



A prince is a son of a royal, ruling family. In spiritual terms, a prince is a spiritual being who is a member of God's eternal, holy, royal, ruling family. The first creation in heaven are specialists in God's law and have received rulership by God over vast dominions in heaven. Some have been given rulership both in heaven and over nations on earth. The authority to rule nations on earth was given at a time the people began wandering back into sin.

It was at the time of Babel. God divided the people into nations and gave them heavenly rulers over them to guide them back onto the path of righteousness.

God, Himself, participated in the rulership over the nations and He gave Himself kingship over the descendants of Jacob—"His allotted inheritance."

"When the Most High assigned lands to the nations, when he divided up the human race, he established the boundaries of the peoples according to the number in his heavenly court. But the LORD's portion is His people, Jacob His allotted inheritance" (Deuteronomy 32:8-9).

Unfortunately, all of these rulers turned against Almighty God and allied with Satan. They led the nations of the world deeper and deeper into sin. As it was done on the earth before the flood, it was done again (Genesis 6:4). The holy ones in heaven are making mistakes. **"God puts no trust in His holy ones, if even the heavens are not pure in His eyes, how much less man who is vile and corrupt, who drinks up evil like water!"** (Job 15:15) and **"God puts no trust in His servants, and He charges His angels with error"** (Job 4:18).

Satan has a pyramidal style of leadership with his all-seeing eye at the top. Close to the bottom are the demons who have a prince ruling over them. The Pharisees understood the structure, but they tried to accuse Jesus as being a prince ruling over demons using their faulty logic. "But the Pharisees said, 'It is by the prince of demons that He drives out demons'" (Matthew 9:34).

Rebel princes in God's family in heaven have not all been dealt with. God is using these rebels to test, purge and refine creation both in heaven and on earth. God responded to the bragging triumphs of the rebel prince given kingship over Assyria, "Have you not heard? Long ago I

ordained it; in days of old I planned it. Now I have brought it to pass, that you should crush fortified cities into piles of rubble” (Isaiah 37:26).

This rebel heavenly prince trumpeted his plan, “With my many chariots [the spiritual means to move up into the higher levels of God’s government] I have ascended the heights of the mountains [governments], the utmost heights of Lebanon [location of God’s heavenly court]. I have cut down the tallest cedars [caused the great sons of God to fall into sin], the choicest of its pines [respected and honoured sons of God in heaven]. I have reached the remotest heights [heavenly leaders that were considered untouchable due to their superior level of knowledge, wisdom and understanding], the finest of its forests [the masses of heavenly leaders of whom God has poured out His Holy Spirit]. I have dug wells in foreign lands and drunk the water there. With the soles of my feet I have dried up all the streams of Egypt” (Isaiah 37:24b). This rebel has successfully destroyed once honoured and great leaders in heaven and walked all over them.

There are many princes in God’s family each having a different level of authority. Gabriel, a prince in God’s kingdom, was sent to Daniel with answers to his prayer. He was delayed 21 days because an evil prince in heaven, ruling over the kingdom of Persia, apprehended him indefinitely. It took the powerful chief prince, Michael, to rescue Gabriel and set him free to complete his task.

“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia” (Daniel 10:13).

Gabriel went to Daniel as he was instructed, but had to leave quickly. Battles are raging in the heavens unknown to mankind then and today. Then Gabriel said Daniel, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so, I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince” (Daniel 10:20-21).

The heavenly prince ruling over Greece is allied with the prince over Persia warring against Almighty God. These princes are not the physical kings of Greece or Persia; they are rebel princes in heaven.

Michael is one of the chief princes in heaven. “Now at that time **Michael, the great prince** who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued” (Daniel 12:1).

Michael is not the only chief prince spoken of in the Bible.

“Son of man, set your face against **Gog** of the land of Magog, **the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal**. Prophecy against him and declare that this is what the Lord GOD says: Behold, I am

against you, **O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal**" (Ezekiel 38:2-3). His kingdom is located in the "far north" (Ezekiel 38:15), which is in the same location as God's throne. Satan knows the exact location of God's throne in heaven. "I will ascend to **the heavens**; I will raise my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of assembly, **in the far reaches of the north**" (Isaiah 14:13).

King David sang about the greatness of Almighty God and the location of His government. "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is **Mount Zion in the far north**, The city of the Great King" (Psalm 48:1-2). King David knew where God's federal government, His centre is located in the far north.

God's movement releases a storm of power. "I looked, and I saw a windstorm **coming out of the north** – an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light" (Ezekiel 1:4). Ezekiel, in a vision, saw Almighty God. When he saw the brilliance of His glory, he fell face down (Ezekiel 1:28b).

God's courts and legal structure is located northward and continuing northward all the way into the third heaven.

The rebel chief prince, Gog of Magog, like the prince of Persia and Greece is warring against Almighty God during ancient times and into the present. The overthrow of Gog will take place under Christ's rule at the end of the Millennium. Satan will be released and together with Gog, they will stir up the nations against God's people. God uses wickedness to test, purge and purify creation both on earth and in heaven. God will, this time, test mankind again and show them that He is supreme; His power cannot be challenged by other spiritual beings. "O Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me **when I show myself holy through you before their eyes**" (Ezekiel 38: 16b). The nations on earth are learning who is the Great God and LORD among the heavenly princes. Likely, Satan will again declare himself as supreme creator and Gog may declare himself as mankind's saviour. We shall see how they will establish themselves. Unfortunately, they will successfully sway some of the people in the nations on earth to their side.

Satan lurks around like a raging lion putting up stumbling blocks for all of mankind. He works to lead them deeper and deeper into sin, hoping for no recovery. "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2).

The Apostle Paul warned Christians, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12). Satan's plan is to destroy all creation in heaven and on earth. His motto: if he is to be destroyed; all of creation goes down with him. Satan and chief prince, Gog will blaspheme God's holy name.

This is the final battle for all time. “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, **O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal**. I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains [government] of Israel. Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand. On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you” (Ezekiel 39:1b-4).

God will end the profanity on earth caused by Satan and Gog. “I will make known my holy name among my people Israel. I will no longer let my holy name be profaned, and the nations will know that I the LORD am the Holy One in Israel” (Ezekiel 39:7). God is not singling out any one nation in this final battle.

The people from among the nations on earth who choose to join the final rogue heavenly coalition, will be destroyed in an instant. The remaining nations of the world will witness the unsurpassable power of the Almighty God who will destroy these rebel gods in an instant. The nations will know that the Supreme and Holy God—the only God to worship, is the God of Israel.

From the foundation of the world, God formulated a saving plan for mankind. He foreknew the fall of man and wove into mankind’s spiritual growth hard and painful lessons that would bring an eternal and unrelenting passion for righteousness, keeping God’s law and living His ways.

The Son’s redemptive sacrifice was planned at the foundation of the world. He successfully redeemed mankind, but this only became known to the princes ruling over the earth after Jesus, the Christ, was resurrected.

“Which none of **the princes of this world** knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Corinthians 2:8). These princes that the Apostle Paul is referring to are not mortal princes, for they do not have the power to thwart God’s saving plan for mankind. However, heavenly princes could have ensured that Jesus live a full life as a mortal and die in old age, thwarting God’s redemptive plan. Christ’s successful redemptive sacrifice has overthrown Satan’s rule over mankind. “Now judgment is upon this world; now **the prince of this world** will be cast out” (John 12:31).

Jesus Christ won the rulership from the fallen princes given authority over the nations at the time of Babel and the rulership Satan had. He will bring mankind rest from oppression, deceit, pain and all sorts of corruption. “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace**” (Isaiah 9:6).

Jesus Christ has not yet taken his kingship and lordship over the nations of earth. It was foretold that there would be “many days” before he would return as King of kings and Lord of lords. Hosea understood God’s mirroring of the ten tribes of Israel in his life. He knew after they

would be redeemed through Christ, they would live for many years no longer living as pagans but also, not living in the pure word of God. He said, "For the sons of Israel will remain for many days **without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols**" (Hosea 3:4).

- **Without king or prince** = Christ is not ruling as their king nor are the rebel heavenly princes ruling over them.
- **Without sacrifice or sacred pillar** = Sacrifices are not being performed as a means to cover sins nor are pagan sacred stones erected where covenants were made and allegiances fortified.
- **Without ephod or household idols** = the Hebrew high priest wore an ephod, which is a display of twelve gems pointing to the twelve gates described in Revelation into God's kingdom. Household idols in the home and gifts left at shrines in the streets promoted the worship of fallen gods for help and salvation.

The Judeo-Christians are in a state of limbo, neither worshipping God properly or living in pagan sin worshipping fallen gods.

God's use of titles is careful and specific to their role. He does not reference any mortal on earth as a "chief prince". However, the title of "prince" is used to identify sons of kings and leaders on earth who are highly respected and honoured. When used to acknowledge a righteous leader, it is to acknowledge a mortal as a genuine son of God.

Abraham is a good example. He was considered by the Hittites living near him as a "prince". Abraham sought to buy a cave to bury Sarah who had just passed away. He approached the Hittites humbly asking to buy a burial place. He said, "I am an alien and a stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead" (Genesis 23:4). The Hittites responded with deep respect and great honour, "Hear us, my lord, you are a **mighty prince among us**; bury your dead in the choicest of our graves; none of us will refuse you his grave for burying your dead" (Genesis 23:6).

Abraham came before the Hittites not only as a rich man with many servants and riches, but a honoured member among them who they considered a royal leader.

King David understood the spiritual connotations of using the term "prince". When Abner was murdered in revenge, King David said to his servants, "Do you not know that **a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?**" (II Samuel 3:38). Abner was not born from a royal family, but King David elevated him to royalty because of his loyalty to the royal family of King Saul. The trigger to David's disgust and sadness was Abner's death, a rash execution of revenge. David did not take the kingship from the family of Saul, rather, God gave the kingship to David. The newly anointed king knew there would be confusion and sorrow as the transition took place. He wanted peace, but it took a long time before the battle between the supporters of King Saul submitted to God's anointing of David as the chosen king over the whole kingdom of Israel.

King David recognized the potential of all the men and women of Israel to become holy, royal, ruling children of God. He sang with hope in his heart when God inspired the song about Jesus, our Saviour, "You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever..." The Apostle Paul quoted from this psalm in Hebrews, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." King David concluded, "**you will make them** [that is the righteous] **princes throughout the land**" (Psalm 45:2-7, 16b).

King David loved righteousness; he loved God's law and His ways. God loved him, too and promised him kingship over Israel forever. "And I, the Lord, will be their God, and **My servant David will be prince among them**; I the Lord have spoken" (Ezekiel 34:24).

The houses of Judah and Israel will re-unite forever and David will be king over them after they return to the land of their fathers. "They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and **David My servant will be their prince forever**" (Ezekiel 37:25).

Most rulers over the two houses: Judah and Israel were not like King David. Most did not lead righteously. In ancient times, the people of Israel asked for a physical king, rejecting Almighty God as their king. God warned the people of the oppression and corruption that would follow, but they wanted to be like the nations around them. However, change is coming.

"Thus says the Lord God, 'Enough, you princes of Israel; put away violence and destruction, and practice justice and righteousness. Stop your expropriations from My people,' declares the Lord God" (Ezekiel 45:8-9).

Jesus Christ will rule with a rod of iron. Leaders will learn to serve. Justice will prevail and corruption will be eradicated. "This shall be his land for a possession in Israel; so My princes shall no longer oppress My people, but they shall give the rest of the land to the house of Israel according to their tribes" (Ezekiel 45:8).

King David sang of still a future event when God's procession comes into view, "the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary. In front are the singers, after them the musicians; with them are the maidens playing tambourines. Praise God in the great congregation; praise the LORD in the assembly of Israel. There is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them, there the great throng of Judah's princes, and there the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali" (Psalm 68:24-27).

This wonderful and glorious event highlights four tribes: Benjamin, Judah, Zebulun and Naphtali. These four tribes image four very special groups of humble, God-fearing and God-serving people.

Benjamin was the second and last son born from Rachel. He is the only blood-brother of Joseph. The little family of Jacob, Rachel and their two sons unveils a very big picture. In moments of history, God unveils the spiritual story. God is love and God is law-abiding. His love for righteousness is mirrored in Jacob's love for Rachel. They waited a long time before Rachel conceived and gave birth to a son. God has waited until two-thirds of mankind's history had elapsed before Jesus came to earth, died and redeemed mankind. His life was mirrored in Joseph, the first-born of Jacob and Rachel. Little Benjamin was born never knowing his mother as she died in child birth. Rachel mirrors the righteous and faithful prophets. Benjamin mirrors the saints who did not live during the time of the faithful prophets, but they learned from them and they hold to the pure word of God. They are a theological body of men and women, overcoming and devoted to living righteously. This group of men and women will lead the procession when God Almighty comes down to earth to reside in His temple.

The reference to the great throng of princes from the tribe of Judah is due to their guardianship of God's law. Order, justice and love are the fundamental components of God's legal structure. The house of Judah has prioritized God's law into their culture. The image of a great throng of Judah's princes is an image of a great throng of law-keepers, loving God's law and His ways. These may not all be from the house of Judah, rather all people respecting and holding fast to keeping and enforcing God's law.

Following little Benjamin and the princes of Judah are two tribes of Israel: Zebulun and Naphtali. The territory of Zebulun and Naphtali was devastated during the invasion of the Assyrian army that captured the northern house of Israel. This type of distress was not limited to the invasion by Assyria, but it echoed throughout the history of the 10 tribes of Israel. These two tribes mirror a very special large group of people who experience the devastation and humility of ancient Zebulun and Naphtali. In the future, the people mirrored in Zebulun and Naphtali will experience the light—the glory to come will be great and correspond to the depth of disgrace they endured. Past distress will never touch these humbled people again. They will surrender their lives to God and will be joined, through the work of Jesus Christ, with people living beyond the territory of ancient Israel, Gentiles from the nations.

“Leaving Nazareth, He went and lived in Capernaum, which is by the sea in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on
those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned”
(Matthew 4:13-16).

“In the past He humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, **He will honor the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations**”
(Isaiah 9:1b).

Jesus Christ has redeemed mankind. No more destruction. Christ will usher in peace and prosperity. The light will go out to all the world. Christ's kingdom will grow to cover the whole earth.

Princes will be anointed kings, princesses will come forward from behind and be anointed queens and they will rule in Almighty God's holy, royal, ruling, eternal family.

The Bible speaks very little about the appearance of princesses because His use of "sons" is to mirror spiritual beings those ruling already in heaven. Creation in heaven and earth were made in the image of God: male and female, king and lord. Creation on earth is imaged in the female gender, the church; she will rule with Christ. She will be anointed Queen after being transformed into her eternal body and she will be glorious.

"Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, 'Come, I will show you **the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.**' And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal." (Revelation 21:9-11).

This image is a picture of the body of men and women, eternalized into glorious bodies that form a multi-layered structure of righteous strength, the New Jerusalem, no longer a physical structure of wood and clay, but a spiritual body of law keepers and righteous theological experts filled with God's Holy Spirit.

God wins!

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