THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN STRATEGIC WARFARE AND REDEEMING THE LAND
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Spiritual Covering

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PART ONE:

Role of Culture in Strategic Development and the Art of Spiritual Warfare and Worship
PART ONE: THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE ART OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND WORSHIP: BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW.

We are going to look at how the role of culture could impact our views of spiritual warfare, and our willingness to pursue God's plan to the end.

**Strategy is the art of evaluating the environment, determining risk and opportunities, and then devising a plan that can get you to a desired outcome.**

For example, God tells the Israelites to enter the Land, defeat the enemy, remove them completely, allocate the Land to each tribe, plant and harvest, and build a Tabernacle - which would be House of Prayer for all nations.

Ask any consultant in the business world and he will say the following—*culture will destroy strategy.* What is he saying...?

The best laid plans will have to be introduced together with “change management” or else the status quo will remain. That is true in the spiritual world, if you have predetermined views of how you believe that God should work, then no Heavenly plan will be put into action.

*Let us get to the theme...*

We have the overall theme - now what we have to do is to break this “elephant” down into edible pieces that we can digest properly and therefore make applicable / relevant in our lives by acting upon the instruction diligently.

The first topic for discussion under this broad category is to speak about and **define a Biblical worldview.**

**What is a worldview?**

It is the framework of a person’s “beliefs” about things and all “related relationships” and will define how we react to circumstances, seemingly automatically.

Under the terminology “things” we will include all topics such as GOD / meaning of life / our thoughts on suffering and so forth. Very often we hear people speak about an opinion, but we note that they react differently when faced with difficult circumstances.

**Opinions** can be regarded as “weak” beliefs, whilst **values / ideals / principles** that we are committed to defend, can be seen as **strong beliefs.**

Very often we are not really sure exactly what our beliefs are until we are challenged in some or other confrontation.
TWO BASIC WORLD VIEWS

A. THE GREEK / WESTERN WORLDVIEW / CULTURE is based on the individual’s rights at the expense of the community.

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of attributes, merely a short description to give you context in evaluating this against God's BIBLICAL worldview.

WORLDVIEW

Man is the crux of the universe - therefore concepts such as evolution is accepted.

All paths lead to God - although the Christian faith believes differently, they have problems with the validity of the Old Testament—regular arguments about “law / grace” - you choose what you want to believe.

The universe can be created by God or by the “big bang” theory.

VALUES

We should look after our neighbour, but only after we have become successful - the Mega church - the super pastor.

Individualism - success is measured in how good the performance is.
A warped sense of leadership - the BOSS / CEO / GENERAL - the autocratic management style.

MORALE

Tolerance - humanistic models allow for sex before marriage - for homosexuality, same-sex marriages, gender neutrality, for human rights that are greater than the community.

Abnormal behavior such as corruption is accepted and practiced.

Mob behavior can overturn legitimate governments - burning of schools, universities, libraries, etc, to get the fees structure overturned.

We decide for ourselves what right and wrong are—God’s Commandments that should define what is right or wrong are negated / overruled by grace.

B. THE MIDDLE-EASTERN / AFRICAN CULTURE / WORLDVIEW is based on the community. Many of the tribal cultural elements are found in this structure of beliefs.

This a a short summary - it is not meant to be comprehensive, but to give some perspective to one type of this world view in comparison to the BIBLICAL worldview of making a place where God can come to dwell.

The Middle-Eastern worldview focuses on the community, but with a dominating type of leadership model. We are looking at one such example, namely: The Palestinians / Hamas as a type of this model.

There is a strong community bond but the leadership is not democratic, even though there is a voting system.

Worldview

They are the only people whose opinion is acceptable - there is no place for other people grouping, especially the Jews. All other religions will be subservient.

Other nations - USA and the Jews - are blamed for their economic plight - yet they take donation money for food / schools / hospitals to build tunnels to attack Israel from the rear.

Values

They reject events such as the Holocaust - they say it is fake and lies, and consequently they do not make space in their worldview for others who have suffered.

They think their human rights are ‘ahead’ of the world - yet women cannot be at school, minority groups have no rights, people who vote for different ideals are publicly executed.

They regard suicide is an honour - suicide attacks against innocent civilians is seen as self-defense - as opposed to God’s call to “live” and to protect life.
They do not seek peace - the evidence of which is broken accords and a commitment to Jihad forever.

**Morale principles**

Any one who does not agree is often executed publicly - court cases are non-existent - in other words, there is no justice.

They fight behind civilians using soft targets such as schools / hospitals with no regard to collateral damage and innocent lives.

THE QUESTION ARISES: What is the Biblical worldview / culture?

The Bible is set within the Middle-Eastern mindset, i.e. community. However, the Books of Joshua and Judges set the tone and the pattern for GOD’s idea of a Biblical worldview.

We need to set this as the standard in our communities, in every single way that we possibly can. For those who grew up with another culture /worldview:

1. Including a “Christian-Western mindset” (individual, as apposed to community) and,

2. Including those believers with a mindset that negates the very specific plans of GOD (for example the belief that His pattern of Feasts are no longer applicable), and so forth ...
We will have to find a pathway of transformation before we can hope to have a culture that “reflects the Light of GOD”.

We will transform by:

- Renewing our thinking.
- Prayer and warfare.
- Beginning a new generational line of Blessing for LEGACY.
GOD’S THREE STAGE WORLDVIEW

I will show that GOD’s worldview is set out for us in the Books of Joshua and Judges, and onwards. In those Books we note a three phase “taking of the Land”. In those times the Israelites were involved in a “physical” battle for the Land. Today we are involved in a spiritual battle for a Spiritual Land. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:45 and onwards that modern-day believers must walk in the physical in order to obtain revelation of the spiritual.

I call this WORLD VIEW ...

To walk behind the Veil

We get involved in the day-to-day activities of the world system, whether we are accountants, doctors, lawyers, teachers and so forth. We also commit to walk in obedience to the Commandments of the Torah (Torah means “instructions” and “teachings” in Hebrew, and refers to GOD’s Word), and to listen to the Holy Spirit’s leading, to define how we should reflect GOD’s plans to the community that we serve.

Every now and then we hear a message about the Tabernacle, the role of the priests, and about the need to have intimacy with GOD by entering the Holy of Holies.

The world of the “work, sport, business, and so forth”, seem so very far away from the inner chamber of the Tabernacle, that the cry to “move behind the veil” seems unreal and almost impossible.

And yet, this cannot be… just because GOD says that we can enter in!!!

Paul speaks of the principle of the physical/natural, before we can experience the spiritual/Heavenly.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 “45 Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being (an individual personality); the last Adam (Christ) became a life-giving Spirit [restoring the dead to life]. 46 But it is not the spiritual life which came first, but the physical and then the spiritual. 47 The first man [was] from out of earth, made of dust (earthly-minded); the second Man [is] the Lord from out of heaven. 48 Now those who are made of the dust are like him who was first made of the dust (earthly-minded); and as is [the Man] from Heaven, so also [are those] who are of heaven (heavenly-minded). 49 And just as we have borne the image [of the man] of dust, so shall we and so let us also bear the image [of the Man] of heaven.”

A. THE PRINCIPLE APPLIES TO THE TABERNACLE.

1) The fact is that GOD told Moses to build the Tabernacle on earth, to a very specific form or pattern, AND for a very specific purpose.

The purpose is…
Exodus 40:34-38 “34 Then the cloud [the Shekinah, God’s visible presence] covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle! 35 And Moses was not able to enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud remained upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 36 In all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the Israelites went onward; 37 But if the cloud was not taken up, they did not journey on till the day that it was taken up. 38 For throughout all their journeys the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel.”

The pattern is...

Exodus 25:1-9 “1 And the Lord said to Moses, 2 Speak to the Israelites, that they take for Me an offering. From every man who gives it willingly and ungrudgingly with his heart you shall take My offering. 3 This is the offering you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, 4 Blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff] and fine twined linen and goats’ hair, 5 Rams’ skins tanned red, goatskins, dolphin or porpoise skins, acacia wood, 6 Oil for the light, spices for anointing oil and for sweet incense, 7 Onyx stones, and stones for setting in the ephod and in the breastplate. 8 Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. 9 And you shall make it according to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle or dwelling and the pattern of all the furniture of it.”

Hebrews 9:1-5 “1 Now even the first covenant had its own rules and regulations for divine worship, and it had a sanctuary [but one] of this world. 2 For a tabernacle (tent) was erected, in the outer division or compartment of which were the lampstand and the table with [its loaves of] the showbread set forth. [This portion] is called the Holy Place. 3 But [inside] beyond the second curtain or veil, [there stood another] tabernacle [division] known as the Holy of Holies. 4 It had the golden [altar of] incense and the ark (chest) of the covenant, covered over with wrought gold. This [ark] contained a golden jar which held the manna and the rod of Aaron that sprouted and the [two stone] slabs of the covenant [bearing the Ten Commandments]. 5 Above [the ark] and overshadowing the mercy seat were the representations of the cherubim [winged creatures which were the symbols] of glory. We cannot now go into detail about these things.”

2) The fact is, the earthly Tabernacle is a mirror image of the One in the Heavens.

Hebrews 9:23-26 “23 By such means, therefore, it was necessary for the [earthly] copies of the heavenly things to be purified, but the actual heavenly things themselves [required far] better and nobler sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ (the Messiah) has not entered into a sanctuary made with [human] hands, only a copy and pattern and type of the true one, but [He has entered] into heaven itself, now to appear in the [very] presence of God on our behalf. 25 Nor did He [enter into the heavenly sanctuary to] offer Himself regularly again and again, as the high priest enters the [Holy of] Holies every year with blood not his own.”
For then would He often have had to suffer [over and over again] since the foundation of the world. But as it now is, He has once for all at the consummation and close of the ages appeared to put away and abolish sin by His sacrifice [of Himself].”

B. THE PRINCIPLE APPLIES TO THE PRIESTHOOD.

1) The priesthood came from the line of the Levites and became the priesthood in the physical domain. These were the forerunners for a spiritual priesthood to come.

2) The priesthood that represents the spiritual domain, comes from those who walk in the Order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:21 “21 For those who formerly became priests received their office without its being confirmed by the taking of an oath by God, but this One was designated and addressed and saluted with an oath, The Lord has sworn and will not regret it or change His mind, You are a Priest forever according to the Order of Melchizedek.”

If I want to enter the domain of the Holy of Holies in the “spiritual”, I will have to be prepared to walk behind the veil in the physical domain as well.

THE PATTERN IS SET OUT IN THE “TAKING” OF THE LAND

A prophetic word shouts out over all of the years that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will one day live in the Land. After years of bondage in Egypt, it’s time for the Exodus.

Moses leads the people out of Egypt, by taking the first step, and the journey to freedom begins…
They experience a few hiccups in the wilderness, and that generation has to die before a new generation will have the courage, stamina, and perseverance to push into the Land.

This journey of taking the Land is set out for us in a number of ‘Books’ and over a few hundred years in time. We find these core lessons spread out from Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings…

Phase 1: Conquer the Land… Go to war!

This phase, along with all of the warfare, is recorded for us in the Books of Joshua, Judges, and Samuel. But it starts off with a prophecy recorded earlier.

Part ONE:

Numbers 33:50-53 “50 And the Lord said to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, 51 Tell the Israelites, When you have passed over the Jordan into the land of Canaan,
52 Then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you and destroy all their figured stones and all their molten images and completely demolish all their [idolatrous] high places, 53 And you shall take possession of the land and dwell in it, for to you I have given the land to possess it."

The critical phrases here for us to focus on are:

You shall drive out (chase away) all the inhabitants; you must disposes. You must conquer the land; you must dwell in the land.

Part TWO:

Numbers 33:54 “54 You shall inherit the land by lot according to your families; to the large tribe you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the small tribe you shall give a smaller inheritance. Wherever the lot falls to any man, that shall be his. According to the tribes of your fathers you shall inherit.”

The critical phrases here for us to focus on are:

You shall apportion the land. The larger tribe receives the larger portion; as does the smaller tribe receive the smaller portion. According to the tribes you will settle... Divide the Land.

Joshua is chosen as the next leader after Moses. Quite a job! Looking back over his career, we do not really see a man that has stood out in any way. And in some ways, we almost doubt his ability.

Joshua hears the sound of the people dancing around the golden calf and misreads the people’s sin as the sounds of war, when in reality they are having a party.

Exodus 32:17-18 “17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. 18 But Moses said, It is not the sound of shouting for victory, neither is it the sound of the cry of the defeated, but the sound of singing that I hear.”

Joshua hears the two elders that are prophesying, and attempts to get them to stop, thinking that it’s only Moses who is allowed to do this.

Joshua is one of the 12 spies that go into the Land, but when they all return and the other spies start to speak against entering the Land, we see that he leaves it to Caleb to voice an opposition to the people’s choice.

Numbers 14:24 “24 But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.”

But even when he makes mistakes, we can see that he is always close to Moses, to the Tabernacle and to GOD.
THREE EMPOWERING EVENTS

In the FIRST place:

GOD comes to speak directly to him and says 3 times.

“Be strong and take courage”

Joshua 1:6-7,9 6 Be strong (confident) and of good courage, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only you be strong and very courageous, that you may do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you. Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 9 Have not I commanded you? Be strong, vigorous, and very courageous. Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

In the SECOND place:

GOD initiates the act of warfare by exposing Joshua to the Holy place / ground.

We see almost a virtual repeat of the situation where Moses stands at the burning bush.

Exodus 3:2-5 “2 The Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, yet was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burned. 4 And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush and said, Moses, Moses! And he said, Here am I. 5 God said, Do not come near; put your shoes off your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground.”

Joshua 5:13-15 “13 When Joshua was by Jericho, he looked up, and behold, a Man stood near him with His drawn sword in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, Are you for us or for our adversaries? 14 And He said, No [neither], but as Prince of the Lord’s host have I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, What says my Lord to His servant? 15 And the Prince of the Lord’s host said to Joshua, Loose your shoes from off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy. And Joshua did so.”

In both cases the men are standing on Holy ground. In both cases they have to remove their sandals. In the case of Moses, it’s both feet. In the case of Joshua, it seems to be only of a foot, according to Strong’s 7272 Regel, from the root Strong’s 7270, the word used is a noun.
How do we interpret this strange difference?

There is no easy answer. What we see is that Moses was connected with GOD in a far more significant way, and we see that he never actually goes to war. His intimacy with GOD reaches the level that the Glory of GOD reflects off of his face.

Joshua is the general. He is the one who does the physical warfare, and has moments where he has meetings with GOD. Could it be, that the difference was the time away from GOD on the battlefield would impact his level of “holy and clean”?

But there is a significant difference in the task that each of these men would go about doing… One (Moses) would “take” the people out, and the other, (Joshua) would go in to take the Land.

According to the Biblical recourses of Gesenius–Lexicon, when transferring a domain from one party to another, it was the customary action to symbolically deliver the shoe by casting it down.

Psalm 60:8 “Moab is My washbowl; Over Edom I shall throw My shoe [in triumph]; Over Philistia I raise the shout [of victory].”

In the THIRD place:

Joshua learns the principle of First Fruits. GOD tells us the “first” of every clean thing belongs to Him. When we dedicate the first to GOD, then the “whole” becomes holy. This principle applies in battle as well. When we are victorious in battle, we need to give GOD the glory. Which is why it was such an issue when one Israelite took a few items after the battle of Jericho. This action had the effect of saying…we won the battle.

Does Joshua complete this first objective?
Joshua does go to battle, he conquers the major strongholds, he apportions the land, and the people settle to some degree. It is however true that the tribes in the north do not fully engage, nor do they chase out all of the inhabitants, but rather allow them to stay on.

Joshua 23:12-13 “12 For if you turn back and adhere to the remnant of these nations left among you and make marriages with them, you marrying their women and they yours,13 Know with certainty that the Lord your God will not continue to drive these nations from before you; but they shall be a snare and trap to you, and a scourge in your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good land which the Lord your God has given you.”
Joshua, just before he dies, speaks to them and asks the question, are you and your family following GOD like my family and I have done?

History shows this not to be true. We see a string of stories: of backsliding, of a time of oppression, of a tribal king that stands up to lead, of a temporary peace, and then, the entire process starts over again.

**Phase 2: Establish Godly leadership... Find a KING!**

The objective of earthly kingship is to be the wheel between “war and settling” the Land AND the “building of the Tabernacle”.

A Biblical-based king is someone who:

Will be a servant of GOD AND will serve the people.

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**NUGGET!** An earthly king must reflect GOD, not be His replacement!!!!
This past history has revealed that nobody has been able to get a leadership role in place that reflects these attributes properly.

Let us define the attributes that we must see to identify Godly kingship.

A king must:

- **Do everything to UNITE the people** (in this case get all 12 Tribes to work together) *E.g. go to war in order to bring security.*

- **Do everything to get the people closer to worshipping GOD.** *E.g. by presenting the victory as belonging to GOD.*

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17
Is it wrong to ask for a king?

Moses indicated that having an earthly king is well within the concept of how GOD saw ruler-ship in the physical domain.

Deuteronomy 17:14-15 “14 When you come to the land which the Lord your God gives you and you possess it and live there, and then say, We will set a king over us like all the nations that are about us, 15 You shall surely set as king over you him whom the Lord your God will choose. One from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner, who is not your brother, over you.”

There are exclusions as to who qualifies to be king over the children of Israel.

Deuteronomy 17:15[b] “15 You shall surely set as king over you him whom the Lord your God will choose. One from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner, who is not your brother, over you.”

There are standards which are to be used to measure the kings heart.
Deuteronomy 17:16-20 “16 But he shall not multiply horses to himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to multiply horses, since the Lord said to you, You shall never return that way. 17 And he shall not multiply wives to himself, that his [mind and] heart turn not away; neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. 18 And when he sits on his royal throne, he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, out of what is before the Levitical priests. 19 And he shall keep it with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn [reverently] to fear the Lord his God, by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes and doing them, 20 That his [mind and] heart may not be lifted up above his brethren and that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left; so that he may continue long, he and his sons, in his kingdom in Israel.”

So why is Samuel unhappy when the people come to ask for a king?

The people have entered and taken the Land, and it’s not long before they turn away from GOD and begin to chase after the idols of the Canaanites and begin to worship these instead.

The Philistines are their enemy and have gone to war with the Israelites. They mistakenly think that all they have to do is take the ARK with them and GOD will defeat the enemy. They are mistaken—God WILL not bless an idol-worshiping nation! The Philistines have beaten them in war and they have taken possession of the Ark and placed it before their god, Dagon.

Samuel is a righteous prophet, and on GOD’s Word, goes to war against the Philistines and when misfortune hits these people, they return the Ark.

But the Philistines will keep coming back for another fight, as they are determined to defeat this enemy of theirs. The Israelites do not want a prophet to lead them, even if he wins the war- they want a king!

Samuel takes a lamb as an offering in order to give the GLORY to GOD, and then Samuel cries out to GOD. After the victory, Samuel takes a stone and sets up a memorial, to remind everyone exactly who caused the victory!!!

It’s only Samuel…Samuel…Samuel!! Where are the people? Do they give GOD the glory? No… Instead, they demand a king as other people have. A king that they think will fight their battles for them.

1 Samuel 8:19-20 “19 Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, No! We will have a king over us, 20 That we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

And so they get that same sort of king that they wanted (be careful what you ask for).

1 Samuel 8:11-17 “11 And he said, These will be the ways of the king who shall reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots.
12 He will appoint them for himself to be commanders over thousands and over fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest and to make his implements of war and equipment for his chariots. 13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.

14 He will take your fields, your vineyards, and your olive orchards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. 15 He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. 16 He will take your men and women servants and the best of your cattle and your donkeys and put them to his work. 17 He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves shall be his slaves.”

**A Quick Look at Saul.**

Saul is this interim king, one that would satisfy the eyes, ears, and hearts of men who have the wrong motive in their hearts.

In the early battles, Saul is able to get all of the people together to go and rescue a small town Yavesh Gilag, a town of Benjamites who previously did not send men in a time of need. But these are also Saul’s tribal brothers as he is also from the tribe of Benjamin.

But it does not last… The men begin to lose faith and start to leave him. Although he gains victories on the battlefield, he fails to give GOD the glory and does not lead the people towards GOD, but instead makes choices against the will of GOD. He fails to destroy the Amalekites, and takes their animals as a sign of “his” victory.

Interestingly, Saul was killed by the Philistines’ arrow, and by an Amalekite… Those whom he failed to destroy.

1 Samuel 31:1-4 “1 Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled before [them] and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. 2 And the Philistines pursued Saul and his sons, and slew Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, Saul’s sons. 3 The battle went heavily against Saul, and the archers severely wounded him. 4 Saul said to his armor-bearer, Draw your sword and thrust me through, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through and abuse and mock me. But his armor-bearer would not, for he was terrified. So Saul took a sword and fell upon it.”

2 Samuel 1:6-9 “6 The young man said, By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa and I saw Saul leaning on his spear, and beold, the chariots and horsemen were close behind him. 7 When he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. I answered, Here I am. 8 He asked me, Who are you? I answered, An Amalekite.”
9 He said to me, Rise up against me and slay me; for terrible dizziness has come upon me, yet my life is still in me [and I will be taken alive].”

**NUGGET!** Saul’s story, which describes the man who will become king, starts off with an unsuccessful search for donkeys. If you cannot find or look after a few donkeys properly, how would you ever be able to care for GOD’s people? In fact, he fails to show diligence and perseverance and he just gives up.

1 Samuel 9:3-5 “3 The donkeys of Kish, Saul’s father, were lost. Kish said to Saul, Take a servant with you and go, look for the donkeys. 4 And they passed through the hill country of Ephraim and the land of Shalishah, but did not find them. Then they went through the land of Shaalim and the land of Benjamin, but did not find them. 5 And when they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant, Come, let us return, lest my father stop worrying about the donkeys and become concerned about us.”

Saul’s story ends with exactly the same result as his kingship started—in the same way that he could not find the donkeys, now he is unsuccessful in his search for GOD.

1 Samuel 28:7-9 “7 Then Saul said to his servants, Find me a woman WHO IS A MEDIUM [BETWEEN THE LIVING AND THE DEAD that I may go and inquire of her. His servants said, Behold, there is a woman who is a medium at Endor. 8 So Saul disguised himself, put on other raiment, and he and two men with him went and came to the woman at night. He said to her, Perceive for me by the familiar spirit and bring up for me the dead person whom I shall name to you. 9 The woman said, See here, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who are mediums and wizards out of the land. Why then do you lay a trap for my life to cause my death?”

Now let us see how David measures as the Godly role-model of earthly kingship…

Let us revisit the model that’s required:

The GODLY ROLE MODEL is one where the king would be a servant to GOD, and NOT HIS REPLACEMENT, and at the same time would be a servant to the people, and NOT A RULER.

The Correct Model:
WRONG MODELS:

Let us just re-define some of the ungodly ruler-ship/kingship models that we can find.
DAVID, A MAN AFTER GOD’S HEART

David is a man after GOD’s heart. Why?

Because David serves the people in a gentle way.

He accepts the position of king over Judah, and does not force his rule over the other ten tribes. It takes 7 years for them to think about it, to measure his integrity, to come to the decision to ask him to be their king.

David accepts, and then moves from Hebron to Jerusalem to neutral ground. His honouring of the role of king, in relation to Saul, is an act which reflects the value of authority. His reaction to individuals, who abuse/curse him, in all cases is moderation since he understands the critical nature of UNITY.

He goes to war against all of the enemies of Israel until there is rest and peace in the land.

2 Samuel 7:1-3; 8-10 “1 When King David dwelt in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 The king said to Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells within curtains. 3 And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you. 8 So now say this to My servant David, Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be prince over My people Israel. 9 And I was with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like [that] of the great men of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and be moved no more. And wicked men shall afflict them no more, as formerly.”
David starts the process of building the Tabernacle. He brings that ARK back to Jerusalem. He unashamedly worships GOD before all of the people. He builds the war chest of gold, and precious things needed for the Tabernacle. He buys the threshing floor where the Ark/Tabernacle will stand.

2 Samuel 24:18-25 “18 Then Gad came to David and said, Go up, rear an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. 19 So David went up according to Gad’s word, as the Lord commanded. 20 Araunah looked and saw the king and his servants coming toward him; and [he] went out and bowed himself before the king with his face to the ground. 21 Araunah said, Why has my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing floor from you, to build there an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be stayed from the people. 22 And Araunah said to David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him. Behold, here are oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and the yokes of the oxen for wood. 23 All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king. And Araunah said to the king, The Lord your God accept you. 24 But King David said to Araunah, No, but I will buy it of you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God of that which costs me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25 David built there an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord heeded the prayers for the land, and Israel’s plague was stayed.”

Does he get to build the Tabernacle… NO.

2 Samuel 7:12-13 “12 And when your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will set up after you your offspring who shall be born to you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My Name [and My Presence], and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”

Mostly, people think that it’s the “blood on his hands” that prevents David from the building of the Tabernacle. And there is a measure of truth in that… However, a far more relevant reason why David is prevented from building the Tabernacle is the instance when David arranged for the numbering of the “men that can go to war”.

2 Samuel 24:2, 9 “2 For the king said to Joab the captain of the host who was with him, Go now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan even to Beersheba, and count the people, that I may know their number. 9 And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to the king. There were in Israel 800,000 valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were 500,000.”

Let’s recall:

Earthly kings must give GOD the glory and honour for victory. We need to show the people that GOD will fight the battle for us. If we count the men of war, then we are saying… “I did it my way”.

David knew immediately that he had sinned; that he had moved in the flesh. When he sees the effect of GOD’s judgment, where innocent people are being killed, he asks, “but what have they done?”
2 Samuel 24:17 “17 When David saw the angel who was smiting the people, he spoke to the Lord and said, Behold, I have sinned and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray You, be [only] against me and against my father’s house.”

Phase 3: Building the Tabernacle... Establishing permanent worship by all people in the land.

The ultimate purpose is to have GOD dwell in our midst.

ONLY PEOPLE WHO SERVE GOD AND WHO SERVE THE PEOPLE, CAN BUILD THE TABERNACLE.

David had done everything that he could to maintain the unity between the tribes. He had gone out to defeat all of their enemies so that they could live in peace. Solomon comes to power in a time of no-war, but of peace.

1 Kings 4:21 “21 Solomon reigned over all the kingdoms from the [Euphrates] River to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt; they brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.”

So Solomon goes out to build the Tabernacle.

1 Kings 6:1,11-14 “1 And 480 years after the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the second month, Ziv, he began to build the Lord’s house. 11 Now the word of the Lord came to Solomon, saying, 12 Concerning this house which you are building, if you will walk in My statutes, execute My precepts, and keep all My commandments to walk in them, then I will fulfill to you My promises which I made to David your father. 13 And I will dwell among the Israelites and will not forsake My people Israel. 14 So Solomon built the house and finished it.”

Did Solomon really exercise Godly wisdom? We know that he asked GOD for wisdom... or did he?

No... He asked for an understanding heart, “lev Shama”. He was asking for the ability to be obedient to GOD’s Word.

1 Kings 3:9 “9 So give Your servant an understanding mind and a hearing heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and bad. For who is able to judge and rule this Your great people?"

So Solomon has the perfect platform to reach the ultimate goal... The people are united behind one king. The people understand that GOD is the reason why they are blessed, and the people are united to build the Tabernacle.
Solomon turns out to be a kind of different king… He is a king that only thinks of himself, a king that destroys his father, David’s, foundation—every single thing that David had put in place, and so he is a king that destroys the concept of legacy. Perhaps you will ask, how?

This study is not really about how not to do something for GOD, but it’s important to highlight the wrong choices people make that can change not only their own lives, but those of many other innocent people, specifically when you are a leader.

A) Solomon destroyed the unity of the people.
He set a system of taxes in place that was oppressive and demanding, but also extremely unfair. He levied taxes on all of the tribes EXCEPT his own… the tribe of Judah did not have to contribute.

B) Solomon changed a nation of free men, into slaves.
They were forced to work unreasonable times; he brought them under the burden of abuse again.

1 Kings 5:13-17 “13 King Solomon raised a levy [of forced labor] out of all Israel; and the levy was 30,000 men. 14 He sent them to Lebanon, 10,000 a month by divisions; one month they were in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was over the levy. 15 And Solomon had 70,000 burden bearers and 80,000 hewers [of stone] in the hill country of Judah, 16 Besides Solomon’s 3,300 overseers in charge of the people doing the work. 17 The king commanded, and they hewed and brought out [a]great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stone.”

Solomon abused those who the Israelites had failed to “chase out” of the Promised Land and he became to them as Pharaoh was to the Israelites.

1 Kings 9:15-21 “15 This is the account of the levy [of forced labor] which King Solomon raised to build the house of the Lord, his own house, the Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer. 16 For Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and taken Gezer, burned it with fire, slew the Canaanites who dwelt in the city, and had given it as dowry to his daughter, Solomon’s wife. 17 So Solomon rebuilt Gezer and Lower Beth-horon, 18 Baalath and Tamar (Tadmor) in the wilderness, in the land of Judah, 19 And all the store cities which Solomon had and cities for his chariots and cities for his horsemen, and whatever Solomon desired to build [a]for his pleasure in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion. 20 As for all the people who were left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who were not Israelites, 21 Their children who were left after them in the land, whom the Israelites were not able utterly to destroy, of them Solomon made a forced levy of slaves to this day."

C) Solomon married pagan women in a bid to secure peace.
It means that he failed to trust GOD, and he failed to take up his role of General.
1 Kings 11:1-3 “1 But King Solomon [defiantly] loved many foreign women—the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites. 2 They were of the very nations of whom the Lord said to the Israelites, You shall not mingle with them, neither shall they mingle with you, for surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods. Yet Solomon clung to these in love. 3 He had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines, and his wives turned away his heart from God.”

D) Solomon built pagan altars.

It does not say that he worshiped other gods but... compromise and duality are the opening to a world of backsliding and finally, exile.

1 Kings 11:6-10 “6 Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and went not fully after the Lord, as David his father did. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abominable idol of Moab, on the hill opposite Jerusalem, and for Molech the abominable idol of the Ammonites. 8 And he did so [a]for all of his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. 9 And the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned from the Lord, the God of Israel, Who had appeared to him twice, 10 And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods, but he did not do what the Lord commanded.”

This compromise has its consequences. When this united kingdom split when Solomon died, we see the northern kingdom introduce their own tribe of priests, their own set of feast days, and an alternate temple.

1 Kings 12:25-30 “25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. He went out from there and built Penuel. 26 Jeroboam said in his heart, Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. 27 If this people goes up to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem to sacrifice, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah. 28 So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, It is too much for you to go [all the way] up to Jerusalem. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. 29 And he set the one golden calf in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 And this thing became a sin; for the people went to worship each of them even as far as Dan.”

“Avodah zarah” is normally translated as “idolatry”. A better translation is “foreign worship”.

We believe that we are guilty of foreign worship only when we worship a pagan idol. This is far from the truth.
We are guilty of foreign worship if we profess to worship GOD, BUT do so in a mode of worship which **does not follow the pattern and order** that GOD determined. *I.e. any worship that is a legalistic ritual, is foreign worship before GOD.*

It is only when we **“Sh’ma” (Hebrew for Listen and Obey)** GOD’s Word clearly, and demonstrate that we will worship in Truth and in Spirit, that we can say that we are worshiping GOD and walking in intimacy with Him.

**E) Solomon chased after wealth.**

We do not read anywhere that he set aside anything for GOD. It’s not that we should not enjoy GOD’s blessings, but it is a sin when you are not satisfied with what you have.

**F) Solomon inherits a promise of a kingdom that will stand forever - after his rule we find kings such as Ahab.**

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1 Kings 11:34-39  “34 However, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand; but I will make him ruler all the days of his life for David My servant’s sake, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. 35 But I will take the kingdom out of his son’s hand and give it to you, ten tribes. 36 Yet to his son I will give one tribe, that David My servant may always have a light before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put My Name.37 And I will take you, and you shall reign according to all that your soul desires; and you shall be king over Israel. 38 And if you will hearken to all I command you and will walk in My ways and do right in My sight, keeping My statutes and My commandments, as David My servant did, I will be with you and build you a sure house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. 39 And I will for this afflict the descendants of David, but not forever. ”

**G) Solomon chases after horses and chariots.**

1 Kings 10:26-29  “26 Solomon **collected chariots and horsemen;** he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, which he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem. 27 The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedars as plentiful as the sycamore trees in the lowlands. 28 Solomon’s horses were brought out of Egypt, and the king’s merchants received them in droves, each at a price. 29 A chariot could be brought out of Egypt for 600 shekels of silver, and a horse for 150. And so to all the kings of the Hittites and of Syria they were exported by the king’s merchants.”

**NUGGET!** Solomon builds the Temple, but he also builds many other bigger, grander buildings, palaces and so forth, for his own glory. It seems that his wisdom, to understanding how to serve GOD, got lost in the bigger picture of having others serve him.

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**CONCLUSION**

Let’s summarize:
It seems that the **pattern** which we have to follow to **move behind the veil**, is to develop a mindset that will always be in pursuit of **LEGACY**.

1. **It starts with chasing away the old inhabitants of the land** - the old mindsets, the wrong habits, the ego driven desires, the bad attitudes, and the **emotional insecurities**

2. **The next step is to apportion and settle the land.** The moment that you understand what your giftings are, what your talents are, and how you interact with people, then you need to fill up that potential, with acts of obedience. This step of leadership seeks to be revealed in the fruit of a connected, happy mentor.

We all are placed in positions where we are part of groups of other people - on the sports field, in the workplace, in the home. As warriors in the Kingdom, we need to keep and guard the Garden. We need to unite the entire group behind a common cause. And then we need to give GOD the glory, not only for the victories, but with an expectation that He will provide, protect, and comfort.

The **leadership model of --**

**Man serving God, and man serving the people.**

This is a critical element, without which you will never be able to build the Tabernacle.

We can only build the Tabernacle made of living stones, if we have stones that are sufficient in number to complete the structure. Each Living Stone should fulfill the role and position that they have been placed into by GOD, as well as be connected with the golden hooks of the Holy Spirit, and be covered by the Robe of Righteousness. We also need our works of obedience and the Fruit of the Spirit.

**FATHERS, SERVANTS, LEADERS:**

Is there rest /peace in your home?  
Can you worship in unity?  
Have you read the **WHOLE BIBLE** to the people this year ?

What should we read?

**Psalm 84** “1 How lovely are Your tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! 2 My soul yearns, yes, even pines and is homesick for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out and sing for joy to the living God. 3 Yes, the sparrow has found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young—even Your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. 4 Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) are those who **dwell in Your house** and Your presence; they will be singing Your praises all the day long. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that!] 5 Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man whose **strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**”
6 Passing through the Valley of Weeping (Baca), they make it a place of springs; the early rain also fills [the pools] with blessings.  
7 They go from strength to strength [increasing in victorious power]; each of them appears before God in Zion. 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! 9 Behold our shield [the king as Your agent], O God, and look upon the face of Your anointed! 10 For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand [anywhere else]; I would rather be a doorkeeper and stand at the threshold in the house of my God than to dwell [at ease] in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the Lord God is a Sun and Shield; the Lord bestows [present] grace and favor and [future] glory (honor, splendor, and heavenly bliss)! No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O Lord of hosts, blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man who trusts in You [leaning and believing on You, committing all and confidently looking to You, and that without fear or misgiving]!

You may ask, can we really go beyond / behind the veil?

Moses did… and he wore the veil to cover GOD’s Glory.

Exodus 34:33-34 “3 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face. 34 But when Moses went in before the Lord to speak with Him, he took the veil off until he came out. And he came out and told the Israelites what he was commanded.”

Rebecca did…when she saw the king and priest of her life.

Genesis 24:65 “65 For she [had] said to the servant, Who is that man walking across the field to meet us? And the servant [had] said, He is my master. So she took a veil and concealed herself with it.”

She said to the servant, “Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?” When the servant replied, “It’s my master,” she took her veil and covered herself.

Solomon tells us that the BRIDE of Messiah will have a veil.

Song of Songs 1:7 “7 [Addressing her shepherd, she said] Tell me, O [a]you whom my soul loves, where you pasture your flock, where you make it lie down at noon. For why should I [as I think of you] be as a veiled one straying beside the flocks of your companions?”

Song of Songs 4:1-3 “1How fair you are, my love [he said], how very fair! Your eyes behind your veil [remind me] of those of a dove; your hair [makes me think of the black, wavy fleece] of a flock of [the Arabian] goats which one sees trailing down Mount Gilead [beyond the Jordan on the frontiers of the desert]. 2 Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes which have come up from the washing, of which all are in pairs, and none is missing among them. 3 Your lips are like a thread of scarlet, and your mouth is lovely. Your cheeks are like halves of a pomegranate behind your veil.”

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Do you want to walk behind the veil in the spiritual domain?

You need to earnestly desire it. You need to hold onto the Holy Spirit. You need to walk in holiness.

2 Kings 6:14-20 “14 So [the Syrian king] sent there horses, chariots, and a great army. They came by night and surrounded the city. 15 When the servant of the man of God rose early and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was around the city. Elisha’s servant said to him, Alas, my master! What shall we do? 16 [Elisha] answered, Fear not; for those with us are more than those with them. 17 Then Elisha prayed, Lord, I pray You, open his eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. 18 And when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, Smite this people with blindness, I pray You. And God smote them with blindness, as Elisha asked. 19 Elisha said to the Syrians, This is not the way or the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek. And he led them to Samaria. 20 And when they had come into Samaria, Elisha said, Lord, open the eyes of these men that they may see. And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw. Behold, they were in the midst of Samaria!”

You get to see in the spiritual realm...ask GOD to open your eyes!!! Today!!!

PRAYER POINTS

1) The Israelites enter the land and “take” Jericho. The first battle that you face in your walk on GOD’s path is a reflection of Jericho.

Are the walls of that matter that you struggled with (your first battle) still broken down? Are you still exercising dominion over that matter? For example: Emotional issues: Fear, shame, lack of courage, anger, and so forth. Sinful issues: alcohol, addictions, and so forth.

You see, while the Israelites controlled Jericho, the King of Kings ruled in Jerusalem. Today, the people of Israel do NOT control Jericho, neither is the presence of GOD visible on the Temple Mount.

2) GOD gives individual gifts to each person as He sees fit. Have you identified your gifts? Have you taken “ownership” of your gifts, and can you present a “First-Fruits” offering of that harvest?

3) What sort of church leader are you? A BOSS, or a SERVANT LEADER?

1 For a complete study on the Gifts please see J2F1 Man’s Purpose http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=170
PART TWO:

ROLE OF CULTURE IN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE ART OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND WORSHIP: TESTIMONY OF VALUE IN THE COMMUNITY
PART TWO: ROLE OF CULTURE IN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE ART OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND WORSHIP: TESTIMONY OF VALUE IN THE COMMUNITY.

We are going to look at how the role of culture could impact our views of spiritual warfare, and our willingness to pursue God’s plan to the end.

Strategy is the art of evaluating the environment, determining risk and opportunities, and then devising a plan that can get you to a desired outcome.

For example, God tells the Israelites to enter the Land, defeat the enemy, remove them completely, allocate the land to each tribe, plant and harvest, and build a Tabernacle - which would be House of Prayer for all nations.

Ask any consultant in the business world and he will say the following—culture will destroy strategy. What is he saying...

The best laid plans will have to be introduced together with “change management” or else the status quo will remain. That is true in the spiritual world, if you have predetermined views of how you believe that God should work, then no Heavenly plan will be put into action.

Let’s get to the theme...

We have the overall theme, now what we have to do is to break this “elephant” down into edible pieces that we can digest properly and therefore make applicable / relevant in our lives by acting upon the instruction diligently.

The second topic for discussion is to speak about and define what exactly it means to have a:

TESTIMONY OF VALUE IN A COMMUNITY.

What exactly is a testimony of value?

We are taught what an acceptable style of leadership is from out of the community / cultural values. Very few people will challenge the norms that are set by parents, even ones which would seem illogical in this modern time.

Let’s take three examples:

1) It’s become acceptable to have a few individuals promoted above the others / the masses. Even though our modern day democracy keeps up with the message of “serving OUR fellow-man” … The opposite is true — we constantly strive to keep the rich rich and the poor even poorer.

2) In a world where it is recognized that education is an absolute basic right which provides improved health and work opportunities, we still find countries where the
women are excluded from any education. (2 A few examples are: Cambodia, Palestine, Afghanistan, Gabon ...)

3) Sometimes cultural values derive a value of their own - for example, some nations strive for and believe in the community value system above individual rights. In modern day politics this act of ‘looking after people’ is simply turned into blind acceptance of every act of corruption and self enrichment.

1. **Western culture**, especially the USA, promotes with great pride the personal freedom of the individual. In this worldview, my rights are always first and the community is last. Although we have seen many men / women give their all for their fellowman, it remains a personal choice.

As an example let’s look at the **debate about gun ownership**: (and please don’t see this as judgmental...)

We have seen and heard of a number of serious abuses with the use of firearms - what has been startling is the range and types of weapons that are available to people of the general public.

We have also followed the debate where the general public / gun owners and so on, do not want to relinquish any of their rights. This is a typical example of self-interest, which is neither good nor bad – it’s just the result of a worldview of individual rights.

2. **Middle-Eastern culture** promotes the concept of community with great pride, but negates the rights of the individual.

As an example let’s look at the so-called **“Arab Spring”**. Here we note a community that comes together with one purpose. They will sleep in the open - in tents on the city square, defy the government of the day, until they take over.

We also see after a period of time that although this so-called freedom has come to pass, not all citizens are afforded equal opportunity. Women are not empowered as much to gain an education and seldom are able to be appointed to high positions in society.

The following is an excerpt taken from an article online3:

“In India, ascribed, rather than achieved, social status has been strongly reinforced for more than 3,000 years and permeates most areas of life even today. As a result, social mobility has been very difficult to achieve until recent generations. Even now, it is limited for those at the bottom of society. At the heart of the Indian ascription system are castes (or varnas). These are carefully ranked, rigidly hereditary social divisions of society.


3 [http://anthro.palomar.edu/status/stat_2.htm](http://anthro.palomar.edu/status/stat_2.htm)
INDIAN CASTES  
(listed from highest status to lowest)

1. Brahman
2. Kshatriya
3. Vaishya
4. Shudra
5. Scheduled castes (also called untouchables, Harijan, or Dalit)

Each of the Indian castes have sub-castes, or jatis, that in turn are ranked relative to each other. The whole system is reinforced by the Hindu religion and historical traditions.

The conflict between the individualistic / Western worldview and the community / Middle-Eastern worldview, creates a conflict for the Biblical interpretation.

Leadership conflict can be demonstrated by the concept of “copyright” where the western mindset regards ideas as personal property, whilst the community system of ownership of ideas and concepts are to be used for the benefit of all.

Biblical leadership therefore needs to be developed from a community point of view, the so-called servant leader, rather than the Boss / Commander type of leadership.

The Cultural impact on our leadership model needs to be addressed. We must bear testimony of a leadership style that is:

• INCLUSIVE
• SERVANT ORIENTATED
• PROPHETICALLY DIRECT
• But mostly TEAM FOCUSED

GOD’s idea of leadership in the End-Times

We have a world that seemingly has gone crazy! It seems that everyone only thinks about themselves. Random killings, hijackings, wars, passenger airlines that get shot down, others that just disappear into thin air…
It seems these are times much like that which are described for us in the Book of Judges, when it was said: men did whatever they thought was good in their own eyes. But was it?

In difficult times, Godly men and women will stand up out of the crowd to lead with integrity.

Let us define which attributes are important for Godly leadership to:

a) Firstly, have a clear idea what the qualities needed are, so that we can have a plumb line to use to measure our own ability/readiness, and begin the process of training and so forth, so that we are found ready and able in due time.

b) Secondly, use these criteria to measure all manner of men who stand up and proclaim that they are the right leader.

We need to be able to discern between a Godly and an ungodly leader. In reality, many leaders are charismatic by nature, and can put on a show that dazzles the mind…but are they what GOD defines, a Godly leader?

Some things to consider when determining whether one is a Godly leader…

1) Can you look after another king’s sheep?

Our initial reaction would be to say… Yes! After all, it sounds so good/so righteous. But the truth of the matter is, man’s sense of independence, his fierce competitive nature to be the winner, usually influences him, and the rewards of such aggressive behavior are seen all over the world today.

Many people are highly successful, have built large businesses, sport careers, ministries, and so forth because of this combination of attributes.

If one discards the marketing hype, and the media “words”, we see a common thread emerging. Let’s honour the man who did this!

We will seldom hear of the contributions of others, of the dedication of the many, and sadly, we seldom hear about those who were crushed/ wounded or destroyed in this march to success. A reality of success is that mergers / amalgamations / take-overs of the “less-successful” always end with retrenchments / demotions and so on.

And so my question is asked again… Can you look after another man’s sheep?
To help us define the criteria needed, we have to find men who managed to achieve this goal in their lives. We have two examples in Moses and Jacob. And while they are seemingly very different, closer scrutiny reveals some very interesting similarities.

Moses.

Has a fight, kills a man, and is forced to leave “home” and go into exile.

*Exodus 2:12* “12 He looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.”

Jacob.

Has a major family fight over the right of the first-born, has Esau ready to kill him, and is forced to leave “home” and go into exile.

*Genesis 27:41-42* “41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him; and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are very near. When [he is gone] I will [a]kill my brother Jacob.42 These words of Esau her elder son were repeated to Rebekah. She sent for Jacob her younger son and said to him, See here, your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you [by intending] to kill you.”

Moses.

Met a woman at a well, and ends up getting married to this foreign woman, Zipporah.

*Exodus 2:19-21* “19 They said, An Egyptian delivered us from the shepherds; also he drew water for us and watered the flock. 20 He said to his daughters, Where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread. 21 And Moses was content to dwell with the man; and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter.”

Jacob.

Met a woman at the well, and ends up marrying her and her sister, both foreign women, Rachel and Leah.

*Genesis 29:9-10* “9 While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father’s sheep, for she shepherded them. 10 When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of Laban, his mother’s brother, and the sheep of Laban his uncle, Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well’s mouth and watered the flock of his uncle Laban.”

Moses.

Spends 40 years getting used to living within the boundary of a foreign culture, Midian.
Exodus 2:16 “16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock.”

Jacob.

Jacob, Spends 17 years getting used to living within the boundary of a foreign culture.

The gods of Ur, according to Strong's 8655 “terafim”, has the following meaning:

“Guardians and givers of a comfortable life, Human figure/stature from which oracles are sought”

Genesis 31:33 “33 So Laban went into Jacob’s tent and into Leah’s tent and the tent of the two maids, but he did not find them. Then he went from Leah’s tent into Rachel’s tent.”

Genesis 35:2-4 “2 Then Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, Put away the [images of] strange gods that are among you, and purify yourselves and change [into fresh] garments; 3 Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, and I will make there an altar to God Who answered me in the day of my distress and was with me wherever I went. 4 So they [both young men and women] gave to Jacob all the strange gods they had and their earrings which were [worn as charms against evil] in their ears; and Jacob buried and hid them under the oak near Shechem.”

Moses.

On his way back to his people, he has an encounter with GOD, where his wife circumcises their son, in order to save his life.

Exodus 4:24-26 “24 Along the way at a [resting-] place, the Lord met [Moses] and sought to kill him [made him acutely and almost fatally ill]. 25 [Now apparently he had failed to circumcise one of his sons, his wife being opposed to it; but seeing his life in such danger] Zipporah took a flint knife and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it to touch [Moses’] feet, and said, Surely a husband of blood you are to me! 26 When He let [Moses] alone [to recover], Zipporah said, A husband of blood are you because of the circumcision.”

Jacob.

On his way back to his people, has an encounter with GOD at the Jabok River, where he wrestles for the duration of an entire night, in order to save his family, and walks with a permanent limp.

Genesis 32:24-25 “24 And Jacob was left alone, and a Man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 And when [the Man] saw that He did not prevail against [Jacob], He touched the hollow of his thigh; and Jacob’s thigh was put out of joint as he wrestled with Him.”
Let’s see what the differences are:

**Moses**, the prophet, has a dangerous encounter with **GOD**, but because Moses has been living intimately with **GOD**, is a man who speaks to and hears from **GOD**, and serves **Him** with absolute dedication… His encounter is less traumatic and his wife is able to intervene and save the day.

“**Love **GOD** with all of your heart**, and in times of difficulty you will find it easier to find your way back to **GOD**.

**Jacob**, the nation builder, is a man who, for many years has tried to do things his own way. He does not have a history of “success” stories to rely on. Jacob provides the example of a man who strives to follow **GOD** through the many trials and tribulations that life on earth bring across our path.

*In a sense, “love your neighbour as yourself”, by doing to others that which is good for yourself, and you eventually walk in obedience to **GOD**’s Commandments.*

But it seems that both men will learn from these experiences, and it seems that the combination of experiences teaches us the critical importance of these following 3 attributes:

1) **Independence.**

This is not the independence that says, “I did it my way”, but rather the hard lesson of being on your own in a foreign land, in a different culture. Here you are called upon to recall the lessons, the values, and the principles that you had learned at your family home. It's here that you are forced to think about the course of action that you will take.

*Do you follow the norms and standards from the foreign culture, or do you make a decision to follow the course of action that you know to be Biblical?*

2) **Thoughtfulness.**

It is easy to mix with people who have the same values or religious system. It is very difficult to maintain your own lifestyle / values when you are surrounded by a different set of standards. We are to be a set-apart people.

But we are also to make an impact in the community that we live in. We cannot always choose to live in a bubble of like-minded people.

Leaders develop the skill to walk in integrity with their own belief system, with people who have a different worldview, to be able to **listen objectively, and yet be set-apart/ Holy, without being judgmental, or negative about the other nation.**

3) **Make Godly choices.**

We all are **forced to make choices**. In a place of exile, the extent of true belief system, the recognition of the cost that a decision will bring, the desire to please **GOD**, will reflect more clearly the nature and the true heart of a believer.
Moses and Jacob were men who could shepherd another man’s sheep. In both their cases, it was also foreign men’s flock. Both Moses and Jacob shepherded with dedication, with care, so much so that other shepherds trusted them completely, with their entire livelihood.

**Genesis 30:29-30** “29 Jacob answered him, You know how I have served you, and how your possessions, your cattle and sheep and goats, have fared with me. 30 For you had little before I came, and it has increased and multiplied abundantly; and the Lord has favored you with blessings wherever I turned. But now, when shall I provide for my own house also?”

**Exodus 3:1** “Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the back or west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb or Sinai, the mountain of God.”

These men knew that the sheep belonged to another king. They could never own them nor rule them. They valued freedom. They stood for the equality of all men and women.

**NUGGET!** It is people with these ATTRIBUTES that can be called a KINGDOM OF PRIESTS.

2) Can you work in a team?

I do not think that I have to spend too much time talking about the ‘fun and games’ that start as soon as a group of people are asked to perform an activity that will result in the success of a goal. What is even stranger is the fact that if you were to take each individual on their own and ask them if they support the goal, you will more than likely hear that they are very committed to the successful outcome.

Unfortunately a series of very basic human nature attributes come into play almost immediately.

**Rivalry.**

The idea that one of us will get all of the glory or will get to make all of the choices or will get a greater reward, or will be chosen as the leader for the next project, is one of the first sticks that get pushed into the spokes of the wheels to slow the process down.

**Jealousy.**

Every one believes that they have the attributes / the calling / the anointing to move in certain circles. As soon as another, who most probably also has those same gifts is asked to do something, then the art of gossiping, back-biting, and stepping on other’s heads are set in motion.

**Ego.**
One of the most dangerous of all negative attributes is ego. Ego has the ability to cloud a leader’s mind so much, that good opportunities are lost, risky ventures are undertaken, and many are wounded in the process.

**So the question is asked once again, can you work in a team?**

One of the best examples given to us is the family team of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. We see them functioning as a unit. Both Aaron and Miriam are older siblings and should be in charge, yet Moses is the clear leader. He sets the pace.

Together they formed a close unit:

If we look closely at the interaction we will see the following:

**Moses.**

GOD works directly through Moses. He becomes the prophet that leads / speaks / fights for the people. Moses is however distant, not very friendly, although he argues with GOD on behalf of the people, his words towards them often come across as harsh. In fact the people said, “you go up the mountain and you tell us what GOD says…” It’s clear, that Moses does not have their full confidence.

**Deuteronomy 5:23-24**  
“23 And when you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders; 24 And you said, Behold, the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice out of the midst of the fire; we have this day seen that God speaks with man and man still lives.”

**Aaron.**

Aaron responds to whatever Moses tells him to do. Yet he seems very connected to the people, so much so, that he allows himself to be lead astray by them with the golden calf. There are many instances where the people approached Aaron, and asked him to intervene, to speak on their behalf. He is the one with compassion, with the heart of the shepherd.
**Numbers 12:11-12** 11 “And Aaron said to Moses, Oh, my lord, I plead with you, lay not the sin upon us in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. 12 Let her not be as one dead, already half decomposed when he comes out of his mother’s womb.”

And the people loved him.

**Numbers 20:29** “29 When all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they wept and mourned for him thirty days, all the house of Israel.”

Miriam.

She understood the role of worship, music, and song, in uplifting the people. She is the one, upon exiting Egypt that stops to pick up the timbales.

The team functions on the following principles:

**We have a division of responsibility.**

Based on the gifting that had been placed in each one. Paul tells us that these gifts / talents are not primarily for our own benefit, but should be used to empower the Body Of Messiah.

**We have the team operating in UNITY.**

Each one understands their role and does what they are called to do. Although we will find a few examples where there is disagreement, we find the act of repentance, the process of restitution, and the continuance of the job.

**NUGGET!** A team of diverse people with unique talents and gifts are needed to deal with the complex issues in our lifetime, and its team members that have the grace to allow others to make mistakes that will form a cohesive leadership.

3) Can you allow others to speak into your life?

We all know that we are called to love your neighbour. You know the lengths that the young Jewish lawyer wanted to go, to reduce the “reach” of this Commandment.

The discussion, now known as the story of the Good Samaritan, leads us to a different conclusion. Any person can be my neighbour. And this includes people who are not my tribe/ my religion/ my race.

Although we are a set-apart people, a Holy Nation, a Royal Priesthood, we could never possibly know everything, nor have the wisdom to understand every situation. This calls for leaders to be able to have the capacity of being able to hear how others speak, to listen to their reasoning, and to let others speak into their life, if the recommendations pass the test of the standards set off in the Bible. It also calls for leaders to have a keen ear to hear the whispering of the Holy Spirit, in times such as these.
Moses and his father-in-law Yithro.

Moses meets and gets to know a foreign man, and in the process this man forms a bond with Moses. It seems later that he is a priest in a pagan religion. Yet he trusts Moses enough to let him marry his daughter. When Moses brings the people out of Egypt, Yithro comes to meet him, to return his wife to him who had being staying with Yithro while Moses dealt with the gods of Egypt.

**Exodus 18:23** “If you will do this, and God so commands you, you will be able to endure [the strain], and all these people also will go to their [tents] in peace.”

We see that Yithro watches Moses in action.

**Exodus 18:13-14** “13 Next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. 14 When Moses’ father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, What is this that you do for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?”

He respects his position. He respects his relationship with God. He rejoices in all the good GOD has done for Moses.

**Exodus 18:7-12** “7 And Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed in homage and kissed him; and each asked the other of his welfare and they came into the tent. 8 Moses told his father-in-law all the Lord had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel’s sake and all the hardships that had come upon them by the way and how the Lord delivered them. 9 Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness the Lord had done to Israel in that He had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians. 10 Jethro said, Blessed be the Lord, Who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, Who has delivered the people [Israel] from under the hand of the Egyptians. 11 Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods. Yes, in the [very] thing in which they dealt proudly [He showed Himself infinitely superior to all their gods]. 12 And Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices [to offer] to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses’ father-in-law before God.”

Yithro then offers some wisdom, but in such a way that Moses is put in a position where he alone must exercise choice, to decide whether he would apply it or not.

**Exodus 18:17-27** “17 Moses’ father-in-law said to him, The thing that you are doing is not good. 18 You will surely wear out both yourself and this people with you, for the thing is too heavy for you; you are not able to perform it all by yourself. 19 Listen now to [me]; I will counsel you, and God will be with you. You shall represent the people before God, bringing their cases and causes to Him, 20 Teaching them the decrees and laws, showing them the way they must walk and the work they must do. 21 Moreover, you shall choose able men from all the people—God-fearing men of truth who hate unjust gain—and place them over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, to be their rulers. 22 And let them judge the people at all times; every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they shall judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. 23 If you will do this, and God so commands you, you will be able to endure [the strain], and all these people also will go to their [tents] in peace. 24 So
Moses listened to and heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. 25 Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. 26 And they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but every small matter they decided themselves. 27 Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went his way into his own land.”

**NUGGET!** Value diversity of opinion, evaluate all knowledge with in the boundary of the Torah (Torah means instructions and teachings, it refers to GOD’s Word), AND ask GOD for wisdom in application. Remember, we are called to, “Walk in Spirit and Truth”.

4) Can you walk in the way that GOD wants you to?

Priests are called to serve in the Tabernacle, to worship GOD, and to represent the people at all times.

There is a protocol to approaching GOD.

This protocol has been set out clearly in the Torah, and Paul tells us that the physical Tabernacle is a mirror image of the one in the Heavens.

There is a reason why the King of kings would define this protocol in the physical domain... So that you and I would know what to do when we get to enter the Heavenly Tabernacle.

The protocol is a pathway defined by a life of sacrifice, regular purification in the form of a mikveh⁴ (water immersion/baptism), the filling of the oil and the lighting of the lamps on the Menorah, the presentation of the showbread, and finally the act of the burning of incense at the altar of the Holy of Holies.

Mankind has the right to exercise freedom of choice... WE have NO right to change GOD’s protocol, and people who change this order to suit themselves, or add man-made rituals / works, or who perform in order to be seen / influence other believers, are like the sons of Aaron who brought “strange fire”.

Aaron’s sons died from this action.

Leviticus 10:1-3 “1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, and put incense on it, and offered strange and unholy fire before the Lord, as He had not commanded them. 2 And there came forth fire from before the Lord and killed them, and they died before the Lord. 3 Then Moses said to Aaron, This is what the Lord meant when He said, I [a][and My will, not their own] will be acknowledged as hallowed by those who come near Me, and before all the people I will be honored. And Aaron said nothing.

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⁴ For a detailed study please see J2F4 http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=171
Today people have programs and an authority structure, which is different from that which is laid out for us in the Bible. It is one that has been made by man. They still call on GOD to answer their prayers. But, one really has to ask, are they rather doing it their way?

The story of Elijah is somewhat of a mystery. On one hand the prophet seems to do many amazing things and to be this mighty man of GOD. And yet there is another side to this man. We look at the things that he does, relationships that he destroys, and so forth. In other words, we see some very “difficult to justify” actions that happen in his life, which do not seem to match the model of “a man of GOD” in the image presented by Y’shua (Jesus).

To all intents and purposes he seems to follow the Torah (GOD’s instructions and teachings) explicitly. He warns the people, “Stop with all pagan god worship or else there will be no rain.” This is completely in line with the Bible.

1 Kings 17:1 “1 Elijah the Tishbite, of the temporary residents of Gilead, said to Ahab, As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, before Whom I stand, there shall not be dew or rain these years but according to My word.”

1 Kings 18:1,41 “1 After many days, the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth. 41 And Elijah said to Ahab, Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of abundance of rain.”

James 5:17 “17 Elijah was a human being with a nature such as we have [with feelings, affections, and a constitution like ours]; and he prayed earnestly for it not to rain, and no rain fell on the earth for three years and six months.”

However, we never see GOD tell him to stop the rain. Did he therefore do things his own way? Nor do we see him say “in the Name of GOD”. Why then does he have to pray three times to have the rain restored?

Again we see him take on the prophets of Baal… We see no sign that GOD said to do this. And so, the instance where he has to flee from Jezebel, seems to reflect a man-made decision, and not a GOD decision.

Finally, we find him on the mountain, where GOD told him to go.

1 Kings 19:9 “There he came to a cave and lodged in it; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, What are you doing here, Elijah?”
Just as Moses fasted for 40 days, so did Elijah. Just as Moses hid in the cleft of the rock, so too do we find that Elijah hid in the cave. We can conclude to find very similar circumstances, but as we see later, very different outcomes. Moses “heard” GOD and knew what to do. We see that God speaks to Elijah in exactly the same way!!! As we read through this story we will see a different reaction from Elijah.

1 Kings 19:13 “13 When Elijah heard the voice, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, What are you doing here, Elijah?”

What answer was GOD looking for?

Elijah does not answer the question (one wonders why?), but instead speaks of a people who do not listen, with accusations of a people who continue to sin. He shifts the focus, in much the same fashion as Adam and Eve so many years before.

1 Kings 19:10,14 “10 He replied, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken Your Covenant, thrown down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I, I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. 14 He said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts, because the Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and slain Your prophets with the sword. And I, I only, am left, and they seek my life, to destroy it.”

Elijah repeats his answer and he has no idea what GOD expects from him.

Moses acknowledges that the people sinned… BUT rushes to defend them to plead on their behalf, to offer himself as the sacrifice!

When we do things GOD’s way, we are teachers of HIS Word, we are leaders who inspire, we are warriors that defend the people. It’s about the people, and not about me.

**NUGGET!** It’s about being able to stand, listen and hear the still small Voice of GOD.

1 Kings 19:11-12 “11 And He said, Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord. And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire [a sound of gentle stillness and] a still, small voice.”

5) Can you pass on the mantle of leadership to the next generation in a Godly way?

I think one of the hardest things for a leader to do is to let go and let the next generation take over. One of the reasons for this is that it only happens once in a
lifetime. Your own father / leader has to be quite old (say 60) before it occurs to him that it’s time. By this time you are already middle-aged.

Where are the role-model examples?
It’s happening all over the world. In almost every city that we visit for ministry, we are included in this type of debate, by one of the two parties that are involved in these “battles”, where they ask for direction, prayer, support. Something that should be a blessing, has turned previous friends / partners, into enemies.

We find this battle laid out for us in the story of the transfer of calling from Elijah, to Elisha. In this Biblical story, Elijah KNOWS with certainty that it’s time to let go and hand over…GOD has told him personally.

1 Kings 19:16 “And anoint Jehu son of Nimshi to be king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah to be prophet in your place.”

Yet he attempts to discourage him continuously. From Gilgal to Jericho, to Bet-el the Jordan, Elijah says:

“Please stay here…”

Where have we heard that phrase before...? When Abraham takes Isaac to the mountain, at an appointed time, he turns to the servants / attendants and says to them:

“Please stay here…”

Genesis 22:5 “5 And Abraham said to his servants, Settle down and stay here with the donkey, and I and the young man will go yonder and worship and come again to you.”

And then the Bible goes on to say that father and son, ascended the mountain together.

Genesis 22:6-7 “6 Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on [the shoulders of] Isaac his son, and he took the fire (the firepot) in his own hand, and a knife; and the two of them went on together. 7 And Isaac said to Abraham, My father! And he said, Here I am, my son. [Isaac] said, See, here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt sacrifice?”

They were going to a meeting where Isaac would emerge a new man, a leader – the next generation leader. After this, Abraham goes home and we hear little or no real news about him. In contrast to the story of Isaac, his wife Rebecca and his commitment to stay in the Land all of the time, become the focus of our attention.

Attendants have no place at the ceremony where a father passes on the baton to his son, that is something special, to be done in the presence of GOD.

So, why does Elijah treat the man whom GOD had chosen as his successor, as a servant / attendant?

Another aspect of Elijah that is strange is that he knows Elisha must follow him... Yet in the calling, he threw his cloak at Elisha and left it for Elisha to “pick up” the purpose
and calling. At the end, in his final moments on earth Elijah once again, fails to place his mantle on Elisha, instead leaving it to him to “pick up” the mantle of succession.

2 Kings 2:13 “13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.”

Why do fathers / leaders not want to bless the next generation of leaders?

LEGACY, means that I will have empowered the next generation of my family, clan, tribe, to move past me on the pathway to the fulfillment of our calling DURING my lifetime.

My life has significance when I see my son run faster, climb higher, worship GOD more fully.

One father who shows the way is Jacob. He walks with all of the children through all of the tribulations that befall the family. And in the end, he chooses to BLESS THEM ALL UNIQUELY. We will see that each tribe has different giftings. Each has a different role to fulfill. Each has a special place in the placing around the Tabernacle. Yet each gets their own blessing, to empower them to achieve their full potential, and purpose.

Genesis 49:1-28 “1 And Jacob called for his sons and said, Gather yourselves together [around me], that I may tell you what shall befall you [a]in the latter or last days. 2 Gather yourselves together and hear, you sons of Jacob; and hearken to Israel your father. 3 1. Reuben, you are my [b]firstborn, my might, the beginning (the firstfruits) of my manly strength and vigor; [your birthright gave you] the preeminence in dignity and the preeminence in power. 4 But unstable and boiling over like water, you shall [c]not excel and have the preeminence [of the firstborn], because you went to your father’s bed; you defiled it—he went to my couch!

2,3. Simeon and Levi are brothers [equally headstrong, deceitful, vindictive, and cruel]; their swords are weapons of violence. 6 O my soul, come not into their secret council; unto their assembly let not my honor be united [for I knew nothing of their plot], because in their anger they slew men [an honored man, Shechem, and the Shechemites], and in their self-will they disabled oxen. 7 Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce, and their wrath, for it was cruel. I will divide them in Jacob and [d]scatter them in Israel. 4. Judah, you are the one whom your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons shall bow down to you. 9 Judah, a lion’s cub! With the prey, my son, you have gone high up [the mountain]. He stooped down, he crouched like a lion, and like a lioness—who dares provoke and rouse him? 10 The scepter or leadership shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh [the Messiah, the Peaceful One] comes to Whom it belongs, and to Him shall be the obedience of the people. 11 Binding His foal to the vine and His donkey’s colt to the choice vine, He washes His garments in wine and His clothes in the blood of grapes. 12 His eyes are darker and more sparkling than wine, and His teeth whiter than milk. 5. Zebulun shall live toward the seashore, and he shall be a haven and a landing place for ships; and his border shall be toward Sidon. 6. Issachar is a strong-boned donkey crouching down between the sheepfolds. 15 And he saw that rest was good and that the land was pleasant; and he bowed his shoulder to bear [his burdens] and became a servant to tribute [subjected to forced labor]. 7. Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. 17 Dan shall be a serpent by the way, a horned snake in the path, that bites at the horse’s heels, so that his rider falls backward. 18 I wait for Your salvation, O Lord. 8. Gad—a raiding troop shall raid him, but he shall raid at their heels and assault
them [victoriously]. 9. Asher’s food [supply] shall be rich and fat, and he shall yield and deliver royal delights. 10. Naphtali is a hind let loose which yields lovely fawns. 11. Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a well (spring or fountain), whose branches run over the wall. 23 Skilled archers have bitterly attacked and sorely worried him; they have shot at him and persecuted him. 24 But his bow remained strong and steady and rested in the Strength that does not fail him, for the arms of his hands were made strong and active by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob, by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, 25 By the God of your father, Who will help you, and by the Almighty. Who will bless you with blessings of the heavens above, blessings lying in the deep beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. 26 The blessings of your father [on you] are greater than the blessings of my forefathers [Abraham and Isaac on me] and are as lasting as the bounties of the eternal hills; they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was the consecrated one and the one separated from his brethren and [the one who] is prince among them. 12. Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey and at night dividing the spoil. 28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each one according to the blessing suited to him.”

**NUGGET!** Bless often, bless with insight, and seek to lift up your son's hands

CONCLUSION

The Jews live as a set-apart people. They proclaim the GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They choose to dress differently to highlight their beliefs. They worship conspicuously on a different timetable. They serve GOD under a Levitical priesthood.

In recent months, in the moderate countries of Europe, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of incidents of abuse, of anti-Semitic behaviour, of violence, and now kidnappings and murder of every day people.

We, the adopted sons of Abraham, through the work of Y’shua Messiah (Jesus Christ), are also called to be:

- Set-apart, a Holy Nation, a Royal Priesthood in the Order of Melchizedek.
- A Tabernacle made up of Living Stones.
- We are a Body of believers, walking in obedience to GOD’s Commandments and timetable.

There is not a great deal of difference between these are there? When will we face the same form of attack from the kings of this world…?

- Are you a potential leader that can “stand and take courage”?
- Do you have the attributes of leadership that are needed for the task?
- Do you stand for equality of all peoples, especially women?
• Do you stand for the right to be free men, servants of GOD?

**PRAYER POINTS**

1) Have you successfully looked after and protected *someone else’s sheep*?

2) Are you always prepared to *accept your own place in a team*, or is the debate always about leadership?

3) Are you *teachable*? Many will come to listen, but the fruit will be seen in the resultant change of lifestyle, and the evidence of “I will do it my way”, leads to division.

4) Can you demonstrate that you walk in obedience to His Commandments? Do you strive for Biblical truth at all times?

5) Have you raised up “sons” - people who will walk with the same compassion / justice and humility that you have done?
PART THREE:

ROLE OF CULTURE IN STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE ART OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND WORSHIP: MORAL DEVELOPMENT OF A BIBLICAL COMMUNITY
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We are going to look at how the role of culture could impact our views of spiritual warfare, and our willingness to pursue God's plan to the end.

Strategy is the art of evaluating the environment, determining risk and opportunities, and then devising a plan that can get you to a desired outcome.

For example, God tells the Israelites to enter the Land, defeat the enemy, remove them completely, allocate the land to each tribe, plant and harvest, and build a Tabernacle - which would be House of Prayer for all nations.

Ask any consultant in the business world and he will say the following—culture will destroy strategy. What is he saying...?

The best laid plans will have to be introduced together with “change management” or else the status quo will remain. That is true in the spiritual world, if you have predetermined views of how you believe that God should work, then no Heavenly plan will be put into action.

Let's get to the theme...

The third topic for discussion is to speak about the Role of Culture in the Moral Development of a Biblical Community.

What exactly do we mean by analyzing the role of culture on the moral value system of the people?

Let us first get some sort of definition for “moral development”:

It's the process through which an individual gets empowered to act with a degree of sensibility, which a set of skills, attitudes and beliefs and dispositions that will render them “mature/responsible” human beings.

THREE CRITICAL VARIABLES

Over time we have come to realize that there are THREE critical variables that jointly make up the moral character of an individual.

(1) Genetic endowments

Within this box I include the selection of “gifts” that GOD predetermines are part of your inheritance:
Romans 12:3-8 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

(2) The family / home environment that you will spend your childhood developmental years

The Rabbis are known to say: “Give me a child for the first six years of their life and I will lay foundations to last a lifetime.” The Roman Catholic Church have taken that same principle and applied it to their children.

This thinking is Biblical (although it’s not being applied by the Body of Messiah in the way that GOD determined).

Consider the Commandment given to parents by GOD.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Now this is the Commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all His statutes and His Commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

(3) The surrounding culture

Unfortunately the culture, be it tribal / nationalistic or whatever that we grow up in, will have an overwhelming effect on the child. Our values will mirror the values of the group of people where we grow up. People will almost be unable to resist the voice of the surrounding culture, unless a clear effort is made to imprint a different set of values.

Certain people groups take great care to find ways to mitigate the effect of the world’s culture on their children and thereby ensure that the values that they hold dearly will still be maintained.
For example, the Portuguese people tend to live in communities close to each other, even when they live in a foreign land. The Greeks / Jews tend to ensure that their children are enrolled in after-hours schools where their language / values / beliefs are imprinted.

You may ask, is this needed?

All I have to do is ask you to look around - how many times have you heard of stories where seemingly well-grounded children are influenced in mass actions at some or other public gathering where an opinion is espoused and the mass start to cry for an answer? How does that young person express their opinion or stand up to the sheer size of the raging torrent that is sweeping him along.

While I raise the point about children, the same is true for many adults. If the culture that you are raised in does not allow for debate, questions, other opinions, then you will also be ill-equipped to respond sensibly.

Biblical examples

We have two examples of Biblical leaders who lived within the domain of a foreign culture: Noah, and later Abraham who were able to set a different role model without being influenced by the surrounding culture.

Genesis 6:9 “Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

We can speak for ages about our Biblical value system, on all the sorts of programs, from Sunday school to Pastoral training... The fact is, WE will “see” the moral values by THE ACTIONS THAT YOU DO! I call this:

THE GARMENTS THAT YOU WEAR

All of these THREE variables have an impact on the mind / soul of the person. The value system is something that is role-modeled and imprinted on the mind, but seeing those actions repeatedly performed.

No-one today can determine what your background culture was, other than take a note of your words and your actions, as you expose your underlying world view in various relationships.

Your integrity, sense of fairness, your views on equality of all people, your degree of compassion with those less fortunate, will be revealed in your actions.

The Bible is clear - while you may see clothes as a fashion piece, as a sense of positional power, and so on, God sees it as an expression of your Biblical character.

Do your garments speak of GOD’s Glory?

In order to set the scene, I am taking you back to the time in the wilderness, and more specifically the time when GOD instructed the children of Israel to build temporary booths, and dwell in them.
GOD commanded that the Israelites celebrate Sukkot, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, or Feast of Ingathering.

Exodus 34:22 22 You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the first fruits of the wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year’s end.

As New Testament believers, we too have been building a sukkah (sukkah is the Hebrew word for “booth / dwelling place”). The sukkah is a representation of the temporary dwelling that we had in the wilderness. This time is set-apart and special, so that we can allow our spirits to become quiet, to hear the sound of the wind as it blows softly through the branches that make up our shelter. We also need to be away from the hustle and bustle of the world system.

After all, we want to be near GOD again, just as it was back then.

If we are careful, and we stand in the opening of the sukkah, and look towards the center of the camp, we should be able to see the Tabernacle. And yes, there rises the smoke of the burnt offering on the altar, and the Cloud of Glory stands still.

GOD is going nowhere, and we are staying here today...

It is a Feast day! And we are to bring a First Fruits offering. Which also means that we are to approach the Tabernacle.

But, what are we to wear for such an occasion, AND does it matter to GOD what we are to wear?

The world system sends out very strange and different messages. On one hand it says that you can wear anything you like, more especially if it does not seem to fit well at all. On the other hand, people dress up in the most outrageously expensive suits and dresses merely to prove that they are worth noticing.

And then we go from the one extreme - total modesty - to the absolute minimum of dress and the maximum exposure.

It seems that the world still struggles to understand the spiritual message of what clothes mean for mankind.
A Biblical Riddle

We are told, not to mix wool and cotton.

Deuteronomy 22:11 “11 You shall not wear a garment of mingled stuff, wool and linen together.”

Leviticus 19:19 “19 You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your domestic animals breed with a different kind [of animal]; you shall not sow your field with mixed seed, neither wear a garment of linen mixed with wool.”

Yet the garments of the High Priest are wool and cotton...

Exodus 28:1-2, 4-5 “1 From among the Israelites take your brother Aaron and his sons with him, that he may minister to Me in the priest’s office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron’s sons. 2 And you shall make for Aaron your brother sacred garments [appointed official dress set apart for special holy services] for honor and for beauty. 4 They shall make these garments: a breastplate, an ephod [a distinctive vestment to which the breastplate was to be attached], a robe, long and sleeved tunic of checkerwork, a turban, and a sash or band. They shall make sacred garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to minister to Me in the priest’s office. 5 They shall receive [from the people] and use gold, and blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff], and fine linen.”

How can that be?

Here follows a possible answer...

As men, outside of the Tabernacle, we must keep the two products separate. We must fight against the same confusion that ruled between Cain (a farmer—cotton) and Abel (a shepherd—wool)

When we enter the Tabernacle, we have the power of GOD to “burn away” all of this unclean and unholy thinking.

If we put on the garment of the Holy Spirit, we will be able (have the power) to deal with this confusion... But we need to keep the Garment of the Holy Spirit on!

It starts in the Garden of Eden

The story begins with a very profound statement: “The eyes of both of them were opened”, referring to Adam and Eve of course.

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves apron-like girdles.

Let us look at this word, Strong's H 5903, which comes from Strong's H 6191 “a-ram”, And includes the following different meanings:
• To make naked.
• To uncover, to be impudent, manifesting malevolent mind.
• To be crafty/spiteful, as in (Psalm 83:4).
• To act craftily, as in (1 Samuel 23:22).

Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together to make themselves loincloths.

I believe that words in the Bible are not without meaning. So what does this statement really mean?

**What is really being said?**

• They now have open eyes.
• They “see” in the physical.
• They “see” nakedness (i.e. their ability to be attracted to evil).

They think that all they need is a covering, (because their mindset had been changed in an instant from purity to craftiness/spitefulness and so forth), and in that covering, we will not see their actual devious minds.

**What is not said directly?**

**Genesis 3:8** “8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”

If we have “open” eyes, i.e. eyes that are open to seeing the possibility of self/ego/evil, we will fail to “see” in the spiritual. After GOD had put “clothes” on Adam and Eve, they could “see” the covering/cloud in the spiritual domain. They now knew they were clothed in HIS glory (but only retained that Glory while they had GOD’s covering on).

**WHY were clothes invented?**

We were, at the time of sin, a people ruled by our hearts, by our passions, our emotions. Clothes conceal this fact. Clothes convey the impression that we have changed, that we are ruled by our reason/our commitment to obey GOD.

**NUGGET!** If you wear GOD’s clothes with honour and glory, you are telling the world that the heart no longer rules you but that GOD is the center of your universe.

We need to ask ourselves, are we wearing GOD’s clothes with honour and glory?
To answer the question, what must I wear this Sukkot? We will look at how Biblical figures treated clothes.

**A) Can you handle the authority that go with the clothes?**

Let's look at the story of Joseph.

Probably one of the most famous of all story’s about the Robe that you may get to wear one day.

Every father wants to bless a child, and it is so with Jacob. He has a wonderful robe prepared for his son, Joseph. This son had the potential to do great things. In fact, he had a prophetic dream to indicate exactly what his role was, but failed to bide his time, and failed the walk of humility. Unfortunately, he did not yet have the maturity needed to handle / represent the authority that went with the robe. You see, he fooled himself with his own “sense of importance”. Because of his immaturity, he was instrumental in leading his family into exile.

Let us look at the pattern of events that lead him to the place where he finally understood the value of authority, and could represent the Robe's position, with honour.

1. His father put the robe on him.

2. His brothers stripped the robe off of him.

   **Genesis 37:23**  “23 When Joseph had come to his brothers, they stripped him of his [distinctive] long garment which he was wearing.”

3. He gets thrown in to a pit.

   **Genesis 37:24**  “24 Then they took him and cast him into the [well-like] pit which was empty; there was no water in it.”

4. He was lifted up and received the new robes for the head servant.

   **Genesis 39:4**  “4 So Joseph pleased [Potiphar] and found favor in his sight, and he served him. And [his master] made him supervisor over his house and he put all that he had in his charge. 5 From the time that he made him supervisor in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; and the Lord’s blessing was on all that he had in the house and in the field.”

5. He ran away from the wife, and was prepared to leave the “robe” behind.

   **Genesis 39:12-13**  “12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me! But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out [of the house]. 13 And when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled away.”

6. He got thrown in to jail.
Genesis 39:20  “20 And Joseph’s master took him and put him in the prison, a place where the state prisoners were confined; so he was there in the prison.”

7. Finally, he was taken out of the pit!!! The English Bible translates this as **dungeon**. However, the same word is used in both instances, namely **Strong's H 0953**, “*bor*”

And has the meaning:

*pit, cistern, bor.*

Genesis 41:14  a) “14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon.”

8. He could change into the robes that Pharaoh gave him.

Genesis 41:14  b) “42 But Joseph [first] shaved himself, changed his clothes, and made himself presentable; then he came into Pharaoh’s presence.”

Genesis 41:42  “42 And Pharaoh took off his [signet] ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and arrayed him in [official] vestments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck.”

**B) Can you walk in the level of integrity that the role of a son demands?**

Let’s look at the story of **Jacob**.

Jacob and Esau were twins that had a history of battle from inside of the womb. Rebecca’s intercession with GOD revealed that Jacob will carry the favour of GOD. Esau was the man’s man… He was the hunter, the fighter, the outdoors’ man.

It is said that Jacob stayed inside of the tent. The Rabbis indicate that this speaks of a scholar, the intellectual, someone with his “nose deep in the books”.

Now what is really interesting is that Isaac had been this absolutely stable example of a son that truly follows GOD.

He accepted the walk up the mountain, the binding on the altar. He lived a prayer-filled life, meditating in the fields until his wife had arrived. He stood with his wife when she struggled to fall pregnant. And he never left the Promised Land.

And yet, when it came to blessing the “right” son for the calling, he leaned towards the son who lived only in the physical.
Paul tells us that we have to walk in the physical in order to reach into, and experience the spiritual domain.

Esau, however only stayed in the physical. He married a pagan woman, not withstanding the fact that his parents disapproved. He also gave away his birthright. We see no evidence of any desire to follow in the footsteps of father Abraham. It seems clear that Esau did not desire to enter the spiritual domain.

Jacob on the other hand, appears to be following the footsteps of a family man, of learning, and of leadership. To some degree we would think that his spiritual connection is strong.

But it is not so...he STILL had lessons to learn. When he should have walked in integrity, he fell into compromise, deceit, and false witnessing. He had put on clothes that did not belong to him. He had put on the hairy skin of goats to create the impression of another man’s skin.

Genesis 27:22-23 “22 So Jacob went near to Isaac, and his father felt him and said, The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. 23 He could not identify him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him.”

He was dishonest and lied.

Genesis 27:24 “24 But he said, Are you really my son Esau? He answered, I am.”

**C) Can you wear any strange clothes, and still be true to your calling?**

Let us look at the story of Tamar.

Judah was the son who would one day carry the mantle of leadership over all of the Tribes. But in the beginning, he was off on his own, married a pagan woman, had three sons, who mostly did not look anything like their grandfather Abraham.

The oldest son married Tamar... but had died later on. In terms of the custom, the next brother had to marry her, as they hadn’t had any children at that stage.

He decided not to have children that he couldn’t call his own, and sinned... He died shortly after he had committed the sin and had dishonoured Tamar.

Judah decided to be devious and decided to dishonour Tamar with false promises.

Tamar went on to “sit in an open place which was on the way to…”

*Why is there not a clear description of the place’s name where Tamar was?* It would seem that it was in the middle of nowhere.

The word that stands out is “entrance” ([Strong's H 5879](https://www.blueletterbible.org), and seems to mean the city in the lowlands of Judah, Enan, “double spring”, and is a word used often when talking about Abraham... He sits in the entrance to his tent!!!
Could it be that Tamar went back to the place where she could claim the Covenant rights? We read that Tamar took off the widow’s clothes and had put on the prostitutes clothes. It seems to suggest that Tamar was unrecognizable because she was covered with this new set of clothes.

**Genesis 38:14** “14 So she put off her widow’s garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapped herself up [in disguise], and sat in the entrance of Enaim, which is by the road to Timnath; for she saw that Shelah was grown and she was not given to him as his wife.”

Now let’s follow the interesting description of Judah.

He saw her, but did not recognize her… Can we accept that this was really the case, even when the clothes of the “prostitute” were lying on the ground?

**Genesis 38:15-16** “15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot or devoted prostitute [under a vow to her goddess], for she had covered her face [as such women did]. 16 He turned to her by the road and said, Come, let me have intercourse with you; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. And she said, What will you give me that you may have intercourse with me?”

Is there a hidden message for us here?

Judah attended two weddings where Tamar married one of his sons. *Would he not know her?* Would a harlot cover the face, or rather, would she expose herself? While he was intimate with her, would he not have recognized something of this “woman”… a scar, a birthmark, her voice?

This passage appears to tell a story, and we realize that we should be looking for a deeper meaning!!!

That Tamar had lived in his home with absolute modesty, she was always covered, always discreet. Judah had never “seen” her, that’s why he couldn’t recognize her.

After Judah had committed the sinful deed with Tamar, he searched for her but couldn’t find her, and failed to consider the response of the men along the way… “There was no harlot here!!!”

**Genesis 38:21-22** “21 He asked the men of that place, Where is the harlot or cult prostitute who was openly by the roadside? They said, There was no harlot or temple prostitute here. 22 So he returned to Judah and said, I cannot find her; and also the local men said, There was no harlot or temple prostitute around here.”
When he saw her again after she disclosed she was pregnant, she presented the items that was given as pledge - she showed the real Tamar, the inner spirit-man of Tamar. And in the process, he saw the real Judah….and did not like what he saw.

**Genesis 38:25-26** “When she was brought forth, she [took the things he had given her in pledge and] sent [them] to her father-in-law, saying, I am with child by the man to whom these articles belong. Then she added, Make out clearly, I pray you, to whom these belong, the signet [seal], [signet] cord, and staff.26 And Judah acknowledged them and said, She has been more righteous and just than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son. And he did not cohabit with her again.

He was never intimate with her again, and because of her decision to walk in the truth of the Covenant and to believe in the faithfulness of the GOD that Abraham served, she became known as part of the lineage of the Messiah.

**Genesis 38:27-29** “27 Now when the time came for her to be delivered, behold, there were twins in her womb. 28 And when she was in labor, one baby put out his hand; and the midwife took his hand and bound upon it a scarlet thread, saying, This baby was born first. 29 But he drew back his hand, and behold, his brother was born first. And she said, What a breaking forth you have made for yourself! Therefore his name was called Perez [breaking forth].”

Is Tamar the Widow, or the Harlot…?

She is neither but rather a Covenant Daughter!

**D) Can you show sensitivity for your fellow man in the clothes that you wear?**

Let’s look at the story of **Esther**.

But actually, we should rather study the man **Mordecai**.

Mordecai was able to reflect the pain and suffering of his people. He did not wear just anything, but he had chosen to express his grief and the pain of his people with sackcloth.

**Esther 4:1-2** “1 Now when Mordecai learned all that was done, [he] rent his clothes and put on sackcloth with ashes and went out into the midst of the city and cried with a loud and bitter cry. 2 He came and stood before the king’s gate, for no one might enter the king’s gate clothed with sackcloth.”

And later, when the people had been set free in a second Exodus, Mordecai chose to wear robes that reflected the redemption.

**Esther 8:15** “15 And Mordecai went forth from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and with a robe of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan shouted and rejoiced.”
Too much debate has been made on what type of clothes each gender should or should not wear, and the most basic discussion is whether women are allowed to wear pants or not.

The verse that is so often quoted regarding this matter is:

**Deuteronomy 22:5** “5 The woman shall not wear that which pertains to a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment, for all that do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.”

The word “garment” is translated from the Hebrew word “keliy” (Strong’s H 3627) and means either:

- Article / vessel / implement / utensil
- Weapon / armour / instrument.

The word “man” is not the common “ish” (Strong’s H 397) but rather the word “geber” (Strong’s H 1397) and means:

- Man/ strong man/ warrior/ ability to fight.

So what happens when we use other words in the translation?

It simply means that the woman will not put on the weapons of the warrior, neither shall the warrior put on a woman’s garment (Strong’s H8071) - meaning a wife’s garment (the word Strong’s H 0802 used here denotes the covering robe worn by both male and female).

Let’s see if we can link some dots...

Let’s start again in the Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve lived in unity, in peace, in complete intimacy with God. There was no hole in the wall that formed the Covenantal boundary.

They did not need salvation. They walked with GOD every evening.

A rebellious act, a wrong choice, an act of listening to the wrong voice had caused a huge change…

The robe of Intimacy, “kutanot” or “the garment of light” (spelled with an alef) of complete connection with GOD was removed/ taken off.

And in it’s place, a “robe of hide/ skin”, “kutanot ohr” garment (spelled with an ayin) was put on.
Genesis 3:21 “21 For Adam also and for his wife the Lord God made long coats (tunics) of skins and clothed them.”

Genesis tells us that this garment is a form of tunic, covering the body, with sleeves, down to the ankles, and is “like flax, linen, cotton cloth, woven linen”.

We know that we are naked before GOD, we know the loss of Divine protection, and we know the lack of the feeling of closeness to GOD, until the time when the work of atonement by the Messiah is applied on our lives. Moreover, we know clearly that man-made efforts of righteousness have no value.

Genesis 3:7-11 “7 Then the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves apronlike girdles. 8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where are you? 10 He said, I heard the sound of You [walking] in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. 11 And He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

You simply cannot work out your salvation.

The robe of hide, covered the nakedness of sin and was a fore-runner for the Robe of Salvation.

Isaiah 61:10 “10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

The Robe of the future.

We are convinced that we will yet one day have this “robe of light” fully restored. We have the promises…

A) God will be our “Glory”.

Isaiah 60:9 “9 Surely the isles and distant coastlands shall wait for and expect Me; and the ships of Tarshish [shall come] first, to bring your sons from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the Lord your God, for the Holy One of Israel, because He has beautified and glorified you.”

B) We will wear clothes of bright fine linen (Greek word is “lampron” meaning shining, resplendent like a lamp).

Revelation 19:8 “8 She has been permitted to dress in fine (radiant) linen, dazzling and white—for the fine linen is (signifies, represents) the righteousness (the upright, just, and godly living, deeds, and conduct, and right standing with God) of the saints (God’s holy people).”
Revelation 21:23 “23 And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to give light to it, for the splendor and radiance (glory) of God illuminate it, and the Lamb is its lamp.”

But there is one other place we need to look.

What about the Tabernacle?

There are many interpretations about the role and purpose of the Tabernacle. It is clear that its purpose was to reverse one aspect of the result of the Garden of Eden curse. Man had been exiled from the Garden, and GOD had remained behind. The intimacy, which had been an every day occurrence, had been lost.

The Tabernacle serves as a re-enactment of the days of Creation. When the Tabernacle is complete and sanctified and in use, then we will see the “return” of GOD. We see the return of the opportunity for man to re-engage with GOD. The Tabernacle becomes a new “Garden of Eden”.

Whilst no ordinary man, i.e. those who came from the original Adam, could enter the Tent...

Leviticus 16:17 “17 There shall be no man in the Tent of Meeting when the high priest goes in to make atonement in the Holy of Holies [within the veil] until he comes out and has made atonement for his own sins and those of his house [the other priests] and of all the congregation of Israel.”

GOD had provided an intermediary. The role of the high priest had been born. But Aaron could only perform this role while wearing the sacred garments.

Exodus 28:40-43 “40 For Aaron’s sons you shall make long and sleeved tunics and belts or sashes and caps, for glory and honor and beauty. 41 And you shall put them on Aaron your brother and his sons with him, and shall anoint them and ordain and sanctify them [set them apart for God], that they may serve Me as priests. 42 You shall make for them [white] linen trunks to cover their naked flesh, reaching from the waist to the thighs. 43 And they shall be on Aaron and his sons when they go into the Tent of Meeting or when they come near to the altar to minister in the Holy Place, lest they bring iniquity upon themselves and die; it shall be a statute forever to Aaron and to his descendants after him.”

The pathway from a stranger / outsider to the Garden of Eden / Tabernacle to a high priest was:

* He had to sanctify his body. He had to remove anything that represented death from himself.
He had to be anointed with the oil.

He had to put on the robes that symbolized the position that had been conferred upon him, i.e. the “honour and the glory” or the “light” that was called salvation, so that he could enter in.

**NUGGET!** The purpose of the priestly robes that were given to Aaron were to provide the exact same characteristics as the original robe of light that Adam and Eve had worn. The robes had allowed man into GOD’s presence in a way that ensured that the “old man nature” was “covered”.

Referring to the Garden of Eden story, the Bible says:

“Vay-albishem”, He **dressed them**, referring to Adam and Eve.

In the setting up of the Tabernacle it says,

“Vay-albsishem”, He **dressed them**, referring to Aaron.

This unique word, “dressing” by GOD, is the connection!

There is a Tabernacle in Heaven.

**A) We have a Great High Priest.**

*Hebrews 4:14-16* “14 Inasmuch then as we have a great High Priest Who has [already] ascended and passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith in Him]. 15 For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning. 16 Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace (the throne of God’s unmerited favor to us sinners), that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].”

(See also Hebrews 5:5-6, Hebrews 7:20, Hebrews 8:1-2.)

**B) We worship at the Heavenly Tabernacle.**

*Hebrews 9:11-15* “11 But [that appointed time came] when Christ (the Messiah) appeared as a High Priest of the better things that have come and are to come. [Then] through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with [human] hands, that is, not a part of this material creation, 12 He went once for all into the [Holy of] Holies [of heaven], not by virtue of the blood of goats and calves [by which to make reconciliation between God and man], but His own blood, having found and secured a complete redemption (an everlasting release for us). 13 For if [the mere] sprinkling of unholy and defiled persons with blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a burnt heifer is sufficient for the purification of the body,
14 How much more surely shall the blood of Christ, Who [a]by virtue of [His] eternal Spirit [His own preexistent [b]divine personality] has offered Himself as an unblemished sacrifice to God, purify our consciences from dead works and lifeless observances to serve the [ever] living God? 15 [Christ, the Messiah] is therefore the Negotiator and Mediator of an [entirely] new agreement (testament, covenant), so that those who are called and offered it may receive the fulfillment of the promised everlasting inheritance—since a death has taken place which rescues and delivers and redeems them from the transgressions committed under the [old] first agreement.”

C) You and I form a Tabernacle here on earth, made up of living stones.

1 Peter 2:4-10 “4 Come to Him [then, to that] Living Stone which men [a]tried and threw away, but which is chosen [and] precious in God’s sight. 5 [Come] and, like living stones, be yourselves built [into] a spiritual house, for a holy (dedicated, consecrated) priesthood, to offer up [those] spiritual sacrifices [that are] acceptable and pleasing to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For thus it stands in Scripture: Behold, I am laying in Zion a chosen (honored), precious chief Cornerstone, and he who believes in Him [who adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him] shall never be [c]disappointed or put to shame. 7 To you then who believe (who adhere to, trust in, and rely on Him) is the preciousness; but for those who disbelieve [it is true], The [very] Stone which the builders rejected has become the main Cornerstone, 8 And, A Stone that will cause stumbling and a Rock that will give [men] offense; they stumble because they disobey and disbelieve [God’s] Word, as those [who reject Him] were destined (appointed) to do. 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God’s] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people [at all], but now you are God’s people; once you were unpitied, but now you are pitied and have received mercy.”

D) Your calling as king and priest and our actions on earth will reflect our moral value system and determine what garments I wear

We have a Great High Priest, and as believers in this High Priest Y’shua (Jesus), we are also called to be priests.
Four specific pieces of this particular garment that a priest is to wear, is needed.

1. The Tunic.

The inner most layer, next to the skin represents the most basic of human emotions. It is here where the “I” can be the most difficult to control. It’s here where I will kill in order to get my way.

The tunic atones for the blood that we spill, and helps us to control impulsive behaviour. It becomes the evidence of a life committed to “love your neighbour”.

**Leviticus 19:18** “18 You shall not take revenge or bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.”

Remember, our words (gossip) are likened to a knife that cuts and kills…

2. The Trousers.

The trousers atone for the sin of sexual license. Sexual drive is to recreate, to make a new generation, to show how two people can represent the Covenant to the fullest. Someone who wears these trousers will be constantly reminded that love, and not lust, are the emotions of Heaven.

**Exodus 28:42** “42 You shall make for them [white] linen trunks to cover their naked flesh, reaching from the waist to the thighs.”

3. The Turban.

Many of us have great gifts, talents and are hugely successful. As such, we can easily begin to think that we are more important that other people. The turban helps to remind us that we are all GOD’s creation, and the we are all equal before GOD. The turban atones for the sin of pride and haughtiness.

4. The Belt.

The belt atones for all impure thoughts that come from the heart. Our own thoughts can cause confusion, and my own feelings can cause me to battle to distinguish between GOD’s thoughts and man’s thoughts.

The belt is the one thing that causes me to measure every thought against the plumb line of the Torah (Torah is a Hebrew word meaning instructions and teachings). We need the belt of truth.
The Hebrew Word for clothing is “beged”, spelled b-g-d. The Hebrew word for treason, is also composed of the same three letters b-g-d. Are you hiding your false self or are you searching for your true source?

The High Priest wears the other four pieces of the garment. They are: the breastplate, the ephod, the robe, and the head plate.

How do we get this Robe?

You see, fig leaves can cover the physical body; they are suitable for that which is seen with the naked eye. But we need something different for the spiritual body. You cannot enter the Tabernacle with man-made ideas, with concepts that belong in the physical domain.

The Tabernacle is pure and Holy; it is perfection.

To be able to enter:

You need to be a son of Abraham.
You need to have accepted your calling as king and priest.
You need to realize that you must wear of the “garments of the Priest” to reflect your position!

Colossians 3:12-17 “12 Clothe yourselves therefore, as God’s own chosen ones (His own picked representatives), [who are] purified and holy and well-beloved [by God Himself, by putting on behavior marked by] tenderhearted pity and mercy, kind feeling, a lowly opinion of yourselves, gentle ways, [and] patience [which is tireless and long-suffering, and has the power to endure whatever comes, with good temper]. 13 Be gentle and forbearing with one another and, if one has a difference (a grievance or complaint) against another, readily pardoning each other; even as the Lord has [freely] forgiven you, so must you also [forgive]. 14 And above all these [put on] love and enfold yourselves with the bond of perfectness [which binds everything together completely in ideal harmony]. 15 And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ’s] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always]. 16 Let the word [spoken by] Christ (the Messiah) have its home [in your hearts and minds] and dwell in you in [all its] richness, as you teach and admonish and train one another in all insight and intelligence and wisdom [in spiritual things, and as you sing] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody to God with [His] grace in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus and in [dependence upon] His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him.”

You need to undergo a “mikveh” (Hebrew for water immersion/baptism) to deal with the old mindset. Take off the old garments that belonged to the old man, and go through the waters of purification, cleansing and renewal.
Galatians 5:19-21 “19 Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency, 20 Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies), 21 Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

You need to put on the garments of the Father.

Micah 6:8 “8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, and to love kindness and mercy, and to humble yourself and walk humbly with your God?”

Galatians 5:22-23 “22 But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, 23 Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge].”

CONCLUSION

Clothes can mean many things.

(a) “Worn clothes” can indicate a son of the Covenant that is not walking in victory.

(b) “Holocaust clothes” can indicate a son of the Covenant in bondage and slavery.

(c) The enemy can come as a “wolf in sheep’s” clothing!!

You have the choice, and opportunity to wear the beautiful robes of the BRIDE OF MESSIAH.

Isaiah 61:10 “10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”
PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray to reveal and expand your GOD-given gifts.

2. Accept the blessing of the yoke of the Covenant.

3. Let us cut ourselves free from all tribal / community cultures that are not Biblically aligned.

4. Let us remove all “strange” garments that do not look like priestly robes.

5. Accept your position as a TRUE son.

6. Walk in alignment to the true authority of GOD’s Word.

AMEN!
PART FOUR:
REDEEMING THE LAND
PART FOUR: REDEEMING THE LAND

(Excerpts taken from “Healing from Territorial Spirits”, www.healingofthespirit.org)

Introduction.

This chapter will address:

• Setting your church free,
• Setting your neighbourhood or city free, and
• Transformation revival that can take place after churches and towns are set free.

How/why do territorial spirits attach themselves to buildings, land, neighbourhoods, cities, and regions?

God’s Intention in creation was to manifest His glory on the earth and live in intimate, permanent, covenant relationship with humankind.

The universe is designed to manifest God’s Glory and to reflect His Eternal Power and Divine Attributes (Job 12:7–10; Psalm 19:1–4; 50:6; 148; Romans 1:20). Everything, whether physical or spiritual, finds its origin in God.

“He is before all things and in Him all things hold together.” Everything was created by Him and for Him so that in everything “He might have preeminence” (Colossians 1:16-18 NKJV).

Psalm 24:1 “THE EARTH is the LORD’s, and the fullness of it, the world and they who dwell in it.”

The Creator offered to Adam and Eve a perfect life of intimate fellowship with Himself and with each other, a beautiful sanctuary, meaningful responsibility to manage God’s earth, and a life free from sin, sickness, disease, hatred, or any other manifestation of darkness. This relationship between God, people, and the land formed the first covenant-based spiritual bond between God, man, and the earth.

GOD called Adam to be a WATCHMAN, to govern and have DOMINION
GOD has entrusted this world to different people groups to be good stewards. They would one day be held accountable ...

JESUS refers to such stewardship parables as the tenants.

Matthew 21:33  “There was a landowner who planted a vineyard and put a wall around it and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to tenant farmers and went on a journey [to another country]. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his [share of the] fruit.”

Stewardship in GOD’s Eyes is to be accountable and productive. A good steward reclaims for GOD that which was previously lost through bad stewardship.

After the fall ...

Man’s sin and rebellion broke that covenant bond—resulting in lost intimacy, identity, and a defiled earth. When Adam and Eve attempted to “be like God” by eating from the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil, their disobedience broke their covenant relationship with God. Intimacy with God was broken, death began (both spiritually and physically), the land itself was defiled (cursed), the humans were expelled from the garden, hatred entered Cain’s heart, and the first murder occurred.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they handed over control of God's world to Satan. Satan is called “prince of this world” three times in the Bible (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11).

Now in a rebellious state, humans no longer act as royal inheritors and righteous stewards of the earth. The spirit of rebellion, which entered through Adam’s disobedience now infects every sphere of life.
Satan uses idolatry, rebellion, pride, selfishness, and sin to influence people, communities and nations to oppose God, and to destroy people and the communities where they live. Sin against God and broken covenant with Him always has dire consequences, even to this day.

**What is the role of altars?**

**Exodus 20:24** “An ALTAR of earth you shall make to Me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In EVERY PLACE where I record My Name and cause it to be remembered I will come to you and BLESS you.”

Man is the “Earth” that has been quickened by the Spirit of GOD. The Earth responds or reacts to who we are and what we do.

**Genesis 4:11-14** “And now you are CURSED by reason of the EARTH, which has opened its MOUTH to receive your brother’s [shed] BLOOD from your hand. 12 When you till the GROUND, it shall no longer yield to you its STRENGTH; you shall be a FUGITIVE and a VAGABOND on the earth [in perpetual exile, a degraded outcast]. 13 Then Cain said to the Lord, My punishment is GREATER than I can bear. 14 Behold, You have driven me out this day from the FACE of the LAND, and from Your face I will be hidden; and I will be a FUGITIVE and a VAGABOND and a WANDERER on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

We see that the earth RESPONDS to the actions of MEN!

GOD gave the EARTH the AUTHORITY to CURSE man. The EARTH can BLESS/prosper us, Or CURSE us in swallowing us up and draining the strength of man, The earth is ALIVE!! We can affect the land positively or negatively, Cain is an example -- the earth cast him out. When obedient to GOD’s Commandments, the earth blessed Israel.

**King Josiah**

King Josiah took care of the poor and GOD blessed him:

**Jeremiah 22:16** “He judged and defended the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Was not [all] this [what it means] to know and recognise Me? says the Lord.”

*Faith without works is dead!!*

**Josiah’s Son - Coniah was CURSED!**

**Jeremiah 22:17** “But your eyes and your heart are only for your covetousness and DISHONEST gain, for shedding innocent blood, for oppression and doing violence.”
Jeremiah 22:28  "Is this man [King] Coniah a despised, broken pot? Is he a vessel in which no one takes pleasure? Why are they hurled out, he and his royal offspring, and cast into a land which they do not know, understand, or recognize?"

GOD speaks to the earth ...

Jeremiah 22:29-30  "29  O LAND, LAND, LAND, hear the Word of the LORD!” 30  Thus says the Lord: write this man [Coniah] down as childless, a man who shall not prosper in his days, for no man of his offspring shall succeed in sitting upon the throne of David and ruling any more in Judah."

The earth casts Coniah out! The earth RECORDED the sins of this man! Mankind has a responsibility to the earth.

The earth writes down:

- Occultic involvement,
- Sexual iniquities,
- Covetousness/jealousy,
- Bloodshed ...

Sin has GREAT consequences (Leviticus 18)

Leviticus 18:25, 28  "And the land is defiled; therefore I visit the iniquity of it upon it, and the land itself vomits out her inhabitants. 28  [Do none of these things] lest the land spew you out when you defile it as it spewed out the nation that was before you.”

People are literally CAST OUT from wherever THEY GO!

People leave towns/countries, because they are not prospering there - they try everything, but the earth says, “WHO are YOU?” “The iniquities of you and your forefathers are recorded!” “I deny to give you any strength,” “You will not prosper here!”

GOD made us to be a blessing to the earth, GOD loves the earth. We have destroyed the earth with our sins.

GOD asks us to consecrate and redeem the land, so that He can bless us (Exodus 20:24)!

**Evangelism roadblocks.**

Most congregations have—as part of their mission—the goal of evangelism, of fulfilling the great commission (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15). In addition, most congregations have been less than successful in this effort.
In the late 1960’s Derek Prince, C. Peter Wagner, Gwen Shaw and others began to notice that in some assemblies / congregations, evangelism flourished, while in others it was extremely difficult or not at all. They began to recognize the existence of principalities and powers over assemblies / local fellowships, towns, regions and countries. In the late 1980’s and early 1990’s writers began to document the commonalities of such examples.

They found that a common denominator was what C. Peter Wagner calls Strategic Warfare Prayer, the third level of praying against darkness.

As early as 1976, evangelist and internationally known minister, Derek Prince, reported: “For several years I have believed that over every major city in the nation, Satan has set a ‘strong man’—an unseen spiritual power responsible for resisting God’s Purposes and God’s people in that particular area” (Fall, 1976 newsletter).

Consider the following true illustrations:

- In Adroguè, Brazil, a Baptist Church had only 70 members after 70 years of evangelism effort; it was a graveyard of church planters. Also, none of the 70 members were residents of Adroguè. Then, in 1974, Eduardo Lorenzo became pastor. By 1987 there were 250 members; by 1990 there were 600; by 1991, 1000; by 1993, 2000. When asked what happened in 1987, Pastor Lorenzo simply replied that he began using spiritual warfare prayer.

- Pastor Albarto's Los Olivos Baptist Church in Argentina had for many years been stalled at 50 members. After attending an Annacondia crusade, Pastor Alberto and his lay leaders held a crusade themselves. After the first service, he gave the invitation to come forward. No one responded. While inwardly agonizing over the apparent lack of power and response, he seemed to hear an inner voice say to him, "Try it the way Annacondia does it." In semi-desperation, he decided to try it. He prayed a strong warfare prayer and directly rebuked the spirits, as he had previously seen Carlos Annacondia do.

- When he had bound the spirits with the authority Jesus Christ had given him, he gave the invitation to come forward once again.

  This time, more than 15 people sprang out of their seats and actually came running to the front of the church to receive Christ as their Saviour. In the next short while, the church grew to 900 members and started satellite congregations of 2,100 members. His goal is 20,000 members.

- Pastor Steve Nicholson preached the gospel in Evanston, Illinois, for six years with virtually no fruit. He and members of his congregation prayed for the sick and few got well. His Vineyard Christian Fellowship was not growing. Nicholson began some serious prayer and fasting. A grotesque, unnatural being appeared to him. It growled, "Why are you bothering me?" It identified itself as a demon of witchcraft, which had dominion over the geographical area. In the heat of warfare, Nicholson named the city streets in the surrounding area. The spirit retorted, "I don’t want to give you that much.” In the Name of Jesus, Nicholson commanded the spirit to give up the territory. During the next three months, the congregation doubled in size form 70 to 150, mostly from new converts coming out of witchcraft. Nearly all of the new believers needed to be delivered from demons.
Three observations can be made from the above examples (as well as from many others not here included): All the evangelistic technology and effort in the world will have only minimal effect unless the spiritual battle is won first.

- We need to focus on the spiritual dimension of the growth of the Body of Messiah, not on programs and techniques.
- Many people who have not received Christ as their Lord and Saviour have not done so because Satan has blinded them and holds them captive (2 Corinthians 4:4).

In each of the above examples, the reason for these meager evangelism results was determined to be spiritual rather than physical:

**Ephesians 6:12** “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Even so, “… the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:4).

From these examples, a most fundamental observation is that these successful churches have a more advanced understanding that the real battle for evangelism is spiritual.

Signs and wonders, deliverance from demonic powers, miraculous healings, sustained and enthusiastic worship, prophecies, and warfare prayer are seen by many of these ministries as the normal outworking of Christianity.
Unless Biblical warfare is understood, there will continue to be frustration, anger, confusion, and ineffective ministry within the congregations's ignorance of spiritual warfare prayer. Whether attempting to coordinate Christian concerts, plant a congregation, or perform outreach, the principle is still the same: we need to bind the “strongman” and gain a place of authority over Satan before we will see the full fruit of our labours.

Evangelism and other local assembly / fellowship programs will not thrive until the influence of darkness over the people, congregations, and sometimes the town is removed. The Body of Messiah must win the war against strongholds in the local assembly / fellowship first, before they will be effective in evangelism.

Setting churches free from the influences of darkness that restrain them, requires two primary beliefs:

- A belief that the spirits of darkness inhabit people and places (ground level spiritual warfare) and
- The sins of people cause a curse on the land, giving certain spirits of darkness a spiritual legal right to inhabit the place or land, until they are expelled (territorial or strategic level spiritual warfare). Cleansing the land requires creating a change in the spiritual climate or atmosphere.

Territorial spirits.

Anyone who has paid more than a casual visit to places such as India, Navajoland, Cameroon, Haiti, Japan, Morocco, Peru, Nepal, New Guinea, and China will attest to seeing elaborate hierarchies of deities and spirits, regarded as commonplace in these locations. These incorporeal beings are perceived to rule over homes, villages, cities, valleys, providences, and nations, and they exercise extraordinary power over the behaviour of local people.

Jacob Loewen, an anthropologist and a Bible translation consultant, sees the Old Testament as clearly assuming the territoriality (territorial status) of demonic spirits, frequently called "deities." He reports that in Central and South America, spirits are considered to be the "owners" of geographical or topographical phenomena.

Nomadic Indians never travel from one territory to another without first securing the permission of the territorial spirit dominating the area that they are about to enter.

Vernon Sterk, a field missionary in Mexico for over 20 years for the Reformed Church of America, says that every one of the Tzotzil tribes can identify specific deities by name. He discovered that both evil spirits and guardian spirits have territorial designations and assignments. All of the spirits have geographical limits for their power, even though the reach of the evil spirits seems to be more extensive than that of the guardian or ancestral spirits.

The above information raises several questions:

- Is the existence of territorial spirits Scriptural?
• If principalities and powers—in the form of territorial spirits—have such a negative effect on the work of the Body of Messiah, how does this happen?
• How can they be identified?
• How can they be expelled or removed?

**Is the existence of territorial spirits Scriptural?**

Consider the following:

1. Satan is the ruler of this world (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, 2 Corinthians 4:4).
2. Y’shua, when tempted by Satan, did not dispute Satan’s power to give him “all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them” (Matthew 4:8-9).
3. Satan delegates his power to principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness (Ephesians 6:12). There may be millions of dark spirits of various kinds. Mark 5:9 suggests the name of the spirit was “Legion,” which is up to 6,000.
4. While some evil spirits (or demons) inhabit persons, others called guardian or ancestral spirits inhabit geographical locations or areas.
5. Other Scriptures speaking of the hierarchy of Satan include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deuteronomy 12:2-3; 32:17</th>
<th>1 Kings 20:23</th>
<th>1 Corinthians 15:32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judges 3:7</td>
<td>2 Kings 17:16, 29-31</td>
<td>Revelation 12:6-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Samuel 7:3-4</td>
<td>Daniel 10:13</td>
<td>Revelation 20:8, 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. The Bible (KJV) speaks many times about unclean spirits, but much less about territorial spirits. (See examples in Ephesians 6:12 and Colossians 1:16)
7. Principalities (7)
8. Authorities (8)
9. Powers (5)
10. Dominions (4)
11. Thrones (1)
12. Rulers of darkness (1)
13. Spirits of wickedness (1)
14. Every idol and goddess worshiped in the Bible had a name. Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baal</th>
<th>Numbers 22:41</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dagon</td>
<td>Judges 16:23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baalim, Ashtaroth</td>
<td>Judges 2:11-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashtoreth, Milcom</td>
<td>1 Kings 11:5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemosh, Milcom</td>
<td>1 Kings 11:33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Succoth</td>
<td>2 Kings 17:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Benoth 2 Kings 17:30
Adrammelech 2 Kings 17:31
Molech 2 Kings 23:10
Prince of Persia Daniel 10
Prince of Greece Daniel 10:20
Queen of Heaven Jeremiah 44:17-25
Merodach Jeremiah 50:2
Moloch, Remphan Acts 7:43
Diana of Ephesus Acts 19:27
Abbaddon Revelation 9:11
Appollyon Revelation 9:11

15. Satan has demons, dark angels, principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness (Ephesians 6, Colossians 1) assigned to each of the following levels, each level more powerful than the ones below it: nations, regions, cities, neighbourhoods, places of idol worship, places of work, assemblies / local fellowships, homes, individuals.

16. Defiled or polluted land is mentioned over fifteen times in the Bible.

17. Scriptures commanding the children of Israel to “destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places” (such as in Numbers 33:52) are too numerous to mention.

- **OTHER OBSERVATIONS**

  - Some spirits (such as demons) seem to have much more flexibility. Other spirits (such as ancestral or guardian spirits) have geographical restrictions to their power capabilities.
  - In some cases, the spirit seems to be so fixed in a particular house, stream, or geographic location, that everyone living in the immediate area is affected by sickness, mental illness, or serious attack.
  - The higher the rank of the evil spirit, the more spiritual power is needed to bind it.
  - Most of the limited knowledge and experience in this area comes from those ministering within evangelistic efforts. They experience success in evangelistic efforts only after breaking the power of the enemy over a local assembly / fellowship, neighbourhood, or city.
  - The unseen world of dark spirits, as depicted in Frank Peretti’s novels (This Present Darkness and Piercing the Darkness), may be very close to reality.

**SUMMARY:**

GOD created the earth within certain laws:

- Physical laws,
- Governmental laws,
• Spiritual laws ...

GOD establishes boundaries:

Animals, tribes, households, nations ... have territories and BOUNDARIES, The
Promised Land has boundaries - man has understood that in order to rule, you need
your “gods” to be established in the land. For example: When Moses held his arms high
Joshua won the battle, the people could then enter the land.

**ALTARS**

GOD’s People consecrated His Land with altars:

Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob ...

An altar connects the earth with the spiritual realm. For example: when the Israelites
enter the land, Joshua takes stones from the Jordan and builds an altar. From the start,
GOD wanted His Altar in the Land.

Always remember: The enemy is a COPY CAT!! The enemy consecrates certain
places - high places, shrines, leylines, (earth power lines)

Most times, these places involve an altar where sacrifices have taken place. In J2F, we
learnt about the hierarchy of Satan - the Bible teaches us that he is the ruler of this
world *(2 Corinthians 4:4)*

Satan delegates his power to principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness (Ephesians
6:12). There may be MILLIONS of dark spirits of various kinds. *Mark 5:9* suggests the
name of the spirit was “Legion,” which is up to 6,000.

While some evil spirits/demons inhabit persons, others called principalities or ancestral
spirits inhabit geographically locations or areas. Satan has demons, dark angels,
principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness assigned to each of the following
levels, each level more powerful than the ones below it: Nations, regions, cities,
neighbourhoods, places of idol worship, places of work, local assemblies / fellowships,
homes, individuals ...

Some spirits (such as demons) seem to have much more flexibility.

Other spirits (such as ancestral or guardian spirits) have geographical restrictions to
their power capabilities.

In some cases, the spirit seems to be so fixed in a particular house, river, or geographic
location, that everyone living in the immediate area is affected by sickness, mental
illness, or serious attack. The higher the rank of the evil spirit, the more spiritual power
is needed to bind it.

**OPEN DOORS AND DEFILEMENT**

There are over 100 scriptures that talk about ways of defiling ourselves.
When we defile ourselves, we also defile the house, building or the land on which the defilement occurred. If we bring defiled objects into our homes, the home and the land on which the house sits becomes defiled.

The following scriptures speak of the earth/land mourning over the sins of the people: Jeremiah 4:28, 12:4; Hosea 4, 3; Zechariah 12:12.

When we sin the earth is cursed and in turn, we are cursed from the earth.

*Genesis 4:11*  “And now you are cursed by reason of the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s [shed] blood from your hand.”

Houses, buildings and places can be defiled by sin.

*Leviticus 15:31*  “... when they defile My tabernacle that is among them.”

*Leviticus 18:28*  “[Do none of these things] lest the land spew you out when you defile it as it spewed out the nation that was before you.”

*Numbers 5:3*  “[Do none of these things] lest the land spew you out when you defile it as it spewed out the nation that was before you.”

*Leviticus 18:27*  "For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;"

*Numbers 35:34*  "Defile not therefore the land …"

*Jeremiah 32:34*  "But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it."

**Sins that defile the land.**

There are root sins described in the Bible that defile both individuals and the related community where they are condoned. God warns that these sins will separate us from His presence, protection and blessings. They defile the land as well. These sins are especially highlighted in the Old Testament as sins that defile individuals, their community and the land where they live.

It can easily be seen that land and places can be blessed or cursed by the actions of the people upon them.

God is talking to Cain, stating:

*Genesis 4:10-11*  “And [the Lord] said, What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground. And now you are cursed by reason of the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s [shed] blood from your hand.”

The earth has a voice:
Genesis 4:10  “...The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.”

**Luke 19:40**  “He replied, I tell you that if these keep silent, the very stones will cry out.”

God curses the land (Jeremiah 7:20, 32-34, 12:4, 11). Scripture points to the pollution of the land and curses that came upon it from the sins of the people who lived there.

**Leviticus 18:25** states, “And the land is defiled; therefore I visit the iniquity of it upon it, and the land itself vomits out her inhabitants.”

Also, **Ezra 9:11** states, “Which You have commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land with the pollutions of the peoples of the lands, through their abominations which have filled it from one end to the other with their filthiness.”

**How do powers of darkness establish territorial strongholds?**

They do so through land defilement, through the sins of the people, through the worship of other gods and idols, and through occult practices. As carcasses attract the vultures of the air, likewise defiled land attracts spiritual wickedness. Where the land has been defiled, demons cluster.

**What sustains the demons?**

They are perpetuated as the traditions and beliefs and the same evil sins, attitudes, and cultures of the past continue. Just as with people, demons remain as generational curses until they are ejected by the Blood of Jesus.

Territorial spirits have no authority to move into an area without permission. Certain conditions give them authority to set up the base of their kingdom, from which they rule over the people in that area. These conditions are frequently referred to as “strongholds.”
When a territory has been inhabited by persons who have sinned, the land becomes contaminated, and those territorial spirits have obtained a spiritual right to remain there, thereby keeping the inhabitants captive.

**How satan confirms his area**

An example of demonic design built into buildings throughout the world: Washington DC and The Vatican.

Undoubtedly the vast majority of people, when looking at Washington, DC, and at the Vatican, never comprehend how these cities constitute one of the greatest open conspiracies of all time. There, reproduced in all their glory and right before the world’s eyes, is an ancient talismanic diagram based on the history and cult of Isis, Osiris, and Horus, including the magical utilities meant to generate the deity's return.

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5 This section taken from the book “The Shinar Directive” by Dr. Michael Lake
The primeval concept especially that of **sacred domes facing obelisks** - was designed in antiquity for the express purpose of regeneration, resurrection, and apotheosis, for deity incarnation from the underworld to earth's surface through union of the respective figures - the dome (ancient structural representation of the womb of Isis) and the obelisk (ancient representation of the erect male phallus of Osiris).

This layout, as modeled in antiquity, exists today on the grandest scale at the heart of the capital of the most powerful government on earth - the United States - as well as in the heart of the most politically influential church on earth - the Vatican.

We see this layout in most cities in the world – these are also known as ancient Freemason symbols built in to the foundation buildings – dedicating all cities and governments to the worship of the gods of Babylon and Nimrod.
Satan is very well organized. His top structure fallen angels enter an area and establish their thrones in position. Satan uses fallen angels, nephilim, demons and people to take control of an area.

Everywhere where he has a legal right to operate, he sets up a stronghold. He likes high places such as hills and mountains (imitates Golgotha).

He works in triangles to spread his dome over an area. Then the demonic powers can work unhindered. This is why some sin are prevalent in a particular area, e.g. crime, murder, sodomy, adultery, suicide, and so forth. In an area like this, it is difficult to have revival or set up a ministry. There will be much discord and quarrelling amongst the people. They battle to live a victorious Christian life in such an area. Some live in fear. In certain areas fatal accidents take place.

Repeatedly, Scripture shows the connection between God, people, land and geography – based on the people’s attitude and relationship to God at any given time (Genesis 9:19, 10:20, 31, 11:8-9; Deuteronomy 32:8; Job 12:23; Psalms 16:5-6, 74:17, 78:54; Isaiah 9:3, 26:15; Ezekiel 16:26-27).

**Primary causes of land defilement:**

- Idolatry, idol worship of any kind, including witchcraft.
- Shedding of innocent blood.
- Immorality and sexual sins.
- Broken covenants.
- Pagan temples and idols.

For example: Hindu, Buddhist, Shinto and Moslem temples are used as tourist attractions. There are those cults that usually require that you take your shoes off before you may enter their places of worship – by doing so, you are partaking in the worship of other gods – and this results in curses (God’s judgments) coming upon you.

The Moslems get into their minarets and chant to Allah – the moon god – causing so much darkness and bondage over the areas where they are situated.

They face Mecca and pray five times per day and are very dedicated. This results in the local churches in those areas coming under huge attack – the people will struggle with their prayer life, Christian marriages and businesses will be targeted – and they will suffer many other attacks against them – trying to shut them down and stopping growth, lack of finances, and so forth.

- Witchcraft, covens, Satan worship, and objects or landmarks used for same.
- Adultery, fornication, sodomy, incest, bestiality, sexual sins.
- Fighting, anger, unforgiveness
- Local celebrations honoring various gods.
- Previous Masonic influence.
Primary causes of Land Defilement

1. The FIRST critical value is captured in the Hebrew phrase “l’dor v’dor”: It is imperative that we pass on our earth “from generation to generation”.

The Bible tells us that GOD placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to “Till and Tend”
The Hebrew word for “TEND” is used to imply a legal sense of guardianship.
In effect, GOD has made us trustees of the earth. Part of our obligation is to keep it in GOOD condition for the benefit of future generations. We were given our planet as a LOAN from GOD, and we should work to preserve it.

2. The SECOND critical value is “bal tashchit”. In Hebrew, that means “DO NOT DESTROY”

**Deuteronomy 20:19-20** “When you lay siege to a city for a long time, fighting against it to capture it, do not destroy its trees by putting an ax to them, because you can eat their fruit. Do not cut them down. Are the trees people, that you should besiege them?”

However, you may cut down trees that you know are NOT fruit trees and use them to build SIEGE works until the city at war with you falls. An example: Large scale destruction of forests, mining activities, and so forth.
Pollution: Air and water.

3. The THIRD critical value is “shomrei adamah”, which means “guardians of the earth”. As human beings, we are endowed with great power. Unlike other animals, we can manipulate nature.

This has enormous benefits -- technology, buildings, civilization but it also has dangers -- war, pollution, disease.

With our ENORMOUS POWER comes significant RESPONSIBILITY

We have the responsibility to do what we can to conserve energy. We have the responsibility to speak out for laws that curb waste and pollution.

Examples of Land Defilement:

Ultimately, environmental responsibility demands ACTION and HUMILITY. We know that the world is not wholly ours to bend to OUR will. Rather, it is something given to us in TRUST for FUTURE generations.

4. The FOURTH critical value is: Did we recognize GOD as provider?

Usage of LAND is given to all peoples - The nation who became the first peoples of a portion of land were allocated the responsibility to “till and keep” that land. Any nation that chose to build idols, and to worship “other gods”, began the process to creating an abomination before GOD.
5. The FIFTH critical value is: Did we bring GOD the glory and Honour?

The Bible tells us that land is to be treated in a certain way:

a. We are not to plant mixed seed.
b. We are to pay a tithe of the produce harvested.
c. We are to bring a first fruit offering.
d. We are to apply the principle of Shemitah - allow the land to rest every seven years.

6. The SIXTH critical value is: Have we maintained the land as HOLY and CLEAN’?

What has caused our land to be defiled?

1. Idolatry
2. Immorality and Fornication
3. Bloodshed
4. Broken covenants

Conclusion:

Taking “ownership” of a portion of land means that you are accepting the responsibility of a Renewed Priest in the Order of Melchizedek, to cleanse the land from all possible impurities and to rededicate it to GOD.

More examples of land defilement - Corporate sin

Let us not be deceived into thinking that only violations of the first and second commandments contaminate the land. Corporate (group) sins, such as the following, have been known to do likewise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judgmentalism</th>
<th>Immorality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criticalness</td>
<td>Unforgiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectarianism</td>
<td>False teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strife</td>
<td>Luke-warmness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisions</td>
<td>Self-righteousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrow-mindedness</td>
<td>Arrogance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongholds of tradition</td>
<td>Apathy or complacency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legalism</td>
<td>Pride</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religious apathy</td>
<td>Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial stinginess</td>
<td>Poor stewardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-centered spirituality</td>
<td>Believing gossip and rumor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unwillingness to evangelize</td>
<td>Unwillingness to confront sin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Possible modern day sources of personal defilement:

- Things related to heathen worship (voodoo dolls, spirit masks, snakes, dragons, thunderbirds, phoenixes, etc.).
- Things related to past sin or to unholy soul ties (necklaces, rings, love letters, photos, diaries, journals).
- Things with an unknown history which are not inherently evil by design, such as wood figurines, pictures, tourist purchases.
- Any objects used in witchcraft or psychic activities, such as fortune telling, Ouija boards, tarot cards, charms, crystals, etc.
- Games such as “Dungeons & Dragons,” “Masters of the Universe,” “Pokemon” (meaning “pocket monster”).
- Buddhist, Hindu, or other Eastern worship-type artifacts.
- Items or books related to Satanism, witchcraft, New Age, zodiac, crescent moon, crystal ball, pyramids, or martial arts.
- Things or books related to astrology, horoscopes, and geomancy, or to certain authors (Edgar Cayce, Jean Dixon, etc.).
- Comic books, rock posters, hard rock music, and materials with obvious images of darkness.
- Pornographic materials of any kind (videos, books, magazines, pay-per-view cable or satellite TV channels).
- Art with obvious demonic representations, such as snakes, spirits, death, gargoyles, skulls, dragons, etc.
- Items or books relating to secret societies like freemasonry (Masons, etc.), Eastern Star, Knights of Malta, Skull and Bones.
- Masonic aprons, books, or rings (oriental yin-and-yang symbols).
- Certain children's books or movies, such as Harry Potter (which encourage children to seek access to spiritual power unauthorized by God).
- Movies with occult messages, extreme violence, excessive foul language, or explicit sexual content.
- Objects specifically cursed by others (items of which you are unaware—unless God reveals them to you).
- Books that focus on sensuality or death and destruction (Steven King).

God places Judgments on the Land that is defiled (Ezra 14:1-20). Judgments are the results of sins on the land. The ground becomes cursed. It ceases to yield its strength (Genesis 4:12).

The land itself “vomits out” its inhabitants (Leviticus 18:25):

- Drought, famine,
- Ecological devastation (natural disasters, earth quakes, floods, hurricanes, tornados, storms),
• War,
• Disease,
• Economic struggles.

Consider these three examples:

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Every city takes on the foundation and personality of the influence of its founders.

The cleansing, redemption, and healing of the land, facilitates the transformation of communities and the Blessing of GOD for His people. It can even be termed a reflection of Heaven on earth (Matthew 6:10). In this way, land is cleansed, redeemed and healed. This in turn, leads to the transformation of communities, which yields the blessings of GOD for His people.

**HAITI**

Haiti used to be very beautiful and fertile land and was referred to as “the pearl of the Antilles”. Two centuries ago Haiti’s leaders made a covenant with Satan. They agreed that if he would deliver Haiti from French rule, they would worship him.

As a result, voodoo became Haiti’s main religion and the land thereafter was cursed. Haiti drastically changed at that point and became the most devastated, poverty-stricken nation in the Western Hemisphere. Such is the curse of idolatry.
• UNITED STATES

Consider the United States:

• Ezekiel 14:3 speaks of “idols in our heart.
• Colossians 3:5 calls covetousness idolatry.

Other sins prevalent in the US include the following: mammon (money, wealth, possessions), pursuit of pleasure, alcohol, illicit sex, drugs, giving one’s time and affections to television, internet or the media, idolizing celebrities, success or status, sports, psychic activity or occult pursuits.

75% of the members of Promise Keepers admitted to problems with pornography - 2/3 were in Body of Messiah leadership positions.

Well-recognized sins of nations in the world include:

• Sins against the first people groups (many treaties were broken, not one was kept).
• Slavery.
• The oppression of the Jews through anti-Semitism.
• The devastations of both World Wars.
• The arrogance of the nations.
• Greed/Materialism.
• Abortions.

Bloodshed.

Nahum 3:1 says “Woe to the city of blood.” Blood here represents innocent bloodshed, murder, and violence resulting in death. Bloodshed pollutes, and defiles and must be atoned for before God’s presence can return. Judgment and devastation are the inevitable consequences of a land being full of bloodshed. Since 1973 there have been 50 million abortions in the US. 1 in 6 are for Evangelical church women. Then Americans wonder why we have drought, floods, hurricane Katrina, and Sandy?

Church problems that may suggest the presence of dark influences:

• Church splits.
• Leadership problems or relationship issues within the board/council/elders.
• Lack of focused vision.
• History of music or worship problems.
• History of constant financial worries.
• Inability to retain Sunday school/youth ministry growth over the years.
• Leadership marriage splits.
• History of leadership indiscretion.
• Hard to maintain spiritual growth.
• Have little success at community outreach and evangelism over the years.
• Historical involvement of other churches in inter-church events.
• Backbiting, gossip, or general discontent.
• History of sickness or illness especially within leadership families.
• Lack of effective conversion growth.

Stewardship of the land can be positive or negative. Stewardship of the land reflects the character and nature of God. Sin defiles the land, and there are ramifications of such sin that need to be addressed by each of us as God's stewards. In this way, land is cleansed, redeemed and healed. This in turn, leads to the transformation of communities, which yields the blessings of God for His people.

The cleansing, redemption and healing of the land, facilitates the transformation of communities and the blessing of God for His people. It can even be termed a reflection of Heaven on earth (Matthew 6:10).

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

There are many testimonies of cities/communities being transformed through prayer and spiritual mapping.

Spiritual mapping attempts to expose the devices Satan has used to curtail GOD's Power, Blessings, and evangelization and allows GOD's people to aim their spiritual weapons against them more accurately.

GOD will enlighten the group of the corporate strongholds and weaknesses in this identification effort.

PART 1: Setting the Body of Messiah FREE

The first place to begin to address territorial spirits affecting our evangelism efforts is our local assembly / fellowship. How do we set our local assembly / local fellowship free?

One of the first steps is identifying the dark spirits that are assigned to our local fellowship.

How can territorial spirits over your local assembly / fellowship be identified?
**SPIRITUAL MAPPING**

Is Spiritual Mapping Biblical?

In **Numbers 13**, GOD commands that scouts be sent out - He gives them authority with clear instructions.

They had to investigate: Geographically, sociologically, and culturally, **Joshua 18:1-10**, the scouts were told to make a survey of the land and write a description of it.

The men mapped out the Land and returned they wrote down what they saw. This resulted in them being proper stewards.

WHY does spiritual darkness seem to linger where it does?
HOW is the enemy at work in our neighbourhood?
WHAT will we do about it? WHAT will be our plan of action and attack?

2 Chronicles 7:14 “If My people, who are called by My name, shall HUMBLE themselves, pray, seek, crave, and require of necessity My Face and TURN from their wicked ways, then will I HEAR from heaven, forgive their sin, and HEAL their land.”

Spiritual mapping is the process of learning what sins have been committed on the land. It is a form of spiritual investigation or spiritual espionage, which gives information from which to pray intelligently against the strongholds which corporate sin has allowed to enter. This is seeing with our spiritual eyes the spiritual forces and strongholds which hold us back from God's purposes, giving somewhat of a "spiritual x-ray of the situation in the heavens" and over the Body of Messiah.

Refer to **Ezekiel 4:1-2** as an example of spiritual mapping, where God instructs Ezekiel to make a map of the city of Jerusalem on a clay tablet, then “lay siege against it.” This obviously refers to spiritual (and not conventional) warfare.

This process is foreign to most local fellowship leaders and members and will require assistance from a knowledgeable and experienced facilitator in order for this to be accomplished satisfactorily. A 3-5 hour workshop for this purpose is strongly recommended before any attempt is made to identify corporate strongholds—or else we will be blinded to Satan’s activities and we will not be able to hear the Lord’s voice (there is too much other “garbage” in the way).

This mapping process is accomplished through several relevant steps, as identified below:

**• STEPS IN SPIRITUAL MAPPING FOR YOUR CHURCH**

a. Secure the unity and support of church/congregational leaders.
b. Secure the unity and support of the congregation as a whole for this effort.
c. Insure the spiritual preparation of the leaders and church members through repentance, humility and holiness.
d. Pray to know God’s plan of attack and timing.

e. Locate the geographical area over which you have spiritual authority—the church lot, or no larger than the block on which it is located (see Warnings discussed at the end of this chapter).

f. Study and research the history and heritage of the land on which the church is located (and the area nearby). At some point in time the church lot was probably a subdivided part of a much larger tract of land. Research in libraries and through courthouse records and old newspapers. Look specifically for points of defilement, such as bloodshed, broken contracts, broken covenants, and racial prejudices.

g. Within your religious movement, learn the history of your particular congregation. What were their trials and how did they come about? Are there any clues as to individual or corporate sins that may cause present-day oppression?

h. Gather a group of congregational leaders together for a time of prayer and discernment. Utilize an outside facilitator to help the group discuss together the redemptive gifts (strengths) of the congregation as well as the areas of dark strongholds (weaknesses) that may exist (in the past and in the present) over the congregation. Expect the Holy Spirit to give insight. Be aware that God is more interested in your church being set free than you are. (The book “Setting Your Church Free” is very helpful in addressing this step.)

i. Pray over the list of “possible church problems” above to see which ones the Lord will identify as yours.

j. Ask individuals with the gift of intercession and discernment to pray for your congregation to help identify any oppression that exists. These persons may or may not be members of your congregation. If not, invite them to your meetings when undertaking this process.

k. If you discern that there are spirits over the church land or congregation, it is helpful to know their proper names (such as, Kali, Iara, Pele) and/or functional names—emphasizing what they do (for example, a spirit of division causes division, etc.). Those who pray to deliver people from demonic oppression have long-since learned, generally speaking, that results are much greater when the evil spirits are identified and specifically commanded to leave in the Name of Jesus, rather than ministering with a vague prayer, as in "Lord, if there are any spirits here, we command them all to leave in Your Name." There seems to be more power in a name than many of us in our culture might think.

l. Identify the redemptive gifts of the church. What is God’s plan for the church.

Spiritual mapping attempts to expose the devices Satan has used to curtail God’s power, blessings, and evangelization and allows God’s people to aim their spiritual weapons against them more accurately. God will enlighten the group of the corporate strongholds and weaknesses in this identification effort.

How to remove oppressive spiritual influences.
Once the dark influences over our church have been identified, how do we remove them? How do we minister freedom within a corporate Body of Messiah? In the same way we minister freedom to an individual:

- Find the entrance that allowed the demon(s) to infiltrate through spiritual mapping,
- And close it through confession, repentance, renunciation, and deliverance from evil spirits and releasing healing into each relationship, whether individual or corporate.

Spiritual warfare begins at a personal level and escalates through layers of increasing difficulty, from personal and family to church life and beyond, into the city and country. The process of removal must begin with personal confession and repentance and should precede the “Spiritual mapping” effort mentioned above.

1) PERSONAL REPENTANCE

Evil spirits seek to control a personality or character. They find their entrance into a person's life through past generational curses and sins, current sins and iniquities, idolatry, victimization, occult objects or practices, trauma at an early age, unforgiveness, and forms of personal defilement, such as immorality.

When these occur, a door is opened in our spiritual hedge of protection (refer to Job 1:6-12) that allows the dark influences to seek control of that part of our spirit or personality. Almost always the person is not aware a door is open or that they are influenced, because Satan blinds us to our own sin and dwells and works in darkness. Our spirits then experience the same “spiritual pollution” spoken of previously for churches and lands. We must be clean ourselves first before we can expect to successfully clean our church and church land.

The process is the same for personal sins as it is for corporate sins:

- We identify the sin(s).
- We confess and repent of these sins to God and to our brethren (1 John 1:9).
- We pray the doors of our hedge be closed.

Our own sins seriously restrict our spiritual hearing and seeing. At this point, be prepared for resistance. Most Christians do not believe they can be influenced or inhabited by evil spirits.

Our experience in over 400 prayer counseling sessions, however, indicates that over 90% of those who come to us have dark influences from within oppressing them. Leaders should go first, in humbling themselves through the confession of their faults. Usually spontaneous outbursts of worship follow this time of repentance.

Success will not come until the principle of agreement (based on harmonious relationships) is employed. "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand” (Mark 3:24).
Be aware that spiritual authority is present in direct proportion to the harmony of relationships among the believers as they move together toward a common goal.

2) PERSONAL DELIVERANCE

Before any effort is made toward redeeming the church/congregational body (corporate redemption), or land on which the building rests, there must be a cleansing of the individual church members, using the instructions contained in this study. There must also be unity among the church members about the vision of cleansing the church and the land on which it sits.

It will be impossible to retain the redemption of the church, if the individual church members continue to bring personal contamination into the church building. Even if the church is freed from defilement, it will revert if the people who worship there remain defiled. Individual deliverance must precede corporate deliverance. Delivering the individual church members may take time, but is absolutely required. The process can be expedited by preaching and teaching deliverance and inner healing from the pulpit, and having a visiting minister who is experienced in “group” deliverance come for a weekend healing seminar to pray for freedom for the group as a whole. Do not attempt to skip this vital first step. If so, the corporate efforts will fail. In the process of teaching/preaching on individual deliverance, the vision of corporate deliverance can be shared. See further instructions in the section on Personal Repentance below.

3) PRAY TO BIND THE STRONGMAN

Gather the information from the “spiritual mapping” process above about the strongholds over the church, and the redemptive church gifts. Hold a corporate meeting mediated through the leadership of an experienced facilitator. Begin by praying and claiming the protection of *Psalms 91* and *1 John 5:18*.

(This may be done by persons in turn, or in a Korean style prayer where all are praying out loud at the same time, sometimes quite loudly. Refer also to *Matthew 12:28-29*, *Mark 3:27*, *Luke 11:21-22*.

*Pray to bind the strongman* - it is to our advantage to know who the strongman is in order to properly bind him and divide his spoils (*Matthew 12:29*, *Mark 3:27*, *Luke 11:21-22*). Spiritual mapping helps us identify the strongman. In some cases, this process will give us a series of characteristics that will guide us directly to the territorial prince or power. In other cases, we find ourselves facing a flesh-and-blood person whom Satan is using. And in still other cases, we find ourselves face-to-face with a corrupt social structure.

4) IDENTIFICATIONAL REPENTANCE

Once the personal cleansing has taken place, and the strongholds identified over the church have been bound, the group is ready to proceed with the step of identificational repentance.

This process occurs when a person identifies the corporate sins of current or previous generations and is willing to stand in their stead to repent for them (remit the sins).
Remember, “[Now having received the Holy Spirit, and being led and directed by Him] if you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of anyone, they are retained.” (John 20:23).

Sin can be recognized as having two parts:

- The sin itself,
- And the iniquity or consequences of the sin.

(For example, if a drunk driver has an accident and injures someone, the sin is on the head of the drunk driver but the consequences of the sin accrue to those injured or killed.)

Exodus 20:5 informs us, “… visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.”

Within this Scripture, the children did not sin—but the consequences of their father’s sin follows them through a generational curse until the original sin(s) are repented of and covered by the Blood of Jesus.

This does not mean that each person is not personally responsible before God for his or her own individual sins. Jesus took upon Himself our sins and died on the cross for us that we might be made free. We, likewise, are able to stand in the stead of another (person or group, living or dead) and pray for their repentance, asking that the consequences of the original sin be removed.

See examples of this practice below:

2 Samuel 21:1, 3 “There was a three-year famine in the days of David, year after year; and David inquired of the Lord. The Lord replied, It is on account of Saul and his bloody house, for he put to death the Gibeonites. So David said to the Gibeonites, What shall I do for you? How can I make atonement that you may bless the Lord’s inheritance?”

- DANIEL

Daniel repented on behalf of his ancestors and prayed for corporate sin.

Daniel 9:5-7 “We have sinned and dealt perversely and done wickedly and have rebelled, turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances. 6 Neither have we listened to and heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. 7 O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us confusion and shame of face, as at this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, to those who are near and those who are far off, through all the countries to which You have driven them because of the [treacherous] trespass which they have committed against You.”

- NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah confessed the sins of Israel.
Nehemiah 1:6,7 “Let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to listen to the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You day and night for the Israelites, Your servants, confessing the sins of the Israelites which we have sinned against You. Yes, I and my father’s house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, statutes, and ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.”

Nehemiah 9:2 “… the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers.”

Refer to other scriptures characterizing identificational repentance (Ezra 9:5-15 and Jeremiah 3:25, 14:7 and 20)

5) CONFESS CORPORATE SINS

One or more persons (in turn) can stand and confess the corporate sins. If a representative of an offended group is available, it is beneficial to confess directly to that person and ask for forgiveness publicly, such as in the case of segregation, discrimination, or sins against the first nation people in the country. If unforgiveness exists against current members, it is most beneficial to publicly ask for forgiveness.

When remitting the sins, Nehemiah and Daniel confessed their personal sins as well as the corporate sins of their people. Those who remit the sins of others must not fail to identify personally with the sins that were or are being committed, even though they might not personally be as guilty of them as they are of other sins.

6) PRAY THE SINS BE REMITTED

As the leader directs, the group may pray individually that the sins be remitted or they may pray all together at the same time. Any strongholds or corporate sins need to be identified and prayed for.

When we have discerned the activity of a principality with a particular characteristic, we need to cultivate the opposite characteristic—not only through resisting temptation but by demonstrating positive action.

Is the enemy tempting us to be fearful and stingy? We would come against this greed with hilarious generosity. We’d overcome pride with humility and lust with purity; we’d overcome fear with faith and lethargy with diligence.

Along with resisting temptation and taking positive action, we also are responsible for releasing God's power when we declare His Word aloud. Within our right of dominion is the privilege of speaking into existence the purposes of God as He reveals His mind to us. We speak in the Name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, because of the shed Blood of Jesus, with the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

7) BREAK EVERY DEMONIC COVENANT

It is likely the land you are trying to redeem has been cursed through pagan and/or satanic covenants.
It has to be set free from these ties by symbolic acts that cancel corresponding rites performed when the covenants were first established. It is important to break every covenant that has been made over particular places and to replace them by establishing a Covenant of God over such places. The dark covenants can be broken by the power of words spoken by those responsible for the land. The new covenant can be established by the power of words and using the symbols of wine and bread at the Table of the Lord.

8) WALK THE BUILDING AND PROPERTY

Symbolically walk around the building seven times. Organize the group into ranks similar to Joshua when Jericho was taken.

First the praisers, praising the Lord; then the intercessors crying out for the sins of those that contaminated the land to be forgiven, then the pastors worshiping, symbolizing the presence of God in the Ark of the Covenant. Then should come those who poured the “fruit of the vine" oil as a drink offering to heal the land and break the covenants.

- ANOINTING WITH OIL

God commands Moses to build a Tabernacle after the pattern in Heaven. After all the elements have been put together, then Moses has a seven-day feast where they sanctify all of these objects and dedicate them to the work of GOD. He then anoints them so that they are set-apart for Holy purposes.

**Exodus 25:9** “Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.”

**Exodus 39:32** “Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting was finished; according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so the Israelites had done.”

**Exodus 40:9** “You shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and shall consecrate it and all its furniture, and it shall be holy. You shall anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils; and consecrate (set apart for God) the altar, and the altar shall be most holy. 11 And you shall anoint the laver and its base and consecrate it. Thus did Moses; according to all that the Lord commanded him, so he did.”

We now apply this principle:

Anoint the building doors and windows. Then follows those who scatter salt (see section below). Finally, comes the remaining members of the congregation shouting against all the demons, “we have overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony as we have denied our lives until death”.

The group should be singing, singing in the Spirit, shouting, waving flags inscribed with Bible verses, and placing small rocks inscribed with Bible verses around the perimeter, all help to celebrate freedom of the land.
Shouting, clapping hands, and raising hands are powerful weapons of spiritual warfare. As the group walks around the building/property let them shout Daniel 2:23 or other Scriptures of victory, and clap their hands as in Ezekiel 6:11.

Verbally decree all covenants broken and a new covenant with God established. If there are those in the group with a prophetic gift, let them prophesy life and blessings over the land / ground.

9) STAKE THE PROPERTY

Literally using Isaiah 33:20-23, some congregations have found it helpful to physically stake the corners of their property. Obtain stakes (2" x 2") for each corner of the property and write scriptures upon them, such as, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (Jas. 4:7).

Then take a group to each corner of the property and pray prayers of protection; pray the power of the Blood of Jesus and dedication of the grounds. Drive the stakes into the ground to symbolically secure a "spiritual canopy" and to define the boundaries of the land dedicated to God. Give notice to the adversary that everything on the land and the people are committed to God.

10) THE TABLE OF THE LORD (COVENANT MEAL)

Read the chapter on the Lord’s Supper. Hold a worship service for all church members in which the Table of the Lord is the focus. Pour out a small amount of the blessed wine and bread on the ground as a symbol / prophetic act of the Body and Blood of Jesus being poured out for us. Have an extended time of praise and worship.

11) USE OF SALT

- Some intercessors use the covenant of salt.
- Salt is a symbol of perpetuity (2 Chronicles 13:5).
- Use of salt means that the new covenant is sealed forever.
- Old Testament sacrifices and offerings were sealed with salt (Leviticus 2:13).
- Salt was also used to bring barrenness to an enemy’s land (Judges 9:45). Salt was used to purify and heal the water (2 Kings 2:21-22).
- Salt was used when a baby was born to heal the umbilical cord location and a sign that the parents were covenanting with God that the baby would remain God’s and go straight and true for all his life (Ezekiel 16:4).
- It was a symbol of God’s faithfulness, eternalness and goodness.

Summary in setting your local assembly free.

- Satan’s kingdom is a limited hierarchy of evil spirits, with order, authority, and a chain of command.
• High-ranking, supernatural principalities and powers (Ephesians 6) seek to dominate geographic areas, cities, peoples, and subcultures.

• While God's Word tells believers to treat such beings with respect, it also commands us to take them captive, to bind the strongman, to plunder his goods, and to tear down the rule and authority of the evil one within our own area of influence and authority (see warnings discussed at the end of this section.).

• We, as believers, are given authority to overcome the enemy as a result of Jesus' victory.

• We must strategically apply God's Word and power based on discernment of the unseen realm.

• We need to overcome the enemy before we employ methods of ministry among the people.

• Our efforts should be covered with a great deal of praise and worship. In the days of King Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20), God defeated Judah's enemies through the singing of praise instead of through direct military action:

  2 Chronicles 20:21-22 “When he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers to sing to the Lord and praise Him in their holy [priestly] garments as they went out before the army, saying, Give thanks to the Lord, for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever! And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir who had come against Judah, and they were [self-] slaughtered;”

A sure way to get rid of darkness is to turn on the light. Establish the Lord's Presence in the midst of His people through praise (Psalm 22:3).

• Travail until birth. The success of a spiritual victory for your local assembly is directly affected by two spiritual conditions: (1) the intensity of your desire and (2) the size of your faith. That which is conceived of God will eventually come to birth. Maintain a holy stubbornness when praying for breakthrough. Seasons of harvest will come. New ministries will be birthed. However, these things will not occur instantly. God's plan is always longer than our plan.

• Remember, spiritual warfare is not a goal in itself but a tool for more effective evangelism and ministry. Our goal is not exclusively to expose satanic strongholds and bind principalities and powers; our goal is to restore God's Glory to every detail of His creation and purpose. The real battle for effective evangelism and ministry is a spiritual battle.

• Plan for the future. Your local assembly has a corporate past, present, and future. Your part of God's family has a gift, a promise, and a territory to take. It is essential for you to understand what God has called your congregation to be and to do, if you are to successfully complete the Word God has given for your people and your local assembly.
We have already established that God loves the land, and that there is a relationship between what happens on the land, and the fruit that the land produces. If the land has been blessed, the land will produce abundant crops and beauty. If the land has been defiled and cursed, the land will produce poverty, crime, death, and barrenness. The spiritual law of sowing and reaping applies to the land as well as to individuals. We reap from the land what has been previously sown.

Once we have set our individual local assembly and its members free, and have participated in a congregational redemption of the building and the land on which it sits, we can then begin to think of redeeming larger tracts of land for God such as neighbourhoods, towns and regions. However the Warnings listed at the end of this study should receive close attention. Do not exceed your spiritual authority. The bigger the area of influence, the more prayer warriors required, and the more unity and cooperation is required among the congregations located in the designed area.

Examples of redeeming the land from Scripture:

- **Joshua** commanded to destroy idols (Exodus 23:27, 34:13).
- **Gideon** commanded to cut down idols (Judges 6).
- **Samuel** redeems the land (1 Samuel 7:3, 4, 6, 13).
- **David** redeems the land (2 Samuel 21:1-14, three year famine, Gideonites).
- **Elijah** and the prophets of Baal. They had to die to redeem the land.
- **1 Kings 18** - Israelite kings were told many times to remove the idols and high places previously established, as a prerequisite for receiving God’s Blessings.

**IDENTIFYING THE PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS OVER AN AREA**

We identify the territorial spirits over a town, city or area the same way we identify them over our local fellowship or neighbourhood, by spiritual mapping or “scanning” to determine why the spirits have permission to remain in the area. You will be looking for reasons the land is defiled.

**CLEANSING OF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH/LOCAL ASSEMBLY**

It is like doing a bloodline cleansing of the local assembly. Make a list of all previous pastors and leaders in the local assembly - past sins of all leaders must be confessed. The building / place / office / local assembly is defiled because of the sin. Cut the local assembly loose from any connections to the second heaven. Deal with all false prophecies spoken over the local assembly. Ask forgiveness for any deception that has been preached, false teachings and leading the sheep of the Lord astray. Cleanse the pulpit, the instruments of worship, the altar, and all the offices and rooms used for the various local assembly activities.
• ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF DEFILEMENT IN TOWNS, CITIES, AND REGIONS

In addition to the suggestions for successful spiritual mapping listed above for the local assembly, there are other sources of possible concerns when scanning towns, cities and regions for sources of defilement, which may not be considerations in mapping areas of the local assembly.

Some suggestions:

• How the city and places of interest in the city were named,
• The city’s coat of arms if it has one,
• Any traditions of “heraldry” (a created system of designs for the coat of arms of each house, kingdom, country, province etc.) and
• The moral and/or religious tone of an Area’s territorial heritage.

• ADDITIONAL PLACES OF SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE

Those that participate in spiritual warfare prayer have learned the importance of certain geographical features that are places of spiritual influence.

Mountains or High Places

Mountains are places that are not only spiritual symbols but locations where both the devil and God have often been worshipped. Every time God revealed the blueprints of His design, He chose a man and He chose a mountain. Consider Noah, Moses, and David. The Bible mentions “high places” 90 times, most of which are instructions by the Lord to remove the idols from high places in Israelite lands.

Rivers, Streams, Fountains, Seas, Swamps and Lagoons

Water is a symbol of spiritual power. God speaks of the flowing of His Spirit as a river of living water. Satan also uses rivers and streams as seats of his influence and power. The Bible speaks of Leviathan being a monster of the sea (Isaiah 27:1). The Bible refers to swamp land or pools of water in several places that seems to indicate that swamps are accursed places (Isaiah 14:23, Ezekiel 47:11).

Forests

Many pagan people have long considered forests to be magical places. They are hiding places for witches and places of witchcraft. Forests are strategic places, being natural refuges for construction of strongholds.

Ley Lines

Most cultures have traditions and words to describe the straight, often geometric alignments that ran across ancient landscapes, connecting both natural and sacred prehistoric structures together. Usually the names given to represent these invisible lines are translated to an equivalent of 'spirit', 'dream', or 'energy' paths.
However, apart from the physical presence of the sites themselves, proving the presence of a 'connection' between them is something that researchers have found notoriously elusive.

**Steps in spiritual warfare for your neighbourhood, town or city:**

- Lead your congregational members in personal repentance and deliverance
- Set your church and property free using the instructions above.
- Share your burden with other congregations in your neighbourhood or town.
- Gather together a group of spiritual leaders/pastors from the congregations in the area.
- Gather the pastors together for personal repentance and deliverance, and forgiveness of one another.
- Do personal repentance and deliverance in each of the collective churches
- Meet the collective leadership group often. Prepare the collective group with prayer and fasting
- Ask God to show you the area He wants you to pray over.
- Hold a mass meeting of the congregations to share the plans and ask for their support.
- Make sure there are one or more persons on the leadership team with a highly developed gift of discerning of spirits. They will be indispensable in helping to identify the territorial spirits, and in hearing the direction from the Lord in the process.
- Delegate the process of spiritual mapping.
- The level of spiritual victory depends upon (1) the intensity of your desire and (2) the size of your faith.
- Do not (individually) try to pray against territorial spirits; normally it requires a whole church (or a group of churches in a specific area) to provide sufficient spiritual power to overcome the darkness (see material on Warnings" at the end of this section).
- Getting the exact name(s) of the spirits at any level is not crucial but it is important to be aware of the specific nature or type of oppression.
- The higher the rank of the spirit, the more spiritual power is needed to bind it.
- We must initiate the action. Every verse in the Bible dealing with warfare prayer indicates that the action begins on earth.
- Warfare prayer is best done by groups of highly motivated, spiritual intercessors.
- Ask the Lord for the names or nature of the oppressive spirits.
- Repent for and confess the sins of those who lived and died before in that particular location.

Remember that setting a neighbourhood, town or city free is only part of the process of redemption. It brings the land from negative to zero. Praise, worship, and other positive spiritual activities are needed to move the land from zero to the positive.
What is transforming revival?

The transformation that occurs after land is healed is sometimes called transforming revival, as revival and renewal usually follows land redemption.

Transforming revival - is a corporate encounter with a supernatural God that is tangible, measurable, and observable by all who live at the visitation location. God’s presence brings accompanying fruit that characterizes His Nature and His Heavenly Kingdom with transformational changes happening at every level—individuals, families, local fellowships, society, and land.

Refers to the entire process of change a community undergoes as a result of God’s manifest presence and subsequent spiritual awakening. It impacts individuals, churches and society.

Involves an acute awareness of God and His Holiness that changes the spiritual climate of a community or region with transformational results. It’s a manifestation of God’s Glory, love, wisdom, and power to people who have intentionally abandoned themselves to prepare for His Divine presence.

Is a significant invasion of God and His Kingdom to people and the community where they live. It extends beyond personal salvation to honoring Jesus as the Lord over spheres of society such as education, business, finances, and the land. In transforming revival, God is not just filling big buildings with people, He is also bringing redemption and His Kingdom to every sphere—family, church, society, and the physical land itself. This is a radical new dimension in revival!

Is God’s salvation destroying the works of the devil; His extravagant grace replacing poverty and lack; His justice conquering injustice; and His love bringing life to the brokenness of society. It is reclaiming part of the earth and bestowing the Kingdom of God.

Extends beyond personal salvation to honoring Jesus as the Lord over spheres of society such as education, business, finances, and the land. In transforming revival, God is not just filling big buildings with people, He is also bringing redemption and His Kingdom to every sphere—family, church, society, and the physical land itself. This is a radical new dimension in revival!

Produces objective evidence that God and His Kingdom are impacting the visited communities with dramatic changes in their spiritual atmosphere and physical environment. This change includes broad-scale salvation in the community, deliverance from demonic oppression, miraculous reduction in addictions and abuse, and many times supernatural transformation of the land itself. Is God’s restoration of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, destroying the works of the devil.
His extravagant grace replacing poverty and lack, His justice conquering injustice, and His Love bringing life to the brokenness of society and to the land. Is followed by a visitation by the Lord in response to a formal invitation by the community in the form of intentional preparation by desperate believers. Occurs as a result of profound obedience to remove every obstacle to God’s Holy presence.

- **WHAT ARE THE INDICATORS OF TRANSFORMING REVIVAL?**

- ✓ Political leaders publicly acknowledge their sin and dependence on God (2 Kings 11:17-18; 23:2; Jonah 3:6-9).
- ✓ New laws, curricula, and business practices are put into effect (2 Chronicles 19:4-10; Nehemiah 10:31).
- ✓ The natural environment is restored to its original life-nurturing state (Leviticus 26:4-5; II Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 34:27; 36:29-30).
- ✓ Economic conditions improve and lead to a discernible lessening of poverty (Chronicles 17:3-5; Psalm 144:14; Isaiah 60:5; Amos 9:13).
- ✓ There is a marked change in social entertainment and vices as Kingdom values are integrated into the rhythm of daily life (Ezra 10:1-4; Nehemiah 8:10, 16; Ecclesiastes 10:17; Acts 19:17-20).
- ✓ Volunteerism increases as Christians recognize their responsibility to heal and undergird the community (Isaiah 58:10-12; 61:1-4).
- ✓ The spiritual nature of the growing socio-political renewal becomes a hot topic in the secular media (1 Chronicles 20:29; Nehemiah 6:16; Isaiah 55:5; Ezekiel 36:36; Acts 19:17)
- ✓ Overwhelmed by the goodness of God, grateful Christians take the embers of revival into surrounding communities and nations (1 Chronicles 17:9; Isaiah 61:6; Acts 11:20-26)
- ✓ Unusual manifestations of the Spirit (Acts 2) sheds fear of the manifestations of the Presence of the Ruach (Holy Spirit).

- **EIGHT COMPONENTS OF TRANSFORMATION REVIVAL**

1. **Forerunner Intercession** - usually God touches a small group of people to begin to pray. Eventually many people will be praying as “great supplications ascend from home after home in the area”.

2. **Fullness of Time** - when God answers is up to God. We must wait on His timing.  **Habakuk 2:3** “wait for it: it will certainly come and will not delay” requires faith and persistence. God wants to see if you really are serious.
3. **Extraordinary Unity in Prayer** – the power of agreement Matthew 18:19-20. First the burden falls on a few forerunner intercessors, then to a broader base of people in unity pouring out their prayers together. “They prayed in one accord.” (Acts 1:14) Until the answer came.

4. **Covenant Prayer** – persistence in praying the promises and having faith. Standing on the covenants of God with Abraham (Genesis 12, 15, 17).

5. **Divine Magnetism** – in revival people come from everywhere. It spreads like fire. It has a supernatural drawing power. People are drawn there.

6. **Presence and Holiness** – a community saturated with God. The presence of God is everywhere, in homes, the marketplace, churches, places of entertainment and by the roadside. It is an all-pervasive spiritual atmosphere. Revival comes with a deep consciousness of God’s Holiness that resulted in a solemn fear of God and deep conviction of sin among believers and unbelievers alike.

7. **Community Transformation** – people begin to spontaneously pray and repent of their sins. Lives are changed, marriages are healed, families restored, drinking houses are closed, jails are empty, the land becomes fruitful. Pastors and spiritual leaders began to see their community through the Eyes of Jesus. Social and governmental change takes place.

Each community that has attracted the presence of God has done so by humbling themselves before the Lord, taking responsibility for their desperate condition, repenting of their sins corporately and returning to covenant and intimacy with God. Societal transformation flows out of a season of preparation and invitation by God’s people in response to His initiative.

Participants in supernatural community transformation are keenly aware that the systemic problems communities are facing cannot be resolved with human wisdom or methodologies. Human strategies will never produce supernatural change. Man’s solutions are temporary at best and usually flawed.

The devastation prevalent in our communities is rooted in spiritual causes and therefore cannot be resolved by a man center approach.

If generations have offended the Lord by continuing in sins like immorality, idolatry, and shedding of innocent blood, the darkness and defilement that flows for a community cannot be remedied by natural efforts.

John the Baptist, Jesus, and the twelve disciples were to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God i.e. the Kingdom of Heaven is near. The moving in of God’s Kingdom is demonstrated when the sick are healed, the dead are raised, the lepers are cleansed, and demons are cast out. Transformation is the Kingdom of God and the Will of God in Heaven being manifest on the earth.

**PRAYER POINTS**

1. One or more persons (in turn) can stand and confess the corporate sins. If a representative of an offended group is available, it is beneficial to confess directly to that person and ask for forgiveness publicly.
2. When we have discerned the activity of a principality with a particular characteristic, we need to cultivate the opposite characteristic—not only through resisting temptation but by demonstrating positive action.

3. It is likely the land you are trying to redeem has been cursed through pagan and/or satanic covenants. It has to be set free from these ties by symbolic acts that cancel corresponding rites performed when the covenants were first established.

Break demonic covenants made over places and replace with GOD’S Covenant!!

4. Anoint with oil. Verbally decree all covenants broken and a new Covenant with GOD established. If there are those in the group with a prophetic gift, let them prophesy life and blessings over the land/ground.

5. Literally using Isaiah 33:20-23, some congregations have found it helpful to physically stake the corners of their property.

6. Use the Table of the LORD - you can include the use of salt!!
Use of salt means that the new Covenant is sealed forever.

**Conclusion.**

Revival is not an end in itself. God does not intend for revival to end with the church. He intends for the manifestation of His presence and power to affect the society in which revival occurs and the land on which they live.

> “Transformation is a neighbourhood, city or nation whose values and institutions have been overrun by the grace and presence of God. It is a place where Divine Fire has not merely been summoned - it has fallen.

Transformation is society in which natural evolutionary change has been disrupted by invasive supernatural power and a culture that has been impacted comprehensively and undeniably by the Kingdom of God.

It is a location where Kingdom values are celebrated publicly and passed on to future generations!” George Otis, Jr. (from IFTP Core Definitions and Values)

**Warnings.**

One of the most prominent unresolved issues among members of the Spiritual Warfare Network is: “on which, if any, of the three levels we are given Biblical authority for intentional ministry?”

Some feel we should not advocate engaging spiritual forces that may be occupying geographical areas, buildings, animals, human social networks, churches or physical objects, such as trees, mountains, or idols. Nor to do strategic level warfare prayer to name, rebuke, or otherwise address so called territorial spirits. Others prefer to give literal interpretation to such sayings of Jesus as Luke 10:19 “Behold I give you the authority ... over all the power of the enemy” ... and do confrontational spiritual warfare on all levels (see Colossians 1:16-20, John 16:15).
It is imperative that individuals do not take on this task alone. There needs to be a community pastor or Christian leader who is willing and able to call other churches into the effort as well.

The most successful redemptions are those where pastors and church members from a high percentage of churches in the area join together in the process.

Therefore the first requirement is that of unifying a number of churches and church leaders in the spiritual warfare process. This process can take a minimum of several weeks to several months, or even years.

Don’t try to omit any steps or take any short cuts else the results will be limited.

**Three major warnings:**

1. Never invade the devil’s turf without clear orders from the Lord. An old saying truthfully acknowledges, “There is no safer place than in the center of God’s Will; there is no more dangerous place than outside of it.” When not spiritually protected, the darkness can overcome not only the situation but also the individuals involved in the situation. Move out of the enemy’s territory when the battle is beyond you.

2. Don’t venture beyond your own area of spiritual influence and authority without specific direction from God. In other words, don’t pray over what you don’t have legal ground to pray over.

3. Don’t pray over someone else’s house without their involvement and permission. Don’t pray over a community without involvement of most of the churches in that community. Doing so removes you from the protective spiritual canopy and exposes you to the enemy’s weapons. Doing so also encounters a sin of presumption—of making an attempt to extend God’s Kingdom without His specific direction.

You have authority to pray for your local fellowship, but not the city or strongholds of the city (such as porno shops) unless God so directs.

Don’t focus on the darkness more than you focus on the light. While some consideration must be given to the powers of darkness in this process, the more attention they receive, the more they will collect.

Praying and doing spiritual battle have to be a work led by the Holy Spirit. We must not enter the spiritual world in a contributing manner and without direction.

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See the book “Authority And Ranking In The Kingdom Of GOD”
Seven Blessings of God on the land.

Leviticus 26:4-10 presents seven categories of blessings that God longs to bestow on His people when they live, walk, and work in obedience to Him.

1. **Ecological Health** – Leviticus 26:4 says, “I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees of the field their fruit.”

2. **Economic Health** – Leviticus 26:5 says, “Your threshing season will overlap with grape harvest, and your grape harvest will overlap with the season of planting grain. You will eat your fill and live securely in your own land.”

3. **Personal Security** – Leviticus 26:6 says, “I will give you peace in the land, and you will be able to sleep with no cause for fear.”

4. **Civil Security** – Leviticus 26:6 says, “I will rid the land of wild animals and keep your enemies out of your land.”

5. **International Security** – Leviticus 26:7 says, “In fact, you will chase own your enemies and slaughter them with your swords.” Leviticus 26:8 says, “Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand! All your enemies will fall beneath your sword.”

6. **Honor and Growth** – Leviticus 26:9 says, “I will look favorably upon you, making you fertile and multiplying your people. And I will fulfill My covenant with you.”

7. **Innovation and Creativity** – Leviticus 26:10 says, “You will have such a surplus of crops that you will need to clear out the old grain to make room for the new harvest!”

God’s further promises to His people for their obedience are written in:

**Leviticus 26:11-13** “I will put My Tabernacle among you, and I will not abhor you. I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.”
PRAYER FOR CLEANSING OF YOUR HOME

As you pray over your home I recommend taking oil and anointing every doorway and window throughout the house. As you go from room to room say the following first prayer (room by room prayer).

When finished praying for the whole house in a central area or outside (or both) with the second prayer.

You will also want to remove all occult objects that you are aware of from your property if you truly desire to live in a sanctified home.

1. Room by Room Prayer

Lord, You said in Your Word that he that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the Shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1).

I declare that this room is spiritually transitioned into Your secret place and now abides under Your Shadow.

I repent on behalf of every sin committed in this house including but not limited to fornication, idolatry, adultery, homosexuality, theft, coveting, drunkenness, revelry, and extortion (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

I declare that this property is now being transitioned under the jurisdiction of the Kingdom of God and will from henceforth receive the blessings thereof. There shall no evil befall me neither shall any plague come near this dwelling (Psalm 91:10).

I apply the Blood of Y’shua (Jesus) over this home and every person that presently resides in it because we overcame the devil by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony (Revelation 12:11).

I now speak to every spirit that has taken up habitation in this dwelling place and I take authority over you according to my authority in Jesus Christ.

I cast you out, and command you to go to where the Lord Jesus sends you.

2. Speak this Over the Entire Home

To every evil spirit that has held influence over this home, I serve you an eviction notice and I divorce you from this property now in the mighty name of Jesus. If there are any hidden objects providing rights anywhere in this house or on this property, I declare that they are immediately exposed, that they are absolved of their demonic power and that all rights are cancelled in the Name of Jesus.

I speak over my home and declare that it is a habitation of righteousness, and a dwelling place for the presence of God (Exodus 15:2).
I close off former satanic access points and I decree that every portal and window of access to the demonic realm is now being shut and sealed in the Name of Y’shua (Jesus).

I declare that the Lord will now be a Wall of Fire round about this home (Zechariah 2:5).

Thank You Lord that this home is now being surrounded by angels above and below and against every dimensional access point in the Name of Y’shua (Jesus).

Lord I thank You for delivering my house and property from the curse, for it is written that Y’shua (Jesus) became a curse for us (Galatians 3:13), and I thank You for filling this home with Your Glorious Presence.

AMEN!!