

REVIVAL NEWS

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[Declaring the whole counsel of God](#) [Bulletin – Article 11 – September 21, 2024](#)

THE VISION – PART 3

This is a continuation of the previous Bulletins – Article 9 & 10 – The Vision – Part 1 & 2. The teaching was shared in the January 2024 Training School at SHILOH and is adapted from the notes. It focuses on sharing aspects of the apostolic vision from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. The apostle Paul provides a most magnificent and victorious view of God’s purpose in Christ through the church in the letter to the Ephesians. The plan is laid out. As we understand this plan, we will become more effective in administering God’s will in the earth and running with the gospel! Let the apostolic vision grip your heart and be captured by the splendour of the riches of the glory of this mystery being revealed by the Spirit to us.

Aspects of the Vision from Ephesians

8. Ephesians 2:19-22 – the vision is a house for God built according to the pattern

The apostolic vision is that there is a house being built for God and there is a pattern to follow! Firstly, we must know our identity. We Gentile believers are to know that we are **“no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”** Ephesians 2:19. The household of God is made up of Jews and Gentiles, each with equal status in God’s eyes; we are **“fellow citizens”** and **“members of the household of God”**. We have a standing with God. We are members of the family! We are in the house!

Secondly, we are to know we have **“been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone”** Ephesians 2:20. There is a house being built! It is built on a foundation! The foundation is **“of the apostles and prophets”**. We need apostles and prophets to lay the foundation for the house of God to be built. There is **“no other foundation that anyone can lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus**

Christ” 1 Corinthians 3:11. True apostles and prophets lay the foundation of Jesus Christ, bringing the revelation of who He is and emphasising the centrality of Christ Jesus and the pre-eminence He is to have in the house of God, **“which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” 1 Timothy 3:15.** The foundation truth of Jesus Christ laid by apostles and prophets is that He is the **“Christ, the Son of the Living God” Matthew 16:16.** Jesus said that upon this **Rock** of revelation truth, **“I will build My Church” Matthew 16:18.** This is the revelation that true apostles and prophets need to bring in every generation!

Thirdly, **“Jesus Christ Himself is the Chief Cornerstone”!** Not only is Jesus Christ the foundation Rock on which to build, He is also the Chief Cornerstone. As the Chief Cornerstone the whole building is measured from and into Him. We are to come to **“the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Ephesians 4:13.** This house will be a manifestation of Christ Himself! He is in all and through all the house, from the foundation to the cornerstone, all the way through to when **“He shall bring forth the Capstone with shouts of “Grace, grace to it!” Zechariah 4:7b.** The Stone which the builders of that generation rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone!

Fourthly, now that the Chief Cornerstone Himself has been laid, it is in Him that **“the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord” Ephesians 2:21.** We are now growing in Him! We are being built into Him, **“to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Ephesians 4:13.** We **“coming to Him as to a Living Stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house...” 1 Peter 2:4-5.** This is the vision - a spiritual house of living stones, becoming like the Living Stone Himself. A **holy temple in the Lord.** We are to be as the **inner sanctuary** for the Lord. We are to be as the **Most Holy Place**, a place for His glory to abide!

Finally, it is in Him **“you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit” Ephesians 2:22.** The apostolic vision is for there to be a dwelling place for God in the Spirit. God is Spirit. He wants to dwell in a house, a body, a temple! This is a living temple. Jesus individually was that Body on the earth for about thirty-three years. He was **“God manifested in the flesh” 1 Timothy 3:16.** He was God dwelling in a body on the earth; **“the fullness of the Godhead dwelling bodily” Colossians 2:9.** Now the body is a many-membered Body, the Body of Christ (1 Cor.12:12). We are the dwelling place of God in the Spirit. God’s vision is summed up in these words, **“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God” Revelation 21:3.**

The dwelling place of God is where **“two or three gather together in My Name, I Am there in the midst of them” Matthew 18:20.** It is the saints coming

together in His name, being built according to the pattern! This is the camp of God, where the abiding Presence, the Shekinah Glory can abide and rest. The glory is to fill the house!

The apostolic vision is to be built together as a dwelling place of God in the Spirit, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, in Christ the Chief Cornerstone, growing as a holy temple in the Lord, according to the pattern, so that God can dwell with men in the earth, filling the earth with His Presence through us!

9. Ephesians 3:5-6 – the vision is receiving true apostles and prophets so that we can receive the revelation of the mystery.

It is important to realise the days we are in. We are in days of restoration. God is restoring truth to His people. The truth is we need apostles and prophets in the church to bring the revelation of the mystery of Christ *“which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets”* Ephesians 3:5. Many are still stuck in a church framework of Senior Pastors and Assistant Pastors and every other pastor you can think of, but there is no acknowledgment of the need for the other ministries to function; especially that of apostles and prophets.

God has graced the ministries of apostles and prophets particularly to reveal the mystery of Christ, who He is and what He is doing through His church. Apostles are able to make known the wisdom we need to grow to maturity. Paul said, *“we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory”* 1 Corinthians 2:6-7. This wisdom will lead God’s people by revelation into the glory. Apostles and prophets expound the word of God by revelation and understanding so the church can *“go on to perfection”* Hebrews 6:1.

God is raising *holy apostles and prophets* in our generation to proclaim the *mystery of Christ* and reveal the deep things of God. When apostles and prophets are functioning properly in the body we will see the fall of Babylon, *“Rejoice over her [Babylon], O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”* Revelation 18:20. The truth they bring will cause the confusion of Babylon to cease!

In laying out the pattern for the order of ministries in the church, Paul wrote, *“God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets...”* 1 Corinthians 12:28. Apostles govern and prophets guide. When apostles and prophets are received, we understand the mystery that *“the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same Body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel”* Ephesians 3:6. We understand that there is One Body

(**Eph.4:4**), the holy nation (**1 Pet.2:9**), the royal priesthood (**1 Pet.2:9**), the One flock (**Jn.10:16**), the Israel of God (**Gal.6:16**).

As we receive true apostles, we receive a deep revelation of Jesus, which in turn causes us to receive a revelation of the Father who sent Him (**Matt.10:40**). When apostles and prophets are in place the church will come to a deep revelation and appreciation of the *“mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ”* **Colossians 2:2**. The church will no longer be bound to denominational and institutional traditions but come to a living truth of Christ and His Word!

The apostolic vision is for there to be a Body receiving the ministries of apostles and prophets in every generation so that the church can understand the deep things of God’s purpose, the mystery of Christ, and so come to perfection!