

School of The Word 7

New Wine

for a new Wineskin

NEW WINE FOR A NEW WINESKIN

As Jesus began His ministry in each of the Synoptic Gospels He called it the coming of the New Wine.

He declared it was like New Cloth which could not be patched onto the Old Garment otherwise both New and Old would be spoiled.

He also explained that this New Wine could not be put into the Old Wineskin but must be put into New Skins otherwise both would be lost.

He also said that those who have tasted the Old Wine do not immediately want the New. They say the Old is better.

See Luke 4:14 thru Luke 6:19. Especially Luke 5:36-39.

See also Mark 2:1 thru Mark 3:19. Especially Mark 2:18-28.

See also Matthew 9:1 thru Matthew 10:4. Especially Matthew 9:14-17.

There is a lot of repetition and overlap, but each record adds some important detail.

Certain Principles become Clear

- 1) The New Wine must come first.**
- 2) Only then can the Old Wine and the Old Wineskin be successfully removed and replaced.**
- 3) This must be done in the Right Order, First the Wine and then the wineskin.**

Jesus' First miracle was to turn Water into Wine - John 2:1-12

At the Wedding Feast there was no wine at all. It had already run out.

Mary tried to push Jesus to do something but it was the wrong order.

Jesus was now anointed, but John the Baptist had not finished his course. John was still free, teaching and baptizing (John 3:23-24). There was a confusing overlap for a time (John 2:11- 4:1-3).

Jesus responds to His mother "My time has not yet come". Nevertheless he uses this First Miracle to be a powerful allegory to warn of what is about to come.

The New Wine began as the Eternal Life of God flowing out Jesus' humanity as a River of Righteous Zeal, Healing, Deliverance, Forgiveness and Life. He came to bless, deliver and save those who would receive it.

Jesus also declared the New Wine to be the coming of the Kingdom of God.

It's purpose was to destroy Satan's Kingdom and all his evil works and replace it with the Kingdom of God and it's glorious works.

The New Wine, or the Kingdom of God, is a life that flows out of knowing God as Father, worshiping Him, hearing His voice and obeying Him in all things.

The New Wine was going to totally replace the Ceremonial Religion of the Jews solely based on external religious behavior.

The **Ceremonial Water in the rigid Stone Pots represented the Law** with all it's legal inflexibility. This ceremonial Law was going to be miraculously turned into **The New Wine of the Spirit**. It was very good New Wine and was going to be much better than the Old but not everybody was going to like it.

There was abundance of provision. Six water pots holding 20- 30 gallons apiece filled to the brim, all were turned into Wine! About 600-700 litres or 1,000 present day bottles of good Wine! Many believed when they saw the miracle.

But Three Thing Stood in the Way

- 1) Law Bound Legalistic Pharisees.** They had turned a life of knowing God into a rule book or external rules and regulations.
- 2) Rational Unbelieving Liberal Sadducees.** They could only receive what they could understand with their rational minds. They did not believe in the miracles, the supernatural events or the record of people being raised back to life in the Old Testament.

3) The Disciples of John the Baptist. These disciples had come to John out of a genuine supernatural move of God's Spirit just a few years earlier. But now this move had run its course and it had to give way to the New Wine. But they preferred the Old.

Let's be careful that we don't fall into the same errors and make the same mistakes and end up opposing what God is now doing.

You Cannot bring New Life by just changing the Old Wineskin.

If you try to change the Old Order (or Old Wineskin) too Soon it only causes disputes not Life

Nor can you put life back into the old ways by just seeking new methodology alone. It doesn't work. E.G. - Group 12; Toronto Blessing; Brownsville etc.

Also if you try to bring change by using arguments to prove its superiority before the New Wine has come, you just have arguments, fights, bitterness, splits and division.

The **Sadducees and Pharisees** were always fighting each other about something. e.g. the literal inspiration of Scripture, Miracles of the past, the reality of angels and the dead being raised etc.

John the Baptist's disciples were soon in arguments with Pharisees about fasting and purification and other external practices (John 3: 25-30; Luke 5:33 etc.)

It was the actual coming of The New Wine alone that made the New Wineskin necessary.

The coming of the New Wine itself also prepares the Way for it to be received joyfully by those who are of the Truth.

But Once the New Wine has come - All those who are of the Truth will come and drink gladly of the New Wine. If they have already tasted the Old Wine, they may say the Old is better for a while, but eventually they will come.

(e.g. Nicodemus came to Jesus because of Power of The New Wine, not because he was convinced by the teaching of Jesus (John 3: 1-21).

(e.g. Sadducees, Pharisees and Disciples of John the Baptist all came to Jesus once the New Wine began to flow. They became one and forgot their differences and their original identity).

Jesus never violated the Sabbath Rules until the New Wine had come.

For eighteen years, He was perfectly compliant to all the traditions of His culture and His religious upbringing, until the New Wine came. He went faithfully to the synagogue in his own hometown every week without causing any disturbance.

Immediately the New Wine came, He dismantled every tradition which hindered the flow of this New Wine. But He never broke the Scriptures.

The Old Wineskin now had to go.

He declared "The Sabbath was made for Man, not Man for the Sabbath"
He also said "The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27,28).

The New Wine *MUST* have a New Wineskin

There still had to be a wineskin, but it had to be a different one.

The New Wine could not just flow anywhere in an uncontrolled way, otherwise it would be lost. But this wineskin had to be New and Flexible, suitable for the New Wine.

It's Not Enough just to Dismantle the Old Wineskin and leave nothing. Something New and suitable must replace it.

THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE NEW WINE

When Jesus returned in the Power of the Spirit after a short time in Capernaum and Cana, He came to the Synagogue in His own home town of Nazareth.

He opened the Scriptures given to Him and began to read the set reading for the day which was Isaiah chapter 61. However, He did not start from verse 10 according to Jewish tradition, but to everybody's amazement began at verse 1.

"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted
To proclaim liberty to the captives.
And recovery of sight to the blind
To set at liberty those who are oppressed
And proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord")

Then He sat down and said "**Today** this Scripture has been fulfilled in your ears" thus clearly declaring Himself to be the Messiah.

Nor did He continue right through to verse 9. That was still for the future.

There was Immediate Opposition and Violent Reaction (Luke 4:28-30).

But Jesus also became violent in Spirit and would not back off.

He immediately began to dismantle all the traditions which stood in the way of the New Wine.

His first attack was on the unrighteous raising and handling of money right in the Temple (John 2:13-22).

He particularly attacked social and religious customs of eating and drinking which hindered liberty and fellowship and did nothing to make a man righteous.

He also attacked all the rules and regulations built round Sabbath Day observance. He declared Himself to be Lord of the Sabbath

Then the flow of miracles began and the multitudes joyfully came to Him. Many were healed and many demons cast out (Luke 4: 15 thru Luke 8:56).

The religious leaders became jealous and angry over His popularity, His authority and His power.

The Prayer Life of Jesus Was the Preparation and the Driving Force of the New Wine

1) Luke 3:21,22 Jesus was Praying, then Heaven opened and the Spirit came down and anointed Him. The Father bore audible witness concerning His Son

2) Luke 4:40-44 There were many miracles of healing and many demons were cast out. So, He went into a desert place and fasted and prayed to continue the flow of power.

3) Luke 5:16 He often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed - Because of this prayer life, the Power of the Lord was present to heal v.17

4) Luke 6:12 He continued all night in prayer - He chose the Twelve - Power went out from Him v 19.

Everybody He touched felt the power go out from Him and they were immediately healed. Demons came screaming out of many. They knew who He was and said so.

5) Luke 8: 46 He was praying - Power went from Him.

The Woman with the issue of blood sought only to touch the hem of His garment and when she did the flow immediately stopped. She accessed it by her faith but He made it freely available to her by His Prayer life.

6) Luke 9:18-20 He was praying - then Peter "saw" who He was (Matt.16:18).

There were many opinions as to who Jesus really was. They were formed by feelings, observation and reason and were subject to change. Peter had it supernaturally revealed to him by The Father in answer to the prayer of Jesus. He was now gripped by that revelation and would still continue to see, whatever feeling and changing circumstances seemed to say.

7) Luke 11:1-20 He was praying - then one Disciple asks Him, Lord teach us to pray. He then taught Five steps to Powerful praying.

i) Verses 1-4 Knowing the Father and praying to Him as a Son

ii) Verses 5-10 Learning to get from your Heavenly Friend all things that your human friends need. Recognizing that you have nothing in yourself that can meet any of their needs. Jesus guarantees 100% success to those who really learn how to ask, seek and knock.

iii) Verses 11-13 Realizing that the person of the Holy Spirit is the means of meeting those needs and asking for Him to come with all His gifts so you can be a channel of supply to meet those needs.

iv) Verses 14-20 Recognizing that so many needs in people are caused by demons attacking and afflicting them. Then, through prayer and fasting receiving the power of the Holy Spirit to cast them out.

v) Luke 11:21 Jesus said He was casting out demons “by the Finger of God”. This surely meant that the Kingdom of God had come upon them.

Once anyone starts to cast out demons, they become known in the Heavenly realm. They then attract the attention of the major demonic principality who has the responsibility to rule for Satan in that region. He will then come personally to attack and wage war against us and try to drive us away. The Spirit will teach us how to be victorious even over them.

We need to realize that there is an authority structure in the demonic realm and that certain “strong men” i.e. territorial regional demons rule this present darkness under Satan. This kind of high ranking demon only come out through a special kind of faith which is the fruit of a life of prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:19-21). When they are cast down there is a shift in the heavenly realm, darkness flees and the light of the Kingdom comes causing many to “see” and resulting in many coming to the Lord.

Luke 11:22-24 The Kingdom is stronger than the Strong Man and we can bind these strong demonic powers, take away their armor, disarm them and then rob them of all their possessions.

8) Luke 22:41-46 He obtains His Resurrection by faith in the Garden before He was crucified

Jesus prayed with such agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was not trying to avoid His physical death. No! On the contrary, He welcomed it. But He was praying that after having died more deeply than any other man, that He might then be raised "out from within death" by the Glory of the Father (Heb.5:7).

9) Luke 23: 34-46 As Jesus hung upon the Cross He carried out His greatest intercession and won His greatest prayer battles. Jesus obtains mighty things through His intercession on the Cross (Matt. 27:46-53; Psalm 22:1- 31).

Jesus Increases the Flow of New Wine by sending out the Twelve and then the Seventy

But it was a delegated authority.

Luke 9:1-6 Heal the sick, Cast out demons, Proclaim the Kingdom is near.

Luke 10:1-9 Heal the sick, Cast out demons, Proclaim the Kingdom is near

The New Wine is the Manifestation of the Kingdom

Until the New Wine came, John the Baptist could only talk about the Kingdom. People did not actually see it come until this New Wine began to flow
They went out as apostolic delegates of Jesus.

They were carried by His prayer life and by His faith.

It was His anointing, His power and His authority upon them.

It was not yet their own. It was His prayer life which fueled their ministry.

Luke 10: 17-24 The demons were subject to them through His Name.

Jesus gave them a delegated authority and power over all the power of the enemy.

Nothing could hurt them (verse 19). They now had a Name in heaven.

Jesus rejoiced in Spirit and He saw Satan fall from heaven (verse 21).

Matt. 9: 35-38 His Compassion was to Reach the Multitude - Pray for Laborers.

But Jesus was still frustrated. He was eager for the full flow to begin. He could hardly wait. (Luke 12:49-56).

“I have come to set the World on Fire and I’m restricted and frustrated. I have a Baptism to be baptized with and I can hardly wait until it’s accomplished”.

Jesus longed for the Cross. Because it could not happen until then.

The Cross Opened the Way for the Full Flow of the New Wine to Come

Now Jesus, The Spirit and The Father, could actually be in them and not just with them (John 14:10 -16:28),

They would do His works in greater measure because Jesus at last can be His Fullness in them (John 14:12; Eph 1:17-23).

But the Spirit still had to come to them and anoint them, just as He had Jesus.

The Disciples were commissioned after His Death and Resurrection in anticipation of Pentecost (John 20:21-23).

Jesus breathed on them and said “Receive the Spirit. As the Father has sent Me even so send I you”. Their prayer life was changed but the power had not yet come.

They must “Wait”(Kathidzo), until they are clothed upon with Power from on High” (Luke 24:49)

Prayer, once again, was the Preparation for this New Wine (Acts 1:14; Acts 2:1;)

At Pentecost, The Flow really began (Acts 2:1-13) “They are full of New Wine”

Prayer continued to be the driving force of this New Wine Acts 2:46, Acts 4:24; Acts 5:12; Acts 12:5; Acts 19:1-8, 10-12 etc).

A Flow of Miracles began, and immediately Violent Opposition began

They were threatened but they would not keep quiet (Acts 4:17).

The Church learned that to be the New Wine it must remain in Permanent, Violent, War Mode (Acts 4: 23 thru Acts 5:16).

There is no other way to advance the Kingdom.

The Principles mentioned in Acts 4:23-37 set out the Main Characteristics of this Church Model

1) Prayer Life - Effective One Accord Praying

Starts with Effective "Personal" Praying (Matt.6:6)
Effective "Agreement" Praying (Matt.18:19).
Effective "One Accord" Praying Acts 1:14; 2:1; 2:46; etc.
The Upper Room Powerhouse was driving force of this
It became like David's Tabernacle

2) Boldness which comes because of the anointing and the Signs and Wonders

3) Great Power - Particularly through the Apostles

We must understand the place and role of genuine apostolic authority

4) The Power of the Resurrection - All Power and all Authority in Heaven and upon Earth

5) Great Grace upon them All

We must understand the power of God's Grace and how to live as constant beneficiaries of it. We must learn how, by faith. We too can draw on it's vast resources.

Saving Grace	Eph.2:8
Life Transforming Grace	Gal.1:15,16; Titus 2:11-14
Babes to Mature Sons to "Neaniskoi"	(Gal 4:1-6; 1 John2:12-14)
Empowering Grace "to be what I am - to do what I do" - by Grace	(1 Cor.15:10).
Equipping/Functioning Grace	(Col. 1:28,29; Eph.3:8)
Resurrection/Ruling Grace	(Eph.2:5-6)
Inheriting Grace	(Acts 20:32)
Prospering/Enriching Grace	(2 Cor. 9:8)

6) No needy Person amongst them. With the New Wine, finances were being properly handled. Land and houses were sold to provide Kingdom Equity. Many obviously had adequate financial resources over and above their own needs.

But there were others in genuine need. Not beggars but poor saints needing a helping hand to get started. The Church did not leave them needy but gave each one an opportunity to come into God's prosperity.

It worked only because of:-

- 1) The Highest Standards of Financial Integrity on the part of everybody.
- 2) A Healthy Work Ethic built into the lives of all the people,
- 3) Purity and Honesty on the part of everybody.
- 4) There were No Lies, No Passengers, No Lazy Layabouts, No Con-Men, No Hypocrites.

The Severe Judgment of Ananias and Sapphira was necessary to maintain this Purity.

After the Judgment and Cleansing, even Greater Power and Greater Miracles then flowed (Acts 5:12-16).

The Opposition became even more Violent

Prison did not stop them - The New Wine of the Kingdom was not like John the Baptist Christianity. It praised it's way out of Prison.

The Apostles were again Imprisoned, Threatened and Beaten (Acts 5:17-42).

Stephen, the First Martyr, lead to more Violent Persecution (Acts 6:8 - Acts 7:60)

When Stephen was martyred, fresh violent persecution broke out and the Church was scattered.

But The Apostles remained together in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1).

The Pharisee Saul like a crazed madman persecuted the Christians. This powerful "Gate" has to be taken. In three whole regions, Judea, Galilee, Samaria, Christians were suffering under this powerful demon that was working through him.

Stephen pleads for his forgiveness not his judgment (Acts 7:60).

The Apostles stayed together as a high powered "SWAT" team and targeted him with their prayers.

Suddenly Saul sees the light and is gloriously saved (Acts 9:1-19).

He immediately begins to preach Christ (Acts 9:20).

Now this "Gate" has been taken, the persecution stops, The Church in these three regions now had rest, were edified and multiplied (Acts 9:31).

The New Wine immediately broke forth upon the Gentile World (Acts 10:1-48).

Through the Inflow of the Gentiles, The Last Remains of the Old Wineskin were finally Removed

In Acts Chapter 11 through 15, as the new believing Gentiles pour into the Church, the remaining remnants of the Old wineskin were threatened and after a heated debate in Acts 15 they were finally removed to let the New Wine of the Kingdom be contained in a totally New wineskin which allowed this New Wine to flow with complete freedom and flexibility.

The Liberation of the Gentiles set the Women Free

We now see women ministries emerging. They become fellow-workers, fellow-soldiers, fellow-prisoners with Paul. Apostolic deacons such as Pheobe, Lady Apostles of note such as Junia. Apostolic couples such as Aquilla and Priscilla now begin to appear.

The Liberation of the Gentiles also set the Jews free

This tide of pressure from the new Gentile believers also set the Jews free and they ceased to practice as Jews according all their traditions and laws imposed on them, not by the Scriptures, but by the Oral Law or the Talmud.

When they were seeking to reach Jews they became “as Jews” so as to reach them with a sympathetic presentation of the Gospel of the Kingdom. They became all things to all men that by any means they may win some. (Acts 21:18-25; 1 Cor.9:19-22)

Paul now lives like a Gentile - Gal. 5:1, Gal.4:9-12

He sternly warns the Gentiles not to be persuaded by those who wanted to make them outwardly into Jews and make them be circumcised and get them into the bondage of observing special days and festivals but they must stay free in the liberty in which Christ has set them free and not be subject again to the yoke of Bondage. He says “I have become free like one of you Gentiles, now you must become like me again”. “Stand fast in the liberty in which Christ has set you free and do not be subject again to the yoke of bondage”.

However where necessary, Paul is prepared to be “as a Jew” in order to gain them. (Acts 21:23-26).

Peter also began to live like a Gentile but vacillated - Gal 2:11-16

He did so until those of the circumcision came and troubled his freedom Then he reverted back once again into Jewish conformity, but Paul openly rebuked him.

Peter had got out of the legalism of Judaism but Judaism had not entirely got out of him.

But in Paul, and others like him, the Old Wineskin has completely gone.

THE NEW WINESKIN - ANTICIPATED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old and New Testaments are Two Covenants - But it is the same God

1 Cor. 10:11 - A Key Passage concerning the Old Testament

Written for our:-

Example
Warning
Allegory

It's Especially for Those on Whom the End of the Age Will Come.

Jesus is on every page of the O.T. if only we can see Him - Luke 24:13-27

Moses' Covenant was established 430 Years after Abraham's Covenant. It cannot annul the First Covenant (Gal 3:17-21).

Although the Covenant Changed - God Did Not Change

Moses' Covenant - Based on Law- Stood for 1600 Years - It never worked.

Not one person ever became righteous by observing the Law in all those years though many sincerely tried. Law and the fear and threat of Punishment never does work real righteousness. The reason is weakness of the Flesh instead of the power of the Grace of God.

Moses' Law was given to show that the principle of Law never works and never produces real righteousness.

There could not be a better Law. All other Religious system of rules and regulations are inferior to Moses Law, which was God given, and they cannot successfully replace it.

Even perfect Law does not Produce Life - It only produced, Hypocrisy or Helpless Striving, Failure, Disobedience and Death.

THE NEW WINESKIN - It's Essential Elements

A Relationship with God - Not a Rule Book (Heb. 8 : 8-13).

Life not Law. This Life is the very Eternal Life of God.

A Life of knowing the Father and being soaked in the Father's Love

Willing obedience to Jesus and the Father flows joyfully because of that Love. "If you love Me, you ***will*** keep my commandments".

Because of the Relationship, the believer is able to "Hear" and "See" God in the Spirit and obey His Voice in all things. Just like Jesus.

God's people are Flexible, Ready to Move, Ready to Change

God alone is lovingly feared. There is Boldness, not Fear towards all other things.

There are no Committees but God given Servant Headship.

Lead by a Gideon Hearted Leader who is not afraid (Judges 6:1-40; Isaiah 9: 3,4).

He leads a Gideon Hearted Company who are not afraid. Ready to follow their Leader exactly as he hears God (Judges 7:1-25).

In New Testament terms, this Leader is a Warrior Apostle leading a Core Commando group to win a spiritual war and defeat every enemy.

In each case in the Old Testament, this initiative only lasted one Generation and then vanished with the death of the Leader e.g. Gideon, Joshua, Deborah etc. because there was no successful generational transmission.

But David's Kingdom models a Generational and more permanent Transformation (Rev. 3: 7; Is. 9: 6,7; Is. 22: 20-23).

David warred and planned more strategically. His war plans were divinely inspired and led (e.g. defeating the Philistines permanently (2 Sam 5:17-25; 2 Sam 8: 1-15)

As God developed the Kingdom further in David - He was promised it would last forever (Is.9:7; 2 Sam 7:12-16).

The Important Principles of David's Kingdom

David was finally recognized and received as a clear leader by everybody

David built a Tabernacle and brought back the Ark

David appointed his proven Mighty Men as Leaders with Him (1 Chron.12:18).

David established Government through these committed Leaders (1 Chron. 12:17,18).

David was a Clear Leader but always consulted other Leaders (1 Chron. 13:1-3).

In this way God established a Pattern forever (Isa.9:7) From then on every King was judged by how much he did it like David.

Jesus was the Son of David, but was also his Lord

What David modeled allegorically came to fullness in Jesus

THE NEW WINESKIN - IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1) The Principle of "Law" written by God individually in the mind and on the Heart and responded to by voluntary joyful obedience (Heb 8: 10-12).

2) Recognizing "Spiritual Laws" and living by them. They work relentlessly in the spirit realm just like natural laws in the natural realm (Luke 6: 35-40).

3) A Structure of Government that is Relational.

It functions in love in the fear of the Lord where attitude is more important than actions.

4) A Spiritual Authority which is recognized and submitted to. It is not imposed though it is very real. It is joyfully submitted to for our good.

5) There is recognized Headship Authority of that Government.

Jesus, and His relationship to His Church is the model. A husband and his relationship to his wife is the shadow of that reality. This same principle runs through every level, subdivision and dimension of the Kingdom.

6) God has designed His Kingdom, His Church, The Family and all Society to run on Fatherhood.

When Fatherhood fails all goes into chaos.

7) There is a need to distinguish between varying Styles of doing things (which can be very different) but they can all be acceptable.

But, the fundamental unchanging Principles of Governmental Structure in the Kingdom do not change and must be put in place .

This government must distinguish between the practice of variable individual styles and essential structural principals. There can be great flexibility in the first but the latter are unchanging.

The First Twelve Apostles, plus all the other Apostles, were appointed by Jesus.

Others were added later. There are 22 named apostles in the New Testament. Priscilla and Aquilla were an apostolic couple. Junia was a lady apostle of note (Rom 16:7). But every one was called and appointed by Jesus personally.

A Leader emerges from among The Twelve. Surprisingly it's James.

We don't know how he is chosen, but he is certainly recognized. There always has to be a Head in the Government of the Kingdom. But he is a consultative Father, Servant, Head.

Deacons are appointed as Servants with authority over Practical Things.

(Acts 6:1-7)

Many had powerful healing and evangelistic ministries (Acts 6:8-10; Acts 8:4-13).

Elders are appointed by Apostles and are set in plurality in all the Churches

(1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Phil.1:1).

They shepherd the flock of God and bring it to maturity.

But there is always one Father/Head who is the overall Shepherd of the Flock and has the final accountability to Jesus.

He gives clear leadership but is consultative like David and James. (In Revelation - Jesus wrote to the "Angel of the Church" in each case (Rev.2:1-3:22)

Acts 15: 1-22 - A Model for Decision Making

Every one had a say. Strong conflicting opinions were expressed without rancor. The Apostles and Elders met separately to consider the matter. James heard the Holy Spirit. He was shown relevant Scripture by revelation. He then brought "His Judgment". There was no vote. It "seemed good" to everyone. It was received by all with great joy.

Apostles and Elders work in counsel together They help to give James the wisdom he needs to make a right judgment. The judgment is good to everybody and they all endorse it, whatever their previous position was, without dispute.

Apostles and Prophets work together. Together they are the foundation and they lay the foundation together (Eph 2:20, Eph 3:3, 1 Cor. 3:10).

Regional Centers as well as Local Churches are Established

Jerusalem was the first Regional Center, then Antioch, Thessalonica, and Ephesus soon followed.

Apostles lead Regional Centers. Apostles and other Ephesian 4:11 ministries were resident at Regional Centers and mainly served the other churches in their region.

- **Jerusalem** for Judea, Galilee and Samaria,
- **Antioch** for Pisidia, Syria and Cappadocia,
- **Thessalonica** for Macedonia and Achaia,
- **Ephesus** for all the churches of Asia and Bithynia. These include Colosse and the seven churches mentioned in Revelation Chapters 2-3 plus many others.

Neither Jerusalem nor Antioch had authority over all the churches nor over any other region except their own.

Elders with Deacons were the Leaders of Local Churches. There were no resident Apostles, but they were in touch with various apostles through relationships and were served by them through letters and by visits (e.g. Phillip, Phil.1:1).

Apostles had "Father" relationships with Churches and with individual Men, by spiritual birth or by adoption.

There was no Central control from some Central Headquarters but Regional Authority with Local Autonomy. There were however loving, serving, non controlling relationships that went much wider.

There were and are many Types of Apostle with different Gifts, different Measures and different Spheres.

Types of Apostles

Pioneering and Church Planting Apostles - Mobile with a Team.

(Paul) - These teams would blast something open from nothing. They would lay a foundation and then move on, usually between one and three years. They would appoint Elders and leave them in charge of local affairs.

Building Apostles who would build carefully on the Foundations laid by the pioneering Apostle (e.g. Apollos built on Paul's foundation in several places) - (Acts 18:24-Acts 19:1; I Cor.3:5-15).

These would be Systematic Teachers with Pastoral ability and Leadership Training skills. They would be temporary Residents for some months or maybe a few years and then move on.

Resident Apostles that do not travel but stay home and build and oversee a Regional Center on a long term basis (e.g. James)

They would usually stay decades rather than months or just a few years. Often it was a life work or one or two changes at the most during a whole lifetime of ministry.

Different Apostles have different Spheres

Jerusalem Apostles - Do not travel. But stay home and build and oversee a Regional Center in a major strategic City (e.g. James)

Judean Apostles - Stay in the same Country within their own ethnicity. They do not travel cross culturally(e.g. Peter)

Samarian Apostles - They travel to Adjacent Nations but stay in the same Continent

Uttermost Parts of the World Apostles - They travel to many nations and are at home and can relate in any culture (e.g. Paul).

Apostles also vary in their measure. Adronicas and Junia was of note among the Apostles (Rom.16:7).

Some Apostles work entirely within the Church.

It is important for each Apostle to stay in his own God appointed sphere and not stray over and trespass and into another man's sphere so as to cause confusion regarding the other man's work (2 Cor.10:13-18).

There are a growing number of Apostles who are not called to work primarily within the Church but are called to invade various areas of society and bring the Kingdom forcefully into those areas.

They are Salt in the World

They take the Kingdom into Secular society and lead, organize and direct Christians already working in these areas so as to impact their world with the power of the Kingdom. They live their lives in the darkness of their secular environment and bring a new flavor which affects all who work there. They bring a new savor to this secular work place and stop the corruption that was formerly going on their. They are the Salt which Jesus spoke of.

They are also the Light of the World.

In this case the undiluted Kingdom is established in a business, medical practice, school etc. because all the employees and partners are committed Christians dedicated to showing forth the Kingdom. They carry out their business according to the righteous principles of the Kingdom, so that the world can see what it looks like and how it works. This works best with medical and dental practices, schools, day care centers, hotels, restaurants, car repair shops and within the service industries that have contact with many people. The way they behave is obviously different and impacts people by the light of the life that is being lived out by them. As a result many come to the Light and are saved.

These Apostles impact the Market Place, the Political Arena, the area of Secular Government, the Police, the Media, the Arts and Music World, the Sports World, the Business World, the Financial World. The Judiciary and the Legal World, the Academic and the Education World.

Like Daniel, Joseph and Nehemiah of old they powerfully bring the presence of God to the Secular World. As a result these secular leaders come to recognize and Fear the only true God and submit to His Government joyfully in these areas of Society. -

These Apostles are Emerging again.

NEW WINE HAS TO BE CONSTANTLY RENEWED TO STAY NEW

It's amazing how quickly New Wine becomes Old Wine. It's also amazing how quickly a New Wineskin becomes old and inflexible.

In AD 92 - 100, God used John's Gospel and his other Letters to prepare for a fresh surge of New Wine which toppled the Roman Empire and brought the Kingdom forcefully across Europe.

The United States, Western Europe and other parts of the World need a similar preparation so as to prepare the way for a surge of this New Wine to transform our nations once again.

Let's Look at this briefly:-

John's Gospel, his Three Letters and the Book of Revelation written about AD 92-95

First, the General situation

3rd Generation Nominalism

New Age, Gnosticism, and other deceptions Rampant.

Long and severe persecution not by other religious groups but now by Secular Authority.

John writes a New Gospel to address this situation, 30-40 years after the other three Synoptic Gospels were written.

John Builds His Gospel round Seven "Signs" (Grk. seimions) or attesting miracles which constantly violated the Sabbath rules but powerfully bore witness to who Jesus was.

When this teaching got into the people it provided the motivation for breakthrough.

They were ready by the time John was released from prison several years later.

John began by attacking the main demonic stronghold located in the Temple of Diana in Ephesus.

There was a dramatic manifestation of God's raw power. It produced a mighty surge of New Wine which toppled the Roman Empire and brought all of Europe to bow at the feet of Jesus as King and Lord.

Each of these Signs is a mighty miracle but John himself said that if all the things which Jesus did were written down the whole world could not contain the books (John 21:25)

Out of all this wealth of the miraculous works of Jesus, John selects eight signs, which are not only mighty miracles but are also allegorical. They speak powerful parables of how the miracle of the New Wine can be experienced again.

1) John 2:1-11 The first Miracle Turning the Water into Wine.

John reminds them how the first flow of New Wine began.

To enter and to see the Kingdom it is absolutely necessary to be "Born Again" (lit. From above). The marks of this New Birth are listed in John's First Letter.

2) John 4:46-54 The Nobleman's Son is Healed

Unless you see signs and miracles you will not believe.

Go your way. Your Son lives?

3) John 5:1-16 The Lame Man raised at the Pool of Bethesda

Waiting for the moving of the waters.

Going through the motions with no expectant faith.

Do you want to be made whole? The man makes 3 Excuses

- a) I have no man
- b) When the water is stirred
- c) Another gets down before me.

Jesus gives 3 replies

- a) Get Up! (present imperative tense)
- b) Roll up your bed! (present imperative tense)
- c) Walk and go on continually walking (present continuous tense).

4) John 6:1-14 Jesus Feeds the Five thousand Men

Jesus tries to get Philip to move in faith. He cannot respond except by natural reason.

It's a plan for feeding the multitude. 5,000 men besides women and children.

A pattern for the church of the City.

Companies of 50-100 men (200-400 people with women and children).

Five loaves and two fishes are multiplied.

Apostles moving among them getting from Jesus and giving out to the crowd.

Twelve baskets of fragments left over with everybody full.

5) John 6 :15-21 Jesus Walks on the Water

Jesus compels them to get into the boat.

They have been through this before with Jesus, when He was sleeping in the back. That time He just rebuked the storm as a demon and all was immediately calm.

Now He wants to see how they will do on their own.

The storm was again a demonic storm.

They are already filled with fear because of their circumstances.

Jesus now comes walking on the water. They see Him as a Ghost and are terrified.

Peter alone wants to try to walk like Jesus and is encouraged to do so.

His faith wavers and Jesus grabs him and gently rebukes him. They get back to the boat and all is calm.

What is Peter thinking? "What a fool I was. I'll never do that again".

Or, "I did it for a little while. I can't wait to try again. Next time I'll go for longer".

What were the others thinking?

6) John 9:1-41 Jesus heals the Man blind from Birth

The man was blind from birth.

They asked was this because of his sin or his parents.

Jesus said "Neither, but that God might be glorified".

This man was born blind to be an allegorical picture of all men and how they can receive their sight spiritually.

He had no eyes and it required a creative miracle to enable him to see.

The clay and the spittle represented the word being spoken onto the basic clay of human nature.

They became a miracle when he obeyed Jesus and went and washed pool of Siloam

He washed in the pool of the Sent One and came back seeing

The first thing he saw was Jesus.

The Pharisees were actually much more blind than this man. They said they could see would not even acknowledge their blindness.

7) John 11:1-51 Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

The final showdown with the Spirit of death.

All other people raised from the dead came back to life within three days.

Jesus deliberately waited for the fourth day before coming to Lazarus' tomb.

This act provoked the spirit of death to attack Him and precipitated the Cross. By His death and resurrection He was going to take the keys of death and Hades from this spirit.

Heb 2:14 Jesus partook of flesh and blood so that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death that is the devil and deliver those who through fear of death were in bondage all their lifetime.

Each miracle is surrounded by the relevant teaching which it illustrates.