

The Power of **RELIGIOUS** Leadership

“So he said to me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: **Not by might nor by power [military strength], but by My Spirit,** says the LORD of Hosts’” (Zechariah 4:6).

“What are you, **O mighty mountain?** Before Zerubbabel you shall become a **plain.** And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’” (Zechariah 4:7)



The completion of the second temple in Jerusalem was celebrated with joy, but God heard shouts of joy that rang out into the heavens. The struggle of building the second temple mirrors the struggle in building the spiritual temple in this evil age. Along the road are many obstacles and at times, the size of mountains making it impossible to grow into spiritual maturity.

God acknowledged the “mighty mountain” hindering His people. It was foreknown by Him before the creation of man that the second creation on earth would fall as if by design, to teach the critical lesson of walking humbling with God in deep reverence and eternal trust, something one-third of the creation in heaven with all that was given to them upon their creation had decided not to do.

God’s Son and Co-Creator is a serving Son ready to do anything his Father needs to save the creation on earth. His life was the price and he willingly gave it. Then, God’s Holy Spirit became available to all of mankind, as it was prior to the sin of Adam and Eve.

Through the acceptance of Christ—our Savior, the “top stone” and the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit, the mighty mountains—the obstacles are brought down and the journey is a walk on

miles of plainlands. God's Holy Spirit makes possible the subjugation of human nature allowing a humble and obedient people to come to know God and deeply respect Him.

It is the Son of God who is the core to the story of mankind. Through the power of His Father, he created everything in heaven and earth. **"He existed before all things, and he holds all creation together"** (Colossians 1:17). While the Father and Son created both the heaven and the earth at the same time (Genesis 1:1), creation in heaven was completed long before creation on earth had begun.

The two creations were designed from the beginning to complement each other. One day deep in time, iniquity was found in heaven. Lucifer, the great guardian angel of God's throne slipped into darkness and established a theology in opposition to God Almighty. He sold his theology to one-third of creation in heaven.

After all of the creation in heaven had been tested, it became time to complete creation on earth. The Father and Son created just two earthlings: a male and a female. Through just two, mankind blossomed into a fully populated realm on earth. The creation on earth made male and female was designed to mirror the creation in heaven through the male gender and the creation on earth through the female gender. Every aspect of the genders is a perfect reflection. From the grand view, Christ is the man and the faithful, blameless church is the woman in every way.

This Savior of all of mankind was willing to empty himself of the great power of eternal life to be reduced to flesh and blood, mortality and weakness and travel through the birth canal and become a son of Mary, son of David, Son of man. This Son of God would then preach the word of his Father and die, suffering a beating that disfigured him beyond recognition and death on the cross with the wicked. The love he has for his creation is recognized and respected by only a few. The magnitude of his love remains still a shadow as those who follow him strain to see through a glass darkly (I Corinthians 13:12).

This Savior is God Almighty's only beloved, unique Son who demonstrated his love and obedience to his Father in suffering for mankind's eternal life even desiring to share his well-earned rulership with repentant earthly mortals.

God the Father sent His Son to rescue mankind. He became the last Adam after a series of attempts by sons from the heavenly creation. God, the Father cannot hold back His awe and love for this Son, the wearer of many crowns (Revelation 19:12) for he has won many battles. He is the forever-serving and eternally humble angel of God. About this Son, the Father said, "Your throne, O God [the Son], will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God [the Son], your God [the Father], has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy" (Hebrews 1:8-9).

Though the battle against the Father and His Son still rages in the heavens against rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities (Ephesians 6:12) fighting to take the kingdom through wickedness, they will fail. The kingdom has been awarded to the Son and soon will be awarded to the saints. The battle for the kingdom will soon end and Christ and his bride will rule in righteousness together as King and Queen (Daniel 7:13-14, 27). This is the greatest honor mankind could possibly imagine—to rule with God, the Co-Creator. Who is man that God is mindful of him? It is any wonder that the wicked heavenly rulers, powers and authorities have mankind distracted and oblivious to this highly-prized calling. They may still believe that rulership over heaven and earth is a possibility for them, if they can overthrow Almighty God and His Son. They are deeply deceived.

God's Son is dedicated to righteousness and the destruction of death. "For He [Christ] must reign until He has put **all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death**" (I Corinthians 15:26).

God so honors this Son that He will give him a portion with the great. Who are the great that the Father is referring to? So much is yet to be revealed. "After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life, and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore, **I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong** [the saints will rule with him], because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:11-12).

The Father cannot stop from praising this Son. He also said, "In the beginning, O Lord [the Son], you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. **But you remain the same, and your years will never end**" (Hebrews 1:10-12).

This humble Son, God described as a "shoot" from the stump of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1). From the exalted status of God, this Son humbled himself to be made mortal birthed from the family of Jesse. God declared, "**The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him [Jesus Christ]—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.**" (Isaiah 11:3).

God, the Father is the source of all power, righteousness and holiness. He alone can bestow spiritual gifts. Upon this Son who is God and Co-Creator, the Father gave him the spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge and fear of the LORD.

1. Wisdom: חָכְמָה ([hāk·māh](#)) Noun - feminine singular (Isaiah 11:2)
2. Knowledge: דַּעַת ([da·'at](#)) Noun - feminine singular (Isaiah 11:2)
3. Understanding: וְבִינָה ([ū·bî·nāh](#)) Noun - feminine singular (Isaiah 11:2)
4. Strength: כֹּחַ ([ū·gā·bū·rāh](#)) Noun - feminine singular (Isaiah 11:2)
5. Counsel: שֵׁשׁבִיל (['ê·šāh](#)) Noun - feminine singular (Isaiah 11:2)

The creation of the genders on earth is not merely a method of procreation, but more about the mirroring of the two leading positions in God's Government: national and religious leadership. The spirit of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, strength and counsel are all ascribed in the feminine because they belong to religious leadership—the experts on righteousness.

Wisdom is the mother of her daughters: knowledge, understanding, strength and counsel. She comes from deeply respecting the Almighty God who is life eternal, pure in righteousness and staunchly loyal to His own laws of love and peace. Wisdom is the great pillar of the theology of God; she stands eternally loyal to Him. She is the leading spirit of God and there is nothing more beautiful and gentler than **wisdom**. From **knowledge**, she opens the eyes to **understanding** and gives **strength** to righteous **counsel**.

King Solomon understood. "**Blessed is the one who finds wisdom**, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. **She is more precious than jewels**, and **nothing you desire can compare with her**. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace" (Proverbs 3:13-18).

God Almighty advises mankind, "**the price of wisdom is beyond rubies... it cannot be bought with pure gold**. Where then does wisdom come from... God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells... he looked at wisdom and appraised it; he confirmed it and tested it. And he said to man, '**The fear of the LORD—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding**'" (Job 28:18b, 20a, 23, 27-28).

The Apostle James taught, "But **the wisdom from above is first pure**, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere" (James 3:17).

Ancient Israel did not understand the highly-prized office their God was preparing for them—His holy kingdom of royal priests that would all rule with Christ.

"But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation**, a people for **God's own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

"**And unto Me you shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**" These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites" (Exodus 19:6).

They did not want to be a kingdom of priests—insignificant, powerless people, servants of servants serving God. They wanted to be like the nations around them—proud, self-glorifying superpowers. They were thinking carnally and rebelled against God to serve the gods of the nations in exchange for self-reliance, self-direction and selfishness. The gods were delighted that they purchased their theology over the theology of God. In their battle for supremacy, the

gods ruling over the nations believed they had destroyed God's inherited people. It appeared that God lost His people, but that battle is not finished. God's Son paid the price for all of mankind and now we all have access to God's Holy Spirit. God's boundless strength is giving rise to a new creation—a holy people, a royal priesthood.

God will again choose Israel—the overcomers. “For **the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and choose ISRAEL ONCE AGAIN**. He will settle them on their own land. The foreigner will join them and be united with the house of Jacob” (Isaiah 14:1).

He is establishing a kingdom of priests—a **new office** in His eternal government. “For **you are a holy people belonging to the LORD your God**. The LORD has chosen you to be **His prized possession** out of all the peoples on the face of the earth” (Deuteronomy 14:2).

Ancient Israel did not consider priesthood an honor. They preferred national leadership. God tried to tell them that religious leadership will give the greatest honor in eternity, but they were stuck in carnal reasoning. “That **He will set you high in praise and name and honor above all the nations He has made**, and that **you will be a holy people to the LORD your God** as He promised” (Deuteronomy 26:19).

Slowly, they are coming to see the light over two thousand years of accessing God's Holy Spirit. During a time of great distress, they will self-reflect and cry out to their God. “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on **those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned**” (Isaiah 9:2).

The God of Israel is compassionate, He will guide them back to Him. The rogue gods in heaven will witness the return of God's people to Him and they will be livid. “I will lead the blind by a way they did not know; I will guide them on unfamiliar paths. **I will turn darkness into light before them and rough places into level ground. These things I will do for them, and I will not forsake them**” (Isaiah 42:16).

God will succeed. “But **you will be called the priests of the LORD; they will speak of you as ministers of our God**; you will feed on the wealth of the nations, and you will boast in their riches” (Isaiah 61:6).

Priesthood is the office God offered the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He intended that they be a model nation, establish a holy kingdom of royal priests, teach the world the way of God and finally, fill the new office as Queen with Christ, the King as a body of people leaning on Christ in righteousness and forever faithful to God, their Father.

However, only a remnant accepted the call. Christ has been coronated King of all kings and Lord of all lords. He is Melchizedek, the High Priest. The remnant is his bride—the faithful church who throughout time remained blameless. Marriage is the unification of a male and a female. It is the physical embodiment of the spiritual union of everything male with everything female so that the union works as one. The marriage of Christ and the church is the spiritual reality of the

physical mirror. She will be awarded the greatest honor of all bar that of the office of Almighty God and Jesus Christ. She is a religious body who will be anointed priests ruling under Christ. She will specialize in the teachings of righteousness and she will eternally establish the gentility of love throughout the realm in heaven and on earth.

When Christ returns, **“Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations”** (Revelation 19:15). **“But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and with equity He will decide in favor of the earth's oppressed. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth and slay the wicked with the breath of His lips”** (Isaiah 11:4).

Christ will expose the wickedness of the nations who at his return will be worshipping Satan. **“Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshipped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?”** (Revelation 13:4).

They did not consider calling out to the God of Israel for help. It will be as in the days of Noah. **“For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark”** (Matthew 24:37). They will have accepted the rule of Satan and the beast. They will not be concerned about their new alien leadership for they will be celebrating, getting married and looking forward to their future under the rule of the old, new world order. Unlike the repentant 21st century Israelites, who will be their captured slaves relentlessly calling out to the God of Israel in great despair and horror.

At the Millennial rule of Christ, the nations of 21st century Israel will come out of the Great Tribulation and return to the land of their forefathers with foreigners—people from other countries who settled among them and have repented with them (Isaiah 14:1). They will become fully and completely a holy re-united kingdom of royal priests.

It will not be by might and power—military force and oppression that the nations will be overpowered, but the acceptance of Christ as their Savior, bending their knee to their King of kings and Lord of lords and accepting God’s Holy Spirit in love and peace that the nations of the world will willingly worship and obey God. The power of God’s Holy Spirit and the spread of His theology will end war and bring peace. Then, their walk to know God will be like a flat plain—quick and easy for along the way, holy priests from a royal nation will guide them and they will not stumble or fall. The world will come to know the God of Israel and they will worship Him eternally as children of God in His royal family forever grateful of His grace and love for them.

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