# God's **NEW** Government



God often describes the heavenly creation using imagery that humans can vision. Lebanon is the descriptor for His headquarters in heaven because mankind knows that Lebanon is noted for its great cedars. These trees grow to great heights reinforced by their deep setting roots. Clearly, this is an image of strength and stability. Yet, Ezekiel recorded God's words of distress.

"Then all the trees of Eden, the CHOICEST and BEST OF LEBANON, all the trees that were well-watered, were CONSOLED IN THE EARTH BELOW" (Ezekiel 31:16). All the leaders in God's family, the most trained and highly skilled in His headquarters, all the leaders filled with God's Holy Spirit are imprisoned in inner earth.

God, himself, is battling against members of His headquarters in heaven who, to His deep sadness, have chosen to rebel against Him. "Open your doors, O LEBANON, that the fire may devour your cedars! Wail, O cypress, for the cedar has fallen, because the glorious trees have been destroyed; Wail, O oaks of Bashan, for the impenetrable forest has come down" (Zechariah 11:2). God has already exposed the rebels in His headquarters and they will be destroyed by God's eternal fire. The leaders under the protection of the chief leaders will wail; they will shudder in fear for they entered into the rebellion with the hope of a better crown. Even the strong leaders of whom God imaged as oak trees of Bashan have fallen. What appeared to be an impenetrable fortress of the most powerful leaders is breaking up as God and Jesus Christ take them down.

These rogue members thought they were invincible; they thought collectively they could overthrow the source of all power in existence—their Creator and His loyal Son who created them by the power of His Father.

"See, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will lop off the boughs with great power. The lofty trees will be felled; the tall ones will be brought low. He will cut down the forest thickets with an ax; LEBANON WILL FALL BEFORE THE MIGHTY ONE" (Isaiah 10:33-34).

God is removing these rogue members and He has chosen a different creation to fill their positions. Like a potter, His hands are at work molding mere mortals—a people suffering in the sin that began in the heavens, into a holy kingdom of royal priests—a people expert in righteousness, a people who have suffered under the rule of Wickedness, a people who will choose God's law and His way eternally, a people who will never forget God's grace extended to them, a people who will be forever indebted to their loving Savior and dedicated to the preservation of peace and love. God's new Lebanon is in the making.

"In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?" (Isaiah 29:17)

God identifies the members of this new Lebanon in the making. "The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, they will flourish in the COURTS OF OUR GOD. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green" (Psalm 92:12-15).

God's new Lebanon will include His people—Israel. "I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon. His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon" (Hosea 14:5-6). God's people into the 21<sup>st</sup> century will finally turn to Him and set down their roots deep underground to remain loyal and unbendable at all times.

God's new government is sprouting and it will grow into a thick forest full of faithful and loyal leaders with many beautiful gifts and wonderful qualities from all nations, from all languages, from everyone on earth.

"There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and welcome you into My presence, so that you also may be where I am" (John 14:2-3).

God has a position in His great kingdom for every man and every woman who has ever lived, including those whose lives were robbed while they were still in their mother's womb. In God's grand plan, the opportunity to learn and live God's way will be given to everyone before the great Day of Judgment.

God has already revealed what some of those prestigious positions will be. The most honored of all positions is to serve closest to God himself in His temple. Christ's bride will comprise of members serving in God's temple as well as those who will rule with Christ over both heaven and earth. King David will rule over the Millennial Israelites and the overcomers of the seven churches of Revelation will rule with Christ. The two-thirds remaining in heaven, serving and ruling, the righteous heavenly beings who did not bend their knee to Satan will continue rulership over their dominions in heaven as they have since their beginning. More and more positions will become known during the Millennium, but what is sure, God is molding mankind into a holy kingdom of royal priests. All of mankind will become experts in righteous, God's law and His ways even those who are the least in His kingdom.

A breakdown of what God has revealed is provided in the table below. More will be understood in time.

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#### MEMBERS OF GOD'S TEMPLE—RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP



"Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek" (Hebrews 5:8-10).

The Son who created through the power of his Father, everything including the visible and the invisible, as well as the heavenly rulers, those with thrones, those who hold immense power and exercise authority in heaven and on earth (Colossians 1:16) learned obedience. He suffered and was made perfect to qualify as HIGH priest in the order of Melchizedek. For every new role Christ was awarded by his Father, he qualified for it through suffering and being made perfect. In the same way, mankind will become perfect through suffering and receive an eternal crown that they will eternally treasure and guard.

## THE NEW JERUSALEM

### • The saints, Christ bride

"'Come, I will show you **the bride, the wife of the Lamb**.' And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high [God's heavenly government is imaged as a great and high mountain], and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God" (Revelation 21:9b-10).

The bride of Christ has many members imaged as a holy city called Jerusalem. She is coming down from heaven as if having been anointed by God to be a body of holy priests prepared for His service.

### • The 144,000

Twelve thousand from each tribe of Israel, except for Dan for they adopted pagan worship for hundreds of years showing open rebellion against God and Ephraim who introduced two golden calves when the kingdom of Israel split, comprises the 144,000 of

Revelation 14. Joseph's name replaces Ephraim. Joseph remained loyal to God; he ran from adultery. Throughout Israel's history, there remains a righteous group within Ephraim and God sees them under the tent of righteous Joseph.

"The 144,000 had been redeemed from the earth. These are those who did not defile themselves with women [false religion, the image of a woman pictures the church], for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as first-fruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless" (Revelation 14:3b-5).

Zephaniah recorded God's words about these same people. "From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings. On that day you will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from this city those who rejoice in their pride. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill. But I will leave with you the meek and humble, who trust in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel will do no wrong; they will speak no lies, nor will deceit be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid" (Zephaniah 3:10-13).

Zephaniah recorded the characteristics of these people:

- They are scattered. Into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it appears they do not belong to a specific body of believers, rather they are scattered within their tribes.
- They bring offerings. Into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, sacrifices ended with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., yet these people bring offerings—they pray for forgiveness and reconcile with God by living the ways of God, they conquer sin.
- They are meek and humble.
- They trust in the LORD—God Almighty.
- o They are the remnant of Israel.
- They do no wrong.
- They speak no lies.
- They are not deceitful.

• They will rest and not be afraid. Those in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, will be protected. They will be sealed (Revelation 7:3) and the Philadelphia church will be kept from the hour of trial that falls upon the whole of earth (Revelation 3:10).

This body of 144,000, the remnant of Israel is the NEW JERUSALEM. She [female gender used to identify her role in heaven as a religious body, not a national body] have Christ's name and his Father's name written on their foreheads (Revelation 14:1).

• The Philadelphia church belongs to the same body of people. "Hold on to what you have [They are already overcoming and conquering sin by living God's way. They don't need the great tribulation to awaken them and stir them to conform to God's way. But, they love all people, hence the name of their church, and they are prepared to suffer with their brothers and sisters and die, if that is required to give their brothers and sister more time to repent. They will not be deterred from obeying and serving God], so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name" (Revelation 3:12).

The Philadelphia church is part of the bride, the new Jerusalem who will serve eternally in God's temple. This is the greatest honor and the highest position of any in God's creation. It is awesome that our Father in heaven who is pure and eternally righteous would allow a once sin-laden creation close—intimately close to Him. His grace is great; His mercy runs deep.

The new Jerusalem, Christ's wife is imaged as a cube, illustrating layers upon layers of strength. It is not a pyramid but a three-dimensional body partnering as one, comprised of multi-historical layers of people who will be given responsibilities of equal value and equal respect. The eye will not say to the foot that it does not need it and if any member is seen by other members are inferior, God will give what is seen as inferior an elevated status (I Corinthians 12:20-30).

The value assigned to this body, 144,000, signifies a perfect eternal government—one that will never oppose their Creator, one that will remain eternally loyal. This body will become God's new headquarters—a tested people who suffered and remained faithful, a purified people who acquired boundless quantities of spiritual strength during extreme duress.

• The great multitude from all the nations on earth will serve in God's temple. This great honor will be well deserved. They will suffer greatly during the great tribulation. It will be God, himself, who will wipe away their tears and elevate them to the highest level in His kingdom. He will bring them intimately close to Him.

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands... Then one of the elders... said, 'These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes [changed their behaviour] and made them white [accepted Jesus as their Savior and live God's way] in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst... The Lamb... will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes'" (Revelation 7:9, 14-17).

## JESUS CHRIST and HIS BRIDE will RULE over the REALM IN HEAVEN and ON EARTH KING and QUEEN



The saints: "As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them, until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom" (Daniel 7:21-22,)... His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom" (Daniel 7:27b).

**Ephesus:** Those who overcome "will be given the right to eat from the tree of life [access to eternal life through Christ], which is in the paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7b). They will be part of the first resurrection, to be priests of God and rule with Christ.

**Pergamum:** Those who overcome "will be given some of the hidden manna [special knowledge known by few]. I will also give him a white stone with a **new name** [The name change indicates a promotion in position. It could be the name of the new Jerusalem] written on it, known only to him who receives it" (Revelation 2:17).

**Sardis:** Those who overcome "will not have their name erased from the book of life, but will be acknowledged before my Father and his angels" (Revelation 3:5). The overcomers will be in the first resurrection, to be priests of God and rule with Christ.

Philadelphia: "Hold onto what you have, so that no one will take your crown" (Revelation 3:11).

**Laodicea:** "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne" (Revelation 3:21).

Everyone in the first resurrection: "And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years... this is the first resurrection... The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4b-5, 6).



#### MEMBERS OF GOD'S KINGDOM—NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE REALM IN HEAVEN

The righteous heavenly rulers, powers and authorities will continue to rule over their dominions as they have since their beginning. This creation has suffered under the threat of Satan and his rogue rulers, powers and authorities (Ephesians 6:12). They have endured a slow and lengthy decay within their realm. When Satan is finally thrown down to earth, they will rejoice.

"Therefore rejoice, you heavens and **you who dwell in them!** But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short" (Revelation 12:12).

The rogue heavenly kings, chief princes, princes and rulers have battered the righteous heavenly creation for a long time. God's powerful heavenly headquarters is falling and these wicked powerful entities seek to take by force all creation in heaven and on earth and throw them under their rule. God uses imagery of different trees to illustrate the power and positions these leaders have in heaven. They are cedars, cypress, pine, plane, olive, myrtle and on earth, Israel is the fig tree, Judah has been described as a myrtle tree and the priests are olive trees. The low growing thorn bushes are the wicked. The use of imagery is designed to simplify learning.

"On the day the LORD gives you [Israel] relief from suffering and turmoil and cruel bondage, you will take up **this taunt against the king of Babylon...** Even the pine trees [heavenly leaders in God's government] and the cedars of Lebanon [remaining leaders in God's headquarters in heaven] exult over you and say, 'Now that you have been laid low, no woodsman comes to cut us down'" (Isaiah 14:3, 8).

Creation in heaven is countless and they all hold positions of great importance. "Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders" (Revelation 5:11).



#### MEMBERS OF GOD'S KINGDOM—NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE REALM ON EARTH

King David will rule over 21<sup>st</sup> century Israel during the Millennium. "They will no longer defile themselves with their idols or detestable images, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all their apostasies by which they sinned, and I will cleanse them. Then, they will be My people, and I will be their God. My servant David will be king over them, and there will be one shepherd [Jesus Christ] for all of them. They will follow My ordinances and keep and observe My statutes" (Ezekiel 37-23-24).

The body of people who comprise of the **Thyatira church** Jesus said that they will receive "authority over the nations—He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery" (Revelation 2:26-27).

The overcomers of the **Laodicea church**, Jesus said, "To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne" (Revelation 3:21).

In general, all who are part of the first resurrection will rule with Christ in various roles. "And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years... this is the first resurrection... The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4b-5, 6).

Christians are urged to overcome and grasp the reward offered to them, still, many Christians will become the least in the kingdom. How did they lose sight of their great calling?

"For I tell you truly, until heaven and earth pass away, not a single jot, not a stroke of a pen, will disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. So then, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do likewise will be called least in the

**kingdom of heaven**; but whoever practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:18-19).

Peace and happiness in God's kingdom are achieved by everyone loving God and all His creation both in heaven and on earth; such is the summary of God's law. To be called the least in God's kingdom is to be among those on earth during their lifetime who carelessly broke God's law and taught others to do so, thinking their way was always right, yet after witnessing the suffering they caused, they didn't change until their own life was threatened.

Don't delay. Now is the time to call on God and receive His Holy Spirit. Only through God's Holy Spirit can mankind reach their calling that God has prepared for them. "Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; **yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he**" (Matthew 11:11).

Even "the least in the kingdom" will become so, so, so very great because finally, they chose to discipline their carnal nature and free themselves to allow God's Holy Spirit to strengthen them, so that they can follow His Laws of love and live His way completely to become GREAT in God's eyes.

## **GOD ALMIGHTY, Supreme KING and LORD**

**JESUS CHRIST,** HIGH Priest in the order of Melchizedek

JESUS CHRIST, King of kings, Lord of lords

JESUS CHRIST, Head of the Church

Philadelphia church are among the 144,000 from 12 tribes of Israel. They have both the name of God and Christ and they will serve as pillars in God's temple.

The **great multi-national multitude** from every nation and tongue will serve in God's temple.

JESUS CHRIST, Ruler over heaven and earth



THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, Co-ruler over heaven and earth Includes the overcomers of the seven churches of Revelation



The righteous heavenly rulers, powers and authorities



**Thyatira church** will rule over the nations. King David will rule over Israel.

Eternal servants of God



Those in the first resurrection will rule with Christ for 1,000 years.