

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, **which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.**

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might **understand the scriptures,**

Last week, we observed the attack by Amalek and how battling the Amalekites is a picture of the perpetual spiritual warfare a believer has with the flesh. We also saw the introduction of Joshua. Joshua is a wonderful type of Christ.

Tonight, we see God's plan of organization for His children. In preparation to giving the Ten Commandments, the Lord led Moses to establish His leadership program along with wisdom to have assistance from others within the congregation. We will observe how God's program is still important today.

I. LEADERSHIP ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN

❖ The Lord is THE LEADER:

1 Jn. 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**

1 Tim. 2:5 For ***there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become **the head of the corner.**

1 Cor. 11:3 But I would have you know, that **the head of every man is Christ;** and the head of the woman *is* the man; and the head of Christ *is* God.

Eph. 1:22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave **him to be the head over all things** to the church,

Eph. 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, **which is the head, even Christ:**

Eph. 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even **as Christ is the head of the church:** and he is the saviour of the body.

Col. 1:18 And **he is the head of the body, the church:** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

Col. 2:10 And ye are complete in him, **which is the head of all principality and power**: ...

19 And not holding **the Head**, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

II. THE LORD'S LEADERS LEAD OTHER LEADERS

- ❖ Christ, as the head, uses men for His purpose, to lead others.

18:25 And **Moses chose able men** out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.

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

Paul → Timothy → to faithful men → to teach others.

Ex. 18:19 Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: **Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:**

20 And **thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.**

- ❖ The qualifications for sharing the responsibility of leadership with Moses were his observations of character which he required before delegation of responsibilities.

Ex. 18:21 Moreover **thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them, *to be* rulers of thousands, *and* rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:**

❖ The character of leaders “out of all the people” (= the congregation) are as follows:

1. Able men;
2. Such as fear God;
3. Men of truth;
4. Hating covetousness;

❖ The responsibilities are as follows, *to be...*

1. ...rulers of thousands;

2. ...rulers of hundreds;

3. ...rulers of fifties;

4. ...rulers of tens:

❖ The positions of leadership in churches are listed in Eph. 4:11-12:

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

12 **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

- ❖ The diversity of responsibilities within a church are depicted in relation to a body:

1 Cor. 12:14 For **the body is not one member, but many**. ...

20 But **now are they many members, yet but one body**. ...

27 **Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.**

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

29 *Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?*

30 *Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?*

31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

Summary

- ❖ God's methodology for His work to grow and progress is to follow His plan of leadership.
- ❖ God chooses a man to lead His work.

Ezek. 22:30 And **I sought for a man among them**, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Heb. 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as **they that must give account**, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

❖ God's man chooses others to serve in God's work as He has equipped them.

Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, **look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.**

1 Pet. 4:11 If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; **if any man minister, *let him do it as of the ability which God giveth***: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Conclusion

1 Cor. 13:8 “Charity never faileth...”

1 Cor. 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.