THE

FIVEFOLD

Office Gifts

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists,
Pastors, and Teachers

BOOK ONE

The Apostles and Prophets

EUROPEAN EDITION

GEORGE AKALONU

The Fivefold Office Gifts

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers

European Edition

Book 1

The Apostles and Prophets

George Akalonu

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Use of Hebraic Names of the Most High

Yahweh, Elohim, Yeshua. During our walk with the Lord, we discovered through the leading of the Holy Spirit how fundamentally flawed the intrusion of Rome into the gospel from the 4th century AD was. Replacement Theology led Rome to remove all Hebraic/Jewish connections as the foundation of what is now called the Christian faith.

He has led us to call our Father by the name He revealed to Israel, which is Yahweh. Similarly, instead of calling our Creator by the generic title God, we find it more fitting to refer to Him by the Hebraic name He revealed to humanity through Moses, Elohim. The name, Elohim, appropriately expresses His unity in plurality as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! We also call our King by the name His Father gave Him, Yeshua, and the Anglicised translation, Jesus, derived from the Greek Ioseus.

We do this as led by the Holy Spirit, not as part of the so-called sacred names movement. We neither subscribe to the legalistic methods of Judaizers intent on dragging saints into the dead works and rituals of Judaism. We do not condemn or accuse those who have not yet caught this depth of revelation. Please feel free to call the Most High by whatever He reveals to you and whatever you are comfortable with.

Preface to the Kingdom Culture Series

We have waited before the Lord for some time to receive a rhema word on how to introduce the books in the series you are about to read. He directed us to share a little about how He guided our steps over 21 years from 1996 to 2017. In 1996, the Lord called us out of denominationalism to serve His Body and Kingdom. As we resigned from a pastoral calling and began to serve Him and His Body in a community in Africa (Owerri, Imo State of Nigeria), we held on to one critical vision He revealed starting in August 1996. At that time, we joined other saints in lamenting the sad state of Africa on nearly all fronts of life. It was surreal to hear the Lord comfort us by saying He had appointed His Church in Africa as an instrument of a swift work: Rescuing His Kingdom programme on earth from corruption, in preparation for the return of King Yeshua, Jesus.

In August 2006, He directed us to relocate to London, which, as the centre of the world, would make our Acts 1:8 assignment more impactful globally. Looking back, because we did not see it then, it is significant that 100 years after the Azusa Street Revival, the Lord in 2006 birthed the Global School of Ministry as a catalyst for Reformation, Restoration, and Revival. Again, we did not see then how extensively it would be used to rediscover truths that Martin Luther had missed in the Protestant Reformation of 1517.

Interestingly, the Lord used various means to clarify that what

He was about to do was not to raise a man or woman, like Martin Luther was raised prominently and publicly, but instead to activate a company of saints worldwide with an understanding of Him and the Church. This company of saints would embrace the pattern of His Kingdom and take their place as His sons, who would do all His will. In this regard, the Lord made it clear that the election of His Church in Africa was not to build an 'African Cultural Church'. The broader and more strategic scope was to use His remnant, 'out of the seed of Ham', to impact and connect His seed out of Shem and Japheth to constitute the fourth race, which is the Elect Remnant or 'one new man' spoken of by Apostle Paul.

In other words, the Lord aimed to use the Global School of Ministry project to activate His elect remnant to walk in unity of the Faith. This project was also intended to empower them to represent Him and the Kingdom wherever they are, in various parts of the world, where He preserved them from the claws of Babylon. It was then that the Holy Spirit provided illumination of this anchor scripture.

> *"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace" Romans 11:5.*

There is a simple yet profound key to understanding the fundamental difference between the Martin Luther Protestant Reformation and the Kingdom Culture project. The Reformation led by Martin Luther was based on revelations he received about certain dogmas and practices of unbiblical origin within the Roman Catholic Church. These revelations aimed to 'protest' against these practices. Conversely, the

Kingdom Culture project seeks to restore the Church to its state before the Roman Empire adopted the broader wing of the Church, which had grown weary of persecution and martyrdom in the 4th century. In other words, through the Kingdom Culture project, the Omega or End Time Church will logically conclude what began in the Alpha or First Century Church.

Unlike previous reformation efforts, Kingdom Culture, through the Global School of Ministry and the annual Master Class series of the Global Advanced Mentorship Programme, has two simple keys: First, to restore the Church into the 'School' paradigm, where the study of the Word is central to both congregational and general ministry. Second, to challenge all saints to receive the four-dimensional work of the Holy Spirit: He is the Seal of redemption; He uses the Word to transform believers from the inside out; He unites saints to live as one indivisible Body of Yeshua regardless of their locations or sects; and He releases power through which saints can demonstrate the awesome power of the risen Yeshua, Jesus!

This four-dimensional work is achieved when leaders and saints genuinely and diligently embrace the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word through the T>T>E>A>R process. It is a process where leaders are used by the Holy Spirit to:

T - Teach saints the whole counsel of Holy Scriptures
T - Train saints to discover and take their places as effective members of the Body of Yeshua
E - Equip saints with what it takes to walk in victory through mentorship and support

A- Activate the gifts and callings of the Holy Spirit that may be dormant within them.
R - Release the saints into productive ministry. This may be by public ordination or commissioning during ministry events.

Five hundred years after the Protestant Reformation of 1517, the Lord Yeshua, Jesus, is activating this framework across the earth.

The framework through which the Holy Spirit will train Reformers to gain a proper understanding of the Pauline Epistles and the Master Plan of the true Kingdom Church is contained within it. This training will also support the development of individuals, ministries, and congregations accordingly. The Kingdom Culture project involves the release of 40 books on dedicated websites, where all saints worldwide who wish to discover, pursue, and fulfil their callings as the Royal Priesthood after the order of Melchizedek can find teaching resources to train in the comfort of their own homes.

On the other hand, these forty books will be handed to the great community of elect ministers worldwide, who understand that the flock is not theirs but Yeshua's. These books serve as tools to systematically transform the operating systems of the ministries entrusted to their care, shifting from 'theatres' to 'schools'.

Collectively, these books form the curriculum to launch their own Global School of Ministry projects. This curriculum will ensure that new, fit-for-purpose ministers of the gospel are produced every two or three years, who will serve the Lord wholeheartedly. All forty books on the websites contain what

is necessary to eradicate the leaven of Babylon, stemming from our various experiences with Christian Religion. They represent what we need to embrace and walk in true Kingdom Culture. It is through the ministry of the Word that the Church will be prepared and made ready for the return of her Groom.

> *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:25-27*

Please deliberately study this and the other resources in the series prayerfully under the unction of the Holy Spirit with your Bible to verify all the points made. As you train, it is essential that you make your vessel available for the Holy Spirit to use it to transmit these empowering truths to other saints who long for empowerment!

> *The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it. Psalm 68:11.*

> *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2*

May Elohim, our heavenly Father make you the instrument of His Grace, He designed you to be.

CHAPTER 1
Prologue - Dealing with Faulty Foundations

The state of the Christian Church today is not healthy. All over the world, various iterations of the Church have emerged, each carrying peculiar forms of baggage that mar the beauty of holiness and love, the nature of the Godhead.

These iterations, identified in other resources that the Lord released to and through this Commission, 'The Kingdom Church' and 'Kingdom-oriented Church Growth' include, but are not limited to:

- Religious organisations in which doctrines of humans are predominant.
- Denominations that divide the Body.
- 'Church' of men/humans
- Family-owned 'churches'
- Cultural churches that cater for tribes.
- Racial enclaves which cater to religious aspirations of specific races.
- 'Churches' with identities linked to fallen angels.
- Mammon-dominated 'churches', where money (and wealth) is the unique selling proposition.

These deviations from complete submission to the sovereign rule of Yeshua, Jesus, who alone redeemed His own from the hands of Satan and his evil kingdom, did not simply occur by chance. They are the cumulative results of a flawed foundation that Christians over generations fail to recognise. Here is a scripture we should begin with:

> *If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*
> *Psalm 11: 3*

What we can do is as follows:

- Stop pretending that things are okay when the distortions are growing in depth and scope from generation to generation.
- Identify the failures in the gospel message and the church system that developed from it. In these days, when search engines are so powerful, and the Holy Spirit's light is shining brightly on the Holy Scriptures, it is not hard to trace the long-standing campaign of Satan against Yeshua Jesus's mission.

1. Satan sowed tares (a false church system) alongside the mission of Yeshua, Jesus.

2. As early as 2 Corinthians 11:12-15, Paul, by inspiration, identified the fact that Satan was transforming himself into an angel of light and raising ministers that he planned to use to preach a corrupt gospel.

3. As early as the days of the apostles, John pinpointed in 1 John 2:18-19 the spirit of the anti-Christ, which was already evident (verse 19).

4. Within about 70 years of the ascension of Yeshua, Jesus, when He came to personally conduct an audit report of the churches, using those in Asia Minor as a point of contact, five out of seven churches were already diseased - Ephesus, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, and Laodicea. Only 2, Smyrna and Philadelphia, were healthy.

5. In Revelation 17, Yeshua warned Paul of the ultimate falling away: the emergence of Mystery Babylon, a false religious system.

- Come to the realisation that continuing to do the same wrong things in ministry is like building on sand, which will be swept away, as Yeshua, Jesus Himself, warned. Matthew 7:21-27.
- Repent of any way we have been constructing with the wrong substances, because they will surely be burnt. 1 Corinthians 3:9.
- Turn over a new leaf once we understand the extent of systemic corruption that is widespread within the church system. Turning over a new leaf involves returning to the Word and accepting it as the manual of Kingdom life from Elohim, not subject to our personal whims and preferences.

> ***16*** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:****17*** *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

> ***20*** *Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.****21*** *For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Peter 1:20-21*

At its core, this course reflects the above postulations. It brings

together the Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and carefully outlines the long march of history. It then emphasises the truth that any genuine reformation of the Church, the restoration of the principle of submission to its only Head, and revival in the lives of saints will, of necessity, involve first the restoration of the fivefold (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers). When their general and individual roles are properly understood and embraced, the Church becomes what it was ordained to be: a living, loving organism of mutually edifying body parts.

> ***11*** *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;****12*** *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:****13*** *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:****14*** *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;****15*** *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:****16*** *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:11-16.*

A vital confession for transparency.

This vessel was saved when he was granted the privilege of a dramatic encounter with Jesus on 1 April 1988. From a regular church attendee to the roles of worker, minister, associate Pastor, and Pastor, what was known about Ephesians chapter 4 mainly encompassed verses 1-6 (emphasising unity within the

denomination) and verses 17-31 (which stressed the importance of holiness and maintaining relationships in the Body). We eventually came to understand verses 7-10.

In all those years, there was no light on verses 11-16. This is not an isolated testimony. The truth is that this is the same experience of perhaps as much as 90 percent of saints.

Over the years, believers have generally accepted the idea that being called to ministry means receiving a pastorate. As a result, the office of pastor has become well understood, though the true scope of the calling is less clear. Because of the work of healing evangelists and those with well-funded media and global missions, the Church has become aware of the distinctive features of the evangelist's office. In many places, the term "teacher" is often linked to Sunday School leaders.

The Lord will use the revelations in this course to remove the fog so that we can better understand the Holy Scriptures generally and these five office gifts. This will, in turn, prepare the Body of Yeshua to fulfil what He has ordained for it.

CHAPTER 2
Introduction

Within just one hundred years of the death of Yeshua, Jesus at the Cross of Calvary, His burial, resurrection, ascension into heaven, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, a great part of the then known world had felt the impact of the gospel as He declared.

> *8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8*

In the commercial bastion of Thessalonica, here was the testimony of their effect as expressed by fearful adherents of Judaism:

> *6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; Acts 17:6*

Satan was obviously alarmed that his hold on humanity as the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4: 3-4) would slip away. He went to work

in a pincer manner.

i. On the one hand, the work of instituting a 'tare' gospel even when Yeshua, Jesus, was on earth (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43) was accelerated. Unregenerated people were planted in various congregations, who then used carnal assets (personal charm, sweet tongues, politicking, and physical exertion) to work their way up the ladder of leadership in the growing Church. Men with fertile imagination and the power of speech were thus strategically located to become, in due course of time, leading 'theologians' whose voices would sway the direction of what later became the organised Church.

ii. With the intensity of persecution and martyrdom, Satan wore down the strength of some leaders in the early Church, which suffered greatly under the Gentile Roman empire. When the opportunity to enter into union with the powerful empire and be 'established' as a State Religion arose in the 4th century, the majority who could not endure hardship jumped at it. Between the proclamation of the Edict of Toleration by Emperors Constantine and Licinius in 311 AD, by which the empire decided to recognise Christianity as a religion, people could freely practice without fear of persecution, and the Proclamation of the Edict of Thessaloniki by Emperor Theodosius I, Emperor Gratian and Emperor Valentinian II, Christianity was officially one with the Roman Empire/State. With this new identity as the official religion of the Empire, the need arose to create a respected professional priestly caste that would exercise spiritual authority and power in their respective spheres (parishes or dioceses) as lords spiritual (matching the secular lords within those same areas)..

With their newfound status as an automatic, comfortable middle class, the emergent clergy class opted for a pyramidal leadership

structure that led all the way to the Bishop of Rome, who was Pastor to the reigning Emperor. With this tendency described above, the chief victim became the order of the priesthood Yeshua, Jesus had inaugurated – the Order of Melchizedek!

Instead of continuing in this scriptural priesthood, which was uncomplicated, simple, and service-oriented, this new priesthood established by humans was complex, created a 'lordship' mentality, and, by doing that, introduced the concept of Christians as a dormant laity of sinning churchgoers who needed mediators to access heaven and receive answers to prayer. In this way, the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which Yeshua, Jesus, Head of the Church, hated with passion, became an entrenched reality in the emerging Religion that was supposedly forged in His name.

> *6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. Revelation 2:6,15*

By the third and fourth centuries after Pentecost, the very purpose of that glorious experience, which was to activate an empowered Royal Priesthood, to represent the Kingdom in the earth realm, was practically subverted. Both Paul and Peter had been extensively used by the Holy Spirit to teach saints in the alpha Church that they were organic members of the one indivisible Body of Yeshua with specific spiritual gifts to release to others and receive from others. In the economy of heaven, the Body of Yeshua was ordained to function as a dynamic spiritual reality of His own spiritual Body rather than a dry human organisation of religious folks seeking an unknown or distant 'God' who was ever angry.

Profile of the Royal Priesthood, the Vibrant, Living Kingdom Church in the Earth Realm

Let us read these glorious passages, which the enemy seeks to obscure, to see how far Christian religion has strayed from the truth.

> *9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. 11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; 12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. 1 Peter 2:9-12*

> *10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11*

Paul, the apostle, wrote extensively on the subject matter in Romans 12:5-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-12, and Ephesians 4:1-8.

The ONLY leadership pattern Yeshua put in place to lead His Body into an organic state is what we call the fivefold!

Yeshua established specific office gifts to lead the church He is building, whose primary role is to be used by Him to perfect saints in living as the Royal Priesthood wherever they may be. The fivefold

is the only heaven-recognised and approved government system of the Kingdom on this side of eternity. In other words, the fivefold ascension office gifts collectively constitute the ONLY divinely approved form of government for Kingdom citizens within the true Church of Yeshua, Jesus. Those who preach and teach effectively but neglect or ignore the Fivefold will be accountable for their disobedience to their King when they meet Him in the hereafter! Ephesians 4:11-16

> ***28*** *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.****29*** *Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?****30*** *Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?****31*** *But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. 1 Corinthians 12:28-31*

Let this truth be repeated for emphasis: It is by the sovereign will of Yeshua that the ONLY resource to establish an organic Church of living cells and body parts, which are mutually engaged in releasing and receiving grace, is the collective leadership function called the fivefold. These are the roles and offices of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers working together to unleash the quantum of empowering synergy that is in Him to nourish His Church, guide them toward maturity in Him, and make them complete in Him and each other.

The Great Counteroffer: What Rome Gave to Lead the Organisational Church.

Conversely, the union with Rome introduced a priesthood modelled after the defunct order of Levi/Aaron, which governed a dormant

laity. Protestants did not abandon this Levitical concept when they parted from Rome in the 16th century. Instead, Protestants incorporated elements from the pattern of Nimrod, the hunter of souls from Genesis 10:8-10. This signifies that Satan aimed to fundamentally reconfigure the leadership structure of the organised Church. He was aware that if leadership is founded on a DNA that contradicts who Yeshua is and what He established for His Church, its ministry would be fundamentally altered from its intended purpose. This is how Mystery Babylon has developed - leading many away from the King but deeply entrenched in religion and religiosity of all kinds.

We thank Yahweh who preserved a remnant in each generation that is led by the Holy Spirit to cling faithfully to the Divine pattern of both leadership and an organic Body, according to the election of Grace. Within this remnant, generation after generation, Yeshua, by His Spirit, has ensured that they maintain faithful adherence to His master plan. These are those who comprise the true Church He is building, which hell cannot destroy or reconfigure!

> *18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 1 Corinthians 12:28-31*

Two Prophecies Being Fulfilled in This Last Generation Before Yeshua Returns

Ahead of His soon return, two scriptures accurately capture the restoration work that will take place in the true Church of Yeshua, which is different from Mystery Babylon in substance and structure:

> *19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from*

> *the presence of the Lord. 20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: 21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. Acts 3:19-21*

> *26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:26-27*

The picture of what the true Kingdom church is ordained to be, and look like, is expressly stated in the Word. This is the direction in which King Yeshua wants all who are true leaders to move their ministries. Those whose prominence and 'success' are of Him, will eat humble pie and give up control over units of the Church, which He gave them the privilege to lead. When the Church is in His hands, we will see this picture come to life again as it was in the early Church. It is possible that you, reading this resource, have allowed flesh to suggest to you that it does not matter how you build as long as there is 'success'. Nothing could be further away from the truth! From Elohim's dealings with Adam to the day Yeshua returns to consummate the Kingdom, following the divine pattern has been critical as proof of obedience. Let us remember that Yeshua declared explicitly that obedience to His word is proof of love:

> *15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14:15*

> *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. John 15:10*

Paul, who was used exponentially to receive and proclaim the master plan of the New Testament Kingdom Church declared with holy boldness what we read in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. Any one of us can make honest mistakes. That we are alive to learn the truth in this season; there is hope of repentance and change.

Ecclesiastes 9:4-6 puts it this way: The Holy Spirit has orchestrated our study of this resource as an instrument of expelling ignorance.

> *6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. Hosea 4:6*

The greatest antidote and solution to ignorance is simply truth!

> *32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32*

It is when ignorance is rooted out that saints can do away with a critical pillar of religion: false priesthood, and put in place that which conforms to His Will and Word!

> *30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Acts 17:30*

To repent and be converted to true Kingdom ministry lifestyle and patterns is the core need of the day! The Kingdom Church is not for unbelievers, backsliders, apostates, or babes in Him to build. It is the portion of sons of Elohim, neither male nor female!

> *44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the*

> *kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Daniel 2:44*

Yeshua builds His Kingdom Church with the active participation of sons who take responsibility for their Father's estate, as led by the Holy Spirit.

> *12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Romans 8:12-14*

Credit: We are grateful to Elohim, who first released the truth expounded in this book about 10 years ago to Global School of Ministry and made it available to the Kingdom Church worldwide, free of charge. We are also grateful to Yahweh for all the congregations connected to International Ministers Fellowship who have graciously implemented and are continuing to implement the divine concepts espoused in this book. The Master Class series of the Global Advanced Mentorship Program has been birthed in the earth realm by the Holy Spirit to equip and sharpen fit-for-purpose co-labourers in the Kingdom whom Yeshua will use to prepare the Church for His return.

This resource on the fivefold is part of the Omega Church series, specifically downloaded by divine timing to enable leaders and saints alike to locate and root out the leaven of Babylon in their operating systems and restructure it in line with the divine master plan.

If you want some of the already revised groundbreaking courses in

the Master Class that have been converted to ebooks, please visit www.gsom.ac. All scripture references are from the King James Version, which is in the public domain.

Assignment

(1) Share briefly some of the main things you learned about how part of the Church fell away from the divine pattern. (2). In what way has this deviation led the organised Church to differ in nature and outlook from the Kingdom Church which Yeshua is building?

CHAPTER 3
Paul and the Master Plan

In this lesson, we continue to lay the foundation in Chapters 1 and 2. It is a review of how Elohim orchestrated the documentation of Yeshua's life, works, and master plan for the Church.

There is no doubt that Yeshua Jesus knew humans would attempt to build His Church haphazardly. He therefore ensured that the master plan for the Church was properly released and documented. The sad reality of both the Roman and Protestant versions of Christendom is the deliberate abandonment of the master plan He so clearly articulated, at great cost, in the New Covenant. A survey of those who are 'building churches', even among Pentecostals and Charismatics, will reveal that there is no regard by the majority for what the Word says. Rather, churches are built to suit either the fancies of their 'founders', the needs of their 'target groups', or what is taught by secular 'experts' full of worldly wisdom. Consequently, the desire to 'succeed' trumps the need to obey the Head of the Church!

To worsen an ugly reality is the fact that men with fertile imaginations are now devising 'Church Growth' strategies which

mirror the playbooks of Babylon, being deeply carnal. The sad truth we may be reluctant to admit is that attractive packaging and selling of 'anointed' personalities and brand names through worldly marketing strategies and slick commercials might attract desperate seekers of miracles to humans, but will steer them further away from King Yeshua, Jesus, and the Kingdom!

Vessels Used to Document the New Covenant and their Specific Assignments

Let us review a few salient facts to understand how and why vessels are chosen by divine election to fulfil specific purposes.

1. **Matthew**: To capture His life, words, and work in print for the benefit of the Hebrews/Jews who needed to be informed and convinced that the Messiah they had waited for ages had come, Yeshua recruited a man with the right eye for detail and skills of documentation, Matthew, the Revenue official.

> *And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him. Matthew 9:9*

In writing for a Jewish audience, Matthew traced Yeshua's family tree all the way to David, the great King who Yahweh ordained as a human progenitor of the ultimate King, and to Abraham, patriarch of the Hebrew race.

> *The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Matthew 1:1*

One recurring theme in the gospel of Matthew was the reference to prophecies concerning the Messiah, which were fulfilled by Yeshua.

2. **John**: Yeshua allowed the disciple who loved Him greatly, John, to gain deep insight into His divinity and to record what he saw and experienced for the benefit of all who believe, so that His dual identity as divine and human would be made known to all. Reading through the entire New Covenant, the writings of John stand out for their explicit description of the Divinity of Yeshua. John 1:1, 20:30 and 1 John 1:1-3.

3. **Luke:** The Holy Spirit subsequently inspired a medical practitioner, Luke, who was trained to be systematic, with a keen eye for detail, to do a comprehensive biography of the incarnate man, Yeshua, for the benefit of Gentile believers. Using source materials from various eyewitnesses and after interviewing and cross-referencing, the Gospel according to Luke traced the genealogy of Yeshua (Jesus) all the way to Adam, the father of the entire human race. In the same way, He was used by the Holy Spirit to document the life of the early Church from Jerusalem to Rome, especially the missionary work entrusted to the trust of Paul the apostle.

4. **Mark:** This was a young disciple of Yeshua whose mum was a prominent deaconess to Yeshua. He was mentored by his uncle Peter and Barnabas. Peter is believed to have been his primary source for writing the short and sharp gospel full of accounts of the powerful, miracle-working life of Yeshua, Jesus.

Culture Was a Stumbling Block to the First Apostles!

When critically examining the history of the Alpha Church, it becomes clear that the Hebraic/Jewish cultural mindset of the first apostles, who walked with Yeshua, appeared to be a major obstacle to their understanding of the deeper aspects of the Kingdom. This influenced their comprehension of what they needed to do after

Pentecost to fulfil the Great Commission to seek and save the lost worldwide, so that both Jews and Gentiles could be saved. It is significant that Yeshua found it necessary to hold a special post-resurrection school of ministry to clarify issues concerning the Kingdom. The common conclusion is that many of the things He shared before His passion and death did not fully sink in!

> *The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: Acts 1:1-3.*

He found it necessary to restrain them from proceeding based on their natural abilities and raw enthusiasm. His instruction was for them to go forth and proclaim the message only after receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The idea was for the presence and power of Elohim to be the main driving force behind the Great Commission. Acts 1:4-8.

The history of the Alpha Church shows that, although the 120 who obeyed Him were empowered in Acts 2:1-4, the cultural mindsets of the leaders and saints in the early church hindered their ability to fulfil the Great Commission mandate in Matthew 24:14, Matthew 28:18-20, and Acts 1:8. This hesitancy and spiritual timidity, rooted in cultural limitations, manifested in specific ways:

1. **The early Church went into Maintenance Mode**: After the initial burst of zeal following the experience at Pentecost, when thousands were saved, and mighty miracles were performed, the Alpha Church went into maintenance mode. The welfare of those within the fold

became the preoccupation of the apostles. Two immediate outcomes were:

1.1 First, the sin of Ananias and Sapphira signified that a deep level of backsliding had already occurred in the hearts of some (Acts 5:1-11).

1.2 The second was the strife over welfare and favouritism in the distribution of necessities to widows in the social welfare programme. It was only at this point that the apostles were strongly awakened to the reality that they had slowed down the fulfilment of the gospel mandate! By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they acted decisively, and heaven smiled on their obedience!

Let us note that it was because of this challenge that the early church established the first organisational structure: the diaconate, to manage daily ministry tasks, allowing the apostles to serve as the presbytery and focus on prayer, ministering the Word, and leadership. Acts 6:1-7

While on earth, Yeshua had clearly modelled this principle by leaving the ministry's business affairs to the disciples and specifically appointing Judas Iscariot as treasurer (John 12:6). Unfortunately, the disciples apparently did not 'get it'.

2. **'Suppression of Gifts and Callings'**: In the same way, no other office was manifested until the persecution by Herod caused the saints to scatter. In running for his life, Phillip, who was only good enough to serve tables in Jerusalem, was stretched through the challenges and opportunities in Samaria. In this way, his higher calling as an evangelist was manifest as detailed in Acts Chapter 8.

3. **The Inability to Take Down the Middle Wall of Separation Between the Hebrews/Jews and the Gentiles.**

Peter's struggles in relating to Gentiles, specifically Cornelius, were resolved only through the direct intervention of Elohim. Acts Chapter 10.

The obvious truth here is that the gospel as envisaged by Yeshua was severely constrained by the mindset of the apostles, who saw Jerusalem as where the action ought to be! They were ready to die, if need be, in Jerusalem and did not flee when all the others did! It should be recalled that in Matthew 10, Yeshua never asked them to stay where they were rejected, but to move on to finish the work.

> *And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. Acts 8:1.*

The Assignment of Paul

Yeshua had to act once it became clear that the first apostles were heavily constrained by Jewish cultural strongholds rooted in Jewish superiority. To pursue the twin goals of spreading the gospel to the furthest parts of the earth and documenting what the Church is as His organic Body and principal agency of the Kingdom on earth before His return, Yeshua selected and apprehended a zealous Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, who was thoroughly educated in understanding the Old Covenant. His dramatic arrest on the road to Damascus, as described in Acts chapter 9, marked a turning point in accelerating the dissemination of the gospel according to its original design. Some of the most profound revelations about the Church were given to Saul, whose name was later changed to Paul.

The Church:

- As the Body of Yeshua, the habitation of Yahweh by the Holy

Spirit.

- The Bride of Yeshua, Jesus.
- The One New Man, which takes away the old division of the world into Jews and Gentiles.

Nobody can understand the Kingdom Church that Yeshua built and is building by His Holy Spirit, using yielded human vessels outside of the very explicit revelations He specifically granted to this chosen vessel, documented with clarity in the Pauline epistles. These are found in the book of Romans; first and second Corinthians; Epistles to: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, first and second Thessalonians, first and second Timothy; Titus, Philemon, and the book of Hebrews (though some scholars dispute his authorship, we are persuaded that he wrote it).

Let us note one essential truth. The Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John covered the life and times of Yeshua up to His death, resurrection, and ascension. The Pauline epistles essentially expound on what Yeshua obtained for His Body and Bride at the Cross, and on the implications of His 'Mission Accomplished' as He now sits at the right hand of the Father as the sole Head of His Church in the earth realm!

The Pauline epistles describe the benefits of the Cross as the only means of achieving the salvation of souls (Romans 1:16,17) and establishing the One New Man and spiritual Body of Yeshua, Jesus, on earth. The epistles clearly show how this single Church, made up of Jews and Gentiles, bond and free, male and female, and people of all races, socio-economic, and political backgrounds, should live to honour the Head, Yeshua. The abundance of revelation granted to this vessel is proportional to the amount of suffering assigned to Him. Here is what Yeshua said of this vessel to Ananias, the humble minister in Samaria who was used to welcome Saul into the

Kingdom:

> *But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. Acts 9:15*

That Paul was divinely elected to receive, document, and declare the master plan of the Church above every other being created is a truth Satan has laboured to obscure and, with Rome and its Protestant children, ignore. Ephesians 3:1-9

His spiritual resume carried a recurring theme of divine election in the introduction to his letters. Romans 1:1, 1 Corinthians 1:1, Ephesians 1:1, and Colossians 1:1

That He was chosen specifically to be the master builder who would lay out the design of the Kingdom Church on its ONLY valid foundation, Yeshua Ha Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah (Christ), is a truth anyone can only ignore to eternal regret! Here is the word that is not subject to debate:

> *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 1*

Corinthians 3:10-15

A careful examination of this passage reveals that Yeshua is interested in how we operate His Church and the building blocks we employ. Yahweh has already laid the foundation of the Church in the person and sacrifice of Yeshua, the Chief Cornerstone. Yeshua also, by His own sovereign will, and determinate counsel, made Paul of Tarsus the vessel through which He unequivocally announced that master plan. Yeshua also used Paul to model how the Church is to be planted, grown, and multiplied across the earth through the congregations he was used by the Holy Spirit to plant around Yeshua, Jesus, not himself. Since his time, all saints should not engage in anything other than simply building on that foundation, which is Yeshua. At the end of the age, Yeshua will call us to account for how and with what we built our own assigned portions of the one indivisible Church described in various passages!

> *For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10*

Yahweh has ordained to display His awesome power through the Church and to bless His saints. It was Paul that Yahweh used to describe the Kingdom Church as the ground and pillar of truth:

> *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15*

Peter recognised the special role of the revelations given to Paul for

the benefit of the universal Church when he made the declaration in 2 Peter 3:14-18.

Church Growth Crises

These days, people are planning, planting, and growing different "churches."

- Some are extensions of denominations.
- Others are supposedly fresh expressions of church or churches "designed to meet needs and the expectations of contemporary society."

It is obvious that Satan, being unable to scuttle Yahweh's programme for humanity, will settle for a tendency to corrupt it, as we saw in chapter 1. Just as Cain's sacrifice was unacceptable to Elohim, so will the King not be swayed by the amount of energy spent on "church growth" projects, which are contrary to the master plan. The implications of this truth are these:

- Any congregational gathering of saints which rejects the reality of the Holy Spirit and the need for Him is out of sync with Yeshua, Head of the Church. Sadly, uncountable congregations and denominations across the world today have no room for the Holy Spirit!
- Any 'church' that does not conform to the master plan in the Pauline Epistles is in danger of being a mere religious organisation.
- Any congregation which rejects the organic model of the Church granted to Paul and declared in Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4:1-16 is engaged in dead religious works.
- Saints cannot be matured and perfected to fulfil their redemptive destinies outside of the synergistic input of

apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers working together in harmony, as Ephesians 4:11-16 says.

Satan's Plot: Bible Translations which Give Room for Humanism!

Knowing saints will be unassailable if they dwell in Truth and manifest the Kingdom Church according to the divine pattern granted to Paul by election, Satan has worked overtime to shake the confidence of leaders and saints in the Word. He has employed various humanistic logics.

- One is the tendency to confuse saints through various agenda-driven translations of the Bible that leave out vital truths.
- Another issue is the degradation of the sanctity of the Holy Scriptures by placing more emphasis on commentaries and attaching human names to various translations in a way that suggests their authorship. As more people do this, as a sign of prestige and to establish themselves as 'world-class' theologians, they unknowingly undermine the confidence of saints in the Word when their own imperfect lives are exposed through their lifestyles or ministry excesses.
- As the game of branding Bibles after human benefactors and ministries continues to explode, the danger is that many new believers and unstable saints find their confidence in the simple, pure Word eroded.
- Not only that, but saints are also in danger of seeing what Yahweh says through the filter of the personal interpretation of agenda-driven ministers and translators and rarely see the need to rely on the Holy Spirit for illumination.

It is interesting that only saints dare do this to the Word of the true living Elohim! No Muslim can ever conceive of having his or her name on any translation of the Quran, the Islamic text. No Hindu or Buddhist can conceive such a thought in their religious guidebooks. It is only the children of Yahweh who are glorying in such shameful deeds! The constitution of the Kingdom is violated by those who are supposed to be its ambassadors, causing sinners to mock our Elohim!

Danger of Relativism

Of all the destabilising plans of the enemy, nothing, however, matches the strange logic that Elohim and His Word are too archaic and out of touch with the reality of modern civilised life! Consequently, men of fertile imagination are creating new standards of morality, which essentially negate the core instructions of the Holy Scriptures. The New Covenant was pronounced by Yeshua as the fulfilment of, and therefore superior to, the Old Covenant. What He declared as the only acceptable way to please the Father and function in His Kingdom has now been replaced by a raft of extra-biblical revelations which justify relativism, that sin which makes people believe what they want to believe and expect a senile old man they call “God” to condone and even applaud. This is idolatry gone wild! Yahweh is not senile. As the Ancient of Days, He never ages. What He was, is what He remains today and will ever be. From the Day the Blood of the Lamb sealed the deal of redemption and the purchase of saints from the hands of the wicked one, His standards are fixed and will not change.

Those who teach otherwise will be responsible for every mistake they have led saints into. Those who let fear of man and a desire to boast in men influence them to endorse evil, just to avoid being called intolerant, will one day, to their eternal regret, realise they

were wrong. Dead wrong! It is interesting that the 'Church' will put great effort into fighting sinners who prefer to stay outside the Commonwealth of the Blood but refuse to recognise their sins of disobedience to the Word; lack of Love; severe disunity; and hero worship! A Church that refuses to lift the Prince of Life so that all those appointed to salvation are drawn to Him will inevitably exalt humans and religious organisations, urging humans to 'join'.

Whether people join fellow humans or organisations, there is a systematic subversion of the truth and the King! This is the spiritual equivalent of High Treason!

The Pauline Epistles.

As hinted in the previous chapter, Yeshua specifically arrested Saul as the main vessel to document His mind for His Church and to be the master builder. That is why the Pauline epistles contain the master plan in a way no other part of the Holy Writ does. Let us take a sneak peek into some of the core truths articulated in some of the Pauline Epistles that combine to show a picture of what the true Church is:

1. The Book of Romans contains a detailed exposition of how sinners become saints by faith, walking in true righteousness of the Father in Yeshua and by His Grace. This theme, which shows how both Jews and Gentiles are made right with the Father to become His One new man in the earth realm through Yeshua, is also explored further in Ephesians chapters 1, 2 and 3.

2. The Book of Romans chapter 12; 1 Corinthians chapter 12; Ephesians chapter 4:1-16 clearly show that the Church of Yeshua is not a religious organisation that people 'join' to 'belong' or a religious building people enter on certain 'holy' days of the week. Instead, it is His spiritual Body on earth. In this sense, it consists of

various functional body parts. Each part is alive and gifted with the ability to release grace that others need and to receive nourishment from others, allowing the whole Body to grow organically rather than organisationally.

3. The Book of 1 Corinthians 13 and Ephesians 4:1-6 show how love is the glue that holds the Body together in unity, so the Church differs clearly from a worldly culture of strife, division and hate.

4. The Book of 1 Corinthians 14 shows how spiritual gifts are to be used in an atmosphere of liberty and order, for balance, which ensures the manifestation of the purpose of the Head.

5. Based on various revelations granted to Paul, the Church is presented as The Body of Yeshua (1 Corinthians 12); His Bride on earth (Ephesians chapter 5), the holy habitation of Elohim in Ephesians 2:19-22, the ground and pillar of truth (1 Timothy 3: 15)

6. The Book of 1 Timothy, chapter 3 and Titus, chapter 1, expound on qualifications for those who should be given formal leadership positions in the Church as Bishops and deacons.

7. The Book of 1 Timothy, chapter 4, and 2 Timothy, chapter 3, reveal how some saints will fall away from true Kingdom life in the latter days. The falling away from truth would relate to attraction to Satanic and humanistic concepts of the Church and ministry.

8. The Book of 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians chapters 4 and 5, as well as 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, describe the end of the age and how the relationship between Yeshua and His Church will be fulfilled with the first resurrection and rapture of saints. The emergence of the man of sin is also prophesied, along with life on earth after the rapture!

9. The Book of Colossians 1 and 2 shows the divine personality that

is Yeshua and how He is organically connected to His Church as its Head.

10. The Book of Ephesians 1 and 2 emphasise the identity of saints as the new creation as described in 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21.

11. Ephesians 4:11-16 and 1 Corinthians 12:27-28 show that the fivefold apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are set in the Body to bring to pass the purpose of Yeshua, which is to perfect saints for the work of ministry until we all mature in Him and are able to fulfil our redemptive purposes. It is from here that we receive the revelation contained in this course on ascension office gifts or the fivefold.

12. Ephesians 5:25-27 makes the important point that, ahead of His return, Yeshua is releasing great power through His Word that will ensure the emergence of a radiant Church, free from the spot of individual and corporate sin, and the wrinkles of traditions of men, such as Babylonian tendencies, which age and grow ugly with time and other such things, as well as the inherent spirit of strife and confusion of identity in the Church.

The King is calling the Church to rediscover the master plan He gave to Paul, the vessel He chose to be the Master Builder. Only by doing so can the Church be genuinely built on the foundation that is Yeshua Himself and thus avoid the risk of constructing His Church with the flammable worldly materials of Babylon, which are described as wood, hay, and stubble! It is better to correct our ways while we are alive than to face Yeshua's rebuke on the Last Day. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

On this note, saints, we are now ready to explore the root and basis of the fivefold through the ministry of Yeshua to His Church! The Omega Church is rising! Through it, the cohorts of hell will bow!

> *To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God. Ephesians 3:10.*

From today, besides the normal Bible reading plan, do yourself a favour: begin to read the Pauline epistles starting from Romans chapter 1, at any rate you can accommodate.

Assignment

(1) Explain what you understand about why Yeshua had to specifically arrest Saul of Tarsus.

(2) Can true and lasting success in ministry be achieved outside of following Elohim's master plan? Please explain.

(3) Please describe the various ways in which Satan is leading Christians to negate the Holy Scriptures.

CHAPTER 4
Yeshua, Jesus, Personified the Fivefold



- **Yeshua and the Holy Spirit**

This book explores the Word of Elohim in depth to reveal the origin of the fivefold offices and spiritual leadership gifts in the Body of Yeshua, along with their purpose. We will examine scriptures related to these offices, especially Ephesians 4:7, 11, and 12 and 1 Corinthians 12:28-30. Although He was the Son of Yahweh, another term meaning the incarnate Elohim or Elohim made flesh on earth. Yeshua, Jesus, needed to operate with the infusion of the Holy Spirit while in human form here on planet Earth, which is humankind's inheritance.

> *The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men. Psalm 115:16*

At His incarnation, heaven invaded the earth realm, but in a covert, discreet fashion, known only to Mary when this incredible word was pronounced by the angel, Gabriel, to explain what was about to happen. Luke 1:26-35

At His baptism, the infilling of the Holy Spirit was public/open, leading to His unveiling and public confirmation as the Messiah. This was where He was manifested to all Israel by a man who had been accepted as the national prophet, after over 400 years of spiritual darkness when no one uttered, "Thus says the Lord." Matthew 3:16-17.

As John later testified, Yeshua, Jesus, received the Holy Spirit without measure, meaning an unlimited quantum of the anointing to represent the Kingdom of Heaven and advance it forcefully and in power on planet earth!

> *John 3:34 (KJV) For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.*

Yeshua, Jesus, later went to the Cross as propitiation for the sins of the whole world, rose again, and ascended into the heavens. Ten days after His ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon saints who faithfully waited in the Upper Room as He instructed. By so doing, the Church was activated as His spiritual Body in the earth realm, which would complete His assignment to save the lost (Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4; Luke 19:10).

B. Yeshua as the Personification of the Fivefold

Yeshua is the spring and source of the fivefold, able to give any of the folds to those He calls. In a real sense, Yeshua, Jesus, was a missionary from heaven to the Earth realm. The Church, which He activated, is living proof of the efficacy of the sacrifice He offered at the Cross. Each generation of the Church that was thus activated in the Earth realm derives validity from the reality that, although in Heaven, He is its Head from whom its nature and strength flow. The

organic link between a Supreme Head and His Body in the earth realm is described in vivid terms by Paul, the specially elected vessel to communicate the groundbreaking truth. Take these passages, for example: Colossians 1:12-23 and Colossians 2:6-10.

It is important to remind ourselves of some salient truths about Yeshua's relationship to His Church. Let us note that there is a spiritual law that governs the universe: You can only give what you have." Regarding Yeshua, Jesus as Head of the Church, who He is and what He does make up what He releases to individuals who make up His Body to play specific roles therein.

Before we delve into the main teaching on what some refer to as the 'ascension office gifts' or the fivefold, we first need to gain insight into how those offices were carried out by Yeshua Himself. This understanding will help us comprehend why it pleased Him to give some of Himself to various vessels chosen by Him, not by 'Church' committees.

> *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Ephesians 4:11.*

Yeshua showed and continues to manifest all the Fivefold offices in His Church

#.1. Chief Apostle: He was the 'Sent One' who came from heaven to earth. He came to show the way and set a plumb line for what would be taught and known, so that humanity may understand the correct way to serve Elohim. In His epic Sermon on the Mount, Yeshua drew clear contrasts between what Moses and the Prophets declared as the way to serve Yahweh and what He taught (Matthew 5:21-45).

By proclaiming the liberating truth and showing people how to best

please Yahweh (John 8:32,36), He is the Chief Apostle of the Church. His word continues to perfect us today, and there is simply no way anyone can ever hope to reconcile with our heavenly Father outside of Him, as the assured access.

> *6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6*

The way He picked, taught, trained, equipped/empowered, activated, and sent forth/released His disciples shows His apostolic mindset of empowerment in bold relief. Mark 3:13-19 and Acts 1:8

Yeshua demonstrated what can be understood as 'apostolicity' or an apostolic mindset, which is not merely about retaining people. Instead, it emphasises teaching, training, equipping, activating, and releasing saints to serve within His Body and fulfil the divine purpose of their redemption. Those called to be apostles who feel pressured to take the title 'Chief Apostle' due to the scope of their responsibilities should reconsider their decision carefully, as it could put them at odds with Him. The only Chief Apostle of Yeshua, Jesus, is Himself.

#.2. Chief Prophet: The words of Yeshua are prophecy in action. They have guided the Church from the days He walked the dusty streets of Galilee and Capernaum until today and will ring true until the end of the age. The Great Olivet discourse documented in Matthew 24:1-3 is simply prophecy!

> *1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 3 And as*

> *he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? Matthew 24:1-3*

All he said in response to the three-barrelled question consisted of accurate prophecies on these issues that were still in the immediate and distant future.

- The destruction of the temple at Jerusalem in AD 70
- The signs of His coming
- The end of the age

The Revelation He granted His servant John on the Isle of Patmos, defined and continues to define the course of history.

John was given prophetic insight into:

- The current state of the Church of His day (through the prism of the seven churches of Asia Minor in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3).
- the sinful state of the earth realm marked by immersion in worldly pleasures.
- things which will mark the end of the age.

> *19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; Revelation 1:19*

With no shadow of doubt, He is the Chief Prophet from heaven to the earth realm! Those who are called to be prophets and are pressured by the scope of their assignments to take the title of 'Chief Prophet' or 'Master Prophet' should do well to reconsider the choices they have made to set themselves against Him! The Church

of Yeshua, Jesus has ONLY ONE Chief Prophet: Yeshua, Jesus!

#.3. Chief Evangelist: Yeshua was the ultimate evangelist, imbued with an unquenching passion for souls. At the core of His mission into the earth realm was to seek and to save the lost, as recorded in Luke 19:10.

As the consummate evangelist, ever in search of souls, His attitude to the need to recover the lost at all costs is articulated in Matthew 18:12-14.

The gospels record His unparalleled three-and-a-half-year tenure as the greatest soul winner ever. The precepts He enunciated and the life He lived were centred on the concept of doing everything possible to ensure that all those ordained for salvation were enabled to reconcile with Yahweh, our heavenly Father. John 4:31-35.

#.4. Chief Shepherd (Pastor): Yeshua is the Chief Shepherd of the Church. No one has ever cared for the flock the way He did. His compassion for the people was unparalleled, and His ministry was marked by a holistic mindset that cared for the spirit, soul, and body. Matthew 9:35-36.

His teaching on caring for the physical, emotional, and other needs of humans was paradigm-changing! Matthew 25:31-40.

His pastoral anointing was such that He would leave 99 people who were whole in search of just one lamb who had strayed away! Luke 15:1-7.

#.5. Chief Teacher (Rabbi): The teachings of Yeshua were radical and life-transforming. He taught in a way that was both deep and very illustrative. He did not teach dry doctrines and traditions of men, as did the religious leaders of His day. Rather, by the Holy Spirit in Him, Yeshua brought a revelation of the mind of the Father who yearned

for a relationship with Israel.

> *And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Matthew 7:28.*

He taught with great authority that even on one occasion, those sent to arrest Him were so captivated by His words that they forgot their mission! John 7:40-47.

The words that Yeshua spoke still impact multitudes until today! They are Spirit and Life and show us the way to live if we want to please the Father. John 6:63

He who used sound teaching to transform unlearned fishermen of Galilee into world changers is still at work, ready to use available vessels for His glory! That is why He charged His Church not to just gather crowds of milk-drinking babies who become co-dependent on human leaders. Rather, at the heart of the Great Commission is a teaching mandate that empowers those who believe in Him to become His disciples who emulate Him. Matthew 28:18-20

Final word:

These five offices of Yeshua are what He designates and bestows upon some of the ministers He chooses, empowering them with the ability to ensure that His Church is matured and perfected.

> *11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Ephesians 4: 11-12*

The enemy understood his strategy when, in the 4th century, he removed the awareness of the fivefold as Rome united with the

larger branch of the Church! Where the fivefold is absent, saints cannot be perfected, and their preparation for ministry cannot occur. The result has been clear: the maintenance of a religious organisational structure in which a small, professional clergy serves a large, passive laity, within intricate church buildings where parishioners gather at scheduled 'holy hours' of 'holy days' to perform religious rituals! Consequently, the Church becomes ineffective in transforming the world and instead acts as an agent of the world.

Assignment

(1). Please summarise in one or two paragraphs the core things you learned from Part A of this lesson: The Pauline Epistles as the master plan for the Kingdom Church.

(2). Please summarise in one or two paragraphs the core things you learned from part B of this chapter: Yeshua, Jesus as the Personification of the fivefold.

(3). What new things did you learn from this lesson?

CHAPTER 5
What the Fivefold Is Not, and Its General Obligations

One of the characteristics of the modern church is laziness. This laziness is evident in how people select scriptures to support their viewpoints. Concerning the fivefold, often people prefer the 'smiling scriptures' that highlight what they wish to see and hear, ignoring the 'frowning' scriptures that stress the huge responsibilities and obligations placed on those who receive the significant mandates within each of the fivefold. (Credits for both terms go to A. W. Tozer of blessed memory.). Whether one is called to be an Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, or Teacher, there are essential truths that must be understood properly.

When this reality is ignored or unaddressed, flesh, humanistic wisdom, and ambition will interfere with the mantle, leading to corruption. It is essential, therefore, that before we break down what each of the fivefold functions and office gifts are and what their specific responsibilities are, we first examine four broad issues that will form the foundation of this course. Those who understand and embrace these issues will generally function more effectively in their fivefold roles than those who are ignorant of or neglect them.

We are now going to look into the following:

A. What the fivefold is not

B. Obligations of the fivefold to King Yeshua

C. Obligations to the Church

D. Obligations to each other in the fivefold

A. What the Fivefold Is Not

#1. The fivefold is not an appointment to honour prominence or a promotion to lordship over the sheep of Yeshua. It is an established legal principle, confirmed by none other than the Head of the Church, Yeshua, that leadership in His Kingdom is a call to serve, not to be served or to rule over other saints. Matthew 20:20-28

> *Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand. 2 Corinthians 1: 24*

#.2. It is not empowerment to have the authority to 'found a church or churches', to set up rules of governance and structures as one pleases, to ordain leaders according to one's fancies, and to start denominations that essentially divide the Body. It is also settled law in the Kingdom that there is only one Church, and all expressions of it cannot function according to what their human leaders think. Unity is a critical feature of the Kingdom. John 17:20-23 and Ephesians 4:1-6.

The point is this: don't seek any of the fivefold offices to use them to pursue ambitions that run counter to the vision of Yeshua, Jesus, for His Church.

#.3. **The call to the fivefold is not an occasion to celebrate or wear special 'clerical' garments as part of a priestly caste patterned after**

the Levitical priesthood, which ministers to a dormant laity. It is a settled issue that Yeshua fulfilled the Levitical priesthood, took it out of the way, and became the model and initiator of the Melchizedek priesthood to which His under-shepherds are called.

> *Psalms 110: **4** The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.*
>
> *Also see Hebrews 7: 1-17*

The Melchizedek Priesthood is one of absolute simplicity and sacrifice. We are a Kingdom of priests and kings. The Fivefold leaders are not superior to saints! Rather, the core mandate of the fivefold is to engage in the function of being used by the Holy Spirit to perfect and equip fellow saints for the work of ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12.

> *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10*

Anyone claiming to be called to the fivefold ministry, yet indulges in wearing clerical garments, a coat of arms, a special ring, and other insignia to distinguish themselves from saints, who are thereby rendered a dormant laity that comes to 'consume the anointing', has simply embraced the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which Yeshua hates. Revelation 2:14-15

B. Obligations of the Fivefold to King Yeshua, Jesus.

Let us now examine the general obligations of the fivefold, which

apply to all those called as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. These serve as essential standards to reveal whether they are aligned with the plan of their Head, Yeshua, or are pursuing their own path.

#.1. Accept the invitation of Yeshua for the death of the Self-nature. Those who will answer the call and function successfully in the same are to die to their self-nature so that He can use them as vessels to express the aspect of His Headship function committed to their trust. What Yeshua required of His first disciples is still what He requires of us today and in all generations: death of self. Matthew 16:24 and Galatians 2:20.

Whoever refuses to die to self-will mess up the assignment, and instead of serving selflessly, will use the anointing to divide the Church and carve out an empire to serve the flesh. It is this death of the self-nature which will cause individual fivefold leaders to embrace their assignments and make room for other folds to impact the flock so that they can be whole. His vision is fivefold, not one, two, three, or fourfold! When those called to the fivefold die to self, His Grace in them is exponentially released to affect a great company of saints who would have otherwise missed their appointed empowerment.

> *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. John 12:24*

#.2. A poured-out life, totally consecrated to Yeshua. The life that is hidden with Yeshua must also be poured out as a living sacrifice unto Yahweh. It is then that the Master can use such a vessel exponentially to advance the frontiers of Kingdom culture and lead those assigned to follow suit.

> *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1*

If life is not poured out, it will build others unto Self, not King Yeshua.

#.3. Commitment to seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness. This poured-out life manifests in leaving all else to follow Yeshua, seeking His Kingdom and its righteousness above all else, as stated in Matthew 6:19-34.

This does not imply that all five-fold leaders are required to serve 'full time' by refraining from doing business or engaging in paid employment within the public or private sectors. It simply means that even when they are involved in business or employment, they view such roles as platforms for Kingdom expression to fulfil their ambassadorial callings. The distinction Babylon makes between 'spiritual' and 'secular' activities is therefore rejected. The same Yeshua who redeemed them at a great price and who owns them also owns their businesses and employment, including the profits they earn or the paychecks they receive.

This is proved by the reality that they do not regard themselves as having earned such. They therefore defer to the Holy Spirit to lead them in setting priorities and determining how to spend ministry funds. Paul was a self-employed businessperson (tentmaker) for much of his ministry. Whenever Yeshua wants anyone to be 'full-time', He will make it very clear, and He will provide for the needs of the minister who is sold out to Him. He will do it through vessels of His choosing!

#.4. A renewed mind that thinks spiritually, not governed by the five carnal senses. This requirement is vital because it will enable the individuals concerned to view the ministry and all involved

through the lens of Yeshua and the Kingdom, rather than through the world's viewpoint.

When this occurs, a fivefold leader is shielded from the attacks of the carnal senses. No one can give what he or she does not possess. The leader who has made seeking first the Kingdom an experiential reality is qualified to teach others to do the same. Words are spirit and life, and therefore, the true experience of the minister will support the words spoken.

> *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:2.*

Also see Ephesians 4:23, Romans 8:5-9, 1 Corinthians 2, and 2 Corinthians 10:3-6.

#5. Commitment to be used by the Holy Spirit to continue to expound the Apostles' Doctrine.

> *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42*

This simply signifies a commitment to the New Covenant as the foundation of our work and preaching in the Kingdom Church! It is therefore expected of all who are called into the fivefold ministry to study, understand, and be led by the Holy Spirit to feed saints with the sincere word of the New Covenant truth. This encompasses all that Yeshua did and taught, as recorded in the gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It also includes all revelations in the Pauline epistles that outline the master plan of the Church. Additionally, it covers the epistles of James, Peter, Jude, as well as

the Epistles and Revelation given to Apostle John, which are part of the New Testament. This commitment will ensure the unity of faith within the Kingdom Church.

When this is so, regardless of location or the natural features of saints, such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, or socioeconomic status, they will be fed the same degree and scope of truth. Those called to serve in the fivefold are thus committed to contend for the faith as exhorted in Jude 3. This commitment will save the remnant from the corrosive effects of every wind of doctrine, including doctrines of demons and secular humanism, as stated by their human agents in Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 4; and 2 Timothy 3.

Ephesians 4:14-15 is a commitment to uphold the whole counsel of Elohim in His Word and not to handle it deceitfully to manipulate fellow saints for personal advantage.

#.6. Commitment to holiness of life. Just as Yeshua, Jesus our Head, is holy, so is His Body supposed to be. Holiness is not an abstract concept but the reality of a life that is consecrated for the higher purpose of Elohim. The fivefold can only lead saints into this experience as an outcome of the righteousness they received in Yeshua if they live holy. Otherwise, if their lives contradict their message, saints will be confused and consequently excuse a life of sin and hypocrisy. This is a commitment to an 'otherworldly' lifestyle of sacrifice that places the need of the Head and Body above self. 1 Peter 1:15

There are things which the Word says should not once be named among saints. Those in the fivefold cannot excuse any of them with humanistic logic in their teaching and preaching, lest they cause those they lead to stumble! Ephesians 5:3

#.7. Commitment to live and minister as sons of Elohim. Those

called to the fivefold need to respond to the upward call to be like Yeshua, the Head, in this vital issue. Yeshua did not come to start a religion, but to bring many sons to glory. Sons are saints who mature beyond gender, race, ethnicity, age, or socioeconomic status, being led by the Holy Spirit in all things. They are in a place where the Holy Spirit uses them and directs them, not their carnal senses or fear of fellow humans. Hebrews 2:9-14; Galatians 3:26-29; and Romans 8:12-14.

Sons assume responsibility for their Father's assets and estate in the earthly realm, and to 'speak with the enemy (Satan) at the gate."

#.8. Like reproduces like. As sons, they make a commitment to be instruments of bringing many sons to glory who will live like Yeshua and thus fulfil His redemptive mission. Those who will succeed in their fivefold assignments must, of necessity, reject any secret or open desire, scheme, or method that makes saints their 'own' property! To call saints, redeemed by the precious blood of Yeshua, 'my members' is something no one called to the fivefold, should be guilty of. It is high treason against the King Himself, who owns them! This means saints must be given wide latitude to decide on issues of life and how to serve their heavenly Father without undue control or manipulation. The fivefold leaders are to teach saints committed to their trust in the Word and Kingdom principles; help them know how to hear the voice of the Father; and help them know how to respond to it and the consequences of their choices for eternity. Armed with these, saints should be given scope to make choices and take responsibility for their decisions. Hebrews 2:9-14.

If the King Himself calls us 'brethren', there is no reason any fivefold servant-leader feels the need to be a 'lord' over saints! It is a call to service, not lordship!

C. Obligations to the Church

#.1. A commitment to be used by the Holy Spirit to give effect to all the glorious outcomes stated in Ephesians 4:12-16.

Whether one is called to be an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher, there is an implied primacy in prioritising these roles within the fivefold ministry. Ephesians 4:11-16

For this to happen, the one who walks in the fivefold calling must be open to the Kingdom's way of doing ministry. They need to embrace the truth and acknowledge that there is only one Church in the world and reject all opinions of men to the contrary. This is a critical requirement (John 17:21-24; Ephesians 4:1-6).

#.2. Those who will walk in the fullness of their fivefold calling must love the Church of Yeshua across the Body – regardless of location, leadership, or other such factors. The fivefold is not given to divide the Body or to tear it into mutually opposing religious camps but to perfect the saints to be His one Body in the earth realm. It is an absolute miracle when saints are saints, regardless of where they are and where they go.

Those called to the fivefold ministry are not expected, for instance, to love only the flock entrusted to their care, to care deeply for them, or to dislike other members of the Body, neglecting to pray for them or concern themselves with their overall well-being. Those called to the fivefold must be instruments of unity, willing to pay the price to assist other congregations with the anointing, revelations, and graces entrusted to them. Living otherwise risks fostering personality cults and sects within the Body, leading to systemic disunity that leaves saints in arrested development and dishonours Yeshua! 1 Corinthians 3:1-23; John 13:34 and 1 John 5:1.

#.3. Commitment to follow Yeshua in such a clear manner – even

unto death as the basis of expecting the redeemed to follow. This means a commitment to model Yeshua for the saints so they can see clearly that living His life is the only way to go. 1 Corinthians 11:1 and Philippians 3:17.

#.4. A commitment to Kingdom standards and principles. If anyone in the fivefold is given the opportunity to pioneer a ministry, there must be a clear commitment to grow it to reflect the standards of the Kingdom in the Word and not according to the principles and practices of Babylon. This commitment may bring much pain and anguish, as saints and others despise or even try to take advantage of them. But this is a calling that cannot be compromised!

#.5. A commitment to empower saints. This commitment means those called to the fivefold are not to gather the saints unto themselves to become instruments of providing for their needs or fulfilling their ambitions of being strong and powerful on earth. It is rather a strong commitment to direct the saints to Yeshua, their Head. This means a commitment to teach, train, and equip them; activate the gifts and callings with which they will be functional members of the Royal priesthood, and release them to the Holy Spirit to direct their path into manifestation and fulfilment.

> *Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand. 2 Corinthians 1:24+*

D. Obligations to Each Other in the Fivefold

#.1. The fivefold is designed like five fingers, organically connected to the hand and to each other. For that reason, each of the functions/offices in the fivefold needs to accept the other folds as equally called by Yeshua and thus embrace them as gifts to be given space to function and manifest. For this reason, there needs to be

love and trust between us.

#.2. In the same way, all those called to the fivefold ministry, where a vision holder is appointed by King Yeshua, need to act with integrity and avoid any behaviour that reflects the spirit of Absalom, son of David. They must not utilise their distinctive graces and gifts to cause division, scatter the flock, or exploit it for personal gain. The model of ministry in the fivefold is complementary, not competitive! When the office gifts work together, the synergy in Yeshua is released to perfect saints for the work of ministry.

These benchmarks are not meant to intimidate those called. Instead, they seek to motivate all members of the fivefold to recognise their high calling. Approaching this with humility encourages those called to admit their shortcomings and seek His face and grace through prayer. This is a very safe and beneficial practice. Our Master delights in giving more grace!

> *But **he giveth more grace**. Wherefore **he** saith, God resisteth the proud, but **giveth grace** unto the humble. James 4:6*

He will fill His saints to overflowing so they can fulfil their great callings, which are without repentance. Those who misuse the call to the fivefold sow for themselves an evil seed that will yield bad fruits they may regret in time and in eternity! Galatians 6:7-8.

Assignment

(1) What are the main lessons you have been blessed with concerning what the fivefold is not?

(2) Summarise at least three commitments required from the fivefold to King Yeshua, Jesus.

(3) Please share at least two of the commitments to the Church/saints.

(4) Please summarise the two commitments to other members of the fivefold.

CHAPTER 6
General Purpose of the Fivefold

As He ascended on high, says Ephesians 4:7-12, Yeshua bestowed upon His Church spiritual gifts and His fivefold ministry offices. In the economy of heaven, these gifts are sovereignly granted to whomever King Yeshua chooses to represent Him in building up His saints and His Church to full maturity, as stated in 1 Corinthians 12:4-14. There is always a reason behind everything Elohim does. The primary purpose of the fivefold ministry is explicitly stated in Ephesians 4:11-12 - to perfect the saints and prepare them for the work of ministry, which leads to the edification of the Body. The office gifts cooperate harmoniously to produce a divinely ordained outcome: the perfection or maturation of the saints, who grow rapidly to become all they were created and redeemed to be.

A. Proper Kingdom Church Governance is the Spiritual Basis of the Fivefold

No saint is useless in the Kingdom or redeemed to hinder other parts of the Body of Yeshua with inactivity as a dormant 'laity'. Our lives are functional parts of the living Body of Yeshua on earth. Our specific assignments in the Kingdom were planned by a supremely

intelligent Elohim before the foundation of this world! For that reason, all saints are gifted and called to fulfil the divine purpose for which they were created and redeemed. Ephesians 1:4

Yeshua selected, set apart, and committed to specific saints. He chose, by His own sovereign will, the responsibility to enable all saints to understand who they are in Him and who He is in them. This can only be achieved as they die to self, take up their cross, follow Him as His disciples, and engage in a single-minded pursuit of the Kingdom and its righteousness (Matthew 16:24-26).

In the divine plan, the way saints live, work, and minister in this current dimension of the Kingdom on earth should be based on a radically different paradigm from their unbelieving natural relations, friends, neighbours, and colleagues. Those in the world rely on natural strength, scheming, plots, bribery, and corruption. In the Kingdom, each saint is equipped with a measure of divinity called spiritual gifts, which they use to thrive!

> ***A man's gift*** *maketh room for him,* ***a****nd bringeth him before great men. Proverbs 18: 16*

Each saint also has a specific calling that defines what Yeshua aims to accomplish on earth through their vessels, which are released for His use. These gifts and callings can remain dormant if not understood, discovered, and pursued. They can also be utilised sub-optimally. Many saints, indeed, the vast majority, live their lives just like the Joneses and consequently approach eternity with less than assured approval at the judgement seat of Yeshua. 2 Corinthians 5:10

This is not a judgement to decide who will go to heaven or hell. Those who are saved are no longer at risk of condemnation to hell. It is more of a judgement that will address such critical issues as:

- Did saints discover and use their spiritual gifts?
- Did they discover and walk in the specific callings Yeshua vested in them?
- Did they build up His Body according to plan?
- Was life lived and ministry carried out with the right motives to please, worship, and obey our King?
- Was the master plan of Yeshua adopted in doing ministry, or rather the ideas of men?
- Were the leaders called specifically and installed by Yeshua Himself?

The significant responsibility of guiding saints to live in the awareness of eternity, effectively representing Yeshua in the current dimension of the Kingdom and fulfilling what Yahweh has ordained for them, is entrusted to specific saints whom He Himself selected and ordained to demonstrate aspects of His five offices within the Church: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

> *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Ephesians 4:11.*

Individual offices within the fivefold do not function alone! Within them is wired a 'Body' or 'corporate' consciousness. As said in a previous lesson, they function like five fingers of the same hand! Each one of the fivefold heartily releases their vessel to be used by the King to impart to the saints and gives room for other office gifts other than their own to do likewise. That is why congregations that will be used by the King to produce mature saints who flow in their divine placements are those who are open to the full synergistic ministry of the fivefold!

B. Purpose of the Fivefold and Outcomes of Their Synergistic Work

The one Scripture which captures what the fivefold is, its essence, and the outcome of its manifestation is the revelation granted Paul in his epistle to the Ephesians 4:12-16.

To thoroughly comprehend this vital scripture, let us analyse the revelations verse by verse.

1 & 2. Verse 12. "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry"

Saints are to be perfected for the work of the ministry - the fivefold collectively ensures that saints are properly taught, trained, and equipped (empowered) to function as ordained by Yeshua, who redeemed them with His precious Blood.

- In this way, the saints they lead, graduate from passive 'laity' (a product of religion influenced by Nimrodic/Nicolaitanes and Levitical priesthood paradigms) to become functional members of Yeshua's Body on earth, ministering to Him and to fellow saints.
- This process also transforms believers into disciples who enjoy a close relationship with their Master, Yeshua Jesus.
- It also enables them to become sons of Elohim who bring their Father great pleasure through their Kingdom-focused lifestyles, leaving no space for self.
- This is the ultimate solution to religion, which renders saints a passive 'laity' frozen in the pews, unable to fulfil what Yeshua desires.

3. Verse 12. "For the edifying of the body of Christ."

As saints are being perfected, they enjoy their rest in Him, which sets

them apart from the troubled world. They cease from their fleshly labours, unlike unbelieving family, neighbours, and colleagues, and begin to live and move by the Holy Spirit, demonstrating His Presence and Power through the spiritual gifts and callings they discover and walk in. Jesus prayed that the Father would enable the Church to operate within the world but not be of it! (John 17:9, 11, 14-18)

4. Verse 13. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith"

Saints will unite in their faith, regardless of their location in different local congregations or their diverse races, ethnicities, genders, socio-economic backgrounds, ages, or political opinions. Saints who receive proper nurture from Kingdom-minded fivefold ministers are consistently trained to see themselves as members of one universal spiritual family. They understand that although the names of their congregations and leaders differ, we all share the same Father, Lord, Spirit, and avoid quarrels over non-essentials, as there is unity on the core issues of the faith in Yeshua, membership of the one family of Elohim, and citizenship of His Kingdom! (Ephesians 4:1-6)

5. Verse 13. "and of the knowledge of the Son of God"

Saints come to a proper understanding of the real Yeshua, who is the incarnation of Elohim. The real Yeshua is the central issue in the Kingdom, for His life is what we live, and it is by Him alone that all humans will be judged. Galatians 2:20. Those who are truly called into the fivefold are wired to instruct, encourage, and challenge saints to pay the price in study, prayer, and consecration so that they can truly know Yeshua.

6. Verse 13. "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"

Saints who are thus guided will grow to the measure of the fullness of Yeshua. They will be complete in Him, and He will be complete in them through their fully surrendered vessels that remain in Him (John 15:1-8).

7. Verse 14. "that we henceforth be no more children"

Such saints will no longer be immature like babes, always needing milk. Saints begin their Kingdom life as babes, needing milk of the Word. The true fivefold do not only give them what they want but also tell them how it can be profitable (1 Peter 2:1-2). Leaders will not be under pressure to make saints 'happy' with 'promises of God' when they should know the truth that sets free or be reproved for making bad choices. Imagine the awesome liberty that will make saints embrace all the counsel of the Word, including strong aspects that challenge them to live holy 24/7. In this way, saints grow to the point where they expect, embrace, and use the strong meat of the Word, and become instruments of using it to teach others (Hebrews 5:12-14; 2 Timothy 2:2).

8. Verse 14. "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine"

Saints who receive the synergistic ministry of the fivefold will be so stable, rooted in the Word and the Spirit of truth, that they will not be tossed to and fro by various winds of doctrine, errors, heresies, and apostasies, which have been let loose on the world throughout the ages and will yet be unleashed in greater measure on the world in the end times.

9. Verse 14. "by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive"

Such saints will not fall victim to schemes of so-called 'men and

women of God' who establish ministries and use charismatic gifts such as healings, miracles, prophecies, and similar practices to make money off them. They will recognise when preachers are attempting to manipulate them for monetary gain and will not be deceived by such tactics.

10. Verse 15. 'but speaking the truth in love'

Saints who are effectively imparted by the fivefold will live in love and be motivated by love in all they do. They are taught to recognise how to avoid prideful speech, which attributes their gifting and anointing to self-effort. In this way, they communicate the truth in love as they interact with other members of the Body. They humbly give all the glory for whatever is accomplished through their vessels to Elohim, knowing that their spiritual gifts are received from above.

> *For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it? 1 Corinthians 4:7*

11. Verse 15. "may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ"

Saints can grow up into Yeshua in ALL things. This is a remarkable purpose of Yahweh, to bring many sons to glory who will give Him the same pleasure Yeshua gave when He lived on earth! Hebrews 2:10-14. Yahweh is looking for sons, led by the Holy Spirit in all things, not a crowd of carnal church goers (Romans 8:5-16).

12. Verse 16. "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love"

As all saints grow in the manner prescribed above, each can release virtue and spiritual gifts as they serve others and receive virtue from those who minister to them. In this way, the whole Body of Yeshua is brought to a place of organic unity, manifesting as a living, loving organism, rather than a dry religious organisation!

When this occurs, the world will recognise that the Church is a supernatural reality that embodies the Presence, Character, and Power of Yeshua. His resurrection and divinity are thus affirmed not solely through human wisdom in preachments, but through the demonstration of the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit ! 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

In plain language, therefore, the fivefold is the divinely ordained facility to ensure all saints function as royal priests after the order of Melchizedek! 1 Peter 2:9-10

Assignment.

Please sum up what you understood from this lesson.

CHAPTER 7
Conclusion of the Foundational Issues

With this lesson, we will conclude our discussion of the foundational issues.

Without the fivefold, the divine plan to fill the earth with sons of Elohim who live as priests and kings cannot be fulfilled. Therefore, the first thing Satan undermined when he caused the Church leaders of the second century to prioritise their personal safety and acceptance by secular authorities, and when he misled leaders of that era to 'invent' Christian religion in the 4th century, was the removal of the fivefold office gifts. These were replaced with an Episcopal system that operates in a pyramidal ecclesiastical structure.

The primary purpose of the Lord in releasing the revelations in this course is to provide the end-time generation with clear evidence that the only way for the Kingdom church to emerge and be manifested in the earth is by embracing the fivefold as His governmental system, where all saints, not just some, are royal priests. Because of this, they will be receptive to the ministry of deacons who handle the 'business' affairs of their ministries, to

relieve pressure from the fivefold. Acts 6:1-7.

A separate study breaks down the ministry of the deaconate in granular detail. In another study, we shall be given a deep understanding of the bishopric and its divinely ordained function. Bishops have clear roles, and the reality is that the majority of them have a clear fivefold calling, which is unfortunately buried as the vessels pursue dominion over the flock and prestige in society, just like their Roman counterparts.

The journey to this reality may seem slow, but if that grand purpose of King Yeshua is kept in view, the saints concerned will get there by His grace!

The Critical Acid Test

It is important to state, without any ambiguity, that all fivefold must individually, severally, and collectively contribute to the realisation of the 12 outcomes listed in Ephesians 4:12-16. Any fold within the fivefold operating on an opposite paradigm displays works of flesh and darkness. It was not given by Yeshua; therefore, its operations are corrupted by human nature or self-made efforts. The implications of this statement are clear:

1. **By their fruits, we must judge all who claim to operate in the Fivefold!** It is not their words we rely on to know who they are, but what they do and how they do it will reveal by what Spirit/spirits they are functioning! 2 Corinthians 5:16 and Matthew 7:16-20.
2. **All the believers are equipped for the empowerment of saints!** An examination of Ephesians 4:11-16 reveals that a vital mindset should be shared by all who are called to the fivefold, empowering Yeshua's flock. They understand that

saints do not belong to them personally but are instead Yeshua's, and are His Body parts on earth, not just 'members of their ministries or congregations'. Because of this, all genuine fivefold ministers operate with the awareness that being called and commissioned as tools for perfecting and equipping saints for service is a privilege. They accept this great responsibility with joy and do so with the awareness that an account will be given by He who called them one day. 1 Peter 5:1-4

3. **Each mature individual fold should never relax until the Kingdom Community has the full complement of all the fivefold clearly manifested or given space to function.** The realisation that He gave the Church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers will fill their consciousness, serving as the benchmark for evaluating how complete and healthy the leadership is. Ephesians 4:11-12
4. **They guard against wolves!** Although they desire to have the full complement of the fivefold ministry feeding the flock, those truly called by Yeshua will not automatically open doors of the ministry to anyone claiming to be called if their character does not align with Yeshua. They are keenly aware that false shepherds and wolves will abound, seeking to prey on the sheep. Therefore, they will not be intimidated into allowing everyone access to the pulpit**.** John 10:10-13 and Acts 20:28.

D. How to Ensure Restoration of the Fivefold!

Those who oversee congregations or shepherd the flock need to seek individuals with gifts or graces they do not possess, who can enhance the spiritual life of the saints so they are perfected and empowered. The ideal way in which each saint should receive the

synergy from all parts of the fivefold ministry is threefold:

#.1. Leaders of congregations and ministries need to plan ministry with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to receive the impartation of the entire fivefold.

This is one reason why Yahweh is allowing networks of ministers and ministries to be established. All leaders must heed Romans 12:3 and be honest in evaluating who they are in the Spirit and what they lack. Romans 12:3

They are then to prepare their annual ministry schedules so that those with different offices are invited at various times to teach and influence the congregation of Jesus. It is therefore counterproductive and worldly to exchange pulpits solely on the basis of friendships or cultural ties.

#.2. In structuring congregations, Yeshua may use an individual, gifted to function within a particular fold, to establish a vision. However, that individual should realistically assess their role in the fivefold, desire it, and be open to receiving other vessels holding different office functions; the Holy Spirit will come alongside as co-labourers, not employees, to complete the leadership team.

Where such is not affected, there is an additional remedy.

#3. Visionaries of congregations should diligently train saints until they uncover their gifts and callings. Those called to the fivefold should be recognised and empowered to serve as vital members of the leadership team, regardless of how 'young' they are perceived to be. With proper guidance, they will develop in their callings. Such young leaders must guard against pride as the Holy Spirit manifests grace through them. The key is to maintain humility in heart and walk in harmony with the Visionary and other leaders.

E. What should saints do if their ministries do not practice fivefold ministry?

This portion of the course is specifically released for the benefit of saints who find themselves in ministries where the visionaries or pastors do not know, believe, preach, or teach on the fivefold because of religious dogma or personal preferences. It must be noted that the response of a saint to a situation in which the pastor has a good heart but is ignorant of what the fivefold is all about will differ from that in which the pastor is hostile or closed to the truth.

i. Where the pastor or ministry is simply ignorant, individual saints who desire to please Elohim and walk in His divine purpose have a solemn responsibility to cast off the veil of religion. They should seek guidance from the Holy Spirit to identify the apostle(s), prophet(s), evangelist(s), pastor(s), and teacher(s) that Yeshua Himself has assigned to help in nourishing their spirit-man and soul holistically. When Yahweh opens your eyes to them, take spiritual liberty to connect and receive what Yeshua is releasing through their vessels, without necessarily 'joining them or their ministries'. Do not be apologetic about this because their gifts and callings come from the same Yeshua, who is the Head of the Body.

ii. Do not also permit those Yeshua has ordained to speak into your life to dominate your relationship with other fivefold leaders. It is the Holy Spirit who confirms those approved to minister to you. Every saint has a divine obligation to consume the full diet Yeshua provides through the various dimensions of revelation He grants through His apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

iii. Where the pastor or the ministry is totally closed to, or rejects, the truth of the fivefold. If a saint gets to know the truth that there is no perfection outside the fivefold and yet is in a ministry which is closed to this revelation, he or she should inquire of the Holy Spirit what to do and go ahead to do the same (Romans 8: 14). Based on His leading, the saint may ultimately need to choose between obeying the Lord or accepting the veil of Religion. Acts 4:19

If the ministry is hostile to the fivefold, the honourable thing to do

- it may be to leave the congregation or ministry, in principle, without fussing or trying to draw too much attention.
- There should be no reason to incite controversy on social media.
- Such departures should be made with wisdom and great grace.
- Do not slam the door shut, because the Lord might eventually use you to bring light into the dark place.

When this glorious vision of Yeshua for His Church is disrupted, mono-gifted ministries and ministers will be recognised for what they truly are: imperfect expressions of His Body. They should be continually interceded for until they gain understanding. Let no one assume that such ministers, walking in less than full understanding and acceptance of the fivefold, deliberately reject the truth. It is possible they are limited by what they learned in Bible colleges and theological seminaries founded on principles of the Christian Religion. In due course, Yeshua will open their eyes, if they are truly of Him! We all see in part and know in part. No single gift encompasses everything. That is why Yeshua deliberately distributed His Headship of the Body across five different offices. We need each of these offices, and all of them, to become all He has

ordained us to be! Let no one overlook this vital point!

F. Deliverance from Religious Corporations

It is crucial, therefore, that all saints be freed from the yoke of religion and human wisdom, which trap them in religious institutions where they give tithes and offerings to sustain a system of worship that is the modern equivalent of the Golden Calf. Ministries driven by race, ethnicity, gender, or age are clearly out of line. Likewise, remnants of Babylon that dull the true nature of the dynamic Church, clothed with Yeshua's Presence and Power to be His axe for demonstrating the coming Kingdom, must also be eliminated. True Kingdom teaching and ministry must therefore largely depend on rediscovering and restoring the fivefold office gifts, working together to ensure that Yeshua's master plan is understood and enacted by all within the Body!

On this note, the foundational part of this study is complete. In Chapter 8, we will begin examining each fold in detail, starting with the office of the apostle.

Assignment

(1) Briefly describe the three ways in which a ministry can receive the synergistic ministry of the fivefold.

(2) What should a saint do if the congregation or ministry he or she is part of does not practise the fivefold and has no room for the same?

CHAPTER 8
The Office of Apostle (Part 1)

The Office of Apostle: Who, what, why, how

In this chapter, we will begin examining each of the fivefold offices as the Holy Spirit pleases to illuminate the Word. The starting point is the office of the apostle, since it is the first to be mentioned in our anchor scripture, Ephesians 4:11. In the second reference to the fivefold, this office gift is specifically identified: 1 Corinthians 12:28.

No other office gift has been more fiercely attacked by Satan than this. To some, he promotes the false idea that only those who saw Yeshua, Jesus, physically can be apostles; to others, he suggests, and they believe, that in addition to personal infilling of the Holy Spirit, this office gift is no longer needed. The enemy's goal is to keep the church in ignorance of it, thus denying the benefits that come from it. The Lord will systematically dismantle all these false notions through a clear presentation of truth that empowers. John 8:32.

We urge all who study to simply cross-check every scripture reference, open your heart, and prayerfully inquire of the Holy Spirit, just like the saints of Berea did. Acts 17:10-11.

For the Church to be freed from the spirit of organised religion that has turned it into the spiritual equivalent of mortuaries or morgues; for the Church to operate as a living, loving organism and a nurturing ground for spiritual gifts and callings, the essential key is the rediscovery of the office gift of apostles and prophets, whom the Holy Spirit will use to ensure the emergence of the other offices so that the divine purpose expressed so clearly in Ephesians 4:11-16 is fulfilled in this last generation.

A. The Office Function of the Apostle

Definition: Who Is an Apostle?

Definition. An apostle is a minister who is set apart (or specially consecrated) by the Lord Yeshua, Jesus, and sent forth to represent Him and the Kingdom in a community, geographical location, or generation. The apostolic calling is one that places a heavy burden on the individual called to perfect the saints, fostering a mindset to empower them to walk in their identities and serve the Lord. In this way, the ministries or congregations they lead, or are part of the leadership team, are edified as everyone works together. They are receptive to and embrace the 12 points outlined in Ephesians 4:12–16.

An apostle is called directly by Yeshua, not by humans, local assemblies, or denominations. He may, however, utilise other elders, leaders, or mentors to nurture him, as Barnabas did when mentoring Paul. Ultimately, the individual called must accept that it is from the Lord and be confident in being used by Him. Paul often emphasised in his epistles that it was the Lord who called him, not men.

In the introductions to his epistles, the reality that he was a ‘sent person’ shone through!

> *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God. Romans 1:1*
>
> *Also read 1 Corinthians 1:1, Galatians 1: 1 and Ephesians 1:1.*

He alone determines the extent of the Kingdom's influence and responsibility assigned to each of His apostles, regardless of their education, intellect, social or economic status, or how long they have walked with Him. That is why those called to this vital role can only succeed if they die to themselves and relinquish control of their lives. When this is the case, the Holy Spirit can guide them as it pleases Yeshua, who called them.

As we will observe later in this course, someone may be called to serve as an apostle but still be in a state of immaturity in mind, emotions, and decision-making. Therefore, it is crucial not to be discouraged by what is seen in the lives of mature apostles who have gone through a significant process. Hearing the voice of the Lord and accepting the call will pave the way for submitting to the necessary process that precedes the day of manifestation. An eagle is the result of a process starting from the stage of being an eaglet!

While some apostles will undertake foundational work by being used by the Lord to activate Kingdom communities (congregations), others will be called to walk alongside them to ensure the Lord's vision is fulfilled. Mature apostles who are confident in their identities will be guided by the Holy Spirit to recognise these callings and prepare them to take their places. In other words, we must reject the religious spirit that portrays an apostle as standing alone at the top of a pyramid. We also need to understand that a minister can be transitioned by the Lord from a general level of ministry or another fold to the apostolic. That is what happened to Barnabas and Saul (Paul) in the Church at Antioch. Acts 12: 1-3.

Peculiar Traits of Divine Process in Those Called to Be Apostles

Let us note some peculiar traits of the call and identity of apostles, using the experiences of the first set called to this office as a yardstick. For those at the eaglet stage, please do not be intimidated by these traits. The seeds may already be in you, waiting to be watered when your hands are on the plough of kingdom service.

1. **Peter**. At the inception of His public ministry, Yeshua called Peter out of the family fishing business to the Kingdom business of fishing for and tending human souls. Matthew 4:18-19

A rough, rugged, uneducated man, Yeshua chose him and 11 others, setting them apart from the crowd of followers for the special privilege of being with Him. They were to be prepared for three and a half years before being sent out to represent Him as delegated authorities. Mark 3:13-19

Even when He arose from the dead, Yeshua spent another 40 days instructing them on deeper dimensions of the Kingdom and charged them not to proceed into the mission field until the Holy Spirit completed the process of empowerment. Acts 1:4-8

By the time Yeshua was through with Peter, the old fisherman of Galilee had one outstanding degree: His intimate relationship with the Master! Acts 4:13; 1 Peter 1:1 and 1 Peter 5:1.

2. **John**. The experience of John was similar. He had been called out of Zebedee's fishing business to fish for human souls in need of redemption. Matthew 4:21-22.

He was among the 12 called to be with Yeshua, whom He processed over a three and a half year period before being sent forth to turn the world upside down (Mark 3:14-17; Acts 1:1-8; Acts 4:13).

By the time Yeshua was through with John, the beloved, he made sure all who heard him knew he was a sent one: Revelation 1:1-2.

3. **Paul.** Although called out of season (he was not among the initial 12), his experience was similar. Yeshua first called him on the road to Damascus in Acts 9, but this led to a series of processes that began with the challenge to submit to the authority of an obscure disciple in the city, Ananias. He was to be refined through prayer, developing a close relationship with Elohim in Tarsus and Arabia until the moment of manifestation, when the Lord used Barnabas to open the door to Antioch, a gateway to the Gentile world. Acts 11:22-26.

By the time Yeshua released Paul to the Apostolic ministry, it was not a personal, self-propelled endeavour! The Church at Antioch heard the Holy Spirit and set apart Barnabas and him for that dimension of the work previously held by only the 12 in Jerusalem. Acts 13: 1-4

It is evident from this portion of Scripture that some people, though called to this office, may currently be functioning in other roles or engaged in different assignments. When the appointed time arrives, there will be a need to embrace divine process through consecration, prayer, and training, such as this course. It also teaches us the importance of not acting impulsively as loose cannons, but rather of aligning with the appropriate Kingdom authorities the Lord commissions.

Assignment:

Please summarise what you have learned.

CHAPTER 9
The Office of Apostle (Part 2)

Based on what we have shared so far, let us note these implications:

#.1. The first is that the apostle is not self-called nor engages in being self-sent.

#.2. It is not about how seemingly 'deep' an individual is; having the most persuasive or loudest voice, being able to dominate conversations, or taking a title from a religious organisation or denomination.

#.3.The individuals thus called do not speak for themselves.

#.4. The office of an apostle is not a badge to wear with pride, but a spiritual role to carry out with humility and holy boldness.

#.5. Furthermore, those called to this critical office cannot be seen as being in a hurry to be seen and known.

#.6. The first step in the work is to be with Yeshua! It involves deepening your intimacy with Him; embracing the Cross of Life; dying to self; and being properly shaped in the school of the Holy Spirit, so that, when manifested, the one called will represent Him

alone, live by the Word, and not be swayed by public opinion or human approval. Those who deny the Lord space to process them are setting themselves up for failure or to delay their assignments.

Is the office for this day and age? Under what basic condition can it be?

Two arguments from certain strands of Christian religion are unsustainable.

- The first group is that of Cessationists, who argue that the Holy Spirit, after He was poured out at Pentecost, ceased to be given individually to saints in a clear, definite way.
- The second argument is that only those who saw and physically accompanied Yeshua, Jesus, during His incarnate state can be called to function as His apostles. Those who seek to limit apostles to only the 12 who walked with Yeshua when He was on earth are blinded by the spirit of religion.

The call of Paul and Barnabas, which took place after Yeshua, Jesus, ascended to heaven, shows that it is an office that those called will embrace and demonstrate in due season.

However, it must be stated that all who are truly called to this office will receive a direct revelation of Yeshua as an incarnation of Elohim and the only fit sacrifice to take away the foundational sin of Adam and Eve, as the basis for restoring the Kingdom they lost in due season. That revelation changes his or her worldview to the degree that whatever the apostle suffers for the testimony of Yeshua, Jesus is taken with all joy.

That the office of Apostle is for all ages until the Church is re-united, in a physical sense, with its Head, Paul was given the blueprint of how Yeshua wanted His Church to function; the office of Apostle featured prominently in the governmental pattern revealed in two

scriptures:

> *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*: Ephesians 4:11

> *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 1 Corinthians 12:28*

Both passages in the Epistles were written several years after the Ascension of Yeshua as part of the blueprint for the Kingdom Church. There was no way Paul would have included those texts in the master plan he received (1 Corinthians 3: 10) if the offices had become extinct or ceased.

Some of those called into the Office of the Apostle after the Incarnate State of Yeshua

The Bible is clear that various people were called and sent out as apostles apart from the original 12. These include, but are not limited to:

1. **Matthias**, who was chosen by lot as one of the 11 disciples, prayed for the replacement of Judas; Acts 1:23-26 (KJV) 23 - 26

2. **Barnabas and Saul**. The Holy Spirit called them out of their service as prophets and teachers. Acts 13:1-4. Before then, Barnabas was a son of consolation in the early Church, where consecration led him to sell all his assets to serve full-time (Acts 4:36-37). In the same vein, Saul was arrested by Yeshua on the road to Damascus and was told

of his assignment in Acts 9:1-19.

3. **Apollos.** He was a disciple with limited understanding of the gospel but later became a great apostle after he was perfected in knowledge by Priscilla and her husband Aquila. Acts 18:24-28.

He later exerted great influence on many, to the point that people compared him to Paul and Peter. 1 Corinthians 3:1-8, 21-23

The testimony of Paul in the Master Plan of the Church, as given by Yeshua to him as Master Builder.

Beyond all that was mentioned earlier, the same Paul upon whom the Protestant movement and its derivatives, Pentecostalism, Evangelicalism, Charismatic, and the pseudo-kingdom movement rely to base their faith and practices, is the same vessel Yahweh used to clearly outline that the apostle is one of the fivefold offices given for the perfection of saints, so they can mature and perform the work of ministry as the royal priesthood. Ephesians 4:11-16

1 Corinthians 12:28-29 reveals the reality that not all will be called to this office.

Yeshua understood it would take a long time for His Church to occupy the earth until His return. Therefore, He established the offices of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher to work together as the leadership of saints and to serve as His under-shepherds. Is it not misplaced to take, accept, and practise all the verses in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and ignore the clear provision of verse 28? Is it not handling the Word of Yahweh wrongly and deceitfully to take and preach on everything in the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians as present truth for all ages and deliberately disregard Ephesians 4:11-16 as an integrated whole on how the Church can be perfected, radiant, and powerful?

On what authority does a denomination accept three offices: Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher, while rejecting or ignoring the two foundational ones, namely apostle and Prophet? When the Christian religion emerged from the merger of Rome and a wing of the Church weary of persecution, one of the very first actions was to abolish the two foundational offices of Apostles and Prophets. It was an intentional plan to weaken the strength of the Church! Ephesians 2:18-22

4. **Andronicus and Junia** – many have sought to interpret this passage through various lenses. The ordinary meaning suggests they were elders in the faith and functioned in the apostolic office.

> *Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellow-prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me. Romans 16:7*

5. **James, the half-brother of Yeshua**, was born to Joseph and Mary. He served the Lord and the Alpha Church with distinction. James was the Chair or Moderator of the First Jerusalem Council in Acts 15:1-19 and issued the ruling on stopping the Judaizers who aimed to hinder Gentiles from receiving the gospel. Paul also recognised him as a man of stature in the Church at Jerusalem. While Yeshua was in His Incarnate state, James was like the other family members who were not called John (John 7:2-7). His apostolic commission was received after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Yeshua.

If the final work of reformation is completed to prepare the Church to walk in the radiant glory of its Head and Bridegroom, Yeshua, ahead of His second coming, those called to this office will need to shed the yokes of ignorance, false humility, or even fear of mockery by others. They must embrace their callings and assignments with humility. As they submit to all the appointed processes, the Holy

Spirit will use their surrendered and yielded vessels to release great grace, empowering and activating the saints into their Melchizedek priesthood functions. Those who are called to this foundational, cutting-edge role, but who remain in the Pastoral office, are wearing ill-fitting garments. Their efforts to navigate this identity crisis may, unconsciously, create a spiritual glass ceiling, limiting the saints' potential for Kingdom service. Instead of lifting, they may become lids that hinder growth. Where the office of apostle is rejected, the spirit of religion will tend to dominate and distort the Church's identity.

Truth enlightens and empowers! Romans 10:13-17

Assignment

(1). What would be your answer to those who claim that the office of Apostle ceased with the early Church?

(2). Name four apostles in the Bible whose call and ministry were after Yeshua had gone back to heaven.

CHAPTER 10
Roles of Apostles

In chapter 8, we received a simple definition of who an apostle is. We then further broke down the concept to understand that it is clearly a strategic office gift for building up and empowering saints. We also saw that apostles are gifts from Yeshua, Jesus, to His Body for all generations until He returns to complete all things. Now, we will delve deeper into this office to examine two major pillars: the roles of apostles and the signs of the apostle.

It must be noted that Christian religion flourishes where the fivefold is unknown and unengaged. In places where there is a mixture of Christian religion and Kingdom patterns, the emphasis is on cloaking the office of apostle in such mystery and ceremonial promotions that the core reason Yeshua placed it within His Body is lost. Furthermore, religion restricts access to this office, confining it, as it were, to a handful of people who are male, of advanced age, and who have gained experience in ministry. But in the Kingdom, the principle and pattern of apostolic ascension differ!

The King has provided us with His Word as a guide for life and ministry. By comparing scripture with scripture and receiving illumination from the Holy Spirit, we can gain a clear framework

concerning the roles of apostles and the signs of those called to this office.

Whenever a saint senses the call to this role and shows some of the signs, regardless of age, gender, or socioeconomic status, such a person should be encouraged and supported to embrace the assignment and be enabled to go through the processes the Lord may require. Regarding the process, the first priority should be to understand and accept the range of responsibilities the Lord has appointed for those who walk in this office. When this holistic approach is adopted, no one who is called will shrink back or be denied space to serve.

Yeshua does not consult the past, backgrounds, weaknesses, or traditions and expectations of humans when calling saints into this office! He chose unworthy vessels such as fishermen (Peter, Andrew, James, and John), a tax collector (Matthew), an accessory to murder (Paul), and an ignoramus (Apollos), and they all went on to excel! Indeed, Yeshua does not select the qualified but rather qualifies those He calls, as the saying goes. If any saint feels inadequate, that is normal.

When the Body understands and embraces these principles, it will walk in harmony with our Head, Yeshua, Jesus, to receive all vessels called to the office of apostle, even if their outward 'packaging' appears unrefined. In this way, they can accept their callings and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to release the quantum and quality of Grace, ensuring no saint is underutilised.

Part 1: Roles of Apostles

What are the specific roles Yahweh assigns to His apostles within and without the Body?

#.1. The apostle is primarily a personal representative of Yeshua, Jesus, vested with a measure of His authority. To do this successfully, apostles first receive experiential, personal revelation of Yeshua's divine identity, so they can declare Him and both the present and future dimensions of His Kingdom with conviction and authority. To serve as an ambassador of the King, the minimum requirement is to know and accept His Person as the incarnation of Elohim in the earthly realm. This reality, which the first apostles accepted and lived in, as well as later apostles such as Paul, Jude, and James, His half-brothers by Mary, is also a requirement for all whom He sends in every generation.

#.2. The apostle is 'Sent'. He or she is actively engaged with a burden related to the size of the assignment. The apostle might be sent to a geographical location, a city congregation, a local assembly, or a family or individual to faithfully deliver the message of the Lord and the Kingdom concepts that will bring perfection. That is why the fundamental DNA of a true apostle is to 'Go Ye', to perfect by the Holy Spirit, to empower, and to commission other saints to do the same, rather than gathering a crowd and telling them to 'Come Here'! When an apostle operates in a 'sent territory', there is divine guidance, provisions, and preservation.

#.3. Apostles apply and draw the divine plumb line to the work of the Master in the ministries and territories they are assigned to. In this way, they are used by the Holy Spirit to ensure the purity of the word, doctrines, and practices. Because they receive an inward revelation of the King and His Kingdom, they are peculiarly wired to know the standards that are required. In this way, the Lord uses them to bring corrections where necessary. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

#.4. Exercise of Authority: Apostles demonstrate a greater dimension of the authority of Yeshua, Jesus, when they are present

at the locations to which they are sent. Not all apostles have global callings. For those called to that level, the manifestation may not be immediate. However, as they remain faithful within the assigned geographical scope, the King gradually expands their mandate's borders. For those called to this office, where the vision holder is an apostle, they work in alignment with the apostle to ensure the fulfilment of the ministry's mandate. If the visionary belongs to another fold, they do not act as 'superiors' but humbly come alongside the lead Pastor to help establish a system that empowers the saints and ensures the congregation's mandate in the community, city, and nation is realised. This will be achieved in humility, working alongside the visionary rather than apart from them.

#.5. Apostles provide balance to the work of the gospel and the understanding of the core precepts of the faith, and contend for the same. Without striving carnally with other folds, they make sure that truth is presented to saints holistically and in love (Ephesians 4: 15). Therefore, they usually have a measure of the grace that is evident in the other fourfold and can flow in all of them to some extent. They therefore know when any of the other folds is acting off-key from the symphony they ought to produce together.

#.6. Apostles are primary instruments in ensuring that saints are empowered to serve as living parts of the Body of Yeshua and the Royal priesthood. Therefore, they do not gather and direct saints towards themselves, but towards the King. A significant responsibility rests on all those called to this office to ensure the full realisation of Ephesians 4:12-16 and the entire counsel of Yahweh for life. This is because Yeshua is the ultimate Word of Yahweh!

#.7. Spiritual Glue. Yeshua uses the apostles as the glue that holds the other parts together into an organic headship, releasing synergy

to empower saints. Many apostles who are still in the infancy stage may not be granted this privilege until they reach higher levels of maturity. Until they mature to that stage, they may serve under other members of the fivefold, where their humility is tested. As catalysts of unity, they have a heart for the Body of Yeshua, Jesus, to walk in the unity of faith and to undertake projects together, such as evangelistic meetings, rallies, and pulpit exchanges**.**

#.8. Church Growth Pattern. Mature apostles do not welcome masses of babes gathering around them to be regularly pumped up with spiritual vitamins, which last only a few days before they need fresh doses. Therefore, apostles engage in what can be called the 'Gather, Process, Empower and Scatter/Release' approach to Church growth.

Their Kingdom-mindedness is responsible for engagement in teaching, training, equipping, activation, and the release of saints. The ministries they lead have an inner strength of empowered saints who discover and flow in ministry as an organic whole, described in Ephesians 4:15-16. As visionaries, they retain those the Holy Spirit reveals to be co-labourers in building up fivefold assemblies, which become what Bishop Bill Hamon calls 'Governing Territorial Churches'.

In the same way, with their eyes of empowerment, they discern when saints co-labouring with them need wider or larger platforms for manifestation and gladly release them, resourcing and sending them forth to plant new congregations in unreached locations or where there is a need for fivefold ministries as the Holy Spirit leads.

#.9. Prime instruments for bringing the fivefold into being in their territories. While other offices in the fivefold may tolerate situations in which the Church runs on mono, dual or triple-fold ministry, those called to this office cannot rest easily. This is because King Yeshua

wired in them the primacy of place to ensure that the divine pattern is manifested. That is why the office is always mentioned first throughout the scriptures. More mature apostles flow in this reality.

> *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;* Ephesians 4:11

> *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:28*

#.10. They bear greater responsibility for ensuring that Kingdom Culture is aggregated to impact and transform worldly culture within their loops of influence. Ministries and congregations they are assigned to lead, consider the host communities as assignments from heaven where the salt and light of Yeshua will bring inside-out transformation. Such ministries, therefore, engage with their host communities through missions that impart the love of Yeshua in definite ways. Matthew 5:13-16

#11. Transitioning. As the example of Barnabas and Saul shows in Acts 13:1-4, a pastor or overseer of a congregation or ministry may be called to the office of apostle without recognising it until the time appointed by the Lord. Philip, initially serving as a deacon, later transitioned to a fully established evangelist when the opportunity arose, going to Samaria, where the people had not yet heard the gospel. Those who, for various reasons, find themselves in a land or nation other than their Jerusalem (where they were born, raised, and later led to pioneer the establishment of ministries, lead congregations, or actively co-labour/assist the visionaries to ensure expansion and have a deep burden to empower the saints walking alongside them) may already be walking in the apostolic calling

without realising it. If this is the case, there will come a time in their lives when they feel that there is more to their calling than the pastoral role they are already familiar with. The Lord can then bring their way mentors and training opportunities through which their understanding is opened. The sense of righteousness, peace, and joy that follows is proof that the King and His kingdom are taking ascendancy over the flesh and previous religious mindsets. (Romans 14: 17-18)

Students and readers are advised to diligently study the Course on the Gospel of the Kingdom, especially the section on the nature and mandate of Kingdom communities.

Assignment

Mention and explain five roles of apostles in the Church that ministered most to you.

CHAPTER 11
Signs of an Apostle

Paul the apostle spoke of manifesting the signs of an apostle. Some relate to the marks of Yeshua's sufferings which he bore in the flesh, while others relate to the great signs and wonders which attended his ministry. The character and power of Yeshua are to be manifested in His apostles! A proper and balanced perspective reveals that these are part of the signs of apostleship:

#.1. Willingness to receive and walk in the shadow of the Cross of Yeshua, Jesus. This releases the grace not to be offended with Yahweh for the things the apostle may suffer for the sake of Yeshua. The marks include persecution, rejection, torture, evil speaking, opposition, physical trauma, and even death, which are counted as light afflictions for the sake of the calling. Matthew 5:10-12.

Other essential scriptures to study, understand, and embrace include Matthew 16:24-26; John 12:24; 1 Corinthians 2:1-3; 1 Corinthians 4:9-13; Galatians 2:20; Galatians 6:14; 2 Corinthians 11:22-33.

Those called to this office have a standard invitation to embrace suffering for His name's sake as a default mindset and attitude to

life. 2 Timothy 2:12

#.2. Grace to walk with signs and wonders, following as evidence that the apostle is a commissioned ambassador of Yeshua, Jesus, whose vessel is being used by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18; Mark 16:17, 18; Acts 1:8). The apostolic authority is manifested in a lifestyle of divine intervention into the natural order of things as the vessel called releases the same through prayer and words of faith. 1 Corinthians 2:4 and 2 Corinthians 12:11.

In speaking of signs and wonders, however, we need to get outside the box of what to expect from an apostle. Not all will be called to raise the dead or heal people with HIV/AIDS. Few will do what we expect. However, they will all be used of the Lord to manifest what is clearly His power at work, setting aside the natural order of things!

The Church will do well not to lump all apostles together or compare apostolic signs!

> *For we dare not make ourselves of the number or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.* 2 Corinthians 10:12

#.3. Receipt of deep revelation knowledge and divinely granted utterance to declare the counsel of Yahweh (1 Corinthians 2:4-16). This declaration is not natural but by the Holy Spirit who inspires, grants revelation and utterance, so that the deep mysteries of the gospel are released in power to challenge and transform the mindsets of saints to grow from glory to glory. There is no greater miracle than the evidence of conversion, renewal of the mind, and a transformed life!

#4. Deeply felt conviction and insistence that the Church must be built according to the pattern Yeshua Jesus provided. In this way, they see His vision as the foundation of all that saints do (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

#.5. Ability and willingness, when necessary, to walk in a measure of self-denial and to be able to abase or abound so that the gospel programme may prosper. They are low-maintenance folks and do not yearn to impose unnecessary financial burdens on those they are sent to.

> *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. Philippians 4:12*

> *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Hebrews 13:5*

1 Corinthians 9:1-27; 2 Corinthians 1:3-11; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Philippians 4:12.

#.6. Holy Boldness in declaring the counsel of the Master and making sure that the standards of the gospel are maintained without compromise, yet in wisdom.

#.7. A burning passion for saints to fulfil the dual mandate of the Kingdom: The apostle does not meddle with religion and the making of milk-drinking perpetual babes. This office gift/function has an inherent element of empowerment. True apostles are therefore

passionate to enable saints to know their assignments, gifts, and callings. Second, they challenge them to use such to 'occupy' in this present time with a consciousness and readiness for the return of Yeshua Jesus (Luke 19:11-21).

#.8. The burden and passion for perfection of saints and to present them chaste before Yeshua, Jesus, at His appearance is a consuming passion. For this reason, they are not casual about ministry. They know they will be called to account for the lives of saints committed to their trust and, therefore, invest everything possible to ensure their growth in grace. Saints who are led by Apostles will feel the urgency of the divine call to holiness and perfection in their lives. 2 Corinthians 11:1-3

This is why they emulate Paul by praying earnestly for the brethren.

> *My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, Galatians 4:19.*

#.9. Supernatural love for all parts of the Body of Yeshua. This love embraces the Church within the local community, the city, the nation, regionally, and globally. Mature apostles do not limit their love to the sections of the Church they specifically oversee, but love all. They therefore pray for the growth and maturity of the Body. For this reason, the apostolic calling often involves an invitation to move beyond the divisiveness of denominations and religion. This is part of the burden they directly inherit from Yeshua, Head of the entire Church.

#.10. They build apostolically. This involves creating a space for the manifestation of the other aspects of leadership to be complete as Yeshua intended. They do this by giving the Holy Spirit room to establish ministries and congregations that serve as platforms for

teaching, training, equipping, activating, and releasing all saints to be suitable priests after the Royal Order of Melchizedek.

Opportunities are available for all saints to be released into ministry, whether alongside them or as called to start new ministries. Instead of feeling offended, as many in the pastoral office do when saints want to leave, apostles see such developments as beneficial for growth. They also have the grace to ensure that, while saints are free to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance, the exit procedure is conducted with decency and order, since the Kingdom is one. All they advise those who wish to leave is to be sure they have heard from the Holy Spirit, received a fresh vision, are not led by flesh or ambition for recognition, or are acting out of misunderstanding or offence toward their leaders.

#.11. The apostolic authority is relational. Apostles are sent to the entire Body of Yeshua and to society as a witness. However, they are not to barge in where they are not received or seek to impose themselves on people or authorities (see Matthew 10:1-15). As with everything concerning the Kingdom, the apostolic authority is relational. Those to whom Yeshua has assigned an apostle will know it and receive His ambassador without struggle. The words of the apostle will lift the hearts of those who are so ordained and build them up to be who Yeshua redeemed them to be. In writing to the Church in Corinth, Paul cited the relationship Elohim forged between him and them, 1 Corinthians 4:15

It was on this basis that he could make the awesome pronouncement concerning the brother who committed incest with his father’s wife in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

#.12. They continue the model established by Yeshua that the Gospel is not for sale and money should never be allowed to rule those who are called. Truly mature apostles, therefore, check their

motives in ministry to ensure they are not in it for what they will get, but rather are obeying the call. For this reason, they will not seek to make merchandise of their gifts and callings.

> *Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.* Matthew 10:8

#.13. Apostles and evangelists thus grasp the full scope of the Great Commission with greater clarity and responsibility than other groups. Regardless of their locations or the current extent of their assignments, there is a divine wiring within their spirit-man and soul that longs to see the gospel of the Kingdom preached worldwide and for as many as are destined for salvation to be reached. Just like the first apostles, these scriptures are embraced as part of their personal mandates.

> *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14.*
>
> *Also see Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8.*

#.14. Apostles reject a 'maintenance' mindset and instead carry an exceptional burden to pioneer new grounds in the gospel. They possess the grace to forge fresh paths. Apostles have a strong distaste for the lukewarmness that characterises maintenance in the gospel. The maintenance mindset causes ministers to focus on what occurs inside brick-and-mortar buildings. Such inwardness diminishes the cutting edge of the gospel, and true apostles cannot adopt that lifestyle (Acts 6:1-7). That is why they challenge saints to step out of their comfort zones.

#.15. Mature apostles have a distaste for division,

denominationalism, and leadership cults because they know intuitively, and based on the Word, that the Church of Yeshua is one and should walk in unity. Starting with yearning for other folds to manifest within the work entrusted to them, apostles labour to ensure the unity of the faith in the bond of peace. For them, these scriptures are fundamental. John 17:20-23 and Ephesians 4:1-5.

Let us remember that these signs are primarily a useful guide for discernment, so we do not allow all types of title carriers to confuse us. There may be additional signs that specific individuals will display. We do not need to see all 15 signs before offering the right hand of Fellowship or accepting those who are called. Through self-evident manifestation, prophetic release, or discernment, Elders of the Church should recognise those who are called by their fruits and embrace and support them to grow in grace. Apostles, like all other roles, need to develop, pressing forward into the fullness of the stature of Yeshua, their King! The eaglet of today will become the mature eagle of tomorrow.

There are signs buried within the spirit-man of a potential apostle which cannot be manifested until they embrace the calling. The fruit will then appear. This was the case of Philip. What he manifested in Samaria, where he ran for safety, was already in him. But because the Church at Jerusalem was top-heavy with the 12 apostles, the call of an evangelist was not manifested there. In the fresh, virgin territory of Samaria, grace showed up, as Acts chapter 8 revealed.

Assignment

(1). Mention and explain five signs of an apostle who ministered most to you.

(3). What new thing(s) did you learn from this lesson?

CHAPTER 12
Apostles Are Work in Progress

The Apostle of Yeshua, Jesus: Digging Deeper

Of the things we have shared so far, here is the summary: an apostle is called to be a personal representative of Yeshua, Jesus, who is the exact image of the Father and the Head of the Church. He who is the Son of Yahweh, Son of Man, and Seed of the woman will, in every generation, until He returns to establish and physically rule in the future phase of the Kingdom, raise witnesses to His unique life, His death on the Cross to atone for the sins of the entire world, declare forgiveness of sins in His name, and minister all the benefits derived from redemption! Those called to be His apostles will openly proclaim that He will soon return to govern and reign in the fullness of the Kingdom.

For that reason, apostles of Yeshua Jesus will be unusual people who are not afraid to be politically incorrect. They know that their calling will occasion stepping on the toes of brethren who want to be at ease in Zion. They know intuitively that their greatest challenge will not come from outside, but from those who prefer to practice organised religion. The depth of the revelation of Yeshua, Jesus, and His Kingdom that they have received will propel them to emulate the

Master Builder, Paul, by proclaiming the truth with passion, thereby exposing the shenanigans of those who seek to lead the Church astray. Galatians 1:6-10

When Peter and Barnabas, his seniors in the gospel, who walked with Yeshua while in His incarnate state, stumbled at Antioch, falling for the theology of Judaizers, Paul rose to the occasion to give a robust defence of the gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Yeshua alone, to which Hebrews and Gentiles are mutually called. Galatians 2:11-17

King Yeshua will use apostles to periodically draw His plumb line, and what they see will lead them to make courageous proclamations calling the Church back to genuine fidelity to her Head. In these matters, they exhibit an extraordinary similarity in disposition with the prophets who walk and work closely with them. They long to see all saints walking in the fullness of light and are lonely individuals who can be misunderstood by saints who see themselves as destined to 'enjoy' this present life. True apostles will therefore heed the words of our Master and His early apostles not to love this world and its temptations! They intuitively understand that they are ambassadors of Yeshua to witness to and against this world system about the coming King who alone can bring the peace, joy, and prosperity that people of all races, nations, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds yearn for (John 17:1-21; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 John 2:15-17).

Work-In-Progress / Principle of Process

It is important to disclose here that apostles are at different stages of development. There will be:

- Fully matured apostles.
- Growing apostles.

- Baby apostles.

It pays to know where you are now. Do not be intimidated by the depth of knowledge of the word or the experience of the more mature apostles, if you are yet a baby in the calling. Yeshua will connect you with those He will use to mentor and challenge you until His fullness is formed in you and until the apostolic mantle begins to manifest to the degree ordained. In effect, apostles, like other ministers, are truly work-in-progress.

If you are called, do not be ashamed to acknowledge your current state and evident or not-so-evident weaknesses. Be true to Yeshua, who called you, and be real to yourself so that He will enable you to grow in grace. From the day of your call to the actual day of full manifestation to the wider Kingdom Church, there is often a gap of time called the process period. This is the period the King uses to work in you His nature and character, to give you fuller knowledge, deeper intimacy, greater passion for the Kingdom, and sharper focus. It is also a time that the King uses to pluck out every form of self-confidence and love of the world that may lurk within the soul. 2 Peter 3:18

Some case studies

1. **Peter**: Growing in grace was the case of Peter, the rough-hewn, unlearned fisherman of Galilee, who was expertly processed by Yeshua, Jesus Himself, and further processed by the Holy Spirit, to the degree that his impulsive, soulish reflexes finally gave way and he became the rock-steady character who, even according to historians, volunteered to be crucified upside down rather than suffer exactly the same fate as his Saviour. Peter was eventually qualified to counsel ministers of the gospel concerning the right attitude to ministry and spoke of the principle of process in 1 Peter 5:1-4, 10

2. **James and John**, who enrolled their mother to lobby for the choicest places of honour in the coming Kingdom as we read in Matthew 20: 20-23. Let us be reminded that James and John started their apostolic callings with a temper that was so hot that Yeshua Himself called them 'sons of thunder'.

> *And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: Mark 3:17.*

They were so intolerant that at one time they sought permission to call down fire from heaven to destroy Samaritans who refused Yeshua the right of way. Luke 9:51-56. It was also they who tried to prevent someone from performing miracles in the name of Yeshua because he was not part of their known company. Mark 9:38-40.

These remarkable vessels were so broken and processed in their continued walk with Yeshua that James became the first apostle to be martyred for His testimony, as He prophesied in response to their affirmation.

> *Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.**2** And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. Acts 12:1*

John was to suffer untold persecution, including, as church historians reveal, an attempt to fry him alive in hot oil. The failure of that brutal method led the Roman authorities to exile him to the Island of Patmos. By the time John had undergone this fiery process, he had emerged as the leading apostle of love and holiness. His epistles reflect the fruit of the true ordeal he experienced.

3. **Paul**. When he was called by Yeshua (Jesus) in Acts 9:1-22, he was

a baby. He was, however, wise to realise his need for a deeper understanding of Yahweh and intimacy with Yeshua. His trip to Arabia and Tarsus produced that effect. It took Barnabas, whom Yeshua used to affirm and mentor him, to summon him to the mission field in Antioch (Acts 9:26-30; Acts 11:19-26). Barnabas continued to lead until the equation changed, when Yahweh deemed Paul sufficiently mature.

From Acts 13:9, we observe a fundamental shift as the led becomes the leader! We also see that in Galatians 2:11-18, Paul had to rebuke Peter and Barnabas when they temporarily strayed from the truth and succumbed to the antics of the Judaizers. Paul became the foremost apostle of his generation, not inferior to any of the older ones, including the 11 who walked with Yeshua (Jesus) while He was on earth. 1 Corinthians 15:9-11.

4. **Apollos,** who was a great apostle in his later years, was once so ignorant that Yahweh used Priscilla and Aquila to give him a more perfect understanding of the gospel of Yeshua Jesus. Acts 18:24-28.

He later became so mightily used that people compared him with Peter and Paul in stature. 1 Corinthians 3:1-9.

Therefore, saints must avoid the tendency to dismiss a message outright because of the rough package that is the messenger! The eager little apostle (of yesterday and today) may become the leading apostle of tomorrow. If we rightly discern that someone is called to this office and possesses pure motives and sincerity, we can accept the message they bring from the Lord, knowing full well that the master of the messenger is at work. It takes maturity to do this. Intolerance of apostles because of some flaws is risky, because the baby can be thrown out with the bathwater, so to speak.

Labouring according to Standards

In performing the work of Yeshua, apostles will build according to biblical provisions and clear Kingdom principles. They will thereby emulate John the Baptist and direct the saints towards Yeshua rather than themselves. John 3:26-31.

They will see all saints Yahweh brings their way as candidates for empowerment. Whether stated or not, their focus in ministry will be to teach, train, equip, activate gifts and callings, and release saints into productive ministry. They are unlikely to cling to people who come into the ministries they lead if the Holy Spirit clearly directs such individuals to move on into new ministry endeavours. Apostles will aim to build the Kingdom rather than personal empires and will prioritise the glory of Yahweh over their own comfort and convenience (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

As those vested with divine authority, apostles seek and practise the delicate balance of liberty in the Spirit and divine order by the Spirit. Even as they empower saints and willingly release those who need to go, they are unlikely to tolerate brethren who walk in a disorderly manner, are self-centred, or ambitious for vain glory. They value faithfulness to Yeshua, the vision, and alignment with the vision holder more than soulical competence or mental brilliance.

> *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement. 1 Corinthians 1:10*

This principle of unity is seen by those called to this office as the key to restoring Kingdom order, which prepares the way for the return of King Yeshua, Jesus. Certain scriptures in the Old Covenant capture

their imagination: 1 Chronicles 12:38, Joel 2:7, and Isaiah 65:8.

The reality that one day they will stand before Yeshua, Jesus, to account for every word spoken, action taken, and the degree to which they fulfilled the apostolic commission drives every true apostle to labour with every ounce of strength and measure of grace to discover, pursue and fulfil their spiritual mandates. There is a hidden instinct to say, as Paul did, that they truly completed their assignments! 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27, 2 Corinthians 5:8-11 and 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

Why submitting to a process is so important:

Because of the fiery trials those called to this foundational office may face, they need to submit to due process and be patient with Elohim, trusting His judgement and the appointed time for them to come forth like gold.

> *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. James 1:2-4*

During the process, issues such as rejection, evil speaking, and persecution by religious folks should be accepted with joy, knowing that they work together for good. Romans 8:28-32 and 1 Peter 2:21-23.

Just as He did with Paul, Elohim will often open the eyes of those called to this foundational office so that they understand that the process is for their good (2 Corinthians 12:1-10). Those who reject the process of Elohim will invariably gravitate towards seeking premature honour, glory, and love of pre-eminence. This may drive

them to behave like Diotrephes, who resisted the person and authority of John the Beloved, an Elder of the Church who lived in Ephesus.

> *I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. 3 John 1:9*

They may behave like those who were not initially called but are captivated by the 'weight' of the title 'apostle'. Such individuals will pursue the office as a licence to 'possess', 'own', or dominate other saints in Nimrodic fashion, similar to the Nicolaitanes, whose deeds Yeshua expressly despises (Revelation 2:6, 15). These tendencies are often driven by the money to be gained from the milk-drinking co-dependents they gather around themselves, who lack a vibrant personal relationship with Yeshua or the 'prestige' of using their numbers to boost ministry ego.

Beware: False Apostles will seek to ensnare!

Nowhere in the Holy Scriptures are saints asked to embrace and receive ministry from anyone who shows up with the title of apostle! We have a duty to check out the fruit of their character and to what extent the Cross of Yeshua, Jesus, has produced His nature, presence, and power in their lives. What Yeshua laid down as a benchmark for receiving prophets also applies to those called to the office of apostle. Matthew 7:15-23.

Our eyes of understanding need to be opened to recognise who they are in the spirit. If this healthy balance is not established, the Church will be infiltrated by those Satan sends, dressed in outward robes of apostolic authority, including the ability to perform signs and wonders! 2 Corinthians 11:12-15.

Let us be wise!

Partner with the Holy Spirit to defeat the darkness of ignorance with the light of revelation! Distribute this lesson to as many pastors and leaders as you can, whether they are on Facebook, WhatsApp, or other social media. You could help some saints locate their calling or desist from profanity!

Assignment

(1) Why is it important for those called to be apostles to avoid rushing to boast but first submit to the divine process?

(2) Please cite at least three cases of apostles in the Bible who were processed to become mature.

(3) Why must the Church examine the fruit of those who claim to be called to be apostles?

CHAPTER 13
Yeshua, Jesus, as the Sole Compass of Apostles

Many of us are familiar with road maps and satellite navigation systems that guide people to their destinations. Few of us have experienced the work of a compass. The compass also helps us find our way, but with a far superior method of functioning and operation.

While the road map follows the contours of roads, winding through mountains and valleys, the compass remains fixed in showing your position relative to the four cardinal points: North, East, South, and West. This means the compass helps you determine where you are on earth in relation to the North and South poles.

That way, you can know the degree to which you are on or off course. That is why aircrafts and ships use navigation systems that are based on the compass. As any pilot or captain knows, a slight deviation can lead you totally off course! Following compass directions enables pilots and captains to remain on course and avoid the pitfalls of diversion.

In religion, all roads may ultimately lead to Rome. However, in the

spiritual realm, not all paths lead to the Kingdom! Many who have been called and will be called to the apostolic ministry face the greatest danger of operating without the Kingdom's compass. Their outcomes are often tragic, as some apostles, who were mighty workers for Yeshua, ultimately missed the mark. Throughout history and across generations, many saints, called to this important work, have fallen short simply because they relied on the wrong compass. The true compass is none other than Yeshua, Jesus Himself!

A. Apostles are called foremost to be with Him before He sends them out!

Taking the title first without being called is tragic. Being called and refusing to embrace an intimate relationship with the King may lead to a mercenary mindset. Taking the apostolic office to join the Joneses is a sure pathway to spiritual and physical death! Concerning the very first 12 Apostles, the account of their call is revealing.

> *And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. 14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: 16 And Simon he surnamed Peter; 17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: 18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, 19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house. Mark 3:13*

Let us analyse what this scripture is saying…

1. Verse 13a: Yeshua first went up to a high mountain.

“And he goeth up into a mountain,”

Yeshua withdrew to a secluded place away from the crowd so He could be alone with the Father, whose opinion was sought in all matters! Luke 6:12-13 explains how He engaged in all-night prayer, seeking the Father's face to discern whom to call into the office of apostle. Yeshua does not appoint any of His apostles lightly!

2. Verse 13b: He called only those He wanted, out of the multitudes that thronged His ministry.

“and calleth unto him whom he would”

No one can override Yeshua concerning a specific calling! It is He Who specifically calls those He desires into the fivefold, as Ephesians 4:11 clearly states. If that is the case, He Himself determines who He wants to serve as His apostles.

3. Verse 13c: They left fathers, mothers, businesses, and indeed all else to respond to the call.

“and they came unto him”

From that day, the disciples called into apostolic duty crossed a rubicon in the spirit. The desire of Yeshua became their command. He looked after them, and they trusted Him for everything they needed during their earthly journey. This included food, shelter, taxes, and indeed everything. Those called into this office in this generation may not be physically separated from their loved ones or be required to quit their businesses or jobs. However, there must be a heart that is primarily loyal to King Yeshua, for whose sake all else will stand or fall, if necessary. In this way, they entrust their future, needs, and destinies to Him and rely entirely on His grace for all their needs.

4. Verse 14a: Those called were foremost to come into an intimate

personal relationship with Yeshua.

"And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,"

Being with Yeshua in the secret place will always take priority over doing anything for Him! He can only send those who have been with Him! Many who do not endure the journey often fall short because of a lack of an intimate personal relationship with Yeshua. The words of Yeshua in John 15:4-7 are very accurate:

5. Verse 14-15. Yeshua delegated to them the authority to preach and to show forth the Kingdom.

"*14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:"*

They were to preach the gospel of the Kingdom and show that reality by being used of the Holy Spirit to cause supernatural intervention in the 'affairs' of the people to whom they were sent. They were to continue what He started!

> *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand…23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. Matthew 4:17.*

Also read Matthew 10:7

Yeshua charged them to lay all else aside and seek first the Kingdom and its righteousness, knowing assuredly that Yahweh will provide

all their needs (Matthew 6:25-34). The single-minded pursuit of the Kingdom was not an option. It was to be the very basis of acceptable Kingdom life and service. Whoever cannot approach the affairs of the Kingdom with this singleness of purpose cannot be a true apostle of Yeshua, Jesus! Matthew 6:19-34

Until He returns, Yeshua has mandated all called to this office to continue preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, which has a far broader scope than Christian religion can accommodate.

> *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14*

The Gospel of the Kingdom requires all humans to accept the free Salvation by Grace through Yeshua. It also demands that those who are saved cease living for themselves. They must die to self and embrace Yeshua as the enthroned King in their hearts, submitting to His Sovereign rule. In this way, they live for the world to come, when Yeshua will return to physically reign over the earth in the visible Kingdom, making it the centre of their hearts (Matthew 6:19-34). Those called to be apostles have the primary responsibility to ensure that the Church and the world are aware that fulfilment can only be achieved in this visible Kingdom with the return of Yeshua.

6. Verse 16-18. He named and numbered those who were called.

16 And Simon he surnamed Peter; 17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: 18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite

They were not anonymous. These were definite people whose badge of identity from then on consisted of being with Yeshua, Jesus, as Acts 4:13 mentions. Their backgrounds varied, and their personalities were different. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen skilled in hauling and sorting fish (Matthew 4:18-22). The Master valued that background more than scholarships, of which they had none. Matthew was chosen because his ability to record detailed information would be useful for creating a biography proclaiming Yeshua as the Son of David, whom the Jews had long awaited (Matthew 9:9). Nathaniel was accepted because he was as straightforward as water, with no hidden agenda in his heart.

7. Verse 19. It is instructive that Judas Iscariot was among the privileged 12.

"19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house."

That he eventually fell because of his love of money and his desire for political power establishes the fact that an apostle, like other saints who become careless, can backslide or divert into apostasy. Hebrews 6:1-8 and Hebrews 10:26-31.

One can be mightily used by Yeshua and ultimately miss the mark due to a loss of one's first love, as the Church at Ephesus was warned. Once service continues after the heart grows cold, the danger of falling away becomes very real. Revelation 2:1-5.

Today, the number of ministers, including apostles, who miss the mark and are oblivious to their disconnection from reality is too high to ignore. Hosea 7:8.

There are many in apostolic ministry who are so immersed in public ministry that they neglect their personal spiritual lives. Sons of Solomon 1:6. It is easy to let little foxes of worldly cares, such as

competition for numbers, money, fame, and power, consume the core of spirituality.

> *Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes. Songs of Solomon 2:15.*

B. Some Means of Growing in Grace

Like other saints, apostles are called to grow in grace so that their lives are not static.

> *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18*

The validity of an apostolic commission, therefore, will largely depend on the extent of intimacy with Yeshua. In Yeshua is everything that apostles need to function in ministry. It makes sense, therefore, to grow in intimacy with Him. This is done through some principal means of grace.

#.1. The first is to yearn and hunger for Him and refuse to be absorbed by ministry business to the degree that the apostle relies on the spent fuel of irrevocability of the gift and calling to function. It is entirely possible to be disconnected from Yeshua and yet do signs and wonders. That a minister is raising the dead, healing the sick, and delivering the oppressed is no indicator of the state of his heart! Ask close aides of the mega-church pastors and TV superstar preachers, and what they will share with you about the private struggles of celebrity preachers will give you an idea of the extent of this malaise. This dangerous state is possible because the spiritual gifts projected by apostles and other ministers are not withdrawn by Elohim, if they backslide, covertly (secretly in the heart) or overtly

(clearly visible).

> *For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. Romans 11:29*

But it needs to be stressed that the same gifts that could have secured them honour and glory on the last day will become instruments of judgement and condemnation when they are not used to build according to pattern and to empower the saints! It is no wonder Paul, the Apostle, made it his overriding desire to press into the fullness of Yeshua and to apprehend that for which he was apprehended by Him. He sought to know Yeshua intimately and to regard every other knowledge, including his famed scholarship, as dung. Phillippians 3:7-14.

As we learn from the epistle of Paul to the Colossians 2:18-23, we should be mindful of the need to hold fast to the Head of the Body, Yeshua, Jesus, lest we slide into religious norms and activities.

#.2. That yearning must translate into a life of intense prayer. Apostles must avoid the temptation to spend more time praying for signs and wonders; otherwise, they may become hirelings who preach others into the Kingdom and miss it due to the loss of their first love! 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

Apostles and indeed all ministers must spend quality time worshipping Yahweh, our heavenly Father, praising Him even amid fire as Paul did often (Acts 16: 25- 34). True worship proceeds from hearts that know that Elohim is who He is, deserving all honour, glory, and adoration. In that case, true worship is not restricted to when we feel good or when He has blessed us. Paul modelled for us the reality that those who are truly spiritual come to a place where they still worship Elohim even amid the fires of life: 2 Corinthians

12:7

Apostles should spend a good deal of time seeking to know and walk in the ways of Yahweh, as did Moses, the great apostle-prophet of Israel (Psalm 103:7). Apostles must also learn to pray about everything, just like Yeshua, Jesus did, so they can operate within the express will of Yahweh.

> *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgement is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. John 5:30*

> *For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. John 6:38*

Prayer enables ministers to draw down the fullness of Yeshua's glory and presence. This gives truly called apostles the divine presence/aura called 'virtue'.

> *Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

#.3. A true apostle must covet an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit through constant communion with Him. He is the live wire, connecting the sent one to heaven and validating the commission. Cultivating a deep communion with He who will take the things of Yeshua and show His ministers is not an option! When those called are full of Him, they can break through wherever He sends them: Acts 1:8

When He is given full space, the sent one does not struggle to produce a precise word. There is a flow that comes from Him that is released as and when due.

> *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. John 7:38*

Many who live in secret sins and engage in lifestyles such as gossiping and backbiting often find themselves uncomfortable or shy (some even afraid of apostles and prophets). There are many saints who feel a certain unease when they come before a true apostle. That is the presence of Yahweh as they wear Yeshua as a garment and His presence through the Holy Spirit who energises their spirits, convicts others of sin, righteousness, and judgement.

> *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement: John 16:8*

Because those called to be apostles are gifted to function as pathfinders and ground breakers, being filled with the Holy Spirit should not be a historical matter confined to an experience in the past. There is a need to be full of the Holy Spirit in the present continuous tense. This is not about speaking in tongues or making a show. It is about the Holy Spirit having 100 per cent control of all the being of the called one, able to manifest through their vessels whenever it pleases Him! *Acts 11:22*

#.4. Seriousness of Life and Gravity of Ministry. In daily life and ministry, apostles are expected to be people of few, weighty words. The habit of gossiping and chattering over trivial matters must be put aside whenever this higher calling comes through. Excessive speaking depletes the anointing. James 1:26.

#.5. To know Yeshua and be found in Him, the apostle must be an avid student of The Word. The Word is to be studied, meditated on, and allowed to be made flesh. This makes it possible for the Word of Yeshua to dwell richly in him or her in all wisdom. Colossians 3:16.

This enables the one called to be an apostle to speak the Word concerning any and every situation. 2 Timothy 2:15.

This means we must begin to study the Word with a new attitude and mindset. The apostle no longer approaches it as an impersonal, dry religious tome. The Word is Yeshua himself, instructing us, since He is the living Word.

There are many good books and commentaries. There are many good, spiritually uplifting articles apostles will, of course, read. However, those who are truly called reach a point where no book by any man or woman, no matter how anointed, becomes a substitute for studying and knowing the Holy Scriptures under the unction of the Holy Spirit. Apostles also do not allow commentaries and concordances to automatically interpret the Word. They turn to the Holy Spirit whenever any word seems obscure. John 14:26.

#.6. Separation from the world system of living for pleasure. Those called to this office often receive a clear understanding of the glory and beauty of the world to come and press into it, as the glories of this world hold no attraction for them. They do not isolate themselves from the world but are separated from the spirit, which rules those who are under its influence.1 John 5:19-21.

In that way, they see their present life as a pilgrimage during which they are to engage with the world as salt and light, serving their King! Even those called to public service can respond and go as Ambassadors of the King, without getting caught up in the trappings of carnality. 1 John 2:15-17, 2 Timothy 2:4, and James 4:4-5.

Oh! That we may have apostles with steadfast hearts! Apostles, who will, like Yeshua, drive out the merchants who have corrupted the purpose of the house of Yahweh and restore true worship! Matthew 21:12-13.

On that day, we saw the other side of the Great Shepherd: He who was meek and lowly was also capable of barking and biting when the need arose!

Who will go for Elohim?

If not you, who will go?

If not now, when will it be done?

Assignment

(1) Out of the 7 things discussed in Part A of this lesson titled "apostles are called first and foremost to be with Him before He sends them out," please mention 5 which particularly touched your heart.

(2). Out of the 6 means of Grace for divine process discussed in Part B of this chapter, please discuss 3 of them which particularly ministered to you.

CHAPTER 14
Privileges and Potential Pitfalls of the Apostolic Calling

At this stage of our study, it is necessary to examine the privileges of the apostolic calling. Equally important is understanding the potential pitfalls so they can be guarded against. Understanding these two issues will broaden our understanding of the office of the apostle. It will enable those called to it to respond properly and avoid the potential for a shipwreck. In this lesson, we will share five points on the first part and four on the second sub-topic, according to the measure of revelation received from the Lord. As you dwell in the Word in prayers, He will unveil more to you.

Part 1: The Privileges of the Apostolic Ministry.

Privileges of apostolic ministry include:

#.1. Primacy in leadership. Where leaders are Spirit-led and directed by contemporaries, and where there is no room for politics and humanistic agendas, there is no difficulty for prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to accord confirmed apostles the primacy among them, as ordained in the Bible. It is noteworthy that in all

places where the fivefold is mentioned, apostles are always listed first.

> *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; Ephesians 4:11*

In the first epistle to the Corinthians, this primacy is expressly stated.

> *And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after those miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 1 Corinthians 12:28*

Despite this primacy, true apostles will not strive with anyone over seating arrangements, protocol, or who will chair meetings! Humility is required from apostles not to contend for recognition or honour. If anyone gets high-minded about this, Yahweh can permit the messenger of Satan to smite, dealing with the body so that the soul is saved. See the example of Paul in 2 Corinthians 12: 1-19. It must be noted that apostles can humbly serve in ministries where the visionary is a mature pastor or one called in another fold.

#.2. Faithfulness to King Yeshua and willingness to stand for truth, even if in the minority. The primary loyalty of the apostles is to King Yeshua, who called them, and there is an inherent wiring to please Him that disregards personal comfort, convenience, or 'political correctness'. As He desires, they yearn to see all saints walking in the fullness of light, and just like prophets, they may be lonely people unafraid to buck the trend among maintenance-minded brethren and ministries.

#.3. They are so convinced of the superior blessings of the world to

come in the manifest phase of the Kingdom that even when they are blessed by the Lord, they are not consumed by the lust for material things of this present world! Mature apostles, therefore, heed the words of our Master and his early apostles not to love this world and its attractions! 1 John 2:15-17 and James 4:1-5.

They know instinctively that they are ambassadors of Yeshua, called to witness to and stand against this world system. It is about the coming King who alone can bring the peace, joy, and prosperity that people of all races, nations, genders, and socio-economic backgrounds long for. Their resolve not to become entangled with the worldly system can be easily misunderstood by other ministers and saints who see themselves as called to 'enjoy' this present life.

The ways of Babylon and its dainties hold no attraction for mature apostles! They therefore exhort saints to maintain a healthy distance from the world system and model how this can be practically done. 2 Corinthians 6:14.

However, they do not advocate complete separation from the world. Their understanding is that Elohim wants His own to be 'separate (not Isolated) from the world in order to engage with it as Kingdom ambassadors on assignment,' as explained by King Yeshua in John 17:1-23. As they grow in maturity, there is a certain expectation of the Lord's return in their lifetime, which affirms their 'otherworldliness' even as they diligently fulfil their roles with wisdom, grace, and the divine strength within them. This attitude allows them to live like the wise virgins in Matthew 25:1-13.

#.4. Virtue / Holy Halo.

The manifestation of some or all of the signs of an apostle creates an atmosphere of virtue or 'holy halo,' which challenges those they interact with to yearn for more of the presence and power of the

King in their own lives and ministries. It is this virtue that the Holy Spirit also uses to convict those around them who are slow to press into the fullness of Yeshua, Jesus, or who sin secretly. Those with tender hearts are convicted and grow, while those who are proud become hardened, angry, bitter, and sometimes backslide. Apostles who notice this virtue in their lives have a duty to be personable and approachable, lest they develop a cult-like image that attracts and ties souls to themselves rather than to Yeshua, whom they serve. Those who do not heed this warning may become conceited and proud, attracting divine resistance. 1 Peter 5: 5-6 and James 4:6

#.5. Empowerment of saints.

The apostolic office has an inbuilt, Elohim-given tendency to empower saints to know their identity in Yeshua and to embrace it with all zeal. Mature apostles walk in an uncommon capacity to allow the Holy Spirit to use them to empower spiritual sons called to the fivefold to grow up and become colleagues in ministry rather than perpetual, subservient employees. True apostles often process saints committed to their trust to grow in grace from the state of babyhood until they become 'colleagues'. Yeshua modelled this transition of His disciples: From Servants, Yeshua transitioned them to be His Friends. John15:12-15.

After He sealed the deal at Calvary and arose from the dead, He further transitioned them to be sons of Elohim, His own brethren! John 20:17.

This then, is the ultimate purpose of redemption: that, through the sacrifice of the ultimate Son, Yeshua, Jesus, Elohim will receive a harvest of sons throughout the earth realm! Apostles are capacitated to bring this vision to pass within their spheres of Kingdom influence. Hebrews 2:9-14.

Apostles take responsibility to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and continue what Yeshua, Jesus, came to establish on earth. Paul followed this same process! His mentorship of Timothy started as an insecure 'son' needing affirmation and nurture. Paul was a true spiritual father to Timothy, guiding him in all aspects of life. 1 Timothy 1:2, 1 Timothy 1:18, 1 Timothy 5:23 and 2 Timothy 1:7.

He gave Timothy assignments, as the young man grew in grace, including the bishopric of the cosmopolitan Church at Ephesus. By the time Timothy matured in faith, Paul treated him as a co-labourer, not a perpetual mentee. In some of his epistles, Paul referenced Timothy as part of the dynamic team through whom Elohim was communicating to the Churches. Philippians 1:1, Colossians 1:1, 1 Thessalonians 1:1, and 2 Thessalonians 1:1.

Mature apostles will make empowerment a critical part of their ministries' DNA. This is why mature apostles are not afraid to welcome and receive manifestations of the various folds and spiritual gifts in the ministries they lead. To whom much is given, as the saying goes, much is expected!

#.6. Because of the high value of the world to come, physical death does not scare them as they go forth to obey the Lord in all things. With the death of self, which is inherent in this calling, those who relate with apostles will do well to avoid tendencies to use threats to control or intimidate them. As they are people of deep, passionate conviction, who are fearless, it is best to reason with them rather than resist visions committed to their trust.

Part 2: Some Potential Pitfalls of the Apostolic Ministry

1. **Pride**

Pride is a current danger in the apostolic ministry, given their

remarkable endowments and privileges. Everyone called into this office must know this potential pitfall and deliberately die to self and its offspring. To die daily, giving the flesh no room to sprout, is the key! 1 Corinthians 15:31; Galatians 2:20.

Those who refuse to die daily may become proud of the mighty works the Holy Spirit performs through them. In such cases, heaven intervenes to permit some attacks that remind them they are mortals upheld by Grace. Paul experienced this truth. 2 Corinthians 12:3-10.

2. **Impatience**

Impatience with those who are less consecrated or those who draw back may lead to what some may perceive as a lack of compassion or patience.

One pitfall that apostles must guard against is the tendency to expect too much from other saints, leading to disappointment and a strong reaction when those expectations are not met. This was evident in the case of Paul concerning John Mark, who was a personal assistant to both him and Barnabas. When he first accompanied them on the initial Missionary Journey as a teenager, the young man became homesick and returned home. Acts 13:4-5, 13.

When Barnabas wanted the same John Mark to accompany them on the Second Missionary Journey, Paul refused, and both had to split up. Acts 15:36-40.

The apostolic grace of Barnabas enabled him to be more forbearing and patient with people. The apostolic grace of Paul had an evangelistic enablement, which made him a total ‘Go Ye’ person. It was to avoid being weighed down that he opted for celibacy, as 1 Corinthians 7 reveals. The reality that Barnabas had the grace to

mentor John Mark into his destiny was proved when Paul later found reason to testify that the young man had grown up (2 Timothy 4:11; Colossians 4:10).

It was this young man who later wrote the power-packed gospel according to Mark.

3. **Temptation to take Credit**

Temptation to take credit for what the Holy Spirit does through their vessels or make money from the anointing.

There is a present danger for apostles to be carried away by the anointing and the number of people it attracts. This may lead to loud boasting and the use of language in advertising that suggests they are responsible for what is accomplished. When apostles begin to love their photoshopped images plastered all over fliers, billboards, TV, and social media campaigns, asking people to come to them for solutions, there is a danger that Yeshua may be consigned to a back seat! 1 Corinthians 4:7.

The temptation to convert those numbers to cash through various worldly marketing strategies must be avoided. Just as those called were freely endowed with great spiritual gifts, they should release the same freely and give all the glory to the King! Matthew 10:7

The Body of Yeshua is often in the dangerous business of cherry-picking scriptures. When genuine ministers are among modern saints, they suffer unduly because saints do not understand that there is an underlying Kingdom responsibility towards those who are sent to them. Let us note that in the same passage where Yeshua exhorted ministers to give freely of their services, He also tasked the recipients of the grace in them to take responsibility for their upkeep: Matthew 10:9

Clearly, therefore, Yeshua, Jesus, does not encourage saints to neglect or mistreat the apostles sent to them. The consistent testimony of Scripture shows that saints are blessed when they joyfully and sacrificially support those sent to empower them. In the divine economy, ministers are blessed by the Lord through the saints they serve, creating a Kingdom balance that, when understood and practised, brings blessings to both the saints and their spiritual leaders. In this spiritual equilibrium, as leaders serve as unto the Lord, He uses other saints to provide their material needs so that the King and His Kingdom are not reproached by the world. Galatians 6:6. 1 Timothy 5:17

The cancer of leaders using the ministry gifts to enrich themselves needs to be rooted out of the Body by the remnant! Engagement in tent-making or marketplace ministry is preferable to using the gospel to make money!

Unfortunately, some apostles succumb to the temptation of trying to make money from their gifts and callings when saints refuse to support them. Paul showed that such a tendency has no foundation. To free himself from the pressures of receiving support from carnal saints, he opted to be a tentmaker, earning money from his marketplace ministry to support the mission entrusted to him! Acts 18:2.

He did not want unspiritual brethren to manipulate him or silence his voice from speaking the truth! 1 Corinthians 9:13-19

4. Forsaking simplicity/engaging in excess protocol.

Those who do not make the simplicity of Yeshua their compass will be tempted to put barriers between themselves and the saints they were raised to minister to. Saints should have free access to their apostolic leaders, free from excessive protocol. As apostles mature,

they need to always remember the calling is not to accumulate personal 'sons' and 'daughters' for boasting. Rather, it is to turn saints who are immature, insecure, and those who behave as unwanted slaves, orphans, and babes into spiritual sons of Elohim who are spiritually mature and take responsibility for the estate of their Father!

May all who are called to this awesome assignment take heed to these pitfalls and avoid them through the death of self-nature and the embrace of the Lordship of Yeshua, evidenced by submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all things!

Saints to whom apostles are sent should do well to intercede earnestly for them when any of the pitfalls manifest to any degree. To physically resist or use the tongue to cut down the vessel called to be an apostle in the house is carnal in the extreme and clearly counterproductive. They can be corrected graciously and thus recovered rather than through sharp, unkind criticism. Galatians 6:1.

Finally, it needs to be stated that ultimately, the onus is on the whole Body to ensure that the great purpose of Yeshua in giving the fivefold is not compromised! Ephesians 4:11-16.

Assignment

(1) Please explain 3 privileges of the apostolic ministry.

(2) Outline 3 potential pitfalls.

(3) What does the Lord expect saints to do to apostles sent by Him for their empowerment who are faithful to such assignments?

(4) Rather than use non-support from brethren as an excuse to make money with the anointing, what should sincere apostles do?

CHAPTER 15
How Yeshua Calls

This lesson is for the benefit of those who may find some aspects of the 7 lessons on the office of the Apostle too hard to attain. It is a form of religious spirit to be fearful and intimidated concerning what the Lord wants to do with us and for which He is willing to release the appropriate measure of grace. We need to understand that the issues covered represent what He will do with those called, not what they have already accomplished in life. Let us break down this point further.

- He does not call those who are already qualified and perfect! The order of the Lord is to call, and our first order of business is to respond. He does not call the qualified but rather processes and qualifies the called one who is yielded and willing to follow.

Moses gave excuses of inadequacy when Elohim called him. Exodus 3:10-12.

Jeremiah also felt inadequate. Jeremiah 1:4-8.

Not a single person called into the office of the apostle had it all before being summoned. Peter was very unqualified, as were James,

John, and all the twelve. Paul was entirely outside, and an enemy of the Kingdom when election encountered him; and the King declared, with finality, his three-dimensional mandate to Ananias. Acts 9:15

- It is only when we say 'Yes' that Elohim goes to work to process us, one step at a time. The process includes the benefit of teachers, trainers, and mentors, who connect us with Him. He uses them to provide hands-on support, guidance, and affirmation.
- The Lord creates an enabling environment, such as the Congregation/Ministry or network, where we are accepted, given space to manifest the gift and call. In the right place, we can receive help to get up when we stumble or fall.

How He calls

A key issue, therefore, is the need to understand how He generally calls and to be able to identify how He chooses to speak to us specifically. Unlike the gods of various cultures and religions, Elohim desires a relationship rather than rituals. For relationships to develop and deepen in intimacy, He communicates in a way that true saints are able to hear His voice. John 10:26-27.

Let us pinpoint and explore some of the ways He speaks to and calls us to the ministry.

- The Witten Word.

The written word is inspired by His Spirit, serving as a record of His mind on various life issues. When we study the word earnestly with pure hearts, free of ulterior motives, the revelation is transferred from the Book into our spirit-man and soul. Those who dwell in the word experience their minds renewed and their hearts transformed.

2 Timothy 2: 15.

2 Timothy 3: 16-17

- Audible Voice of Elohim – Samuel heard the audible voice of Elohim on the day he was called. Any purported audible voice that contradicts the holy scripture in a fundamental way should be recognised as flawed and unreliable. Galatians 1:8-9
- Holy Spirit speaks with clarity. He expressly instructed the company of prophets and teachers in the Church at Antioch to release Barnabas and Saul for their apostolic assignment. Acts 13:1-4
- A burden that the Lord lays on the heart. This is an inner knowing in the spirit-man that one is called to this office. Here, the Holy Spirit is bearing witness with our spirit.
- Prophetic utterance. A call can come in the course of a prophetic utterance. The Lord wants His Church to be a prophetic body (1 Corinthians 14) so that we can often hear His voice. That is why He charges us not to quench the Spirit or despise prophesying. (1 Thessalonians 5: 19-20)
- Other revelatory gifts, such as dreams/interpretation, visions, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, tongues/interpretation and discernment, are reliable ways He communicates.
- Witness of the organic Body, the Church. This is a situation where the Lord makes a particular thing known to some or many people in the Church. They may call you
- Providential circumstances – directing our steps to where the fivefold is believed in and practised. The point of contact might be through social media.
- Supernatural relocation to another community, city, or nation where He uses us to pioneer a new work as

missionaries. Unknown to many of these people, who use the title 'Pastor' because that is all they know from their religious backgrounds, may have an apostolic calling!

- A deep, unquenchable yearning to see the Church come alive and saints empowered to discover and function in their gifts and callings.
- Fruit of learning and training – when we know more, we do better.
- When transition is due. In this case, we no longer derive as much joy from what we used to do in the Kingdom. This prepares the heart to receive the call. A transition can also be discerned when grace for a particular function or assignment seems to be maxed out, leaving the spirit-man yearning for more.
- Angelic visitations. Angels can be sent from Elohim to announce a calling. The onus is on us to discern their source.
- A strong pioneering spirit that works even in the marketplace as entrepreneurs.
- Love/Passion. Love is one of the signs of Kingdom life. Whatever you are passionate about could be an indicator of a call.
- Election. This is the reality of the sovereignty of Elohim over all of His creation. He creates us and assigns roles well before we are even born, as He told Prophet Jeremiah. Ephesians 1:4-6
- Self-evident manifestation. This is a case where a pastor, for instance, is doing ministry with apostolicity in general and a strong emphasis on empowering the flock of Yeshua, committed to their trust.
- Outcome of a Spirit-connected and led mentorship process.

By the law of reproduction wired into the New Covenant, those who walk in the apostolic calling will be used by the Lord to produce apostles in due course of time. 2 Timothy 2:1-2 and John 15:16.

- Direction by a God-given mentor. Based on item 18 above, mentors will be instructed to assign and provide instructions to their mentees. As such, mentees diligently fulfil their assignments; they will come to a place where they just function with an apostolic mindset, which the Body recognises. The brethren give way to their emergence and acceptance.

Assignment.

For those called to be apostles: Please use the 19 items listed above to construct the case for how you know if you are called to be one.

CHAPTER 16
The Office of Apostle - The Remnant and Apostolicity

Ours is the most blessed generation in all of human history. The early church began as a Holy Spirit-empowered, led movement of saints with little written guidance. In the first century, the Lord raised up vessels through whom He revealed His mind on the full identity, mandate, and spiritual structure of what the Church should look like on this side of eternity, in order to be ready for the day of days when it reunites with Him in glory.

As some of the resources the Lord released through this commission, namely The Gospel of the Kingdom, The Royal Priesthood after the Order of Melchizedek, Priesthood, and the Kingdom Church, and this course on the fivefold reveal, the devil has used the spirit of religion to confuse and deflect the majority of saints, causing them to labour feverishly towards building religious organisations where the ABC syndrome is prevalent (ATTENDANCE, BUILDINGS, and Cash). This system, also called Churchianity, is the present-day equivalent of the Golden Calf of Aaron or the alternative altar that Jeroboam built at Samaria.

Just like in the days of Elijah, the Lord has the ultimate card to play. In each generation, He preserves by grace a remnant who is not fooled by the loud 'success' of Churchianity. Romans 11:1-6.

In the first century, barely 70 years after He ascended to heaven, Satan hit the Church hard, and 5 churches in Asia Minor had lost the cutting edge of Kingdom life. Yeshua preserved two – the Church at Smyrna and Philadelphia for Himself. When Mystery Babylon emerged in the 4th century, the Lord preserved a remnant who refused to be part of the polluted gospel and went underground. Throughout the centuries, whenever gross darkness seemed to envelop the Church, He raised up vessels to challenge the system. That is how revivalists like Martin Luther, John and Charles Wesley, William Seymour of the Azusa Street, Charles Parham,

Some critical marks

Unlike in past centuries, when the Lord raised up one or more persons in each generation to challenge the system and spark a movement, the paradigm will shift in the last age before He returns. It will no longer be about an individual but rather about His empowered Body.

Core Markers

- End time apostles may be unusual people. Even in obscurity, when no one knows their name or identity, the individuals called will have a strong distaste for various forms of religion in their surroundings (churchgoers who simply use God to get what they want, not necessarily to worship Him). Religious leaders who see the flock as their own and do not hesitate to fleece them. To do so, they encourage them to see themselves as strangers, unwilling slaves, and perpetual infants.

- Their hearts will burn for truth, and the Holy Spirit will order their feet to connect with those already enlightened.
- They will understand the reality that Yeshua, Jesus, gave Paul a master plan for the Church, which is not a mere subject of Bible study or admiration. The master plan is to be prayerfully studied and understood by revelation as a blueprint of action.
- They will build with apostolicity. This is both a renewed mindset by the Word and a ministry pattern that mirrors what is written in the Word. Let us see a breakdown of what it entails.
- The Kingdom Church is one, universal spiritual entity. Congregations and ministries are but tributaries of the same river or branches of the same tree. They therefore love not just their congregations but also the whole Body and pay the price to walk in unity with others. Ephesians 4: 1-6
- Yeshua, Jesus alone is the Head of the Church. He does not share this sacred space with anyone. Unto Him should the gathering of the people be, not unto the pastor or his/her anointing.
- As the Head is holy, powerful, and alive, so should the Body be an organic entity where every saint is enabled to know their space and manifest grace.
- The fivefold (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers working together to perfect the saints, equip them to do the work of ministry is the key to attain edification) Ephesians 4: 11-16 is therefore a mandate that they work alongside Romans 12: 1-8, 1 Corinthians 12: 1-31, Ephesians 4: 1-16, and 1 Peter 4: 10-11.
- In congregations, they are given the privilege to serve or lead; they cannot rest until those called to be prophets,

evangelists, pastors, and teachers are raised and connected. Such congregations are trained to make the Great Commission a lifestyle of evangelism and missions, as Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 28:18-20 show.

- The truth in the Pauline epistles will be identified, rightly divided, and served to the saints so that they can walk in their identities as the New Creation of righteous sons of Elohim who are totally sold out to the Sovereign rule of King Yeshua, Jesus. They serve as His Royal Priesthood in the now and in the Millennium.
- They live in the consciousness that we are strangers and pilgrims whose lifespans are dated (1 Peter 2: 11). The ultimate phase of the Kingdom, which will kick off with the return of Yeshua, Jesus, to rule and reign, is worth living for. It is not a call for inaction but rather necessitates a mindset of obeying the charge to occupy until He returns (Luke 19: 10-27)
- They realise that Judgement Day is approaching when they will stand before the King of kings for an evaluation of their lives and ministry. This motivates the need to build with precious materials that, when tested by fire, shine more brightly. 2 Corinthians 5:10 and 1 Corinthians 3: 9-15.

The things outlined here are not for a tiny professional priestly caste. Those who manifest them, regardless of age, gender, or socio-economic status, are manifesting the fruit of the kind of life Yeshua, Jesus, desires, committing to the responsibility of taking care of Kingdom business at the congregational, community, city, state, or national levels.

CHAPTER 17
Women and the Apostolic Office (Part 1)

Many have questioned whether women can be called into general ministry, or specifically into the fivefold ministry. Some have embraced the reality that women can be called into some of the fivefold but struggle greatly with whether they can be called as apostles. Unfortunately, many approach the subject with two pre-determined biases:

- an Old Covenant concept of ministry which makes room for a male priestly caste to 'rule' over a large dormant laity of consumers of their anointing.
- The misunderstanding of some Pauline texts designed to instil order in public ministry, originally written to the churches at Corinth and Ephesus.

This lesson and two thereafter will be devoted to providing the spiritual realities of Kingdom life based on a holistic understanding of the new creation and new covenant realities, which are often obscured by the spirit of religion.

The two helpful scriptures we need to consider as we seek to navigate the issues are these:

> *For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line;* ***here a little, a****nd there* ***a little****: Isaiah 28: 10*

> *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2: 15.*

In one of the lessons in this study, the point was made that those called to the office of apostle live with Yeshua, Jesus, as a compass for life. This means a true apostle will emulate Him by loving righteousness and hating iniquity, as Hebrews 1:9 says. Drawing on the grace released through the aforementioned means that one called to be an apostle must find it necessary to press into His fullness giving no place in the heart for the things of Satan and the world he controls through lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and pride of life (1 John 2:16). This does not imply that the apostle is 100 percent sinless all the time. It simply means that the one so called understands that light and darkness cannot dwell together in the same heart, and that a conscious decision is made for the way of light, which is holiness.

> *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 1 Peter 1:15*

Whenever there is any stumbling in the mind, emotion, will, or heart, caused by words spoken or actions leading to sin, there is an acute sensitivity to the Holy Spirit that involves conviction from the

Holy Spirit. Repentance is immediate and complete, leading to the erasure of sin and a new manifestation of justification and awareness of righteousness.

Implications

The totality of life is thus entrusted into the hands of Yeshua, who supplies grace for His servants to do the work of the Kingdom above reproach. Because of the great esteem with which the commission is apprehended, the question an apostle will ask when faced with temptations and life-threatening persecutions is akin to what Paul asked in Romans 8:31-39

Nothing, of course, including money, power, fame, persecution, evil speaking, conspiracies, or the prospect of martyrdom, should ever have the power to cause an apostle to miss the mark. When life is lived this way, the authority of Yeshua over His Church is thus delegated to a worthy vessel who has not received the grace of Yahweh in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:10

Yahweh has always valued discipline, contrary to what many false preachers advance. In the New Testament, saints are enjoined to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, even though it is Yahweh who, by the Holy Spirit, does the actual work of holiness as revealed in these texts. Philippians 2:13.

> *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6*

We have a role to manifest our Father's love by our prompt obedience. Those called to this high office of apostle must lead the way. John 14:15, *John 15:14, and Philippians 2:12-16*

The Kingdom is manifested in obedience to the Word, out of love and holy reverence! Deriving from this complete submission of self to Yeshua and enthroning Him first above life and all else according to Matthew 16:24-26, emerges a human vessel who is dead to the old nature, life, ambitions, and inhibitions. One who is crucified with Yeshua has nothing to boast of in the flesh and of the flesh. Out of this broken being, whose sacrifice has been laid on the altar and accepted by Yahweh, emerges a spiritual son who, in the realm of the spirit-man, is neither male nor female anymore. Galatians 3:26-29.

Christian religion ignores these spiritual realities and keeps saints in a state of arrested babyhood syndrome, where their carnal senses rule their lives. In that state, saints get so hung up on, and focus on, such carnal issues such as race, gender, age, socioeconomic status, and ideological persuasions when discussing issues concerning the Church.

Unfortunately, for this religious mindset, Elohim had long decided that Yeshua would not establish a religious organisation on earth but would instead pay the price for the earth realm to be repopulated with sons of Elohim who relate with Him intimately and take responsibility for His Kingdom business there until the day of days, when He will return as King of Kings to establish the Manifest Kingdom. Hebrews 2:9-15; Galatians 4:1-7.

A careful reading of the two texts above shows that sonship, which is the highest state in redemption, was neither limited to nor exclusive to men. It refers to spiritual maturity, reflecting the nature of Elohim and aligning with His will in all circumstances, as Romans 8:12-14 states. It is religion that has distorted this to suppress and control women, confining them to the ‘domestic role’ of ‘makers of babies’ and ‘tenders of the home’!

Spiritual Realities

It is important to remember that human beings are three-dimensional beings (spirits with souls housed in human bodies). Salvation by Grace occurs in the realm of the spirit-man, not in the physical body (which is male and female) or in the soul (which has emotional differences between males and females). It is this spirit-man, which is neither male nor female, that sits with Yeshua in heavenly places! Ephesians 2:1-6.

It is also in this spirit-man that the Holy Spirit dwells as a seal of redemption from which He exercises leadership of the lives of saints. That is how we become mobile temples of the Holy Spirit:

> *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:19*

The Three Marks of Sons

Sons of Elohim are not known by their physical bodies or shapes, sizes, and adornments thereof. Sons are mature saints who have allowed the Holy Spirit to deal with their carnal nature and are now led by Him in all things, not their flesh! The issue is a state of spirituality, no longer whether they are in male or female bodies!

> *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of*

adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. Romans 8: 12

Marks of sons

There are three major marks which distinguish those who are sons of Elohim from milk-drinking babes of Churchianity who live as co-dependents of ministers who lead them to remain bound in pews, engaged in rituals of dead works, inside religious buildings:

#.1. Maturity and the ability to take responsibility for maintaining the estate of their Father in the earth realm. It is important to note that, though we begin our spiritual lives as babes at the new birth, Elohim's clear intention is that we be His sons.

> *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12*

> *Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 1 Peter 2:1-3*

Also see Romans 8:19

Sonship, therefore, is the state of maturity in the spirit-realm and soul. It is a state of heart and mind which:

- comes to a place of stability in the Lord.
- gives Him the right of way to be Sovereign King.
- trusts Him in all situations.
- loses control of our lives, so He uses and steers us as He

deems fit.

Whenever a believer comes to this place of spiritual maturity, irrespective of gender, age, socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity, that person is a son of Elohim, moulded into the image of the ultimate Son, Yeshua, who entrusted His life unto the Father in all things and depended entirely on His Father for all provisions while in His Incarnate State. The sum of this truth is this:

- male saints who mature in Yeshua are the spiritual sons of Elohim in male bodies.
- female saints who mature in Yeshua are the spiritual sons of Elohim in female bodies.

We must understand this intent of Elohim to repopulate the earth realm with sons is not gender limited to males, but indeed for all who press into the state of maturity where the Heavenly Father can truly depend on them to take care of His estate and assets in the earth realm!

> *And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. Genesis 2:15.*

Also see Psalm 115:16

In this state, they can speak with the Enemy (Satan) at the Gates, resist him steadfastly in the faith, and back off from some of his nefarious plots which run counter to the will of Elohim. Galatians 4:5-6, Philippians 2:14, Hebrews 2:10, and Hebrews 12:7-8.

#.2. Submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit: They come to a place in their walk where the five carnal senses are subjected to the Holy Spirit, who takes over leadership of their being in all things.

Sons dare not do anything or move in a particular direction because of pressure from within or without, but would rather wait on the Holy Spirit to give direction. Romans 8:10 -17.

When saints are led by the Holy Spirit, they will give Him space and scope to mature into the deep things of Elohim.

#.3. More than any other quality, Yahweh seeks the surrendered will of those He would entrust with great responsibility to continue the work begun by Yeshua, which is to nurture many sons to glory! Death of the self-nature becomes a defining point in the walk with Yahweh in the earth realm. When they lay their beings at the altar of sacrifice, receive renewed minds by the operation of the Word, saints no longer think in the fleshly, selfish fashion of world culture. The death of self produces a mature saint in the spirit and soul, irrespective of gender, age, socioeconomic status, race, or ethnicity. Romans 12:1, Galatians 2:20, and Galatians 6:14.

The debates over whether women should be in ministry or called into the apostolic office are not useful. The office is for functional service, not organisational rulership. Let us avoid the unnecessary, bitter quarrels that define social media handles of religious people, where they are ever quarrelling over non-issues. We need to be civil and ensure that our social media posts bring education and edification to the Body.

Assignment

(1) In which realm of the human body (spirit, soul, and body) are the gifts and callings of the Holy Spirit received?

(2) What are the three marks of the sons of Elohim? Discuss briefly.

CHAPTER 18
Women and the Apostolic Office (Part 2) - The Melchizedek Order

In the previous lesson, we understood clearly that spiritual gifts and callings are imparted to the spirit-man of saints, not to their physical bodies! When the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost, all the 120 people who were there, including women and young people, were filled! Acts 1:14 and Acts 2:1-4.

The purpose of Yeshua is for ALL saints to be filled, not just males! John 7:37-39

Just as salvation is received in the spirit-man, it is also in the realm of the spirit-man of saints that spiritual gifts and callings of Yeshua are received, not in the physical body or even in their souls (mind, will, emotions). All spiritual gifts, which are the basis of callings and ministries, are simply manifestations of the Holy Spirit using the vessel He indwells to fulfil the determinate counsel of Yahweh!

Concerning the call to the Apostolic Office

Every saint, regardless of gender or age, has a measure of the Holy Spirit as the prime instrument of being an organic part of the Body

of Yeshua!

> *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 1 Corinthians 12:7*

> *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Ephesians 4:7*

Peter, the apostle, then makes a clear case that, since everyone is gifted by grace from above, all saints have a duty to release their vessels to do what they are called to do in the Body, without allowing anything or anyone to hinder them! 1 Peter 4:10

The flesh, including our human bodies, profits nothing because flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom! 2 Corinthians 5:16, 1 Corinthians 15:50

The exposition, which began in the previous chapter, led to the simple conclusion:

Just as saints in male bodies, but mature spiritually, are sons of Elohim through these spiritual transactions. In the same way, saints in female bodies who have undergone a similar process and mature spiritually are sons of Elohim in female bodies.

Yahweh does not want any flesh to glory in His presence; hence He uses the weak things of this world, most of the time, to bring to pass His purposes! Therefore, He will use sons of Elohim in female bodies in the closing chapter of the human age, clothed with apostolic mandates in their spheres of Kingdom influence. Those who are chauvinistic will miss the Holy Spirit! 1 Corinthians 1:26

When we grasp this dynamic of Kingdom life based on the organic model of the Church, rather than the organisational system imposed

on the world by Babylon, the religious mindset that questions whether women can be in ministry or specifically called apostles will naturally fade away. In the Babylonian system, the priesthood is the exclusive domain of a small, professional male caste, in which individuals wear robes of different colours to distinguish themselves, as stated in the Old Testament. Exodus 28: 1-3, 39-41

If that perspective of 'ministry' is the underlying practice, believers will see women in ministry as an aberration.

The Melchizedek order of priesthood

Yeshua came, not just to fulfil the Old Covenant but also to give His kingdom a new order of priesthood in which He remains the High Priest.

> *The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. Psalm 110:4.*

Also read Hebrews 4: 14-16

The Melchizedek order of priesthood is one in which ALL who are saved and redeemed by the Blood of Yeshua, Jesus, are automatically called, whether male or female, young or old, rich or poor! They operate with His authority, by His grace and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit as described here. 1 Peter 2:9-10.

Their spiritual gifts define them in the spirit-realm and are the basis of what they are redeemed to be as organic members of the Body of Yeshua, Jesus. John 15:16 and Ephesians 4: 7

Kingdom service is simply the expression of spiritual gifts through our available vessels by the Holy Spirit. Romans 12: 1-8 1 Corinthians

12: 1-12, 27-30

Sons of Yahweh in female bodies are not created or redeemed to be any less than sons of the same Yahweh in male bodies! In the realm of marriage and family life, which is optional, that dynamic changes significantly. In that case, the excellent principles espoused by Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 7, Ephesians 5:22-33, and Colossians 3:18-19, as well as the confirmatory revelation in 1 Peter 3:1-7, are recommended for diligent study and application. Two separate courses on 'Kingdom Culture Marriage and Family' and 'Women in Ministry', published by Kingdom Books on www.gsom.ac are recommended.

The issue of apostleship, therefore, rests ultimately on the election and calling of Yeshua, Head of the Church. It is not of him that wills or of him that runs, but of Elohim who shows mercy. Elohim says, He calls whom He wishes, and fortunately, no one is qualified to ask Him questions or to counsel Him! Romans 9:14-16

As a spiritual function, therefore, the apostolic office is imparted by the Holy Spirit into the spirit-man of those whom Yeshua purposes to use, just as it pleases Him. When we see any saint, male or female, old or young, manifest the signs and marks of an apostle without stress or human effort, the grace of service flows in; as such, we have no business rejecting or refusing the vessel due to a religious mindset or cultural blinders.

Biblical antecedents.

- **Deborah** – As a married woman, she was a prophetess. In the economy of Elohim, He chose her to be a judge, the ancient equivalent of a national apostle and leader of Israel. The males, including the military commander Barak, yielded to the grace of Elohim in her and relied on her guidance and

wisdom to secure victory over their enemies. Judges 4:1-9

For those who radically oppose women in ministry or in the fivefold specifically, it may be necessary to remind them that the Holy Spirit inspired Paul and Luke, his biographer, to pen these lines where women are cited engaging in prophecy.1 Corinthians 11:4-6 and Acts 21: 7-9.

- **Andronicus and Junia** are said to be of note among the apostles in Romans 16: 7. The ordinary meaning is that Junia, a woman, served as an apostle.

Yeshua, Jesus, broke down the middle wall of partition, which classified humans according to their races (Jews and Gentiles), gender (male and female), socio-economic circumstances (rich and poor), and age (young and old). That is why Paul could write these verses. Galatians 3:26-29 and Colossians 3: 10-11.

- Yeshua, from conception and birth through support for His incarnate ministry and up to His death on the Cross and the resurrection day, received active, generous support from women. Mary, His mother, Elizabeth, and Anna all ministered to Him in various ways. In Luke 8:1-3, we see that the needs of He and His disciples were met by women. At the Cross, they were steadfastly present. Concerning His time in the grave, they bought expensive spices to anoint the dead Body. On the resurrection morning, He bypassed Peter and John, His closest companions, so that Mary Magdalene, a woman, would be the first to see Him and become the bearer of good news, an evangelist to others. John 20: 1-18.

- Paul received ministry from women and celebrated their distinguished Kingdom service. Romans 16 reveals this

clearly: the distinguished ministry of Phebe, Priscilla, and others. Lydia of Thyatira was a great supporter of his ministry.

Things to Focus On

Instead of engaging in dry religious debates about whether a woman can be an apostle, the main focus should be on understanding who an apostle is, including the functions, marks, and mandate of the office and gift. When you see an individual manifest what the word says, kindly give them the right of way, lest you oppose Yeshua, who sent that saint! A separate course titled Women in Ministry provides a comprehensive exposition on this subject. It addresses all the key issues directly, including religious misinterpretations of some Pauline texts. As for whether women can be apostles, the answer is indeed yes! It is not an exclusive mandate based on gender. It is a spiritual assignment and function granted to those willing to die to the demands and pull of gender.

Satan's Agenda

Satan is very crafty! His plan was to use the spirit of religion to knock out 50-70 per cent of the human resources base of the Church and make them fit for the home and kitchen only. He knows womanhood has an inherent capacity to be used by the Holy Spirit to put him out of business through the seed of their spiritual wombs (present application of Genesis 3:15 to womanhood).

> *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15*

In trying to keep women out of ministry and specifically out of the

apostolic office, his scheme is clearly to render the Church weak when it rejects what Yeshua the Head provides through them! Considering how Satan has caused many men to be unresponsive to spiritual things including the call to serve Elohim wholly, it is no surprise he would seek to use religion and religiosity to knock out the ministry of sons of Elohim in female bodies, knowing there is an inherent tendency of women to be more receptive to the voice of the Holy Spirit; to engage in prayer and spiritual warfare and to nurture babes to adulthood.

To recruit Christendom to do his dirty job seems to have been masterfully executed by the way many saints ignorantly reject ministry from women based on a misinterpretation of three texts in the whole New Testament! Unfortunately for Satan, the season of ignorance is over. The Holy Spirit is releasing the full brightness of the glorious light of the full gospel of salvation by grace and the Kingdom of Elohim.

Assignment

(1) Please summarise at least 3 core truths you learned from this lesson, which illuminated your understanding of the subject.

(2) What new thing did you learn from this lesson?

CHAPTER 19
Women and the Apostolic Office (Part 3) - Limitations

When Satan fights the agenda of Elohim for saints, one clever approach of his is to take the words of Scripture, quote them out of context, and use them as bait to trap the unwary! This was on full display when he tempted Yeshua, Jesus Himself, very Elohim and very man, as Matthew 4:1-11 shows. Just as Yeshua, Jesus, used the right interpretation of scripture to silence Satan, so are we called to do in these Last Days!

The Old Serpent knows that women are the secret weapons of Elohim for conceiving, birthing, and nurturing paradigm-changing ministers and ministries, as he discovered too late in the matter of the Incarnation of Yeshua, Jesus, in the womb of Mary, Luke 1:35 (neither Joseph nor anyone else was privy to her conversation with the angel, nor when the Holy Spirit performed the miracle of the conception). Knowing that, like Mary, Abba will do great things through womanhood that are outside his fiendish loop and influence, Satan wants to tar brush the female gender as a spiritual liability and make many to reject off-hand, the great deposits of grace in them for the Last Days.

Sons of Yahweh in female bodies are not excluded from any level of ministry! They are not recreated in the image of Yeshua, Head of the Body, to be of less value than their brethren who are in male bodies. But in light of many deviations from spiritual practices among some women in ministry, this lesson will cover two core areas.

- The first is to show the issue of limitations concerning women called to the apostolic office.
- The second is to examine peculiar pitfalls that women in ministry must recognise and avoid.

Limitations for women who seek to accept and fulfil the office of apostle.

#1. **She cannot live in the flesh and its entrapments.** It is impossible to fulfil an apostolic commission and still be beholden to the ways and catwalks that define the entertainment industry, known variously as Hollywood (Western world), Bollywood (India, Asia) and Nollywood (Nigeria, Africa). While women should no doubt take good care of their bodies, it is not expedient to make themselves sex objects through their dress sense and demeanour. A female minister cannot remain entangled in the spirit of the world and still seek to please He who called her.

> *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. 2 Timothy 2:4*

The command to be separate from the world system is as clear as crystal, and no amount of logic will change that. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18,1 John 2:15-17

#.2. She must not buy the lie that a woman needs a husband to be

optimised! You cannot eat your cake and still have it. If you believe that lie and rush into marriage at all costs, you realise that marriage has its own specific laws, including an Elohim-ordained primacy of the husband in the home, which cannot be broken, as well as unlimited access to conjugal benefits (Ephesians 5:22-32, 1 Corinthians 7).

#.3. Ideally, a woman who is called to the apostolic office should be happily married to Yeshua Jesus so that He can pass through her consecrated vessel to fulfil His will. However, just like Paul chose celibacy to fulfil his peculiar assignment, single women called to this office are required to be holy and joyful in that state for His sake! 1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 25-35

#.4. Where she is married, the female apostle or minister of any type must lovingly submit to her own husband in the home and take good care of their children so that the name of Yeshua is not reproached. If she cannot submit to him or despises the fundamental requirement of recognising him as worthy of loving submission (this is no mandate for men to be brutish), she has already failed! Ephesians 5:22-24 and Colossians 3:18

He who is husband to a female apostle must recognise, love, and honour her lest the heavens over the family be closed and all the family end up suffering lack and oppression. The man has no mandate from heaven to rule his wife as a tyrant or abuse her physically or psychologically. Ephesians 5:25-31, Colossians 3:19, and 1 Peter 3:7

Ultimately, the plan of Yahweh for marriage is not to create a ‘me versus her’ paradigm but to ensure a ‘we’, or ‘us’ paradigm where two people become one flesh!

> *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.* Ephesians 5:31

As one flesh, they submit to each other mutually: the woman to the man and the man to the woman, where she has greater revelation, insight, competence, or skill. With this approach, submission is not suppression!

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Ephesians 5:21

#.5. She who is called to be an apostle cannot ignore private ministry to the family because she is caught up with public ministry.

The danger is real that the demands for public pulpit and marketplace ministry can take a negative toll on life when balance is not applied. If a female apostle has children, they are her very first ministry, after her husband. The Lord who blessed her with those children has given her precious souls to nurture them into their destinies. There is just no greater ministry than to raise the next generation of godly seed!

> *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*

The teach, train, equip, activate, and release paradigm applies to home settings so that children of ministers receive, as it were, a head start in discovering their gifts and using them within the home and ministry, serving each other and the saints. In this way, they can discover and step into their callings in record time, while still young. To downgrade or ignore this 'captive audience' because they do not attract the spotlight is to have a false sense of what is important. The consequences can be very devastating if the children grow up into

backsliders and apostates. What is written about those who desire the office of Bishop equally applies to women called to be apostles:

> *One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 1 Timothy 3:4-5*

The good news is that Elohim has wired womanhood with extreme capacity for multitasking! Those who draw grace from Yeshua will discover to their surprise that they are able to both manage the home with excellence, even as they also succeed in public ministry! The grand key is BALANCE, based on Wisdom and Grace!

Where mistakes are made, and the children are now grown, there is no need to stay in self-condemnation and unending regret! The key is simply REPENTANCE! Commit them to Elohim in prayer! His mercy can pour out to bring about change.

#.6. She who will be an apostle cannot be seen swaggering to lord it over men or have a spirit of feminine triumphalism. As sons of Elohim in female bodies receive these truths, it is imperative that they reject the spirit of 'female liberation and triumphalism', also called 'feminism', which is constantly fighting against male domination that is sweeping the world. That spirit is causing strife and competition between males and females in politics and the corporate world. Doing so will undermine the authority Yeshua ought to carry. She should not seek vain glory over her husband or treat the Church as her personal estate to do what she likes with it.

#.7. She who is called to the apostolic office will ultimately prove it by her ability to do the work Yeshua sent her to do, despite reproach, rejection, abuse and indeed all kinds of suffering for His sake. She

should commit everything to Him who judges righteously, just as Yeshua did. 1 Peter 2:19-23

#.8. True apostles in female bodies must reject participation in female ministerial sororities! Such things are of the world, and Satan uses them to foster a 'we (females) versus them (males)' mindset, which is unhealthy to import into the Church. The reality from a Kingdom perspective is that neither brothers nor sisters who are called to be apostles should embrace movements which disunite the Body based on Gender! Such gender-based movements create systemic disunity and bring the spirit of the world into the Church.

#.9. They should also refuse participation in any grouping of apostles which excludes the other folds (prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers), except it is for the purpose of training and equipping for better productivity! Doing so will foster division of the Body and negate the purpose of Yeshua. The fivefold is given to jointly release synergy that perfects saints. Those called to be Apostles should never look down on or downgrade the other folds! All the folds are equally important and collectively deliver the outcomes clearly stated in Ephesians 4:12-16.

CHAPTER 20
Women and the Apostolic Office (Part 4) - Peculiar Pitfalls to Avoid

We need to excerpt materials from the Course on 'Women in Ministry' that identify some peculiar pitfalls.

1. **Carnality.** The word 'carnal' describes a saint who remains governed by the five senses. Such a person makes decisions and is influenced by what she sees, hears, smells, touches, and feels rather than by the Holy Spirit's guidance. Carnality involves abandoning faith, which serves as our connection to the throne of Elohim, in favour of the uncertain and ultimately unreliable impulses of the human soul and physical body. Carnality may lead a female minister to pursue desires and fancies that oppose the soul. By the Spirit, Paul states that such individuals are in a state of war against Elohim and can never truly please Him. Romans 8:5-9.

2. **Love for the world, its fashions, and lifestyle.** Carnality fosters worldliness. The world is driven and influenced by

what can be seen, heard, smelled, touched, and felt, as implied in this scripture:

> *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. 1 John 2:15 -17*

> *But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.1 Timothy 5:6*

If worldliness takes root in the heart of a saint, what remains is religion. The command is to "come ye out from among them and be ye separate"! 2 Corinthians 6:17-18

3. **Love of Prominence and Superiority.** Worldliness often leads to a desire for prominence or a tendency to seek the spotlight. This pursuit of importance can develop into an excessive craving for supremacy. It can cause a female minister to compete with real or perceived peers or contemporaries over who wears the finest clothes and accessories, who captivates audiences more at conferences with many speakers, whose television programme attracts the largest crowds, who has the grandest cathedral or the most luxurious car. For some, it may reach absurd levels, such as competing over who is married to the smartest person in town! John the beloved warned the saints to beware of Diotrephes, who loved to be first. 3 John 9-11.

4. **Jealousy, envy, and competition.** When women in ministry

act according to the flesh, they rely on their carnal senses to judge other women. Instead of uplifting and supporting one another, they unintentionally allow Satan to foster hatred, hostility, and conflict through negative rivalry. It is sadly clear that women in ministry often become their own worst critics, even more so than the male religious chauvinists who look down on them!

5. Love of Authority and Tendency to Be Overbearing.

The Lord desires women in ministry to carry out their roles without allowing anyone to despise the authority He has given them. The principle in 1 Timothy 4:12 applies to all who are called by Elohim.

> *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12*

However, the Lord expects the woman who will exercise her authority in and from Yeshua to observe the following rules:

5.1. She must be genuinely under authority herself (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Corinthians 11:1-16). The primary authority she must demonstrate she is under is that of Yeshua, Head of the Church, who called her. In everyday life, if she is married, she should also lovingly and willingly submit to her husband's godly authority. She ought to be a good wife and mother. She cannot seek to exercise authority in the Church of Yeshua, Jesus, if she clearly is not under her husband's authority. A woman Yeshua has called into the high offices of the fivefold cannot live under the illusion that, because her husband is not also called to that office, he has become her subordinate. The sight of a so-called woman of Elohim crossing from the pulpit to bossing her own lawful husband at home is utterly repulsive to

Yeshua and others! Sitting on a throne at home and ordering her husband around is out of order.

5.2. If the husband of a female apostle has not attained to her spiritual level in Yeshua, she will do well to get under the godly authority of someone in the fivefold whom the Lord will show her. Female ministers who have female mentors who successfully model women in ministry should consider themselves blessed.

However, it is also important that she be connected to a male authority for balance in insight and discipline. It must be clarified here that what people do in the name of having spiritual fathers and mothers and coverings has two negative aspects.

- On one side, it is erroneous to have a covering who literally dictates what you do in ministry. Coverings are not to dictate but to hold you accountable for how you live and do ministry in accordance with the Word. They are to be helpers of destiny, not to exercise dominion over the vessel or ministry. 2 Corinthians 1: 24.
- It is dangerous to have a covering whose mouth is shut because of tithes and offerings given regularly or the sweet nonsense both exchange in the name of conversations. Many who purport to have mentors and or coverings have simply heaped to themselves a religious equivalent of boyfriends or sugar daddies! The man who cannot rebuke, correct, chastise, or discipline you, including asking you to step down for a period if you fall into gross sin, is not a covering. The one who is blind to your faults and does not address them is giving the woman in ministry a false sense of security! True love of a protégé must flow in line with the love of Yeshua, which is holy, pure, and tough when necessary (Hebrews 12:5-13; Revelations 3:19).

6. **It is easy to take offence when their views are not accepted.** Women in ministry must mature to the point where they do not see any opposing view as evidence of opposition or rebellion. A distinction may be made regarding their role in pulpit ministry as spiritual leaders who bring the counsel of Elohim to the saints, especially when guiding the saints in projects such as buildings, media, and other activities where expert opinions may differ from hers. She must avoid the tendency to project a "superwoman" image: someone who knows everything in every situation and seeks no wisdom from others. Recognising the limits of her own wisdom and being open to learning from others is a sign of strength, not weakness.

7. **Gossip and loose use of the tongue can be very damaging.** Some women have a tendency to want to know everything about those around them. This seemingly harmless fault can be potentially fatal in ministry. The reason is that the tendency often leads to using information about others to gossip, even unintentionally, under the guise of sharing burdens with others. The worst aspect of ministry is when people are used to preaching and teaching, including what saints share in counselling rooms. Breaking the confidence of congregants creates an environment of insecurity. Many hardworking women in ministry inadvertently ruin all that the Lord is building through them by misusing their tongues!

8. **Controlling behaviour / Jezebel spirit.** Very few women realise that using their emotions to manipulate those they relate to is unacceptable to the Lord. Shutting down because you are not happy, looking glum because things did not go your way, and trying to make those around you do what you want, at all costs, are all forms of controlling behaviour! It is worse when women in ministry seek to control their spouses, leadership, and congregants, using visions, discernment, and other revelatory gifts as excuses.

8.2 **Domination of Husbands**: Another form of control occurs when married women go beyond their roles and attempt to control their husbands, who may be overseers or senior pastors of ministries from behind the scenes. This spirit does not want women to step forward and lead publicly; instead, it prefers to use them to lead while the man remains powerless, allowing her to manipulate him. To emotionally manipulate a husband into disliking or hating other women is the work of the Jezebel spirit. These are various forms of the spirit of Jezebel!

Solution: Die to Self!

To overcome these eight aspects of what Satan aims to use as their weakness, women in ministry need to recognise how dangerous these tendencies are and willingly turn to the cross. There, they allow the old man to be crucified with Yeshua, Jesus, so that the new man can live the true life of liberty in the Spirit with a renewed mind. Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 2:20.

When the Cross has done its work, the resultant personality will be a Spirit-led son of Elohim, for whom flesh profits nothing and who manifests fruit of the Spirit. The outcome is true femininity, which speaks of softness of heart, words and actions, a virtue which manifests Yeshua and the Kingdom in such a way that cannot be denied!

> *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. Galatians 6:14.*

> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23.*

Consolation

If you are a son of Elohim in a female body, called to be an apostle, don't worry about rejection and non-acceptance by chauvinistic brothers. Seek to please the Father in all things. In due season, He will exalt you! 1 Peter 5:6 and Revelation 3:7-9

Assignment

(1) Whether in yourself or in other women in ministry, name three of the negative tendencies from Part A of this lesson that you have observed as prominent in the Body.

(2) Out of the seven pitfalls of women in ministry, name 4 that particularly resonate in your heart as things the Church of Yeshua should be delivered from.

(3) What do you sense the Lord requires you to do with this lesson?

CHAPTER 21
Apostolic Authority Down the Wire (Part 1)

As we near the conclusion of this fundamental study on who and what apostles are, along with the issues surrounding their calling, it is important for us to consider some key truths. We will address them under specific subheadings for clarity's sake. These truths will liberate us from the ignorance imposed by both Religion and culture.

> *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
> *John 8:32*

A. The Four-pronged strategy for united action with other Fivefold Offices

It cannot be emphasised enough that apostles are chosen specifically by Yeshua, Jesus, and set in the Church to represent Him by faithfully proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom and exerting the scope and breadth of influence granted within their appointed spheres. Essentially, they are vested with four divine endowments: the person, presence, purpose, and power of the one they

represent, Yeshua, Jesus, as ambassadors of His Kingdom.

It must be emphasised, however, that they are not mandated or commissioned to work alone as a 'one-fold' or to carry out their assignments with an air of superiority. They possess a spiritual wiring that longs to see the fivefold emerge and collaborate to release the precise quality and level of synergy needed to perfect saints and activate fullness of grace. In working with the other folds, there is an alignment rooted in a convergence of interests in doing Kingdom business. This four-pronged strategy allows apostles to fulfil their calling.

1. **With Prophets.** They are to keep the Church in the spirit of the wise virgins, always prepared for the imminent return of Yeshua, Jesus (Matthew 25:1-13). There is grace released through these two offices that constantly reminds saints that Yeshua, Jesus, the Head of the Church and King of the Kingdom, could return at any moment and time unknown to anyone (Matthew 24:36). True apostles and prophets never allow saints to remain unaware of this possibility and will not let saints be overwhelmed by the cares of this life, or adopt the corrupting ways of Babylon or worldliness.

2. **Along with Teachers.** They emphasise that while we await His imminent appearance, there is serious work to be done by saints during their pilgrimage in this present life through discovering, pursuing, and fulfilling individual mandates as part of an organic whole (Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16).

In other words, they teach, train, and ground the saints to discover their true Kingdom Identity: who they are in Yeshua and who He is in them, along with their mandates, full spectrum of gifts, and calling. This equips them to become functional organs of the Body with the capacity to impact others and the world around them. As a

result, saints are encouraged to avoid the culture of irresponsibility and isolation from reality fostered by the spirit of Christian religion and are instead equipped to 'occupy' until Yeshua comes or death occurs. Luke 19:11-27.

3. **Apostles work closely with Evangelists** to ensure that the mandate of the Great Commission guides the purpose of the ministry or congregation they lead. With this focus, as many unbelievers as possible across the entire earth realm are enabled to hear the true gospel and become true converts who repent of their sins, rather than simply 'join the church' or become 'members of congregations'. They do not allow people to live under the illusion that they are 'members of churches' but emphasise the necessity of genuine conversion experiences. Those who 'come to church' as consumers of the 'anointing' on ministers will find encounters with genuine apostles and evangelists sobering. Their compass, which is Yeshua, Jesus Himself, drives the apostles to surrender their vessels to be used of Him to build a radiant, mature, powerful, and capable Church that manifests His glory to unbelievers and principalities and powers in heavenly places. The congregations they lead will be empowered to represent Yeshua in their communities by being the Kingdom's salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). They will discover, either through revelation or research, the community's core needs that they can meet to make the greatest impact. Matthew 25:31-46.

4. **The true Apostle will align with, encourage, and affirm pastors to genuinely shepherd Yeshua's flock in an empowering way**, not as if they belong to them or to denominations. Ephesians 5:26, 27; Ephesians 3:10; 1 Peter 5:1-4. They remind pastors that there is no other way than to ensure that saints are empowered to become all they were redeemed to be. Whether consciously

or unconsciously, apostles will encourage pastors to adopt an organic paradigm of ministry rather than the organisational model favoured by many. It is the organic paradigm that will ensure congregations become living, loving organisms of functional Body parts. There will be great emphasis on adopting measures such as the Teach>Train>Equip>Activate>Release paradigm of Kingdom Church Growth. This approach enables saints to walk as a Kingdom of Priests and Kings after the Order of Melchizedek. Where an apostle is connected or raised in a ministry with a pastor as visionary or lead minister, humility will ensure that proper order is maintained. The role of the pastor as the one who holds or is entrusted with the vision (especially if it is a church plant of a larger ministry) is recognised, respected, and honoured. The apostle who is brought or raised in such circumstances will continually empower the saints by pointing them to King Yeshua (Jesus), not to themselves, just as John the Baptist did. John 3:27-30. If such an apostle begins to seek preeminence over the pastor, the spirit of pride is at work and must be discerned, rejected, and repented of.

B. The 9 Strategies for Apostolic Success

To repeat some concepts, as Paul said in his epistle to the Philippians, is safe! As we outline these 9 strategies for Apostolic success, some may be a reiteration of what we learned from part A of this lesson. The most important thing is to give all dimensions of truth the space to fit into the whole body of truth needed to walk in complete understanding.

> *Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. Philippians 3: 1*

#.1. They function as Master Builders within their spheres of Kingdom Influence. They take the architectural plan of the Church that Yeshua handed down to us in The Word to ensure that the bride is made ready for the Groom. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 and Ephesians 5:25-27.

#.2. Accordingly, true apostles cannot stand the spirit of religion, denominationalism, the pseudo-kingdom gospel movement, the so-called prosperity gospel, abuse of the prophetic and other errors that Satan activates from time to time. They will not sit idly by, unconcerned, and mind their own business. They will lay hold of Jude 3-19 as well as 1 John 2:18-27 and the very words of Yeshua Himself in places like Matthew 7:23 - 24 to contend for the true faith and warn as many who have ears to hear to escape the snares of the enemy. Apostles are therefore often vested with the spirit of holy boldness to stand for the truth of the full gospel.

#.3. Apostles will lead the fivefold in the area or sphere of influence granted them to challenge the Church therein to make the transitions required from being an organisation warehoused within buildings to being the vibrant living, loving organism it was ordained to be: The Body of Yeshua.

In this organic paradigm, all saints take their places as vessels through which the Holy Spirit manifests the divine presence and power, so that, by what every joint supplies, the Body increases itself in love. In this scenario, saints become mature enough to know wolves and false shepherds by their fruits and avoid their wicked schemes to fleece them. Ephesians 4:7-12, 13-16; Matthew 7:13-27.

#.4. Because apostles train and empower the saints, they will make teaching on spiritual gifts and an understanding of the Royal priesthood of all believers a cardinal part of their teaching ministry. One core beneficiary is ministers in the marketplace, who are

challenged to see their workplaces and businesses as their primary platforms for Kingdom expression and expansion. They will be encouraged to take the Church from the building to the community and to manifest the light of Yeshua right where He planted them, without feeling guilty about 'not doing enough in church'.

5. Apostles are endowed with the grace for spiritual warfare and will lead the congregations they oversee to ascend in the dimension of the Holy Spirit to dislodge all satanic ruling influences and spirits. By taking control of the spiritual atmosphere in their territories, they can, through the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowerment, fulfil Yahweh's purpose. Matthew 16: 18, 19; Ephesians 3:10.

#.6. The apostle knows he or she cannot bring the saints to perfection alone. Whenever Yahweh opens a door, he/she goes all out to pray in others to make up the team, just like Paul yearned earnestly to be reconnected with Titus. 2 Corinthians 2:12-13. Apostles will encourage congregations under their oversight to be open to receiving the ministry of the entire fivefold, as well as other ministers with the special grace needed. Philippians 2:1-4.

#.7. True apostles will understand the cornerstone nature of the Word and will use it as a plumb line to determine what is acceptable. Intense communion with the Holy Spirit is necessary for a correct understanding of the Word and the quantum of anointing needed to execute the divine agenda. They will prayerfully receive the grace to speak the truth in love so that the saints are edified. Ephesians 4:15; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.

#.8. The driving force of the ministry of a true apostle is to present the saints as perfect to Yeshua at His appearance! Ultimately, apostolic ministry is about perfecting saints, not just for the work of ministry in this present world, but also to prepare them to hold on to Yeshua and be found in Him till the very end, when mortality gives

way to immortality via death or the rapture! 2 Corinthians 11:2, Galatians 4:19.

This drives them to practice the teach, train, equip, activate, and release paradigm of Kingdom empowerment. They are not motivated by the tithes and offerings saints bring or their other material gifts. It is not the statistics showing more people, but the real joy of lives completely transformed by their ministries that encourages them and gives them confidence in Yeshua, who called them, just like Paul did. 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

#.9. Ministries and congregations led by apostles will function as hatcheries of gifts and callings rather than as morgues or mortuaries for entombing the destinies of believers, like most churches are. Spiritual life in such congregations flows like rivers of grace rather than ponds of religious water.

Assignment

(1) Please present a summary of how apostles ought to relate with the other four folds.

(2) Mention five of the nine-point strategies for apostolic success that resonated most in your heart.

CHAPTER 22
Apostolic Authority Down the Wire (Part 2)

Let us continue from where we stopped in the last lesson.

The Possibility and Reality of Transitioning from Another Calling to the Apostolic

The uniform testimony of the New Covenant scriptures reveals that Yahweh transitions saints from one level of glory to another. In the same way, there is a clear pattern of growth and development, which sees Him use saints in various dimensions. In this reality, He who sees and knows the hearts of His servants and their diligence and faithfulness can transition them into greater realms of authority and scope of service according to His determinate counsel. Let us examine a few case studies:

1. **The twelve Apostles**. For the three and a half years of the Incarnate Yeshua, the 12 were just disciples or followers. In that capacity, they initially served Him as servants without a deep understanding of who He was and the full scope of His mission. They went ahead of Him to prepare the way for meetings, acted as ushers

to minister to the crowds that thronged His ministry, served bread when He broke it, gathered the crumbs, and rowed the boat when He was tired and needed a power nap. In their faithfulness to that 'small' level of assignment, they were rewarded.

In John 15:14-15, He announced the first stage of their transition from servants to 'friends'. Following His resurrection and the completion of the redemption mission, Yeshua announced their further transition into 'brethren' and, therefore, sons of Yahweh, John 20:17. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled them with the capacity to fulfil Acts 1:8, with no limitation to their governmental authority. Through the obedient work of His apostles, saints understood their identities as priests and kings after the Order of Melchizedek and sons of Yahweh in the earth realm, just as He was. (1 Peter 2: 9-12)

2. **Phillip** was only good enough to 'serve tables' as a deacon in the Jerusalem Church, which was top-heavy with 12 apostles (Acts 6:1-6). Persecution drove him to Samaria, where the whole city was affected by the anointed message of life that flowed from his innermost being. From that day, his transition into an evangelist was sealed, and there was no stopping him. The man who was only a deacon became, in this office of an evangelist, the instrument of taking the gospel to Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth (through the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch). Please read all of Acts 8 for this remarkable transition. From then on, references to Philip were no longer as a deacon but as an evangelist. Let us remember that Yeshua had shown that His master plan of world evangelism would involve a strategic expansion from Jerusalem to the uttermost parts of the earth, but the apostles just did not get it.! It was a deacon who stepped up that the Holy Spirit used. Acts 1:8

3. **Barnabas** was a generous and good brother Acts 4:36-37. By his

faithfulness and sold-out lifestyle, the apostles entrusted him with 'overseas' mission assignments (Acts 11:19-30). He later served alongside prophets and teachers. At Antioch, the Holy Spirit announced his transition into the office of an apostle. Acts 13:1-2

4. **Paul underwent a profound transformation.** He was once a persecutor who was personally confronted by Yeshua Himself in Acts 9. He then began to preach the limited knowledge he possessed. Afterwards, he withdrew into seclusion in Arabia and Tarsus for deep spiritual dealings with Yeshua, who imparted revelation of Himself and the Kingdom into him. By Acts 11, Barnabas, who had an open door among the Gentiles, brought him to Antioch, where he became an active member of the Teachers and Prophets within the Presbytery. In Acts 13:1-4, the Holy Spirit announced His call for him to transition to the Apostolic Ministry. Subsequently, he and Barnabas were separated and sent forth.

We can see from the case of Paul that Yeshua arrested him for this specific purpose of being an apostle (Acts 9: 15). However, because the law of process is embedded into the earthly realm due to the imperfection introduced through Adam and Eve's sin, the necessity to prepare and proceed systematically into divine assignments became essential. Paul was processed into what Yahweh originally had in mind before he was even born (Ephesians 1:4).

D. Applications for Today

There are many brothers and sisters already in ministry or yet to come who are called to the office of apostle, whether they realise it or are held back by fear or religious barriers. Most importantly, many are blocked by a thick cloud of ignorance that Satan has allowed to hang like fog over this office. He used the spirit of religion (both from Rome and various Protestant movements) to execute this scheme.

Additionally, by fostering cultural and religious objections to women in leadership, becoming a stronghold in many Christian communities, Satan effectively aimed to prevent this group of people, who have a divine mandate to establish ministries capable of defeating him, from emerging. Satan understands that this is one spiritual role equipped to recognise his tactics and to mature the saints to operate beyond his reach!

How to know you are due for a transition

1. When, as a prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher, or minister without a title, you start to feel constant vexation in your spirit or a sense of dissatisfaction with what you're doing, you may find that the joy you once had has faded, even though your life is very right with the Father. This could signal an upward call, and the wineskin you're operating in cannot contain the new wine Abba is pouring into you.

2. When you see all or most of what has been shared in the aspect of this course, which deals with apostles in your life.

3. Where the truths shared in this lesson resonate deeply in your heart and seem to be confirmation of what you had known by the Holy Spirit, but were afraid to acknowledge.

4. Where you hear expressly from Yahweh through any of the ways He speaks to you that you have been called into the office of apostle. (Please review the specific lesson where we examined various ways of knowing that you may be called).

5. Where you feel unfulfilled with your present assignment and have deep knowledge that there is much more yet to manifest.

E. What should you do next?

1. Do not run off to change your title, print new business cards and make yourself a self-appointed apostle. That will bring disorder to the Kingdom and possibly occasion reproach! 1 Corinthians 14:32-33, 40

2. Prayerfully ask Yeshua, who is calling you, to connect you with individuals already walking in the office that He approves. Reach out in humility and share your convictions and willingness to be mentored. Every authority submits to authority. If it is the will of Yahweh, this will be done without drama or a list of conditionalities, such as the giving of money or 'compulsory tithing'.

3. Find a minister's network where you can belong and participate fully without religious barriers. There, you can share your convictions with humility, submitting to their process for consecration into the office during a public ordination service. The International Ministers Fellowship will facilitate this process as part of Elohim's mandate to remove religious obstacles between denominations, enabling the fivefold ministry to emerge in the earthly realm. Additionally, there are National Ordination Boards that will guide you through the process. These Boards will review your application and, prayerfully, be led by the Holy Spirit to provide confirmation where appropriate.

4. Don't just focus on merely knowing about apostles. Open your heart to understanding the offices of prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers so you can learn how to relate to those called within them.

5. Engage in a comprehensive training course so that Elohim can prepare you to become a well-equipped vessel He can use to train others. The Global School of Ministry was established for this

purpose and is highly recommended. You can study at your own pace at www.gsom.ac. The intensive Master Class of the Global Advanced Mentorship Program is another highly recommended programme for those who will lead others. Details are available at www.kingdombooksclub.com.

6. Above all, embrace the process of holistic preparation that the Lord designs for you as an individual. It often begins with faithfully serving under the authority of others within the fivefold ministry and completing a certain level of training or mentorship. You might be tested by your willingness to work with an insecure pastor who does not recognise the apostolic call upon your life.

The question is, will you insist on 'grasping your mantle, even if it causes conflict with the leadership and destabilises the Congregation? Will you become proud and unable to live under the authority of the Pastor simply because you have discovered your apostolic calling? Or will you, like David, trust Elohim who called you to work out the 'how' and 'when' of your transition? We can draw some useful lessons from the life of David, who waited over 13 (some estimate 17) years before becoming King of Judah and another 10 years before ruling over all Israel.

Even Yeshua, our High Priest, showed us the importance of not grasping for honour when men refuse to recognise us. If we follow His example, He will take responsibility for guiding those He calls into the office, into the function He has appointed on the specific date He has approved! Philippians 2:5-11.

You will be tested for obedience and faithfulness in 'smaller' things and assignments. You will be tempted with opportunities to sin or compromise. You may experience various aspects of wilderness life. These are all necessary preparations before you can validly wear the apostolic mantle. Those who refuse to process, refuse divine

promotion, period!

To wake up as a novice who claims to be called to the office of apostle, seeking recognition and pulpits to 'display' anointing is an un-kingdom way of doing things! 1 Timothy 3:6-15

Conclusion

If the preaching of the true gospel of the Kingdom must be done properly, the starting point is the restoration of the fivefold offices that Yeshua ordained for His Church. Restoring the office of the apostle should be of prime interest! It is all by grace, however, and those who are called to be apostles must come to a point where they realise that His grace is indeed sufficient for them. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

The fullness of grace is the sure guarantee against buckling under the weight of challenges and fires that will be encountered along the way. The office of the apostle needs to be restored because of its strategic importance as first among equals. 1 Corinthians 12:28-30.

When this office is fully restored, it will automatically be an instrument in the hands of the Holy Spirit to restore the other four folds into proper alignment, just as Yeshua purposed. Ephesians 4:11-12.

In this way, the gospel of the Kingdom is brought back on track, and the Omega Church begins to take shape across the world, where all saints are empowered to walk in their divine identities, embracing and fulfilling their callings and giftings as priests after the order of Melchizedek. That is the Church that Yeshua, Jesus, is returning for!

Assignment

(1) If you are called to this office or know some ministers who have been called but have been hindered by ignorance, religion, or fear of man, what advice would you give yourself or them?

CHAPTER 23
The Office of Prophet (Part 1)

Fresh from the extensive exposition Holy Spirit brought forth concerning the office of the apostle, we now move on to the second office gift, which is part of the divine facility Yeshua Himself ordained to bring His Church to maturity in Him and perfection to be fit for purpose in the earth realm. It is the office of the Prophet. Ephesians 4: 11-12

Who is the Prophet?

A prophet is a minister elected by Yeshua to be a vessel for declaring His mind to the saints, community, nation, their generation and sometimes, the world. In effect, prophets are formal representatives of Yeshua to convey His messages to His Church and society.

Is the office for this day and age?

The answer straight away is YES! Those who belong to the cessation school of thought claim that the office is defunct. Unfortunately, they miss the mark entirely as this part of the study will reveal.

Before we explore the core of the prophet's office, including its nature, limitations, and challenges, it is crucial to establish a strong

and wide foundation. That foundation is the truth that the Royal Priesthood described in the New Covenant is a prophetic community of saints operating through revelatory gifts of the Holy Spirit. Many saints will be blessed with spiritual gifts that allow them to flow in revelatory gifts, with the ability to 'see', 'sense', and 'hear' what Elohim is saying in the present, but they are not functioning in the fivefold office of the Prophet. We will examine this concept further later.

Flashback to the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, prophets served as vessels through which Yahweh revealed His purposes to Israel and the nations for both the present and future times. Consequently, they were set apart from their generations to communicate His messages. Sometimes they delivered messages of hope and care from Yahweh; at other times, they issued His warnings and pronounced judgements. Many prophets today are preoccupied with the prominence enjoyed by the prophets of old, who were regarded as the sole oracles of their generation. As Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:28-29 clearly demonstrate, prophets are part of the order of the Kingdom, positioned behind apostles.

One way Yahweh showed His displeasure with Israel was to withdraw prophets such that the people walked in darkness. In that kind of situation, His people always felt a sense of desolation, which set the stage for them to receive any vessel He chose to send.

The Bridge Years

This was the situation with Israel over 400 years before Yeshua was born. As John the Baptist emerged in the wilderness proclaiming the imminent arrival of the Kingdom, a chapter was closing while another was beginning in Yahweh's dealings with Israel and

humanity.

> *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Matthew 3:1*

Elohim was invading the earth in a new dimension. After millennia of dealing with humanity from afar off, speaking occasionally to people through various vessels, the Seed of the woman prophesied in Genesis 3:15 had just been incarnated. Divinity had invaded humanity in the form of Emmanuel, the product of the Virgin spoken of by Isaiah.

> *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

John marked the end of the Old Testament prophets with a special duty to introduce Yeshua, the bearer of the New Covenant to Israel. Yeshua was of the tribe of Judah, which produced kings, while John was of the tribe of Levi, which anointed those Elohim chose to govern His people. Although they were related by blood, Yahweh was cautious about publicly declaring Yeshua ha Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah. His testimony in John 1:29-34 is instructive.

The Law and the prophets were to be fulfilled in Yeshua as the Incarnation of Elohim in the earth realm. He was the bridge between divinity and humanity; eternity and time; the supernatural and the natural; and a model of the Elohim-kind of life that He purposed for all saints. As the law and the prophets were fulfilled in Yeshua, He

became the author of salvation for all who accept the grace poured out by His propitiatory death.

The people redeemed by His poured-out blood are to be His Body or Church, proclaiming His life, death, resurrection, and return to establish the fullness of the Kingdom. As they live out the current dispensation of the Kingdom through the ordinances He instituted, they gain privileged access to Yahweh's mind, who desires a paternal relationship with His children rather than engagement in rituals and dead works of religion.

General prophecy and the organic Body factor: The royal priesthood is a prophetic company of saints, operating through the Holy Spirit within them!

At the end of His brief manifestation in the flesh, Yeshua ascended on high and gave gifts to men. Ephesians 4:7-10

He knew that without the power of the Holy Spirit and attendant gifts and the special ability to hear and speak forth by those He would specially call, His Kingdom Church would be overrun by a determined enemy who is full of wiles. Yeshua therefore commanded His disciples not to proceed with the Great Commission until they received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:4-8

With the Holy Spirit came definite gifts that, when exercised in love and righteousness, solidly showed the supernatural origin and nature of the Kingdom Church, making every saint a functional part of a living, loving organism. This, in turn, would demonstrate that Yeshua is indeed Who He says He is!

The Church of Yeshua was designed to function as outlined above, offering a glimpse of the Kingdom rather than the dull religious organisation that the enemy tried to impose. To keep the

community vibrant, the Church was created as a place of light. The light of Yeshua was to be constantly present, just as the lamp in the temple was not meant to run out of oil.

> *In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. John 1:4-10*

Before Yeshua left the earth realm for heaven, He saw it necessary to assure His Church, through the Disciples, that the Holy Spirit would be released in full measure to empower them and provide continuous light. John 14:15-18 and Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit, when prioritised and within a nurturing environment, uses various saints within the Body to deliver words that foster edification, exhortation, and comfort, which are the aims of general prophetic utterances.

> *But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. 1 Corinthians 14:3*

Therefore, much emphasis is placed in various New Testament texts to explain that the Church of Yeshua will benefit if saints are receptive to prophetic utterances and prophetic flow. The abundance of revelatory gifts given to the Body and the extensive encouragement for saints to desire prophetic utterance are too evident to overlook. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 and Romans 12:6.

That a complete section of the Word was dedicated to regulating order in the use of the revelatory gifts shows the profound impact they were ordained to have in the Body. 1 Corinthians 14:26-33, 37-39

As a matter of reality, the Royal Priesthood is commanded to exercise prophetic utterance whenever the Holy Spirit stirs them up. 1 Peter 4:10-11.

In effect, we have a scenario whereby the Church of Yeshua was clearly ordained to flow as a prophetic organism. The reason is simple: Yeshua is the light of the world, and those who are in Him will walk in the fullness of His light. Let us know that every saint has a birthright to hear the voice of Yahweh and know His will, always! John 10:27

In relating with fellow saints, therefore, there should be a spontaneous outpouring of Yahweh's mind through various vessels speaking prophetically or through words of knowledge, words of wisdom, discernment of spirits, visions, dreams, and other revelatory gifts. This is especially relevant because, as saints privileged to live at the end of this age, we are to experience the fullness of what was prophesied in the Old Covenant.

> *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. Joel 2:28-29*

The first fruit of that prophecy was on the day of Pentecost, as Peter explained to the bewildered audience who saw the 120 filled disciples in action. Acts 2:14-18.

The outpouring on the day of Pentecost was the first rain. We are to enjoy the latter rain when all saints, male and female, young and old, will flow with such clarity in the gifts of revelation that there will be no hidden thing or matter of darkness lurking in the shadows of people's hearts. In this scenario, no Ananias and Sapphira would thrive in the Church with a straight face. Acts 5:1-11.

Sinners who come to church would be so convicted by an x-ray of their lives that they would genuinely repent and turn to Yeshua. 1 Corinthians 14:23-25.

Judging Prophecy

As a safety valve and to prevent saints from being mesmerised and misled by utterances that are not from Him, Yeshua offers three remedies. The first is the gift of discernment of spirits (1 Corinthians 12: 10). The second is judgements to determine if the utterance originates from the Lord, the flesh, or satanic sources. The third is the observance of order that honours Him. 1 Corinthians 14: 29-33.

Alongside saints who operate in the prophetic, true prophets will welcome the judgements of what they declare. They will not manipulate believers with threats and fearmongering. They will not seek to control the decisions of brethren or make utterances that contradict clear provisions of scripture. Any ‘thus says the Lord’ that conflicts with ‘it is written’ should be dismissed because the Holy Spirit who inspired the writing of the word cannot contradict the same with ‘prophecy’. 2 Peter 1: 19-21.

As Yeshua continues to perfect His Church in preparation for His imminent return, He will raise up groups of prophets who will serve as vessels to release the prophetic flow within ministries and congregations across various cities and nations. When they are established, presumptuous sins will decline, as reverential fear of He

who is holy, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient will once again be restored to the consciousness of saints.

Assignment

(1) Please define who the prophet is and what he or she does.

(2) Please summarise your understanding of the reality that the Royal Priesthood has a DNA of prophetic flow with the revelatory gifts.

(3) What else did you receive from the lessons in this chapter?

CHAPTER 24
The Office of Prophet (Part 2) - Roles 1



Roles of Prophets in the Context of the New Covenant

Before we delve into today's topic, let's revisit some key points from the previous lesson. We will follow up with questions and answers that clarify the subject.

Who is the Prophet?

A prophet is a person chosen by Yeshua, Jesus, to serve as a vessel for revealing His thoughts to the saints, their generation, nation, and sometimes the world. Essentially, prophets act as official representatives of Yeshua, delivering His messages to His Church and society.

Is the office for this day and age? The answer straight away is YES!

In the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word is established. The scriptures clearly show how Yeshua calls some to serve in this office to perfect the saints for the work of the ministry so that the Body is edified. Ephesians 4:11-16. 1 Corinthians 12:28-30.

Before we go further, we need to answer an important question: How does the Kingdom Church have a prophetic flow?

Yeshua, Jesus, knew that the enemy would try to torment His saints with doubts of failure, fear of the unknown, and feelings of insecurity. This led to the firm promise that in Him, we will be safe and that He will be with us always until the end of our time in this present life. John 16:33 and Matthew 28:20

As He ascended on high, the Holy Spirit was released to empower the Church with everything needed for a vibrant family of Yahweh to thrive amid a harsh environment called the world; to have the capacity to witness to it and disciple the nations (Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4; Ephesians 4:7-10).

As we observed in the previous lesson, Yeshua intends for His Church to walk in the fullness of light. For this reason, He has released several revelatory gifts into the Body through which a continuous flow of His light exists. These include the spiritual gifts of prophecy (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10); exhortation (Romans 12:8); the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge; faith; discernment of spirits; tongues; and interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10).

When you add to these the gifts of dreams and visions spoken of by Joel 2:28, 29 as an inheritance of end time saints and the gift of seeing vivid visions such as Peter experienced in Acts 10: 9-16, Yeshua provided sufficient resources for edifying, exhorting, and comforting His own (1 Corinthians 14:3). His Body, the Royal Priesthood, is a prophetic company where there is always revelation!

Yeshua: The Chief Prophet

While still in the flesh, Yeshua exercised His fivefold office as the Chief Apostle, Chief Prophet, Chief Evangelist, Chief Pastor, and Chief Teacher. As Chief Prophet, the words of Yeshua were and remain prophecy in action. They have guided the Church from the days He walked the dusty streets of Galilee and Capernaum to today and will continue to do so until the end of the age. He spoke with clarity about this present age, when some would come in His name and deceive many with false doctrines and prophecies. He also addressed the moral decline now evident everywhere. Yeshua spoke about the age to come (Matthew 24) and noted that while some would be prepared for His second coming, others would be distracted (Matthew 25:1-13). The Revelation granted to His servant John on the Isle of Patmos defines and continues to shape the course of history (Revelation 1:19; Revelation 22:6, 7, 6,7,10-20).

What makes the Office of the Prophet different from saints who flow in the Prophetic?

Beyond this general purpose to edify, exhort, and comfort the saints that the revelatory gifts bring to the Body, Yeshua established the office of the Prophet as part of the fivefold in His Church.

New Testament Perspective/Definition.

The New Testament Prophet, therefore, is specifically called by Yeshua, Jesus, as His personal representative and spokesperson in the earth realm to ensure that the Church is perfected and empowered to function as an agency of the Kingdom. Through this office gift, saints know the King's mind regarding the way forward, so that our walk with Him will be in accordance with the compass of His eternal purpose.

Explaining some connected terms

The office is called prophet; what he or she utters is called prophecy, and the act of communicating the mind of Yahweh, under the unction of the Holy Spirit, is called prophesying.

Are all Prophets?

It is interesting that the same Paul the apostle who vigorously taught the Church to covet the spiritual gift of prophecy and explained powerfully that it is a valid need of the New Testament Church in Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 14:1-25, 29-32, 39, is the same instrument Yahweh used to ask the potent question in 1 Corinthians 12:29, “Are all Prophets?” The obvious answer is a resounding No!

The proportion of saints called into this office is relatively low, perhaps lower than all other offices, except that of apostles! The reasons will be obvious as we continue this treatise.

Roles of Prophets within and without the Body

One of the worst manifestations of religion that opposes saints is laziness and lack of diligence. This results in a state of ignorance. As a consequence, many who are called into this vital role are often distracted by the manifestation of the gift, without understanding the full scope of their assignment. Many continue with an Old Testament mindset, which views the glory of that office as the primary instrument of national spiritual leadership in Israel.

It is therefore essential to examine the roles of prophets in the Old Testament and compare them with those in the New Testament to gain a complete understanding of what Yeshua intends in elevating individuals to this high office. This will also help those who are called to walk in sobriety and humility. It is crucial that all who are called into the prophet's office spend meaningful time in prayer and in the

Word with Yahweh to properly understand their identity in the Spirit and their divine calling. The Holy Spirit is available to assist those who acknowledge their need for guidance.

In Ephesians 4:11-16, we see that prophets are specifically mentioned among the fivefold leadership gifts of Yeshua, set in the Church to make it complete. Let us see the whole picture of what prophets are called upon to do alongside apostles, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. Ephesians 4:11-16.

1. Perfection of the Saints for the work of Ministry.

The prophet is to contribute his or her gifts and callings to help the saints mature in Yeshua and grow in righteousness and obedience, so they can successfully live the Kingdom life here on earth and become all He redeemed them to be. When the saints receive the ministry of the prophet, along with that of the apostle, evangelist, pastor, and teacher, they become mature and are not easily shaken by every wind of doctrine nor easily deceived by those whose god is their belly. A saint who is in a ministry or congregation where the Office of the Prophet is ignored or absent is being deprived of a valuable spiritual tool for perfection!

The washing of the Church to make it radiant and perfect, as described in Ephesians 5:26-27, is accomplished by both:

- The rhema that comes upon the logos of the Word by the Holy Spirit, as apostles, evangelists, pastors, and teachers expound the word or when saints study privately.

- Prophetic utterances/releases Yeshua specifically gives to His Church through His prophets, bypassing their mental realm.

Any pastor who denies his or her congregation the right to hear the word through chosen and pure vessels confirmed as prophets (not mere claimants who are self-appointed and lacking in spiritual credibility) is doing a disservice to Yeshua and His Body and may answer for that on the last day. In building the Church according to pattern, it is necessary that every living congregation must make room to receive prophets who walk in integrity and who do not hire out their services for a named fee or use ‘speaking agents' to negotiate ministry engagements on contractual terms. Those are Babylonian practices that have no place in the Kingdom.

This is not an invitation for congregations to mistreat prophets and other ministers who are invited or received to preach. Just as Yeshua, Jesus Himself, simply commands ministers not to merchandise (monetise) their giftings, He equally urges saints to receive His prophets and other ministers and to care for them as His personal representatives. That is balance, right there! Matthew 10: 8-13

For good measure, Yeshua added these powerful words:

> *He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. 41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward. Matthew 10:40-42*

2. Model Intimacy with Elohim.

By their intimate walk with Elohim, prophets are to show that it is

possible to live holy and consecrated lives while in the body. By so doing, they make a statement to all that sin shall not have dominion over saints. Let us illustrate the walk of intimacy with Abraham, the Patriarch-Prophet. In Genesis 20:7, we see Yahweh Himself calling Abraham by that appellation 'prophet' when He spoke to Abimelech in a dream.

Earlier in Genesis 18:17-19, we see Yahweh declaring that Abraham had an intimate relationship with Him. A true prophet cannot function outside of an intimate walk with Elohim. That is a response of choice by one who deems His presence of more value than the riches of Egypt! When Yahweh was reproving Miriam and Aaron in their rebellion, He pointedly announced the degree of His intimacy with Moses in Numbers 12:6-8: "I speak with him face to face". The greatest asset of the prophet is His degree of intimate relationship and communion with Elohim. His/her entire relevance hinges on this reality of being with Yeshua!

3. Divine Insight for Direction:

Intimacy with Yahweh translates to what Amos 3:7 describes in poetic language: Yahweh does nothing without first revealing it to His servants, the prophets. He or she who claims to be a prophet and does not receive the mind of Yahweh concerning things to come may be engaging in delusion of grandeur. When any unit of the Church is at a crossroads, the first port of call is the prophet who dwells in the presence of the Most High to know what He is saying about the way forward. Agabus demonstrated this reality when the Holy Spirit used His vessel to warn of an imminent famine. The early church acted swiftly! Acts 11: 27-30.

When Paul was determined to go to Jerusalem, this man accurately prophesied what lay ahead. Acts 21: 10-15.

CHAPTER 25
The Office of Prophet (Part 3) - Roles 2

In this lesson, we will continue to examine the roles of Prophets.

4. Accurate declarations of things to come as the Personal Mouthpiece of King Yeshua, Jesus.

In effect, the prophet acts as a conduit or mouthpiece through whom Yeshua Jesus communicates with His Church and society. True prophets will be used by Yeshua to accurately declare future events. Some of these may be unfolding in the present or pertain to future times. Certain declarations might sound unlikely, and the prophets themselves may be puzzled by what they utter. They may have no awareness whatsoever of what they are saying. The most sensitive prophetic utterances are often transmitted through the spirit man and spoken through the prophet's vocal cords, without contact with the soul realm. Yahweh has ordained it this way so that the soul will not interfere with or corrupt His message.

The soul is the seat of the mind, where humanity exercises the thinking and reasoning faculty; the will, where humanity decides

what to say or do; and the emotions, from which feelings and attitudes emanate, and where the humanity of the prophet often exercises itself, which can influence the utterance accordingly. The soul of the prophet is thus the greatest danger to him!

The inability to clearly predict future events disqualifies someone from being called a prophet! As noted in point 3, Agabus confidently informed Paul and his companions of the forthcoming famine. The Church at Antioch responded quickly and organised support for the Church at Jerusalem. Acts 11: 27-30

In Acts 21:10–11, Agabus forewarned Paul of what awaited him in Jerusalem. This helped the listener to be well prepared.

We need to issue a note of caution: Not all 'accurate predictions' mean a prophetic office is at work! Mere ability to predict future events does not confer the office of prophet on a person. There are many diviners and star gazers who use satanic and natural powers to accurately predict the future! Paul dealt with a young lady with the spirit of divination who accurately spoke about their mission. Acts 16:16-18

Peter also dealt with a sorcerer who held Samaria captive but was thought to be a Prophet. Acts 8:9-24.

5. Activate prophetic flow in the Church so that saints walk in the fullness of light with effusion of revelatory gifts.

When prophets fully engage the Church with their callings and gifts, there is impartation that opens the way for the manifestation of revelatory gifts. Like begets like, and the whole Body is blessed thereby. By prophetic utterance, they identify brethren called to the office and prophetic flow. By laying on of hands, there is impartation and activation.

6. Keeping the Saints on the path of Holiness and their hearts centred on Yeshua, Jesus.

It is meaningless to speak accurately of future events but use such predictions to mislead the Church, as many modern-day 'Prophets' do. A true prophet, as a vital part of their duty, reminds the saints of the thrice-holy one whose eyes are purer than to behold iniquity, who is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. Consequently, the true prophet will speak words that guide the saints on the path of righteousness. These words may include wise exposure and warnings about the consequences of sin and disobedience. When true prophets are present in the house, secret sins are exposed either wisely or, at times, harshly, depending on the leading of the Holy Spirit.

> *But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: 25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. 1 Corinthians 14:24-25*

The consequence is always the same: sinners are convicted by the Word, and real saints often repent and receive mercy, while those who refuse fall into problems or experience judgement. Deuteronomy 18:18-20

7. Denouncing false shepherds and peddlers of strange doctrines.

There is a holy boldness that true Prophets possess to rebuke false ministers and those who preach errors, falsehood, heresies, and apostasies. Many prophets, sadly, fail to recognise the dangerous leaven of the pseudo-Kingdom movement, which denies the divinity

of Yeshua and the necessity for saints to remain ever prepared for His return. Many have been politically correct and, as a result, are unable to warn the Church about how celebrity preachers deceitfully use the Word to enrich themselves, live worldly lives, and exploit the souls and resources of saints. Prophets are called to confront such situations.

8. Pronouncing Divine Warnings/Judgements.

True prophets are used by Elohim to issue warnings when His people, or specific individuals, cross the line. That is why prophets are lonely people. In Jeremiah 1:7-10, 17-19, we see that Yahweh sets up prophets to engage with the issues that are massed against His Church and hinder the work of His Kingdom. Prophet Elijah was mightily used in the days of King Ahab and his wife, Jezebel. Jeremiah was used by Yahweh to warn the Jews of the captivity to Babylon.

9. Conveyors of the Message of Hope

Prophets are also used by Elohim to convey His messages of hope for the future. The prophet Isaiah was mightily used to proclaim the grand hope of Israel that Yeshua would incarnate as the Seed of the woman (Isaiah 7:14-16; Isaiah 11:1-5, 10). Even Jeremiah, who Yahweh used to pronounce judgement, was also used to proclaim the hope of a return to the land. It was this hope that Daniel laid hold of to intercede when the time was due (Daniel 9:1-2).

10. Commission those who are called into Ministry Offices

Just as prophets formerly commissioned Kings, prophets are also called to participate in commissioning meetings when apostles and other ministers are appointed into ministry. This is, of course, a privilege that must be approached with a strong sense of responsibility and not as a cause for boasting. Acts 13:1-4

The reason for having prophets as part of presbyteries commission saints into offices in the Body is to ensure that there is an accurate download of the mind of Yeshua from eternity into time for any of the ordinands or the Church.

11. Speak boldly against evil in society and injustice.

King Yeshua cares about righteousness not only in the Kingdom but also in society. It is Elohim who appoints people to public positions, whether as Kings, Presidents, Prime Ministers, Members of Parliament/Congress, Mayors, or Councillors. Therefore, He requires the saints to submit to those in authority (Romans 13:1-7).

Yahweh, however, has standards for those in authority to follow.

> *He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? Micah 6:8*

They are not to be tyrannical or make themselves idols. Yahweh always judges those who stray from the path of righteousness, whether in this life or in eternity, not only in the Old Testament but also in the New Testament and in the present. Herod was condemned to a cruel, painful death because of his pride (Acts 12:20-23). However, Yahweh requires the saints to leave judgement to Him, which He often declares in advance through His chosen vessels, the prophets.

> *Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. Amos 3:7*

As it pleases Him who is the Head of all Principality and Power, Yeshua may use His prophets to speak out when nations and society

adopt lifestyles that attract divine wrath.

12. Preparing the way for the return of King Yeshua.

Prophets serve as reminders to the Church that the King, who went away on a 'long journey', will return soon! (Luke 19:11-27) They live with an awareness of the signs of the times and recognise the seasons we are in. With diligent effort, they keep the Church consistently informed of the fulfilment of prophecies concerning the end. Wherever true New Testament prophets are allowed to operate, the Body exists in the reality that the King is returning soon!

13. Reminder of Eternal Rewards and Punishment

Prophets are used by the Lord to emphasise the importance of eternal rewards more than other groups, apart from teachers. They remind saints and society of eternity and the two possibilities: eternal rewards with Elohim or eternal damnation with Satan. Anyone called to this office who diverts saints' focus from the eternal destiny of all humans has placed a question mark on the mantle!

14. True Prophets are averse to co-dependence when saints wish to hear and cling to their words before acting. They therefore deliberately diminish their own prominence and direct the saints to Yeshua, much like John the Baptist in John 3:26-31. They encourage the saints to grow in grace, have their minds renewed by the Word, and be fully consecrated (Romans 12:1-2). In this way, they enable them to hear the voice of the good Shepherd themselves. In humility, true prophets submit their words for judgement by the Body as prescribed in 1 Corinthians 14.

Elohim graciously offers these resources to prepare the Church for the return of King Yeshua, Jesus. They are freely accessible on the

webs of the Commission: www.gsom.ac, www.assuringgrace.org, www.kingdombooksclub.com, and the YouTube channel GSOM TV.

Assignment

(1) Mention and briefly explain 7 roles of prophets in the Church and society.

(2) Please explain the difference between a saint who flows in the revelatory gifts (is 'prophetic') and one who is called to be a prophet

CHAPTER 26
The Office of Prophet (Part 4) - Election, New Testament Distinctives, and Signs

Let us start with a simple statement: the calling of a prophet is a matter of election! It is Elohim in Yeshua, Jesus, who chooses whoever He desires!

Unlike the bishopric, which is undertaken by personal desire (1 Timothy 3: 1), Yeshua chooses whom He ordains to this role. The individual could be male or female, young or old. Neither age, gender, nor even theological training or lack thereof, nor the capacity to teach, has anything to do with the divine choice called election. Acts 21:7-9.

You cannot be promoted into this office by church committees. You cannot attain it through ambition. The office is not inherited by primogeniture, nor genetically from your parents! However, there are instances in which Yeshua, in His sovereignty, bestows a mantle of prophecy upon a family, lineage, or community. If that is your heritage, rejoice and become an instrument of passing it on to the next generation by sealing your obedience with sacrifice!

Difference between the Prophetic in the New and Old Testaments

As we continue to explore this vital fivefold office gift, it is essential to establish a solid, broad foundation. That foundation is that the prophetic paradigm of the Old Covenant, although popular and well known through the great vessels used, is fundamentally weaker than that of the New Covenant. Five reasons explain the superiority of the New Covenant office of prophet and the function of prophecy.

1. **'Indwelling' Versus 'Visitations on Vessels'**: In the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit indwells saints and operates from their hearts, whereas in the Old Covenant, He used to come upon or 'visit' vessels that were chosen for prophetic utterances. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is the spring and source of prophecy! (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). The Holy Spirit abides within the New Testament saints and works from an 'inside out' rather than 'outside in' paradigm. John 14: 15-17

2. '**A Prophetic Company' Versus 'Individual Prophets'**: Because of this, in the New Covenant, the entire Church is 'prophetic' with the capacity of many saints and ministers to operate in different dimensions of the revelatory gifts without being called to the office of the prophet. Those revelatory gifts include prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, visions, dreams, interpretation of dreams, tongues, interpretation of tongues, and discernment of spirits. In the Old Testament, only a few vessels among multitudes had the ability to 'see' in the realm of the Spirit and 'hear from Elohim' for the people.

3. **'Equippers Versus 'Suppliers'**: In the New Covenant, the office of prophet is part of the fivefold ministry, whose role

is not just to make saints 'consumers' of their anointing but also to equip them for the work of the ministry. The primary focus of New Testament Prophets, therefore, shifts to transforming people from 'consumers' into 'transmitters' and 'co-producers'. In the Old Testament, the prophets merely issued divine counsel, warnings, or notices of impending judgements.

4. **'Secondary' Versus 'Pre-Eminent' Role:** The New Testament prophet is not the most pre-eminent minister of his or her time. In 1 Corinthians 12:28-29, the office of prophet is placed second, after the office of apostle. In the Old Testament, the office of the prophet was the most pre-eminent ministry to the nation.

5. **Wider Scope**: The nature of prophetic utterance in the New Testament has a broader purpose than in the Old. In the New Testament, we identify three main streams of divine purpose that build up saints.

But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to ***edification***, and ***exhortation***, and ***comfor***t. 1 Corinthians 14:3

For this reason, New Testament prophets should not be 'feared' and 'avoided' but rather 'loved' and 'embraced' because they are less likely to concentrate mainly on harsh, 'doom messages' like their Old Covenant counterparts.

Signs of a Prophet truly called by Yeshua, Jesus

As a matter of necessity, we might need to repeat some points from previous lessons to ensure greater clarity. Recognising how dangerous the prophetic function can be in the hands of those who refuse to remain constantly in Him or who even backslide and

apostatise, Yeshua took time to prepare His Church to discern the true from the false.

Even among those who are saved and genuinely called to this office, if they refuse to die to self as Yeshua requires of all who wish to follow Him (Matthew 16:24-26), their prophetic mantle will become counterproductive, leading to self-exaltation and fearfulness. Once this happens, saints will become soul-tied to the prophet and more connected to them than to Yeshua, Jesus, who alone is Head of the Church! Such prophets will then manipulate and control saints to fulfil their fleshly desires, including extorting money to feed their own appetites.

In this environment, the prophetic office, given without repentance, will lead to stunted growth or arrested childhood syndrome in the saints they lead, who are hooked on prophetic utterances but unable to transition to become sons of Yahweh and friends of Yeshua, Jesus. This is the sad reality in environments where saints are not taught how to hear from Yahweh but are rather made to depend on prophets for access to His mind.

These are some core signs of the true prophet of Yeshua, Jesus.

1. The manner of life and self-evident fruit of righteousness validate his/her ministry. Yeshua, Jesus himself put this benchmark for determining whether someone is truly a prophet from Him. Matthew 7:15-23

For this reason, a true prophet should have:

i. A clear testimony of salvation (Matthew 7:13-14)

ii. Fruit of the Spirit should be evident in his/her life (Matthew 7:16-20; Galatians 5:22-23).

iii. Unwillingness to touch the glory of Yahweh by speech or attitude (false prophets boast in their works, including

predictions). A true prophet will deliberately seek to decrease while pointing the saints to Yeshua, just as John the Baptist did (John 3:25-36).

It is the duty of saints to recognise these three essential benchmarks in the lives of those claiming to be prophets. The pressure to accept anyone with that title and to believe all they say as from Elohim is a path leading to destruction!

> *Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1*

2. Lifestyle of Prayer and Deep Communion with the Holy Spirit. The true Prophet knows that of his or her own self, there is nothing to give the people. The tendency to stay in the presence of Elohim in deep prayer and constant communion with the Holy Spirit becomes a lifestyle. In this state, there is a heart disposition to yield and surrender his/her vessel to the Lord to the degree that the Holy Spirit can lay hold of the same at the time of His choosing to release specific words.

3. The accuracy of the words he or she speaks aligns with the written word of Yahweh. As explained in a previous lesson, the true prophet acts as a conduit or mouthpiece through whom Yeshua Jesus communicates with His Church and society. True prophets will be used by Him to declare accurately future events within the context of what is already written in the Holy Scriptures or the broader counsel of Elohim. Some of these may involve unfolding events or things that will happen at a later time. Some declarations might sound improbable, and they themselves may be bewildered by what they utter. They do not need to understand what they are saying, as it does not come from their conscious minds. Their vocal

cords are simply vessels through whom Elohim imparts His counsel!

However, the word spoken is meaningless if it contradicts clear provisions of scripture, rightly divided (2 Peter 1:16-21). If a prophet tells a young lady who has been married for 2 years that she married the wrong person and she should divorce her husband to seek the prophesied Camelot, that prophet is a deceiver! Whenever 'thus saith the Lord' contradicts 'it is written', run for your life and remove yourself from that environment or you will be greatly deceived!

1. **Unwillingness to speak unless prompted by the Holy Spirit.** It is sad these days to see so-called prophets turn on the prophetic flow as a tap at will. They end up releasing soulish projections that corrupt the prophetic mantle and bring it into disrepute in the long run. 1 Corinthians 12:7 establishes a fundamental norm: utterance is activated by the Holy Spirit, not the vessel.

   But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 1 Corinthians 12:7

The Holy Spirit alone should prompt a prophet to speak. When there is no such prompting, the prophet should not feel obliged to say a word! The captain of our salvation, Yeshua, Jesus of Nazareth, who Himself is the Chief Prophet, exemplified this approach by stating that all He does or says is at the express prompting of the Father. John 5:30, John 6:38. The sight of so-called prophets who are tattlers and gossips is an extreme aberration of absurdity!

- **Willingness to submit**. Prophets are known for their obedience to the law of submission. As people who wield great authority in Yeshua, they are tested by the degree of willingness to yield to higher authorities

> *And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.1 Corinthians 14: 32-33*

> *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. Romans 13:1-2*

When a prophet exhibits a 'my way or the highway' attitude, pride has taken hold, and a controlling spirit is at work. Using the office to manipulate those who influence the prophet into doing his or her bidding is a hazard that must be actively recognised and prevented from taking root.

2. **Willingness to have their prophecies judged to establish their source and direction.** True prophets understand that no human possesses absolute knowledge, and all saints can misinterpret Yahweh or the reality because their state of mind, will, and emotion (soul) can interfere with prophetic flow. No matter how highly prophets value their prophecies, they should remain open to others judging them.

> *Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. 30 If anything be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. 31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. 1 Corinthians 14:29-33*

Pride will lead a prophet to refuse this facility, which Yahweh

ordained for the safety of the most vulnerable members of the Church. These are spiritual infants who cannot discern truth from error or prophecy from manifestations of soulish utterance. No prophet should be permitted to live or minister above the Body by refusing to submit to the examination of whether their words align with biblical truth.

- **Holiness of Life.** Because of their access to the throne of grace, prophets gain deeper insight into their own souls and are therefore more inclined to continue seeking the fullness of Yahweh. In this manner, pursuing higher realms of holiness becomes a way of life. This lifestyle was exemplified by Prophet Isaiah, whose encounter with the thrice-holy Elohim in the year that King Uzziah died, revealed depths of impurity within him that he had not seen before. Isaiah 6: 1-8.

- **Healthy disdain for the fleeting illusions of Babylon, the world system.** By virtue of their close relationship with King Yeshua, Jesus, and deep fellowship with the Holy Spirit, which they find very fulfilling, the illusions of this world system, at which many burn their candles at both ends to grasp, hold little appeal for them. They are keenly aware of the serious dangers that worldliness presents to the prophetic mantle. James 4: 1-7.

- **Humility and willingness to accept mistakes, ensuring repentance and correction, where needed.** This includes repentance when he or she misses it concerning any prophetic utterance.

  He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. Proverbs

28:13

It must be acknowledged that human nature is an imperfect medium through which Elohim communicates His mind or future plans. A prophet may know only in part due to cultural filters or strongholds in the mind.

> *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 1 Corinthians 13:9-12*

Assignment

(1) Please summarise the reality that the calling to the office of the prophet is by election, not human design.

(2) What aspect of the difference between the New and Old Testament paradigms of the office of the prophet struck you most?

(3) Please discuss any 5 of the 9 signs of the prophet in this lesson.

CHAPTER 27
The Office of Prophet (Part 5) - Potential Pitfalls

Yeshua, Jesus understood the strategic importance of this office and its potential to mislead His saints. That is why He issued more warnings about false prophets in the gospels and the book of Revelation than about any other office (Matthew 7:15-23).

> *Matthew 24:11 (KJV) And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 Behold, I have told you before. 26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. Matthew 24:11, 24-26.*

Also read Revelation 2:14-24

Strong warnings abound in other scriptures concerning false prophets (2 Peter 2:1-22 is a case study, and Jude 3-19).

The gift and calling of a prophet are without repentance. What this means is that even where someone has backslidden or gone into apostasy, the capacity to still speak accurately about the future may still operate (Romans 11:29). The difference is that whereas it operated to the glory of Yahweh and served His purpose, this corrupted state now stands in judgement against him or her who once walked sincerely with the Lord (Matthew 7:15-23, Hebrews 6:4-8; Hebrews 10:26-31).

People should not be puzzled that a prophet's words come true even when their own lives do not align with the Word.

Pitfalls of the Office of the Prophet

The clear pitfalls which every truly called prophet should observe are these:

- **Satan's entrapment.** Satan will always target those called to this high office. It is essential to recognise this reality and actively resist him. Fighting the good fight of faith always leads to victory, based on assurance in the Word: John 10:10, 1 Peter 5:8-9 and James 4:7
- **Soulishness**. The greatest danger the prophet will face will, however, come from within him or herself! The soul is the seat of reasoning, emotions, and attitudes. If the soul is not crucified and not subject to the spirit of the prophet, which should be subject to the Holy Spirit, carnality will run riot in personal life.

The soul has a voice and can speak just as the Holy Spirit has a voice and speaks. The prophet who allows emotions to engage with a person or situation may, therefore, speak from the soul realm. This is often the case when the prophet believes they have the right to open their mouth at any time and release the prophecy. Whoever

does not first cultivate intimacy with Yahweh and close communion with the Holy Spirit will utter what the soul desires and claim to speak for Him! On the last day, there will be several wailings when people cannot account for the idle words they uttered in this present life!

> *But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement. Matthew 12:36*

The escape route, therefore, is to repent now! It is to avoid activating their soulish tendencies that Yahweh has always allowed prophets to live relatively separate lives, since emotion poses an immediate danger in the prophetic calling. The pain, rejection, and persecution which true prophets often face are sometimes designed by Yahweh to serve as reminders of their humanity, preventing them from becoming exalted and conceited. This principle was demonstrated in 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 with Paul. Unfortunately, many have allowed secular humanistic theologies to hinder their appreciation of the beauty of the Cross.

- **The Pride of Life**. Yahweh hates pride and says He will oppose it wherever it is found! Pride can cause a prophet to seek fame for the words spoken, but these are the words of Yahweh for His people. The prophet is simply a messenger conveying a message and has nothing to boast about. Humility and gratitude should be the correct attitude, as it pleases Yahweh to use someone in this way! Boasting about prophecies that one gave which came true is a very risky tendency. James 4:6 and 1 Corinthians 4:7

- **Using Prophecy to manipulate and control saints**. A present danger in the prophetic ministry is the tendency to misuse

prophecy for the manipulation and domination of the saints. It is wrong to keep the saints as perpetual infants, always seeking a prophetic fix. It is even worse when a prophet exploits this vulnerability to influence those people for personal gain. Saints should be trained in the Word to grow in Yeshua, so they can hear His voice and draw on the Holy Spirit's anointing to judge all things (1 John 2:18-27; 1 John 4:1). The main role of prophets is to be used by Yeshua to perfect and equip saints for ministry (Ephesians 4:11, 12). This is achieved when prophets direct people to Him, enabling them to grow in grace, rather than to the prophet.

- **Covetousness and Prophecy for Profit.** True prophets live modestly. Their deep knowledge of Yahweh and His righteousness is rooted in absolute trust that He will provide for all their needs, fulfilling the great Kingdom promise (Matthew 6:33, 34, Matthew 10:7-15). They understand that the love of money is the root of all evil and are aware of the present danger and occupational hazard of being tempted by undue favours and gifts (1 Timothy 6:6-10); Elisha recognised this reality and refused Naaman's gifts (2 Kings 5:1-19). They learn to exercise self-control so that they do not put themselves in situations where their needs might lead them to misuse the precious gift they carry. Philippians 3:17-19, Hebrews 13:5-6 and Philippians 4:10

The ungodly methods of fundraising used by the Church in the Western world often lead to abuse. It is wrong to hawk or merchandise prophetic utterances for people to buy or to negotiate fees to speak at prophetic meetings. Hosts should know how to care for a visiting prophet, and when they neglect their duties, he or she should never retaliate but instead forgive them or entrust everything to He who judges righteously, as Yeshua did (1 Peter

2:21-23).

The tendency to exploit one's prophetic gift for fundraising after each meeting is a very dangerous trend. Hosts should resist the temptation to use the act of fundraising to cover expenses for the visiting Prophet! People might come to believe they are paying to 'activate' the prophecies they received.

- **Misuse of Points of Contact to lead the people into idolatry and syncretism**.

Points of contact are biblical methods for activating the faith of the weak, infants, and those who need to see "something tangible" to believe in the unseen. Yeshua Himself used points of contact to facilitate the healing process (John 9:1-7). Paul, the apostle, had handkerchiefs taken from his body to heal the sick (Acts 19:11, 12). The shadow of Peter was a significant point of contact for healing (Acts 5:15, 16). When points of contact are used in a fleshly, everyday, and constant manner, they can lead the saints astray into idolatry or a mixture of the spiritual and religiosity referred to as syncretism. Excessive use of points of contact can also cause saints to become carnal and hinder their growth in their spirit man, which is the foundation of true faith (Romans 8:5-8). Their faith might begin to rest on what they see rather than the Unseen Elohim!

- **Carnality in prophetic actions and parables without the specific direction of the Holy Spirit.**

Prophetic actions in prayer and spiritual warfare are biblical. In the days of Jeremiah, Yahweh directed him to undertake actions that seemed bizarre. On one occasion, Yahweh asked him to test the Rechabites with alcohol (Jeremiah 35). Yet, on another occasion, Yahweh instructed him to buy and destroy jars of clay to illustrate the impending destruction of Judah. In all these instances, Adonai

guided His prophets on what to do. The aim was to convict the nation of sin and give her a chance to repent or face punishment. In the New Testament, we see Agabus symbolise Paul's imprisonment by using his girdle to show what lay ahead (Acts 21:10, 1). When prophets begin to invent prophetic actions based on fleshly ideas, they lead the saints down a path of error, which can take many years to manifest. The deliverance ministry today is experiencing the consequences of prophetic actions that were once documented and are now practised without any clear prompting from the Holy Spirit. Syncretism does not develop overnight but often results from the cumulative effect of errors accumulated over many years.

- **Boasting over Prophetic Skills.** It is sad to see self-promotion and projection, which many prophets get caught up in. There is a wide-ranging degree of competition for the glory of Yahweh that goes on in the marketing and promotion of prophetic meetings. When you see a prophet boasting that his/her prophecies must come to pass, there is an indication of something wrong in the realm of the spirit.

- **Supposition that humans can transfer the mantle of the Office of Prophet at will.** It is the height of pride for a prophet to claim that he or she can make a prophet out of anybody! The idea of establishing Schools of Prophets, admitting everyone who can pay the required fees and promising to “impart “and or “activate” them into the office of a prophet, insults the divine and must be denounced by all who know Yahweh and His Holy Word. Yahweh can indeed use humans to activate or impart gifts. However, with calling into any of the fivefold, Yeshua alone calls and sends! (Ephesians 4:11) He needs no help in this regard!

Caveat: Let us note, however, that a prophet can be used by Yahweh

to mentor another one called to be a prophet, as Elijah did for Elisha. It was Yahweh who called Elisha (1 Kings 19:15-21) and assigned Elijah to guide and prepare him for his task. Let it be emphasised, however, that prophets can be used by Yeshua to activate prophetic flow in the saints so that they can edify, exhort, and comfort one another, but they cannot make anyone a prophet.

Prophets and the Process of Growth

Let us also observe that the depth of maturity in a prophet's walk with the Lord will largely be revealed through the signs they demonstrate and the pitfalls they avoid. As with apostles, those called to be prophets often begin as baby prophets. They are frequently known for their impulsiveness, brashness, and a strong desire to be recognised, accepted, and respected. Over time, they grow into maturing prophets, developing in grace. Those who persist will reach the status of mature prophets.

What this means is simple: there may be some truly called prophets who are not manifesting some signs and who may be falling into some of the stated pitfalls because they are yet maturing! Let us be gracious in assessing them, and we can discern those whose mistakes are not intentional!

Assignment

(1) Cite at least 3 warnings about false prophets in his lesson.

(2) Out of the 9 pitfalls, please share 5 which ministered most to you.

CHAPTER 28
The Office of Prophet (Part 6) - A Negative Trend That Must Be Stopped



There are some increasingly negative trends within the prophetic movement prevalent in this generation which need to be halted in their tracks. They include:

#1. The Tendency to minister out of wounded souls

In the economy of Elohim, all prophetic utterances should originate from His pure Spirit through the prophet's spirit-man to influence the hearers as He intends. Prophets need to nurture the entire spectrum of their souls (mind, will, emotions). The soul of a prophet can become wounded, making it toxic for delivering pure messages from Elohim. A wounded soul is one that is out of harmony with true spirituality. This occurs when an individual is offended, hurt, feels rejected, unappreciated, or experiences any other form of emotional disconnect or dysfunction.

A prophet must recognise when his/her soul is hurt and desist from ministry. A wounded soul may release death rather than life. Words

spoken are backed by the spirit of the person uttering them. When a prophet is hurt, feeling rejected and dejected, there will be a tendency to release words that cannot build up or perfect the saints. Those who are prophets owe themselves an obligation to be so connected in their spirit-man to the Holy Spirit that they can say, like Yeshua, that what they speak is Spirit and Life!

> *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63*

The key is to obey the Word and shield their hearts and minds from any inclination that could pollute them. Those called to this important role should press into a state where they die to self (Galatians 2:20, Matthew 16: 24-25), surrender their entire being in complete consecration to the Lord (Romans 12: 1), and allow the Word to renew their minds (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 3:23). Furthermore, it is essential to grow in our minds to a place where it reflects the nature and character of King Yeshua, Jesus. Ultimately, this guards against speaking out of pollution.

> *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8*

Let us quickly note that because prophets are passionate and engaging people, their holy boldness may offend some carnal Christians who may be tempted to misjudge them as operating out of wounded or damaged emotions. That is an unhelpful mindset that may rob a saint of grace and of the willingness to receive what the

Lord is saying through the vessel.

#.2. Cursing saints, redeemed by the Blood

Across the world, a concerning trend among some prophets is to curse believers, even for minor reasons. Some curse pastors and congregations for not showering them with money. Others curse those they have done business with when things do not go as expected. Prophets who readily cast curses on fellow saints are out of line! Using the case of Elisha and the young children who mocked him as an excuse is simply dishonest.

For all saints, please note that negative words uttered against you need to be rejected, cancelled, and rendered of no effect! If need be, contact other prophets or apostles with appropriate spiritual standing to cancel and reverse such evil utterances, based on the principle in Numbers 23:23.

#.3. New trend for male prophets covering their heads with Jewish prayer shawls before prophesying.

We owe Judaism a debt of gratitude for being the root from which the New Testament originated. The moral laws of the Old Testament, such as the Ten Commandments, are still valid for this dispensation. We are also thankful for the feasts that Yahweh established to commemorate His dealings with His people. These feasts, including Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, and Yom Kippur, deserve study and the application of the principles they embody to deepen our walk with Yahweh. They are far more enriching than the pagan festivals Rome repurposed and imposed on Christendom!

However, the trend to lead the saints back to Judaism, mainly promoted by prophets, is extremely dangerous. There is a freedom which the Master, Yeshua, has brought us into as members of

Yahweh's family, one that grants access to the throne of grace through His blood, something the Jews of old never experienced or considered possible. An example is the liberty of receiving the Holy Spirit, through which we understand the mind of Yahweh. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit occasionally came upon a few people in each generation, enabling them to speak forth the word of Yahweh.

> *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1*

One way this tendency to Judaize the prophetic is seen is in how male prophets cover their heads with Jewish prayer shawls to appear more spiritual and having special access to Elohim. This is the spirit of religion at work that must be recognised and rejected!

1 Corinthians 11:7; 2 Corinthians 3:5-17; Galatians 1:6-12; Galatians 3:1- 15, 21-29; Galatians 5:1-14.

Even the practice of speaking in tongues that are not inspired but merely to attract attention before delivering the word of Yahweh is Pharisaism, which Yeshua warned against in Matthew 6:1-14!

The Crave for Honour and Pre-eminence, which Results in Gift Projection.

The tendency for those who claim to be prophets to constantly seek honour is very dangerous and has no scriptural backing. Rejection, scorn, and even evil speaking are part of the normal experience every prophet must face. Those who reject these signs of a prophet are backslidden or were never truly called. Yahweh clearly told Jeremiah what lay ahead for him (Jeremiah 1:17-19). Yeshua, Jesus himself, acknowledged that prophets are often without honour in

their own localities.

> *But Jesus, said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. Mark 6:4*

He also recognised Jerusalem's history as a place where prophets have been killed (Luke 13:33). Seeking luxury in 5-star hotels, a specific type of limousine, and other privileges because one carries a prophetic mantle is covetousness 101 in action!

Even in the perking order of 1 Corinthians 12:29 and Ephesians 4:11, prophets are put behind apostles. To barge into meetings and dominate them with long, windy prophecies is clearly a breach of spiritual protocol.

Gift projection, which manifests in trying to project prophecy as the 'most important thing', is dangerous and delusional.

#.5. The tendency to use capacity to gather crowds of seekers of the future to start a congregation, even when Elohim has not directed.

Allowing people to gather around a prophet with many unconverted individuals; many in arrested babyhood syndrome and other negative relationship patterns stemming from lack of proper teaching and training, turns the church into a halfway house to hell. Both those who are constantly learning but never arriving at the knowledge of truth in such 'churches' as well as their leaders, who are not called to shepherd them, are equally liable for these distortions of grace.

Ideally, prophets should detach themselves from pastoral duties and focus on waiting on Elohim, hearing from Him, and releasing His

Word. If such individuals pioneer congregations, the most prudent approach would be to pray for other members of the fivefold ministry to connect and take their place. Until that is achieved, they should intentionally create space for those with different gifts and callings to come in at regular intervals, to release grace for comprehensive spiritual growth. Above all, these prophets need to establish training opportunities so that the saints they lead can discover their gifts and callings and be given room to exercise them. When someone has a dual calling as both a prophet and a pastor, there will be enough grace to avoid the snares outlined in this section. However, they must be certain that it is the Lord who led them to establish a congregation.

#.6. The desire to be known and 'celebrated' by the Secular Media.

This tendency places undue pressure on such prophets to 'perform', even when there is no word from the Lord. The tendency to rely on their soul realm in such situations is natural. Such a desire for approval and to be embraced by the world system can negate the prophetic mantle.

> *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. James 4:4*

#.7. Disdain for the written word and ignorance of some provisions, such as the reality that the Body of Yeshua, Jesus, is a spiritual organism to be led collectively by the fivefold, not just prophets.

Across the world, a strange phenomenon is emerging in which

people claim that being a prophet exempts them from studying or understanding the Holy Scriptures. As a result, these individuals tend to cherry-pick scriptures, skimming the surface to find 'promises' to use against others. Such prophets lack an understanding of the broader strategic framework of the Kingdom. They can be perilous because, although their prophecies may appear accurate, they can, for example, keep saints anchored to this worldly order when they should be ready like the wise virgins for the imminent arrival of the King of Kings. Many prophets in the great nations exhibit a mindset heavily influenced by patriotism and worldly culture, which diminishes their first love for Yeshua and the Kingdom.

The prophet, unaware that the Church is not merely an organisation where leaders do as they please with people, is likely to abuse both the King, the Office, and the Body. Anyone who does not realise that it is a five-fold, not just one-fold, that should lead the Church will cause chaos in leadership! Hosea 4:6

#.8. Involvement of prophets in partisan politics and soul ties to preferred candidates. This tendency is a great disservice to the name of the Lord. Prophets should be so wholly intimate with Yeshua, Jesus, that they cannot have room to become partisan backers of politicians. Such tendencies are frowned upon by Elohim, who allows them to make predictions that are clearly empty words with no spiritual backing: empty prophecies, such as those that make the Church a whore to the highest bidder.

Assignment

(1) Please present a summary of 4 of the 8 dangerous trends that need to stop in the prophetic office.

CHAPTER 29
The Office of Prophet (Part 7) - The Way Forward

Just as the apostles and, indeed, all other ministers must grow in grace, prophets must grow in grace. Every prophet must walk humbly with King Yeshua and fellow saints, avoid gift projection and minister according to the measure of faith. Romans 12:3-6

As with apostles, so also with Prophets.

The validity of a prophetic commission, therefore, largely depends on the level of intimacy with Yeshua. In Yeshua, all the needs of prophets to operate in ministry are met. It therefore makes sense to cultivate intimacy with Him, which is achieved through some principal means of grace.

> *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 Peter 3:17*

1. Intimacy. The first is to yearn and hunger for Yeshua and refuse

to be absorbed by ministry business to the degree that the prophet relies on spent fuel or the irrevocability of the gift and calling to function.

It is entirely possible to be disconnected from Yeshua and yet do signs and wonders. That a prophet is releasing words with pinpoint accuracy is no indicator of the state of his heart! Ask close aides of the mega pastors and TV superstars, and what they will share with you about the private struggles of celebrity preachers will give you an idea of the extent of this malaise.

It is no surprise that Paul the Apostle made it his primary desire to press into the fullness of Yeshua and to grasp that for which he was grasped by Him. He aimed to know Yeshua intimately and to regard all other knowledge, including his renowned scholarship, as rubbish. Philippians 3:1-14 and 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 form part of the wonderful piece of holy Scripture we must study and understand to be challenged. As Colossians 2:18-23 states, we should be mindful of the need to hold fast to the Head of the Body, Yeshua, lest we drift into religious norms and activities.

2. **Prayer Life.** That longing must turn into a life of fervent prayer. Prophets, like apostles and other ministers, must resist the temptation to focus more on praying for signs and wonders, or they risk becoming hirelings who preach others into the Kingdom and miss it, losing their first love! 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Prophets must spend quality time worshipping Yahweh, praising Him even amid fire, as Paul did often (Acts 16: 25- 34). Prophets should spend a good deal of time seeking to know and walk in the ways of Yahweh as did Moses, the great prophet of Israel Psalm 103:7. Prophets must also learn to pray about everything, just like Yeshua did so that they can always operate within the express will of Yahweh (John 5:30; John 6:38). Devotional prayer enables

prophets to draw down the fullness of the glory and presence of Yeshua on His vessel. This gives any true prophet measures of glory or divine presence.

3. Communion with the Holy Spirit and surrender to Him are essential. The true prophet must crave the Holy Spirit and fellowship with Him. He is the live wire, linking prophets to heaven and confirming their calling. Cultivating a deep relationship with He who will take the things of Yeshua and reveal them to the prophet is not optional! It is through this connection that He uses their vessels to release the mind of the Father without stress, struggle, or interference from the flesh. Many who live in secret sins often feel uneasy or shy (some even afraid) in the presence of a true prophet. There are many saints who feel a certain discomfort when they come before a genuine prophet. That is Yahweh's presence as they wear Yeshua, Jesus, as a garment, and His presence through the Holy Spirit who energises their spirit-man and emits virtue that convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgement.

4. The true prophet must, therefore, be a person of few but impactful words. The habit of gossiping and tattling must be discarded whenever this upward calling is received. Excessive speech diminishes the prophetic anointing. This also relates to a love of the world and its luxuries (1 John 2:15-17). The reminder from James for saints to be cautious with their words is appropriate.

> *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: James 1:19*

5. Consistent Word Study. To know Yeshua and be found in Him, the prophet must be an avid student of the Word. The Word is to be studied, meditated on, and allowed to be made flesh. This makes it possible for the Word to dwell richly in them in all wisdom.

> *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:16*

From that root, they start to speak the word of Yahweh concerning every situation, guided by the Holy Spirit. This requires prophets to approach studying the word with a new attitude and mindset, as described here.

> *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.2 Timothy 2:15*

In this scenario, they no longer approach it as an impersonal, dry, religious tome. The word of Yahweh is Yeshua Himself, instructing us, since He is the living Word. There are many good books and commentaries. There are also many good, spiritually uplifting articles that prophets will, of course, read. However, those called must come to a point where none becomes a substitute for the study and knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. They do not allow commentaries and concordances to interpret the word for them. They always need to turn to the Holy Spirit when any word seems dark. Part of His role is to bring illumination, which releases the rhema of the logos. When they read commentaries, they recognise the same insights that human authors received in the Word at a particular time, which need to be cross-checked with the Holy Spirit for accuracy and relevance!

6. **A prophet needs to understand themselves better.** This involves recognising how one's natural culture can influence one's mindset. Such understanding helps the prophet adopt Yeshua's mindset in the Word, cultivating a Kingdom mindset. Therefore, a prophet will

benefit from a spiritual gifts audit. By understanding the gifts and abilities they have been blessed with, prophets can discern the assignments the Lord has entrusted to them. Prophets who realise they lack the spiritual gifts and graces for managing people will safeguard their souls by passing on core pastoral responsibilities to those with such gifts, allowing them to focus on their primary calling. Understanding the full spectrum of gifts enables a prophet to embrace the unique vessel they are meant to be within the Body.

Conclusion

We may need to conclude this section of the teaching on Prophets with a verbatim reproduction of parts of Jeremiah Chapter 23. All who lead, including prophets, need to reflect on the powerful truths exposited therein

A reminder to Prophets:

Being misunderstood, rejected, and criticised by less spiritual people is part of the hazards of the Calling! It is not a big deal and should never be made an issue!

To prophets: marvel not, if Facebook has overtaken Jerusalem as the Waterloo of prophets! Don't run away!

The Divine Warning and Promise: If you close your mouth, He will open your eyes; if you open your mouth, He will close your eyes! - do not be a tattler/gossip.

For all saints:

Never allow an unpleasant experience with an immature vessel or one with rough edges to make you switch off prophecy and prophets! The presence of counterfeit shows that there are originals/authentic ones!

***Despise not** prophesyings.1 Thessalonians 5:20*

Seek, embrace, and celebrate the ministry of authentic prophets! Genuine prophets are gifts of Yeshua to perfect His Church and make it ready for His soon return. They are for today!

Assignment

(1). Please discuss any 3 of the 5 ways prophets can grow in grace which ministered most to you.

(2). On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate this teaching on the office of the prophet in terms of how it has helped you to understand this critical calling better?

CHAPTER 30
Foundational Functions of Apostles and Prophets

Foundational Functions and Reformation Assignment of Apostles and Prophets

In building saints to maturity, apostles and prophets are part of the foundation of the Church, with Yeshua Ha Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah Himself, as the Chief Cornerstone. Ephesians 2:18-22

A narrow, reductionist interpretation would suggest that Paul is speaking of the prophets of old and the first apostles of Yeshua (Jesus) as the foundation of our faith. In a very practical sense, this is to be a present truth with all dispensations of the Church from Pentecost until the consummation of all things when the King appears again. Whenever the ministries of these two strategic office gifts are received and exercised with balance, the Church of Yeshua is enriched, strengthened, and matured. Just as there is room for growth in grace, backsliding and apostasy are real possibilities.

As we have seen in various ways, those called into these two

foundational offices do not fully manifest immediately. From the moment of calling to the time of full manifestation is a period called 'process time'! Those who embrace the 'shame' and messiness of their appointed processes emerge to shine like gold, carrying their mantles with great grace, which brings glory to King Yeshua, Jesus, whom they represent.

Just as many who were called succeeded, the Holy Writ also reveals some who were called into the high calling of apostles and prophets but did not succeed. Some temporarily missed the mark through what is called backsliding and were eventually restored. For others, their missing the mark was permanent. A leader's sin can have far-reaching consequences. Backsliding results from soulishness when the mind, will, or emotions interfere with the spirit's walk of faith and simplicity with Yahweh. Human mindsets are in enmity with Him (Romans 8:5-8). Human emotions often lead to the wrong responses to the things of Yahweh, who desires that our worship be in spirit and truth (John 4:21-23).

Let us consider these prophets and apostles who stumbled at one time or the other. Some were able to get back up, stand, and run the race until they crossed the finish line. Others were stuck on the ground and missed their appointed time and seasons.

i. **Abraham**. The father of faith and one of the notable prophets of all time, missed it on two key occasions. In Genesis 16:1-15, Abraham buckled under pressure from Sarai and fathered Ishmael. The fruit of that action remains at the root of an unstable Middle East to this day. Abraham twice allowed fear to get the better of him, leading to a lie about his relationship with Sarai to save his skin in Egypt and in the court of Abimelech (Genesis chapters 12 and 20). We are thankful that Abram was restored and lived as an intimate friend of Yahweh!

ii. **Moses.** The great prophet of all time, who spoke with Yahweh face to face (Numbers 12: 5-8), missed entry into the promised land because he allowed the murmuring and carnality of Israel to get under his skin, causing him to strike rather than speak to the rock in anger. In doing so, Moses dishonoured Yahweh and paid for it! (Numbers 20:1-12; Deuteronomy 32: 48 – 52; Deuteronomy 34:1-12). His soul was, however, saved, and Elohim prevented Satan from claiming his physical body at death, Jude 9.

iii. **Elijah**. The great prophet who was used mightily by Yahweh to destroy the priests of Baal grew weary and fearful when Jezebel threatened him. Out of despair, he asked Yahweh to take his life. Yahweh acceded by terminating his ministry in the earth realm (1 Kings 18:1-40; 1 Kings 19: 1-21).

iv. **David**. The great King of Israel missed it when, instead of going to war like other kings, he sought premature rest. What his eyes saw in the naked Bathsheba captivated his soul and led to a series of sins, including adultery and the murder of her husband Uriah (2 Samuel chapter 11). His household was to reap the consequences of that faulty foundation. Moral failure and the sword became regular fare of life in his lineage (2 Samuel Chapter 13). David also allowed pride of life to cause him to conduct a census of Israel's military might (2 Samuel Chapter 24). Ultimately, David was recovered and became the greatest king in Israel for all time, until Yeshua.

The Old Testament is filled with those who missed it, from Adam and Eve, through Cain, until the days before John the Baptist appeared on the scene. Let us examine just 1:

v. **Saul.** With the first King of Israel, Saul, he missed it with obedience and inability to embrace the fire of the process. He became a castaway.

> *And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. 22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. Acts 13:21-22*

The Experience of Yeshua with Some Apostles

Let us examine some more examples from the New Testament

1. **Peter** - He once allowed familiarity with Yeshua to cause him to be rude and resist the truth of the Cross. This was after Yeshua commended him for having a revelation of His divinity (Matthew 16:13-23). He was still impulsive, rising and falling. Because he did not remove the old yeast of an unstable character, he eventually denied his Master 3 times, as predicted. (See Matthew 16:13-19, 21-23; Matthew 26:31-35; 69-75; Luke 22:31-34, 54-62). Peter repented, recovered, and was a solid rock personality in the Alpha Church.

2. **James and John** - They allowed the leaven of ambition and strife for recognition to get the better part of them when they recruited their mum to lobby for chief places of honour in the coming Kingdom (Matthew 20:20-28). They also displayed sectarian tendencies (Mark 9:38-40), were vengeful with a bad temper, and ready to call down fire from heaven to destroy a village of Samaritans who refused to allow Yeshua access. They, however, came forth beautifully out of the fire of process to become outstanding soldiers of the Cross.

3. **Judas Iscariot** - He allowed the love of money, differing perspectives from Yeshua, and a desire for honour and vain glory to corrupt his heart. In that state, he fell and betrayed his master. He

was a man chosen and mentored by Yeshua for 3½ years and served as an insider and treasurer of the Fellowship (Luke 6:12-16; Mark 3:13-16; John 12:6). Unfortunately, he did not address the leaven of love for money, which led him to steal (John 12:6). He allowed himself to diverge from the vision of his Master and even voiced it publicly (John 12:1-5, 7, 8). It was only a matter of time before sin took hold of him and prompted him to betray Yeshua, Jesus. The warnings of Yeshua could not save Judas because his heart had long been corrupted and was bent on evil! (Matthew 26:14-16, 17-25)

Throughout the New Testament, there are instances of individuals who could have been great vessels in the hand of Elohim but missed their opportunity by refusing to pay the price of abiding in the grace they received. Another study will highlight such people.

The Bible teaches that none of us should ever reach a point where we think we are infallible! Switching from spiritual to fleshly mode is easy once apostles and prophets forget the fate of their predecessors who once walked with Yahweh and later stumbled, taking their eyes off eternity (1 Corinthians 10:1-13). Many were eventually recovered, but some missed it permanently and will eternally gnash their teeth! We should emulate Paul the Apostle to resolve that we do not want to be cast away after being used mightily by Yahweh! (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Apostles and Prophets Occupy Very High and Strategic Offices!

The reason the King is releasing the quantum of information on unacceptable tendencies amongst those who are called to the offices of apostle and prophet is that, to whom much is given, much is expected! Great responsibilities are thrust upon apostles and prophets, and no one should be in any doubt about this.

Those who choose to disconnect from apostles and prophets because of the excesses of those who live and minister erroneously are equally missing the point. Receiving apostles and prophets is not optional; it is essential for the true, balanced, and healthy growth of the Church of Jesus Yeshua, as clearly demonstrated in Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:28-29, and 1 Corinthians 14. Interestingly, apostles and prophets work together very well in ministry, and the grace they carry is complementary, not competitive.

The Key

The key is to check out the fruit and test the spirit of those who walk or claim to walk in these strategic offices and to follow them only as they themselves follow Yeshua! (Matthew 7:15-23; 1 John 4:1-3; Philippians 3:17-21; 1 Corinthians 11:1). If they refuse to embrace the Cross and drop their old nature, we should rely on the Holy Spirit for discernment concerning whether they are ministering at His prompting or by the flesh and respond as He leads.

Revisiting the Dual Mandate of the Kingdom-Driven Church

As we conclude this section of our study on the fivefold, it cannot be emphasised enough that apostles are chosen specifically by Yeshua and set in the Church to represent Him:

- by faithfully proclaiming the true gospel of the Kingdom;
- ensuring that the Church is built and operated according to the master plan He laid out while on earth and what He revealed to His apostles, especially Paul.
- apostles and prophets are also appointed by Yeshua and not human beings to receive deep mysteries of the Kingdom and proclaim such with clarity so that saints do not walk in

darkness (1 Corinthians 3:10-16; Ephesians 4:11-16).

As we mentioned earlier in this message, a dual mandate is inherently involved.

- Apostles and prophets are to keep the Church in the mode of the wise virgins, in perpetual readiness for the soon return of Yeshua. That is why apostles, prophets, and indeed all true ministers of the gospel will prove the validity of their calling by how much they have received a revelation of the divinity of Yeshua and the reality of His soon return to rule and reign on earth in the fully established realm of the Kingdom. The totality of scripture in the Old and New Testaments indicates that this present world system will run its course and implode morally and even physically. We already see the great moral declension and the redefinition of values in the past 100 years. What was abominable just 15 years ago in terms of sexual orientation is now a celebrated reality across the major nations of the world. Organised Christendom has caved in to manifest religion and rituals.

The world powers have enough nuclear stockpiles to destroy the earth. They have been held back because of the principle of mutually assured destruction (MAD). That restraint is about to give way, as rogue regimes and unstable societies are poised to enter the league. Throw in the escalating tension in the Middle East, extreme division on religious and ideological lines within both the elite and citizenry of Israel, its demonisation in the world media, and the only sensible deduction is that the clock of time is ticking to the H-Hour! In this environment, a series of actions and plans which will fit neatly into the strategic jigsaw of end-time prophecies is unfolding worldwide.

Apostles and prophets have their work cut out for them to close

ranks and keep the saints reminded of the word of Yahweh that a day is coming when the King of Kings will return to finally redeem His saints and establish the long-prophesied Kingdom right here on planet earth. That is the sense in which they are used by the Holy Spirit to keep saints in the watchful and prayerful mode of the 5 Wise Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. When Yeshua returns, the saints will co-reign with Him as Kings and Priests over specific territories according to their faithfulness in this present life. Revelation 1:6, Revelation 5: 10, Revelation 20: 4-6.

Whoever claims to be an apostle or prophet and has not got this understanding is at yet a tender stage of maturation and needs help to see clearly. Whoever has this understanding and refuses to rebuke the pseudo-Kingdom preachers who deny the divinity and return of Yeshua and claim that we are to invest all our faith and hope in 'making it' in this world system has made themselves an enemy of the Cross.

> *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) Philippians 3:17-19*

- Apostles and prophets with pastors and teachers are also to emphasise that while we wait for His soon appearance, there is serious work to be done by saints during their pilgrimage in this present life. The Great Commission must be completed ahead of His return, as Yeshua said. Matthew 24:14, Matthew 28:18-20.

The gospel of the Kingdom

Christian religion tends to focus on gathering crowds (attendance), disproportionate investment in buildings, and cash generation. This is encouraged by a tendency to uphold the clergy-laity dichotomy, which often results in a 'theatre' posture - a sure pathway to 'morgue/mortuary churchianity' where saints grow into their pastors or the church as an organisation rather than into Christ. True apostles and prophets often embrace the gospel of the kingdom, which directs all brethren to the only Head, Yeshua, Jesus, who rules as sovereign. In this way, ministries led by apostles and where prophets also serve are more likely to become hatcheries of saints' destinies, empowering them to take their rightful places.

We lay out here some key benchmarks of the gospel of the Kingdom that focus on the transformation of lives.

- All sinners should hear the gospel, be convicted by the Holy Spirit, so that they can repent and be truly converted to become a new creation. Romans 10: 8-13, 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- The gospel is not preached in words only, but also in the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power. In this state, miracles, signs, and wonders validate the gospel. Matthew 4: 17-29, Matthew 8, 9. For this reason, all saints are charged to press into fullness of enduement with the Holy Spirit and power. Acts 1:8.
- All those who are saved need to die to self and wholly enthrone Yeshua as Lord, who governs their lives as they willingly submit to His call to be disciples. Matthew 16: 24-25, Matthew 28: 19-20.
- All disciples should be trained over a cycle of time to become able ministers of the New Covenant and priests after the

order of Melchizedek. 1 Peter 2: 9-10. Some will be called to serve in the fivefold offices, while others will serve as deacons/deaconesses, elders, exhorters, bishops, or other aspects of ministry based on their spiritual gifts and calling.

- All saints should grow intimately in their relationship with King Yeshua, Jesus, as His friends and grow into a state of sonship where they are led by the Holy Spirit in all things and take responsibility for the earthly estate of their heavenly Father. Romans 8: 14.
- The Gospel is not about attendance, buildings, and cash as practised by Christian religion. Congregations of saints need to care for and be catalysts for the transformation of their host communities, just as salt, light, and yeast change whatever they come in contact with. Matthew 5: 13-16, Matthew 13: 33. They become carriers of the love and goodness of Elohim to humanity full of the heart of compassion, as Matthew 25: 31-46 states.
- The Kingdom Church is one organic entity united by the shared inheritance of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, living in love and walking in unity with all saints and other ministries is essential. Ephesians 4: 1-6, John 13: 34-35, John 17: 20-23. As a result, ministries where apostles and prophets serve in leadership reject denominationalism at a heart level.
- For this reason, maturing and mature apostles and prophets will also be used by the Holy Spirit to encourage and equip saints with holistic spiritual and other skills to ‘occupy’ (do Kingdom Business) in their respective spheres of influence through discovering, pursuing, and fulfilling individual mandates, as part of an organic whole (Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16).

- In this way, the saints in congregations and ministries they lead become Kingdom citizens rather than mere religious folks.

> *And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. 12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. Luke 19:11*

Yeshua prayed that while we are in this world, we should be kept out of the system's loop (John 17:20-23). Therefore, we cannot live by the principles of the world. Instead, we put our trust in Yahweh and receive insight and guidance from Him through His apostles and prophets. Through them and teachers, saints gain understanding of all that pertains to life and godliness, necessary for our holistic welfare, as they seek first the Kingdom (2 Peter 1:3, Matthew 6:19-34).

Saints who are well nurtured do not dwell in sickness, poverty or dead religious activities but overcome them by faith, knowing that Yeshua took them upon Himself and set us free. Under the guidance of apostles and prophets, saints are challenged to rise in the dimension of maturity to become all that Elohim created, redeemed, and called them to be as the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Their compass, which is Yeshua Himself, drives apostles and prophets to challenge saints to allow the Holy Spirit to empower and release them to be the living Church that is radiant, mature, powerful, and able to manifest His glory to unbelievers and

principalities and powers in heavenly places. Ephesians 5:26-27 and Ephesians 3:10.

The grand picture is that of complementing in service rather than competition!

The debate over who is greater or more anointed between apostles and prophets is a childish argument that lacks real value. In Matthew 18:1-5, Yeshua sets out the core principle of Kingdom greatness: childlike sincerity and openness. In Matthew 20:20-28 and John 13:1-17, Yeshua showed that the only meaningful competition is who can serve more! We must accept this challenge and exemplify humility, sincerity, simplicity, and service. Any apostle or prophet who charges for ministry or demands a series of honouraria and perks before blessing the saints is misguided and should be rebuked. No part of the Church should ever submit to such ungodly service agreements! Enough of this destructive virus of love of money! 1 Peter 5:1-4

Oh! That we may have apostles and prophets with fixed hearts! Apostles and prophets, who will, like Yeshua, chase out the merchants who have corrupted the purpose of the house of Yahweh and restore true worship! (Matthew 21:12, 13). That day, we saw the flipside of the Great Shepherd: He who was meek and lowly could also bark and bite when the need arose!

Assignment

(1) Which point in the 8-point summary of the process of the gospel of the Kingdom touched you the most?

Epilogue



You have just journeyed through the foundational pillars of one of the most consequential revelations entrusted to the Body of Christ in this generation: the ministry of the fivefold office gifts. From the first chapter to the last, this book has invited you to set aside everything you thought you knew about ministry and to see again, through Spirit-illuminated eyes, the Master Plan of the King for His Church.

Book One has laid the foundation. We began with the prologue and the necessary work of exposing the faulty grounds that gave rise to so much of what passes for "church" today. We have walked through the personification of the fivefold in Yeshua Himself, examined what the fivefold is and is not, and confronted the spiritual realities and obligations that accompany this calling. Most importantly, we have spent the bulk of these pages immersed in two of the five offices: the apostles and the prophets. You have seen their function, their authority, their pitfalls, and the way forward for those whom the Lord has called and for the saints who are blessed to receive their ministry.

This was only the beginning.

Book Two will complete the picture. There you will encounter the remaining three office gifts: the evangelists, the pastors, and the teachers. If the apostles and prophets are the foundation, then the evangelists, pastors, and teachers are the structure and the warmth of the household of God. You will discover how all five offices

function together as one indivisible Body, how each complements rather than competes with the others, and how every saint can find a meaningful place within this divine architecture. Where Book One has stirred something within you, Book Two is poised to set it ablaze. The picture is incomplete until you have it in your hands.

In the meantime, take what you have received in these pages and let it reshape how you see the Church, how you respond to those called to lead, and how you walk in your own calling. Test every spirit. Honour true servanthood wherever you find it. Refuse to be entertained by those who use ministry as a stage. Build with the King's blueprint, not Babylon's.

Continue learning. The Global School of Ministry has an extensive video library available on YouTube. Search for GSOM TV and subscribe. There you will find video teachings on the fivefold office gifts together with a growing catalogue of courses on Kingdom culture, leadership, doctrine, and spiritual maturity. Whether you are a seasoned minister, a leader-in-training, or a saint who simply hungers for more, these resources are made freely available for your equipping.

The reformation is here. The trumpet has been blown. May you arise and build.

Postscript

This download from the Throne Room is made available free of charge, as the King instructed us, for training those He will use to reform His Church and make her ready for His soon return. There are no Babylonian copyright restrictions to limit your ability to study, pray it in, and apply it in your life and ministry. This will enable you to build according to the Master Plan of the King, so you may be bold at His appearing! 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.
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- Promote these revelations to the wider Body through electronic or print means, or via Facebook and other social media.

- Be part of those who will use revelations in this course to train other leaders and saints within your loop of Kingdom influence.

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- All that Yeshua Jesus Said and Did
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- Satan - Breaking His Yoke Through Knowledge and Spiritual Warfare
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