. The church will remain broken and divided while ever it is administrated by stewards rather than led by God-raised apostolic fathers.

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, at His baptism, the voice of the Father spoke and said, ***“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased,”*** **Matt.3:17**. When Jesus was coming to the end of His ministry, He went up on a high mountain with Peter, James and John, and was transfigured before them in glory. The voice of the Father spoke again saying, ***“This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”*** **Mk.9:7**. Jesus was approved by the Father to step into sonship at the beginning of His ministry. On the mountain He was seen in all His glory and the Father gave instructions to the disciples to ***‘listen to Him’***. Jesus' short time in ministry saw Him complete His walk with God in the earth. All the glory of His Father was manifested in Him on the mount of Transfiguration.

A NEW LEADERSHIP SO THAT THE CHURCH CAN BEAR THE GLORY

God is raising up a new leadership to bear that glory. Who bears the glory? **Zech.6:11-13** the LORD is giving instructions about Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. He is to have a crown placed on his head, and then in **verse 13** the LORD says, ***“He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne ...”***. Joshua is a priest being crowned as a king. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy and became a king/priest. **Jesus bears the glory of the Father and the church is destined to bear the glory of Jesus which is the glory of the Father.** Jesus demonstrated in His own ministry that even as He walked in the power of the Spirit and came to a place where the glory of God could manifest in Him [Transfiguration], even so He is preparing a glorious bride church in the earth who can manifest His glory.

**When apostles are in place
The church is restored**

**Then Jesus will be enthroned in the midst of His church
And the church will bear the glory!**

*“The glory of the LORD will be revealed
and all flesh will see it together.” Isa.40:5*

THE SPIRIT and POWER OF
ELIJAH

Chapter five

Unmasking the Jezebel Spirit

UNMASKING THE JEZEBEL SPIRIT

WITCHCRAFT IN THE CHURCH

Jezebel represents witchcraft and spiritual seduction, idol worship, ritualistic sexual perversion, sexual seduction, control, manipulation, the usurping of authority. The spirit of Jezebel seeks to infiltrate the church, **to disempower God given leadership and usurp authority to bring division and finally destruction to the church.**

To unmask the spirit of Jezebel we turn to the Word of God to study the story of Elijah and Jezebel and then heed Jesus' warnings to us in **Rev.2.**

AHAB, KING OF ISRAEL

1Kings 16:29-30 *"In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him."*

Ahab, the son of Omri, is the king of Israel. The house of Omri was the third house to occupy the kingship of Israel. It was not a single ministry as in Judah. The kingship of Israel kept changing hands because all the kings were evil from the beginning, so no house could survive. The Bible says **Ahab did more evil in the sight of the Lord than all who went before him.**

After the reign of King Solomon the kingdom of Israel became divided into two kingdoms, the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah. Jeroboam was the first king of Israel after it became a divided kingdom and he did not follow the ways of God. Several other kings succeeded Jeroboam before Ahab became the king of Israel.

JEZEBEL, THE WIFE OF AHAB

v.31 *"And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him."*

Here God is saying that it was only a trivial thing in His sight for this man Ahab to commit all the sins of his forefathers as king of Israel **compared** to the fact **that he married this woman called Jezebel**, who was the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians.

'Ethbaal' means *'like unto Baal'*

Jezebel's father was transformed into the image and likeness of Baal, through his worship. That which you worship is what you become like.

'Jezebel' means *'unhusbanded'*.

In truth even though this woman has a husband it is as though she is unable to have a husband for she is a witch. She is a woman who loves to control. She is a sorceress. She has followed the ways of her father, who worshiped idols and she is priestess to the god Baal. She exercises her influence over her husband Ahab, to lead all the people of Israel

into worshipping Baal. She is unhusbanded because she refuses to submit to a husband. She is a usurper.

WORSHIP OF BAAL

v.32 *“Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria”*. Jezebel’s desire to control and exercise authority led her to marry a king whom she could use for her own evil purposes. Ahab and Jezebel’s relationship is a picture of co-dependency. For one reason or another Ahab needed to have a strong woman and Jezebel needed a weak man who had authority, who had an inheritance and who had some influence that she could use.

THE ASHERAH

v.33 *“And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.”* Ahab, influenced by his wife, sinned against God by making a wooden image called Asherah, a Canaanite goddess. The symbols for Baal were male phallic symbols and the symbols for Asherah were female sexual symbols. In the temple to these gods, Jezebel employed 400 priests of Baal and 400 female priests of Asherah. These men and women were fed from the king’s table; they were in the employ of the queen.

All the sins of his forefathers that Ahab walked in, were trivial compared to the fact that he married Jezebel. As soon as he marries Jezebel he begins to worship Baal. He builds a temple for idol worship in Samaria and sets up an altar for Baal and an altar for Asherah. Down through history idol worship, and most witchcraft rituals usually include perverse sexuality.

ELIJAH COMES!

1 Kings 17:1 Here we have the first mention of the prophet Elijah. In the Scripture he has no genealogy, no father or mother, he has no beginning of days nor end of life, [he did not die]. He is similar to Melchizedek, who is like unto Jesus. **James 5:17** says that Elijah was a man just like us, therefore we are like Elijah!! When we are born-again we have no father or mother. We have no beginning of days and no end of life, we enter into eternal life. We are of the order of Melchizedek. This is an awesome insight as to the nature of the ‘new creation’ child of God. We are like Elijah! We are recreated to be like Jesus!

ELIJAH HAD A STANDING BEFORE GOD

In verse 1 Elijah says to Ahab *“As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”* The opposite to Jezebel is Elijah; to unmask Jezebel we need an Elijah. Elijah had a standing before God and he had power and authority given to him by God. The spirit and power of Elijah is needed today, to come upon the church and unmask the Jezebel spirit, which is still the enemy of the people of God. Jesus commands us in **Rev.2:20-23** to remove that woman Jezebel, because she is still a main cause of opposition attacking the church which is being raised up in these last days and that is meant to be ruling and reigning in Christ Jesus.

GOD IS WITH ELIJAH

God wants us to be like Elijah and to take a stand against Jezebel, declaring the word of the LORD. Whatever Elijah declared came to pass. There was no rain in all the land at Elijah's command but God looked after Elijah. He told Elijah to go to the Brook Cherith where he could be hidden from Ahab and God sent ravens to feed him there. When the brook dried up God sent him to Zarephath in Sidon where there was a widow who looked after him. Elijah also was able to raise her son from the dead.

WHO IS THE LORD ?

Finally in **Chap.18:1** *"It came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."* God speaks to Elijah and tells him to go and present himself to Ahab.

v.2-4 *"So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria. And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly. For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.)"*

JEZEBEL HAD MASSACRED THE PROPHETS OF THE LORD

Jezebel had seduced Ahab to marry her; she had become Queen of Israel, even though she was a priestess of a foreign god and a practicing witch, a sorcerer. The first thing she did in Israel was to kill the prophets of the LORD.

Obadiah feared the true God of Israel and hid one hundred prophets in a cave, feeding them with bread and water.

OBADIAH, A FAITHFUL MAN

The famine had been so severe that even the cattle were dying. Ahab took Obadiah and went to look for water and find grass to feed their livestock. Ahab went in one direction and sent Obadiah in another direction. **1 Kin.18:7-8** *"Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, 'Is that you, lord Elijah?' And he answered him, 'It is I. Go, tell your master, Elijah is here.'"*

ELIJAH WAS TRANSPORTED BY THE SPIRIT

Elijah appeared *"suddenly"*. What does that mean? He was not there and then suddenly he was there. The Spirit took Elijah from place to place: a very powerful supernatural phenomenon. Obadiah was aware of this (**v.8-11**), and was concerned that Elijah might disappear just as suddenly as he had appeared. **V.12** *"And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the LORD will carry you to a place I do not know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth."*

ELIJAH WAS THE SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY IN ISRAEL

Elijah reassured Obadiah (**v.15**), so Obadiah found Ahab and brought him to meet Elijah. Ahab hated Elijah, and was determined to capture him, but he also feared him and so obeyed Elijah's commands. When he met Elijah he says, *"Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"* **v.17.**

Elijah answers, *"I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals."*

"Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." Here the prophet is commanding Ahab to do something. Ahab is the king and is meant to have all authority in the land, but when God sends Elijah to speak to the king, the king does what he is told.

Elijah is an apostolic figure; he is the spiritual authority over the land.

GOD HEEDS THE PRAYER OF HIS SERVANT

Ahab obeyed the voice of the prophet and gathered all the prophets of Baal together on Mount Carmel. Elijah spoke to the people and said, *"How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."* *But the people answered him not a word,"* v21. That day the LORD gave Elijah a mighty victory over the prophets of Baal. The people saw the awesome power of the true God and had to acknowledge Him as the LORD God, (v.39).

This is the zenith of Elijah's ministry: turning the hearts of the people back to God.

THE STRONGHOLDS OF OCCULTISM WERE DESTROYED: THE DROUGHT BROKE

Then in **verse 40** we see how Elijah dealt with all the false prophets of Baal. *"Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.* Elijah in the power of the Lord, was able to execute 850 prophets. When he finished he went into deep intercession (v.41-46), which released drought breaking rains to come.

AHAB SUBMITS TO JEZEBEL

The weakness of Ahab is evident. He does not know what to do but he goes home to his wife, Jezebel and tells her everything that has happened, **Ch.19:1** *"And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword."*

Ahab does not tell his wife of the awesome power of God, or that what has happened is a warning that they should take notice of. He goes to her bearing a tale about what Elijah has done to all her false prophets.

JEZEBEL SWEARS TO KILL ELIJAH

Ahab does not know how to respond, but Jezebel does. **V.2** *"Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this."*

v.3-8 Elijah has just been through the most awesome 'high'. He would have been totally exhausted. All spiritual power, that was in him, had been used up. Instead of going to a victory party he received a message from this woman, Jezebel, who swore to kill him. So at the most vulnerable moment Jezebel strikes; her aim is to strike at all those who oppose her!

GOD DELIVERED ELIJAH BY SENDING AN ANGEL

Elijah had no reserves left. All he wanted to do was to lay down and die. It was all too much for him, so he asked the Lord to take his life. God then sent an angel to encourage him and to strengthen him. Elijah ate the bread and ran in the strength of that bread for

forty days and forty nights to be with God in Mt Horeb. At his lowest God sent an angel, to strengthen him, to raise him up, to give him spiritual food that enabled him to walk in the supernatural for forty days and forty nights. Only Moses on the Holy Mountain and Jesus in the desert had similar experiences to this.

Mt Horeb speaks of a place of refuge, a place where God is. This is the same mountain where God spoke to Moses. It is here that God spoke to Elijah, encouraged him, gave him a commission to anoint two kings and to find and train up Elisha as a successor to himself. Elijah came through this crisis with strength and was recommissioned. God is just, and **“a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” Heb.11:6**. He will not abandon His servants but stand with them, (**2 Tim.4:17**).

AHAB COVETS A VINEYARD

The next mention of Jezebel is in **1 Ki.21** where we read of King Ahab becoming covetous over Naboth the Jezreelite who has a vineyard next to the palace of Ahab. Ahab acts like a very spoiled boy and wants this vineyard. Naboth informs Ahab that he will not sell it because it is his inheritance, and it has passed from his father to him and he will pass it on to his children. For Naboth to sell the vineyard would be against the law, against the custom and against the culture, (**v.1-3**).

JEZEBEL USURPS HER HUSBANDS AUTHORITY

v.4-8 *“So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, ‘I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.’ And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food. But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, ‘Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?’ He said to her, ‘Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.’ And he answered, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’ Then Jezebel his wife said to him, ‘You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.’ And she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth.”* Jezebel usurps authority. She takes the king’s seal and writes letters to all the elders and nobles. These elders and nobles have come under the control of Jezebel. They obey her commands and Naboth is stoned to death, (**v.9-15**).

GOD’S JUDGEMENT IS PRONOUNCED BY ELIJAH

v.16 *“So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”* This was very offensive to the Lord and He gives Elijah a message for Ahab, who prophetically speaks God’s judgement over Jezebel, **v.23** *“And concerning Jezebel the Lord also spoke, saying, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’”*

There was also a judgement over Ahab and his household, because of his wickedness in the sight of the LORD, **v.25** *“But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.”* Jezebel incited her husband to do wickedness. Jezebel had threatened to kill Elijah, the servant of

God, by the power of her gods. Appropriately, God responded and pronounced the death penalty for her.

AHAB FOUND REPENTANCE

Ahab had, *“behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel,”* v.26, but when he heard the word of the LORD he repented. *“So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning”* v.27. Even Ahab, after all the evil he committed, was able to repent. Because he humbled himself before the LORD and repented, God again spoke to him through Elijah the prophet saying, *“See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house.”* Ahab avoided that judgement but he did die in war soon afterwards and his son Ahaziah became king in his place.

AHAZIAH FOLLOWS IN THE EVIL OF HIS PARENTS

1 Kings 22:51-53 Ahaziah was not a good king. He *“did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother,”* v.52. He continued to worship Baal as his mother Jezebel had taught him. Ahaziah continued in the ways of his mother and father. He reigned for only two years before he died. His brother Jehoram became king in his place.

2 Kings 1:17 *“So Ahaziah died according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken. Because he had no son, Jehoram became king in his place, in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.”*

JEHU, ANOINTED TO BE KING

In 2 Kings 9 we read of Jehu being anointed King of Israel. The sons of Ahab were still ruling, but through the prophet Elisha, God began to bring to pass His judgement on Ahab and on Jezebel. Elisha sent a young prophet to go and to anoint Jehu to be king of Israel and gave him the commission to destroy the house of Ahab. v.7 *“You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel.”*

Jehu was anointed king and specifically commissioned to carry out the will of the Lord; so he rose up to do that very thing. *“The dogs shall eat Jezebel on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her.”*

JUDGEMENT ON ALL THE HOUSE OF AHAB

The LORD pronounced judgement on Jezebel and on all the house of Ahab. This judgement was carried out by Jehu who had been given this commission by the LORD through a young prophet, at the command of Elisha.

2 Kings 9:7-10 *“You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel. For the whole house of Ahab shall perish; and I will cut off from Ahab all the males in Israel, both bond and free. So I will make the house*

of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah. The dogs shall eat Jezebel on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her.”

JUDAH BECAME ENSNARED IN JEZEBEL’S WEB

Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, was a good king, but his son, Jehoram, married the daughter of Jezebel, Athaliah. Forming an ungodly link between the kingdom of Judah and the house of Israel. The king of Judah married a daughter of Jezebel. Now both kingdoms of Judah and Israel have married into the family of Jezebel, embroiled in witchcraft through marriage. Like mother, like daughter! Through the seductive ways of Jezebel, which the daughter has learned, she was able to ensnare the king of Judah, (**2 Kings 8:18**). The kings of Judah are all of the house of David in fulfilment of God’s promise to David, but even David’s throne became prey to Jezebel. King Jehoram also came under judgement, as prophesied by Elijah, ruling for only seven years.

JEZEBEL’S DAUGHTER MARRIED THE KING OF JUDAH

Jehu was to carry out this judgement of God on every living member of Ahab’s house and on Jezebel. Because Jezebel’s daughter had married Jehoram, the king of Judah, he had to die as well, and their son Ahaziah, who became king of Judah after his father, Jehoram, (**2 Ki. 8:24**).

Ahaziah, king of Judah, walked in the way of the house of Ahab. Because this Davidic family had become yoked to Jezebel’s daughter, all of Ahaziah’s brothers were killed by Jehu, (**2 Ki. 10:12-14**). After Ahaziah’s death (**2 Ki. 9:27**) by the hand of Jehu, Ahaziah’s mother, Athaliah [who was a daughter of Jezebel], started to kill all her grandchildren, because she didn’t want to lose control (**2 Ki. 11:1**). Athaliah, under the influence of the same spirit as her mother Jezebel, had ruled Judah through her son. After that Athaliah ruled for six years as a usurper of the throne before she was put to death (**2 Ki. 11:16**).

JEZEBEL’S INFLUENCE SPREAD THROUGH HER DAUGHTER

Jezebel through her daughter Athaliah caused havoc in Judah bringing judgement on the house of Judah as well as on the house of Israel. The evil influence of Jezebel has far reaching effects. This spirit of Jezebel has continued to seek to exercise its evil influence over those who are leaders of God’s people to this day. Remember **1 Kings 16:31**, God did not look upon it as a light thing that Ahab had married Jezebel. She was a practicing witch, a priestess of Baal. Her father was king of the Sidonians through murder. His name was Ethbaal meaning ‘like unto Baal’.

JOHN THE BAPTIST IS KILLED BY JEZEBEL

In **Matt. 14:3-12** we read of the death of John the Baptist. How did John the Baptist die? He was beheaded by a king at the request of a seductive young girl, who danced before the king and his friends. She totally ensnared the king with her bewitching seductive ways, and he offered to give her whatever she wanted up to half of his kingdom. At the command of her mother Herodias, who was married to the king’s brother, she chose the head of John the Baptist. John the Baptist was a representative of the Elijah spirit. The

Jezebel spirit wants to destroy the Elijah spirit, (that is the spirit and power of Elijah, represented by John the Baptist).

JEHU IS ANOINTED TO CARRY OUT GOD'S JUDGEMENT

2 Kings 9 Jehu after he is appointed king of Israel, proceeded to carry out his commission to bring judgement on the house of Ahab and against Jezebel.

JORAM, KING OF ISRAEL

He deals with Joram the king of Israel, the son of Ahab, **2 Ki.9:14-26**

v.24 *“Now Jehu drew his bow with full strength and shot Jehoram between his arms; and the arrow came out at his heart and he sank down in his chariot.”*

God also avenges the blood of Naboth who Jezebel had arranged to be murdered, for Ahab coveted his vineyard, *“Surely I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons, ‘says the LORD, ‘and I will repay you in this plot,’ says the LORD. Now therefore, take and throw him on the plot of ground, according to the word of the LORD,”* v26.

AHAZIAH, KING OF JUDAH

Jehu then dealt with Ahaziah king of Judah, v.27 *“But when Ahaziah king of Judah saw this, he fled by the road to Beth Haggan. So Jehu pursued him, and said, “Shoot him also in the chariot.” And they shot him at the Ascent of Gur, which is by Ibleam. Then he fled to Megiddo and died there.”*

JEZEBEL MEETS WITH THE JUDGMENT PROPHESED

Finally Jehu confronts Jezebel herself.

v.30-31 *“Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window. Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, ‘Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?’”* Jezebel is trying to win Jehu through her witchery, a combination of spiritual and sexual means to try and win this man over, to try to seduce him. She wants to lure this young king into her web so she can exercise her control over him.

Jehu remains faithful to his commission, v.32-33 *“And he looked up at the window, and said, ‘Who is on my side? Who?’ So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. Then he said, ‘Throw her down.’ So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot.”*

The eunuchs were Jezebel's bodyguards, but they obeyed King Jehu rather than their mistress.

JEHU CARRIES OUT THE JUDGMENT DECREED THROUGH ELIJAH

v.34-37 *“And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, ‘Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter.’ So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.”*

Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, 'This is the word of the Lord, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel; and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "Here lies Jezebel."'" Jehu completed his mission and went on to destroy all the sons of Ahab.

The commission to destroy Ahab's house and Jezebel was given to Elijah in **1Kings 21:19**. Earlier (**1 Ki.19:16**) God had told Elijah to anoint Jehu as king of Israel. But who anointed Jehu to be king? Not Elijah, not even his spiritual son and successor, Elisha, but a son of the prophets (**2 Ki.9:1-3**). Here we have a perfect example of **God working through spiritual sonship to the fourth generation: Elijah – Elisha – a prophet – a son of the prophet.**

THE VICTORY OVER JEZEBEL IS ALWAYS IN CHRIST

No matter what Jezebel tried to do God was always in control. God raised up a man of God to stop her, to protect and to ensure the truth remained in Israel. Even though Elijah thought he was the only true prophet left, God told him on the mountain that he had **seven thousand that had not bowed their knee to Baal**. Then is **1 Ki.20:13-22**, God used these very ones, **7000, with a new leadership, "the young leaders of the provinces" v.14**, to bring a great victory over the enemies of Israel.

JESUS SPEAKS TO THE CHURCH

Rev. 2:18 *"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass.'"*

The letters to the churches in **Revelation chap.2&3** are spoken by Jesus. In **chap.1:9-16**, John has a vision and describes different aspects of the appearance of Jesus. One of these aspects of Jesus is used as an introduction to each of the seven letters to the churches. In the letter to the church in Thyatira, the aspect of the Son of God is the one who has *"eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass."* Jesus has eyes that see into every heart, they are **eyes from which nothing can be hidden**. His feet are like **fine brass**: this speaks of **judgement on sin**. In the Tabernacle of Moses the altar of burnt sacrifice and the brazen laver are both made out of brass. The outer court was dealing with sin, in the Holy place the coverings were of gold, and gold reflects the presence of God.

v.19-20 *"I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.."*

The Lord is angry with this church for not dealing with Jezebel. Jezebel is calling herself a prophetess; she has spiritual power although it is not from the Holy Spirit; it is not God's power. Her influence over the people has been in two areas: **teaching and seducing them to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols.**

What does 'eating things sacrificed to idols' mean? I believe it refers to using illegal drugs such as marijuana, speed, heroin etc, or excessive alcohol, or any intoxicating substance that enables evil spirits to influence and control people, enticing them into sin.

Those who deal in these substances are called '*sorcerers*'. The word '*sorcerer*' in **Rev.21:8** means '*those dealing in drugs*' in the Greek language. Scripture brings a very strong warning to all who are involved in such things.

Rev.21:8 "*But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*"

THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF JEZEBEL ARE CALLED TO REPENTANCE

Rev.2:21-23 "*And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.*

Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works."

This judgement is as serious as the judgement prophesied by Elijah in **1 Kings 31**, which was carried out by Jehu, in **2 Kings 9:32-37**.

THOSE WHO OVERCOME JEZEBEL WILL HAVE POWER OVER NATIONS

Rev.2:24-26 "*Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations.*" The teachings, the so-called prophecies of Jezebel, are actually satanic in origin and nature.

If we can overcome Jezebel and destroy her out of our midst there is an awesome reward. The struggle with Jezebel is over authority. Elijah asked "Who is God? The LORD or Baal?" Elijah is a type of the apostle, carrying the authority of God. The apostle is to lead the church into victory over all opposition. Jezebel vowed to kill Elijah. Today, Jezebel is fighting against every genuine ministry that rises, especially the last days apostles.

v.27 "*He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'- as I also have received from My Father.*"

The word **rule** in this verse means '*to shepherd*' or '*pastor*'. Jesus rules the nations as a shepherd king. The '*rod of iron*' means **authority with the word of God**. Elijah ruled the nation with a rod of iron. When it came to confrontation Ahab obeyed what Elijah told him.

**This is the promise to any Church who will put Jezebel out:
God will give us power and authority over the nations.**

THE MORNING STAR

v.28 *“And I will give him the morning star.”* What is *“the morning star”*?

2 Peter 1:19 *“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.”*

The *‘morning star’* is **Jesus** and He will be revealed as we receive the prophetic word of God.

Numbers 24:17 *“I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.”*

Rev.22:16 *“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”*

THE SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS

The spirit of Jezebel can also be explained as the spirit of lawlessness. Jezebel’s goal is to bring the spirit of the age into the church, to bring the spirit of the world to God’s people. This is not unsimilar to the spirit of Balaam. **The antidote to lawlessness is submission.** God is wanting us to be people who have submitted hearts and are rightly related to those in authority over us in the LORD.

THE SPIRIT and POWER OF
ELIJAH

Chapter Six

The Sons of Issachar -
It is time to make Jesus King!

SONS OF ISSACHAR –

IT IS TIME TO MAKE JESUS KING!

1 Chronicles 12:32 *“Of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command.”*

The context of this verse is that, after the death of Saul, David had been made king of Judah, which was his own tribe. But one of Saul’s sons has taken over the kingdom of Israel in place of Saul. This was not according to the will of God. God pronounced judgement on Saul and David had been anointed to be king. It is now thirteen years at least since David was anointed to be king. He has already been king of Judah for seven years, but now it is time for David to become king over all of Israel. It is a time of great change, an historic time, an out-working of history in the nation of Israel.

These sons of Issachar *“had understanding of the times”*. They were listening to the voice of God; they were aware that something needed to happen and they knew *“what Israel ought to do.”* What should Israel do at that time? **It was time to make David king over all Israel.** [Israel represents the whole church.]

Armed men began to gather from every tribe for the purpose of making David king.

v.23 *“Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the Lord.”*

v.24-31 *“Of the sons of Judah bearing shield and spear, six thousand eight hundred armed for war; of the sons of Simeon, mighty men of valor fit for war, seven thousand one hundred; of the sons of Levi four thousand six hundred; Jehoiada, the leader of the Aaronites, and with him three thousand seven hundred; Zadok, a young man, a valiant warrior, and from his father's house twenty-two captains; of the sons of Benjamin, relatives of Saul, three thousand (until then the greatest part of them had remained loyal to the house of Saul); of the sons of Ephraim twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty men of valor, famous men throughout their father's house. Of the half-tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, who were designated by name to come and make David king.”*

All these tribes sent a certain number of their armed men to support what was happening **but of the tribe of Issachar every man came**, all of their chiefs – 200 of them were in agreement and all their brethren were in their command. The whole tribe came! The whole tribe marched to Hebron to make way for the king. Even of Judah, David’s tribe, only a portion came. A number of priests came, but the whole tribe of Issachar came because they were men who **had understanding of the times! They knew what Israel ought to do!**

In the church today there are some men **called apostles, who know what the church ought to do. God is raising up apostolic companies now to give leadership to the church to come and make Jesus king.**

v.33-37 *“Of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks; of Naphtali one thousand captains, and with them thirty-seven thousand with shield and spear; of the Danites who could keep battle formation, twenty-eight thousand six hundred; of Asher, those who could go out to war, able to keep battle formation, forty thousand; of the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, from the other side of the Jordan, one hundred and twenty thousand armed for battle with every kind of weapon of war.”*

There were close to 350,000 men of war who gathered. This is more men than went into Iraq in 2003.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LAST DAYS CHURCH

We learn some key attributes of these men from v.38 *“All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king.”*

1. **THEY WERE ALL MEN WERE MEN OF WAR.** They were experienced and armed. We are in a battle and we also need to be armed and experienced in using our weapons.

Eph.6:12 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

WHAT IS OUR ARMOR? Eph.6:14-18

The **belt of truth:** *“Your word is truth,” Jn.17:17. “Gird up the loins of your mind,”* – with truth, (1 Pet.1:13).

The **breastplate of righteousness:** the breastplate covers the heart, so we are to believe the truth in our heart. *“For with the heart one believes unto righteousness,”* (Rom.10:10). We are to believe the truth in our hearts and minds.

The **shoes of the gospel of peace:** once we have heard the truth and believe it in our hearts, we are to walk in that truth.

The **shield of faith:** this is applying your faith to extinguish the fiery darts, dealing with the doubts of the mind.

The **helmet of salvation:** being immersed in the word of God, understanding of the doctrines of the Word.

The **sword of the Spirit:** using the ‘rhema’ word to overcome the devil, as Jesus did in the wilderness, (Matt.4:1-11).

WHAT IS OUR WARFARE?

2 Cor.10:3-6 says, *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”*

God wants us to be ‘men of war’, experienced in using our weapons, knowing how to pull down strongholds. When our *“obedience is fulfilled”*, we are to *“punish all disobedience”*. **This is not what the church is doing currently.**

VICTORY IN BATTLE

Rev.12:11 *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”* The saints are to win! They are to overcome the devil! The victory is for overcomers!

2. **THEY KNEW HOW TO KEEP RANK.** These men knew their place, and they knew who their leaders were. We need to know our place (rank) in the body of Christ, to be secure in it and not to step out of it! The structure of the body of Christ, of the church, is not a hierarchy, but there is an order. God has set His body in order. **1 Cor.12:18** *“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”* And v.28 *“God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”* These men knew their place in the body; they knew how to keep rank, and they had come for a purpose, to make David King. **Col.2:5** *“For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.”* **1 Cor.11:34** *“But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgement. And the rest I will set in order when I come.”* In **Heb.5,6&7** the order of Melchizedek is mentioned a number of times and the order of Aaron once. In **Lu.1:8** Zacharias was ministering in the temple. He was a priest in the *‘order of his division’*.
3. **THEY CAME TO HEBRON.** They knew where to gather; they knew the place to come to. They recognised that a change was about to happen and they wanted to be part of it. Their hearts were tuned in to what God was doing, so they gathered together in one accord. God had prepared their hearts and they wanted to be positioned to be ready for what God wanted them to do. **Hebron was where the man of God was.** David was already living in Hebron. He was destined to be king in Zion but no one even knew that yet. **They came to where God’s anointed authority was in place and functioning.**
4. **THEY GATHERED TO THE MAN OF GOD WITH A LOYAL HEART.** These men were committed. They were faithful and could be relied upon. They were prepared to give their loyalty to the one whom God had chosen and raised up. We need to develop a loyal heart. However their loyalty was first to God. That is why they came to Hebron – their **hearts were loyal to God.**
5. **TO MAKE DAVID KING.** These men knew what Israel ought to do. They were discerning of the times and thousands joined them from other tribes to make David king. All the rest of Israel agreed then with what was happening and *“were of one mind”*. They would never have come to that agreement unless the sons of Issachar and others had stepped out. And even before the sons of Issachar and others stepped

out, a small band of men and their families had stepped out long before to be with and support David in the wilderness years, (**1 Sam.22:1-5**).

The whole church agreed! In **Acts 2:1** when all the believers were gathered in one place, *“with one accord,”* then the Holy Spirit came. There was a unity of heart and mind among the believers in the early church. They were in agreement. God is looking for people who are one in heart and mind to fulfil His purposes for His last days church.

IT IS TIME TO MAKE JESUS KING!

Worship Jesus make Him King! Jesus is King and Priest; He saves, heals. The Church preaches Jesus as Priest not as the King Priest. Many people understand the priestly ministry of Jesus and walk as priests. Priestly ministry brings **salvation and healing**. We enjoy the priestly ministry and it is easier to be a priest than a king.

Priests worship, minister, offer sacrifices.

Kings go to war.

Kings rule and reign.

Kings bear the glory!

God promises that the whole earth be filled with His glory.

We are to be king priests. It is time to make Jesus king.

JESUS HAS MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS

Rev.1:5-6 *“And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”* Jesus has made us **kings and priests**.

Priests offer sacrifices and kings have authority to rule. Under the law when kings offered sacrifices they got into big trouble. King Uzziah became a leper because he went into the temple of God and offered incense. He would not stop even when the priests warned him, so God struck him with leprosy from that time on, (**2 Chron.26:16-23**). But through Jesus Christ and in Him, the priest is also the king and we are kings and priests of the same order as Jesus.

Heb.7:17 *“For He testifies: ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’”* In **Genesis 14:18** Melchizedek, whose name means ‘king of righteousness’, is also king of Salem, which means peace. He is king of righteousness and king of peace. He meets Abram and offers him bread and wine as *“the priest of God Most High.”* Jesus is a King/Priest forever.

This Melchizedek was not made like the son of man; he had neither Father nor Mother, no beginning of days, or end of life. He was made like the Son of God. He was the one to

whom the father of the faith Abraham gave his tithe. Tithing is a response of faith to a revelation of Jesus Christ, (**Heb.7:3-4**).

THE PRIEST SHALL BE CROWNED AS RULER [KING]

Zechariah 6:11-13 *“Take the silver and gold, make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, then speak to him saying ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying ‘Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD. Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory and shall sit and rule on His throne. So He shall be a priest on His throne and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.’”* Here we have the high priest being crowned a king! Jesus is Priest and King! He wants us to not only minister as priests but to rule and reign with Him as Kings.

WE ARE TO REIGN AS KINGS

We are *“a royal priesthood.”* **1Pet.2:9** *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.”* The Lord wants to strengthen our hand today in kingship, in rulership.

KINGS HAVE AUTHORITY TO RULE

God is raising a new leadership. Apostles are being raised up to take leadership in the church. God has appointed in the body, first apostles. **Mat. 28:18** *“And Jesus came and spoke them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ...’”* Jesus had all authority and He gave that authority to His disciples. Authority over demon spirits; authority over sicknesses, (**Mk.16:17-18**); authority to do *“greater works,”* **Jn.14:12**. It is kings who have authority, not priests.

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

We are to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. When Phillip went to Samaria, he *“preached the things concerning the kingdom of God,”* and many believed and were baptised, (**Acts 8:12**). Most preach a gospel of salvation, emphasising the priestly sacrifice of Jesus for sin. The gospel of the kingdom emphasises the rule of Messiah. He is *“the ruler over the kings of the earth”* **Rev.1:5**

It is time to make Jesus King!

**It is time for Jesus to gather together men of war,
who can keep rank, who understand the times we are in!**

Those who will be of one mind and heart to make JESUS KING!

What will happen when Jesus returns?

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is based at the SHILOH Centre in Toowoomba but can travel anywhere.

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Monthly Training Days held on Saturdays 10am to 5pm. Teaching the apostles doctrine. Occasional guest ministries to teach and train. Leadership gatherings held on Fridays prior to Monthly Training Day.

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Youth and Young Christians: **1) *Prayer Attack*; 2) *Foundations of our Faith for Youth*; 3) *Born again to Serve*; 6) *Heroes of the Bible***

Children's Manuals: **1) *God Talk*; 2) *Joseph, Jesus and Me***
"Walking in Our Inheritance" a book by Paul Galligan