

Women Shepherds, Pastors and Teachers:  
A Biblical Perspective  
Part 1

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There Is No Scriptural Basis For Women Being Church Leaders, Our Christian Faith Is Solely Based On God's Word, Eternal Nature Of God's Word, Warnings Concerning False Doctrines, Women Are To Remain Silent In The Church, Women Should Not Teach Or Lead, Misogyny Accusations Of Apostle Paul Haters, Responsibilities Of Christian Women: Good Wives And Mothers, Important Questions, Resistance From The Liberal Christians, Simeon And Prophetess Anna, Circumcision And Purification, False Prophetess Jezebel's Ancient Sex Cult, Self-Appointed Or God-Appointed And Anointed?, The Modern Plague Of False Prophets And Prophetesses, Offend: Warning Regarding Leading God's Children Astray, Old Testament Role Of Women, Deborah Barak Jael's Nail And Sisera's Defeat, Israelites Petition Gideon To Be The King After He Defeats Midianites, Abimelech Conspires To Become The King Over Israel, Almighty God Sees All Of Man's Doings, Death Of Abimelech, We Reap What We Sow

A number of years ago I found myself counseling a Christian woman regarding a certain problem she was experiencing in her marriage relationship. The gist of the problem was that, for various reasons, the woman was not happy with the church she and her husband were attending, so she decided to not attend at all, leaving the husband to go alone. I originally addressed this problem in the article entitled "Churchianity or Christianity: Which Do You Practice?".

Despite the sound advice which I offered to this woman at that particular time, it seems that the problem wasn't fully resolved. Thus, the need arose for me to exchange additional email messages with her. During the course of our exchanges, she informed me that her home church was temporarily being shepherded by a female pastor, being as the previous pastor had resigned, or moved on to another church. I don't recall

the precise details at this current time.

While I have addressed this topic before, allow me to state again that, as far as I am aware, nowhere in the Bible are women instructed to lead the Lord's Church. As I have shared with my readers on previous occasions, our faith and beliefs as Christians are not based on what some people think or say, or on what is taught by popular preachers who like to preach the doctrines of men from the pulpits of their megachurches, or on anything else which some misguided individuals try to use to rationalize or justify their wayward actions.

The fact of the matter is that our Christians beliefs and practices should be based solely on God's Word, and on what has been passed down to us in the pattern and practices of the First Century Church. Thus, anything which is contrary to God's Word, or which attempts to override its authority, is misguided and wrong, and should be avoided. Consider the following group of verses which convey the eternal nature and importance of God's Word:

". . . For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."  
Psalm 119:89, KJV

". . . Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."  
Psalm 119:105, KJV

"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it."  
Psalm 119:140, KJV

"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."  
Psalm 119:160, KJV

". . . thy word is truth."  
John 17:17, KJV

"The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations."  
Psalm 33:11, KJV

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

Psalms 138:2, KJV

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"

Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

Numbers 23:19, KJV

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12, KJV

As I pointed out a moment ago, any teaching or practice that contradicts God's Word, or which attempts to override its Divine Authority, is both misguided and wrong, and should be avoided. Jesus and the Apostles of the First Century embraced this very same attitude. This becomes evident by verses such as the following which are found in the New Testament. Notice how the First Century Church leaders repeatedly warned the Disciples to beware of false doctrines:

"Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."

Matthew 16:12, KJV

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

Ephesians 4:14-15, KJV

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."

Hebrews 13:9, KJV

"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do."

1 Timothy 1:3-4, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

1 Timothy 4:1, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

Returning to the subject of women, while we do find a few isolated examples where certain women were granted a degree of political and/or spiritual authority in the Old Testament -- the Prophetess and Judge Deborah and Queen Esther come to mind -- the Lord never granted this same degree of spiritual authority to women in the New Testament. To the contrary, the Apostle Paul informs his readers quite plainly that women are supposed to remain silent in the Church. This most certainly prevents them from accepting a leadership role, such as being a pastor, priest or minister. Consider the following verses:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

1 Corinthians 14:34-35, KJV

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

1 Timothy 2:11-14, KJV

While Paul was writing specifically regarding those women

who desired to exercise the Gifts of Prophecy and Tongues in 1 Corinthians 14, common sense dictates that his words apply even more when we speak of a woman spiritually leading an entire Church. Not only that, but the fact that Paul plainly states that women should learn from their husbands at home, further supports the view that the women are not supposed to take on leadership positions -- or teaching positions -- in the Church. This is further confirmed for us by the previous verses which we find in Paul's first Epistle to Timothy in which Paul writes "I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man." My friends, that is rather straightforward, isn't it?

While certain proud, misguided women, as well as even other deceived Christians accuse the Apostle Paul of just being a close-minded, misogynistic woman-hater, as you will learn as you continue to read this series, the truth of the matter is that Paul has the Biblical record fully on his side, while they most certainly do not. So who are we to believe? What are we supposed to believe? I know where I stand. How about you?

To continue, Paul not only clearly outlines exactly what Christian women are NOT supposed to do, but he also informs his First Century readers of what they SHOULD be doing as well. That is to say, their duties and responsibilities as faithful Christian wives, and loving and caring mothers of their children.

Please carefully consider the following set of verses where Paul points out that the responsibility of the elderly women is to teach the younger women how to be good wives and good mothers. They are to keep their homes in good order, and to obey their husbands. Nowhere in these verses -- or for that matter in any other verses -- are women instructed to become leaders of the Church, or to usurp the authority of men, or to teach the Scriptures, as we tragically see occurring in the modern, liberal-minded Christian Church:

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not

blasphemed."

Titus 2:3-5, KJV

Sadly, as I said a moment ago, some modern people -- which includes some Christians -- claim that the previous verses reflect "old-fashioned" thinking. Well, let me ask you an important question. Are our beliefs as Christians supposed to be based upon misguided public opinion? Or should our beliefs and doctrines be founded solely on the Scriptures? Do we just cherry-pick the Scriptures and only accept what agrees with what we want to believe and do? Or do we accept the entire Bible as the inspired Word of God?

So, because these liberal-minded people refuse to agree with what is plainly stated in the Scriptures, they foolishly try to find some ways around them. They seek to invalidate the aforementioned understanding by twisting and perverting the meaning of certain verses. Either that, or they will invent entirely new interpretations of God's Word which conform to what they want to believe and do.

One common example is that they will point to the incident concerning the Prophetess Anna which is found in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke. While it is indeed true that Anna was present in the temple during Jesus' circumcision on the eighth day after His Birth, she was by no means usurping the authority of the priesthood of that era. She was an old woman of eighty-four years of age who appears to have been temporarily inspired by the Holy Spirit, as the text relates.

The Gospel informs us that Anna spent her time there fasting and praying, and not being a leader in the temple. The same thing seems to have occurred with the old man Simeon only a few minutes prior to that event. To reiterate, these two individuals weren't recognized leaders in the temple. Please consider the following group of verses which tell the story:

"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and

blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth."

Luke 2:25-39, KJV

For informational and historical purposes, allow me to also share with you the part of the Levitical Law where the rites of circumcision and purification are commanded by the Lord through Moses. This is precisely what Joseph and Mary were fulfilling. This is what Luke means when he writes "after the custom of the law":

"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled. But if she bear a maid child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her separation: and she shall continue in the blood of her purifying threescore and six days. And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin

offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest: Who shall offer it before the LORD, and make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that hath born a male or a female. And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean."

Leviticus 12:1-8, KJV

Returning to the Prophetess Anna, to be temporarily inspired by the Holy Ghost -- as appears to have been her case -- is not the same thing as spiritually leading the entire Body of Christ in a regular capacity, and on a regular basis, as we see happening with so many women pastors and preachers today. In fact, I would dare say that this misguided phenomenon is more akin to the rebellious false prophetess Jezebel, who by the Word of the Lord, the Apostle John describes for us in the Book of Revelation. As you can see by the following set of verses, this proud, deceitful woman set herself up as a spiritual leader over what basically amounted to an ancient idol-worshipping sex cult:

"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

Revelation 2:20-23, KJV

Please notice in particular that the Lord says "which calleth herself a prophetess". In other words, God did not appoint or anoint Jezebel. She did this herself. Doesn't that sound very similar to what we see happening today with so many so-called "prophets" and "prophetesses"? They are found in a lot of the modern churches, as well as all over Facebook, and in many other online social communities and networks. As you can see, in the Book of Revelation the Lord strongly condemned Jezebel



due to her heresies and fornication, which led His children astray. In the three synoptic Gospels -- Matthew, Mark and Luke -- Jesus issued a similar warning regarding those people who would cause His children to fall away from the faith, and abandon sound doctrine, when He stated the following:

"But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Matthew 18:6, KJV

"And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea."

Mark 9:42, KJV

"It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones."

Luke 17:2, KJV

As I explain in a few other articles, in the original Greek language, that word "offend" does not have the same meaning as it does today. It is derived from the ancient Greek word "skandalizo". When read in context with the Scriptures, it means to place an obstacle in one's way, so that they sin, stumble and fall away from the truth of the Gospel. Placing the sin of sexual perversion before a person, so that they yield themselves to temptation and forsake the true Gospel of Christ, will not go unpunished, according to the Lord's own words in the Gospels, and in the Book of Revelation. So be very careful that you are not found guilty of this sin.

Returning to our earlier discussion, throughout the Bible, women normally played a supportive role to their husbands and male leaders. As I noted earlier, in a few rare instances in the Old Testament, the Lord did raise up a woman in order to fulfill His Divine Purpose. However, it is important to note that in the two examples that I gave -- Deborah and Esther -- there was likewise a dominant male figure. In the case of the Prophetess Deborah, we find the military leader, Barak, who was of the tribe of Naphtali. Along with his brethren from the tribe of Zebulun, Barak pursued Kishon Sisera, who was the captain of Jabin's army. In the end, it was Jael -- who

was the wife of Heber the Kenite -- who actually smote Sisera by driving a nail through his head, after his army had been destroyed by Barak and his brethren, as we can determine by the following set of verses:

"But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left. Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite: for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite. And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said unto him, Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not. And when he had turned in unto her into the tent, she covered him with a mantle. And he said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him. Again he said unto her, Stand in the door of the tent, and it shall be, when any man doth come and enquire of thee, and say, Is there any man here? that thou shalt say, No. Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground: for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died. And, behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said unto him, Come, and I will shew thee the man whom thou seekest. And when he came into her tent, behold, Sisera lay dead, and the nail was in his temples. So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the children of Israel. And the hand of the children of Israel prospered, and prevailed against Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan."

Judges 4:16-24, KJV

Following the death of Sisera by the hand of Jael, in Judges chapter five we discover Deborah and Barak rejoicing together as they sing their song of praise and victory to the Lord. What is interesting to note here, is that even before Barak went to fight against Sisera and his army, Deborah told him that while he would be victorious in battle, Sisera would be defeated by a woman. Consider the following group of verses:

"And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand. And Barak

said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go. And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh."

Judges 4:7-9, KJV

Why did the Lord do this? Was it to show that He had changed the rules regarding male/female relationships which had been laid down in Genesis chapter three, and to demonstrate that women were now equal to men? I do not believe so. This would contradict the bulk of Scriptural evidence which defines the proper roles of men and women in society -- as well as in personal relationships -- which we find throughout the Bible. I suspect that the Lord used this particular tactic merely to humble Jabin the Canaanite king and his army, and to demonstrate His great power through the act of defeating the enemies of the Israelites by the hands of women.

We find a similar example where God used a woman in order to fulfill His Will in the story of a very proud and ambitious man by the name of Abimelech. He was the son of Gideon, who is likewise known in the Bible as Jerubbaal. Following the defeat of the Midianite army by Gideon, the Israelites then wanted to make him their king. Even during that time, several hundred years prior to the appearance of the Prophet Samuel and King Saul, the Israelites were so backslidden in heart -- as I point out in the series "The Fruits of Disobedience" -- that they were not happy with just having the Lord as their Eternal King who ruled over them from the Heavens. Thus, they foolishly approached Gideon and asked him to accept the job of being their king. How did God-fearing Gideon reply to their misguided request? Consider the following verses:

"Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian. And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the LORD shall rule over you."

Judges 8:22-23, KJV

Gideon simply did not want the job. He basically told them, "Why do you need an earthly king to rule over you, when you already have a Heavenly King who rules over you?". In fact,

this conviction burned so deeply in Gideon's heart, that he also added that none of his sons would be their king either.

Sadly, Gideon's proud son Abimelech, whom Gideon fathered by a concubine in Shechem, was of another persuasion. Thus, it seems that some time after Gideon had died, Abimelech put his misguided plan into action. In his mind, he figured that he would not be as "stupid" as his father had been. Instead, he would take advantage of the situation, build up a loyal following, and then have himself declared the king of Israel.

To keep my retelling of this story short -- you can read it in its entirety in Judges chapters eight and nine -- putting his plan into motion was not quite as simple as Abimelech had foolishly anticipated. The problem is that dear Gideon had fathered a total of seventy sons by his various wives and concubines.

As was the cruel custom during that time of despotic leaders, the competition had to be killed off first. So, this evil son -- Abimelech -- went to his mother's house in Shechem, where he undertook a bit of public relations work. Afterwards, he went to his father's house in Ophrah. Then, together with his mother's brethren, Abimelech had the seventy sons of Gideon killed, save for Jotham. In this fashion, he became king over Shechem. However, the Lord saw Abimelech's wicked deeds, as He always does. Consider the following group of verses:

". . . behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."  
Numbers 32:23, KJV

"For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings."  
Job 34:21, KJV

"O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee."  
Psalm 69:5, KJV

"Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance."  
Psalm 90:8, KJV

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil

and the good."

Proverbs 15:3, KJV

"Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD."

Jeremiah 23:24, KJV

"He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."

Daniel 2:22, KJV

". . . Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad."

Mark 4:21-22, KJV

"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known."

Luke 12:2, KJV

"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

Hebrews 4:13, KJV

It should be evident to you then that God had Abimelech's number. As a result, after having ruled in Shechem for a period of three years, the people turned against wicked Abimelech. While he was eventually able to defeat them, it was another story when it came to the people of Thebez. As Abimelech's army drew near to the city, all of the people rushed to the top of a great tower, hoping that they would be safe. Abimelech's plan was to burn it down, just as he had done with the tower in Shechem. However, God had other plans. As had occurred with Sisera, the Lord was about to humble and destroy Abimelech through the hand of a single woman, as we discover through this group of verses:

"And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire. And a certain woman cast a piece of a millstone upon Abimelech's head, and all to brake his skull. Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto

him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A woman slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died. And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man unto his place. Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren: And all the evil of the men of Shechem did God render upon their heads: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal."

Judges 9:52-57, KJV

Thus, once again the well-known Biblical axiom -- "you reap what you sow" -- came to pass, as we see by the following group of verses:

"Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."

Job 4:8, KJV

"He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate."

Psalms 7:15-16, KJV

"They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah."

Psalms 57:6, KJV

"Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him."

Proverbs 26:27, KJV

"He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him."

Ecclesiastes 10:8, KJV

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

Galatians 6:7-9, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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Story Of Queen Esther And King Ahasuerus, Summoned Before The King, Rebellious Queen Vashti, Pride Humility Submissiveness, Women Are To Be Submissive To Their Husbands, Danger Of Pride And Reward Of Humility, Biblical Mandates Regarding Christian Marriage, Christ Is Head Of The Church And A Husband Is Head Of His Own Household, Human Marriage Is A Reflection Of Jesus' Marriage To The Church, Pride And Humility In Marriage, Male Leadership Of Ancient Israel: Twelve Tribes, Moses Forms The Sanhedrin Of Seventy Men, The All-Male Levitical Priesthood, Old And New Testament Prophets And Kings Were Primarily Males

Continuing our discussion from part one, and leaving behind that wicked Abimelech, let's move on to the story of Queen Esther. Regarding Esther -- whose Hebrew name was Hadassah, which actually means "myrtle" -- we discover that while a lot of Christians and Jews like to highly exalt this heroine of the ancient Israelites, and while the Lord did in fact greatly use her to save her people, the point still remains that even though she was queen over an empire, nevertheless, Esther was still required to be subservient to the Persian king, Ahasuerus. As I mention in a few other articles, some scholars believe that the Ahasuerus of the Scriptures was actually Xerxes.

At any rate, Queen Esther -- whose English name is derived

from the false Babylonian goddess Ishtar, meaning "star", and from which we also get the name Easter -- risked being killed if she dared to enter into the presence of the king without his express permission, which was symbolized by his holding out the golden sceptre. Consider the following set of verses which verify this point:

"Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai; All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days."  
Esther 4:10-11, KJV

"Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house. And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre."  
Esther 5:1-2, KJV

"And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews. Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,"  
Esther 8:3-4, KJV

We need to remember that the primary reason why Esther was chosen to be the new queen, aside from the fact that it was obviously God's Will, was because the previous queen -- that is, Vashti -- had humiliated Ahasuerus by refusing to appear before him after she had been summoned. Greatly angered by Vashti's blatant rebellion, the king then passed an edict which was to be obeyed throughout his empire. That is to say, from India to Ethiopia. What were the terms of that particular edict? Consider the following group of verses:



"And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small. And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan: For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people."

Esther 1:20-22, KJV

It becomes evident then that the story of Queen Esther is not just a lesson in bravery, love and self-sacrifice. It is likewise a lesson in humility, and it carries the strong message that all women are supposed to remain submissive to their husbands, in spite of whatever his lot may be in life. Please notice that we are told "both to great and small." In other words, a man's particular social status does not in any way diminish the requirement that his wife should remain submissive to him. Ladies, if you are with a husband, it is your duty to respect him, obey him, and submit to him. Some of you liberal-minded girls may find that hard to swallow. However, as we will see again in just a moment, this is in fact the Biblical mandate for Christian couples.

While this is personal speculation on my part, perhaps it was because of Esther's humility and obedience to her Uncle Mordecai, that the Lord knew that He could trust her. Thus, God honored Esther with the great responsibility of being queen over the entire Persian Empire. On the other hand, as I point out in a number of other articles, it is when we foolishly choose to yield to our sinful pride, that we may end up suffering a severe demotion. Such was the case with Queen Vashti. The Scriptures actually contain quite a few admonitions regarding the danger of pride, and the rewards of remaining humble. Consider the following sample verses:

"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."

Psalms 10:4, KJV

"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."

Proverbs 8:13, KJV

"When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom."

Proverbs 11:2, KJV

"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."

Proverbs 13:10, KJV

"In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them."

Proverbs 14:3, KJV

"The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility."

Proverbs 15:33, KJV

"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."

Proverbs 16:18-19, KJV

"A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit."

Proverbs 29:23, KJV

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30, KJV

"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:1-4, KJV

"And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when

he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."  
Luke 14:7-11, KJV

"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble . . . Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."  
James 4:6, 10, KJV

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"  
1 Peter 5:5-6, KJV

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."  
1 John 2:16, KJV

To reiterate a point I made in part one, the Bible makes it very clear that women are supposed to remain spiritually and physically submissive to their God-fearing husbands; because just as Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, the husband is likewise the spiritual head of his own family. Thus, in honoring her husband, a woman is likewise honoring Christ as well. Of course, at the same time, husbands are also to love their wives. Consider the following verses that are found in the writings of the Apostles:

"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 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. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

Ephesians 5:21-33, KJV

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

Colossians 3:17-19, KJV

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:"

1 Peter 3:1-5, KJV

"Have we not POWER TO LEAD about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?"

1 Corinthians 9:5, KJV

As I mentioned a moment ago, just as a husband is the head of a family and over his wife, Christ is the spiritual Head of His Church. As I point out in the article entitled "Are You Committing Adultery?", human marriage relationships are in fact a reflection of Christ's marriage to His spiritual bride, the Church. As a woman is to submit to her husband, so the Church is to submit to Christ. Consider this group of verses:

"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."

1 Corinthians 11:3, KJV

"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,"

Ephesians 1:20-22, KJV

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

Ephesians 4:15, KJV

"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."

Ephesians 5:23, KJV

"And he [Jesus] 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."

Colossians 1:18, KJV

"And ye are complete in him [Jesus], which is the head of all principality and power:"

Colossians 2:10, KJV

"Unto you therefore which believe he [Jesus] is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,"

## 1 Peter 2:7, KJV

For any Christian woman to deny the truth that is plainly revealed in the previous set of verses is to be in open rebellion against God's ordained plan for His Church. The previous verses serve as our outline and guide, and also guarantee harmony and unity in Christian relationships. It is only when these Scriptural mandates are not honored, and are in fact abrogated, that we find ourselves in the midst of a broken marriage relationship.

At the same time, it should be rather evident to you that it is by returning to, and abiding by, these very same Biblical admonitions and mandates, that a marriage relationship can be healed and fully restored. In short, we can thus say that pride divides and kills a marriage relationship, while on the other hand, humility can reunite and bring a marriage relationship back to life.

At this point in our discussion, we are going to dig deeper into the structure of ancient Israelite society during the Old Testament period. To begin with, as is well known, the twelve sons of Jacob -- who later became known as Israel -- became the heads of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Obviously, they were all men, as we see by the following set of verses:

"And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days. Gather yourselves together, and hear, ye sons of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father. Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou it: he went up to my couch. Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel. Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped

down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes: His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk. Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships; and his border shall be unto Zidon. Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens: And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute. Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward. I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD. Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last. Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties. Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words. Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:) Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb: The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren. Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil. All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them."

Genesis 49:1-28, KJV

When Moses first formed the Sanhedrin in order to lighten his burden of leadership, the Lord instructed him to select seventy men from amongst the tribes of Israel, as can be determined by the following group of verses. The Sanhedrin continued to exist through the New Testament period:

"And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat. I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness. And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone."

Numbers 11:11-17, KJV

Furthermore, the ancient Israelite priesthood, which began with Aaron and his sons, and then expanded to include other members of the tribe of Levi, consisted of all male members. They began serving at the age of twenty-five, and continued to serve until the age of fifty. Centuries later, King David rearranged the Levitical priesthood into twenty-four courses, or orders. Sixteen of the courses were assigned to Eleazar, while the other eight courses were assigned to Ithamar. You will find the details regarding the divisions in 1 Chronicles 24. David's son, Solomon, continued this arrangement, as did King Hezekiah, and then the Jews who returned from Babylonian captivity. Each priest served for a period of one week twice a year. Consider the following group of Bible verses:

"And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons."

Exodus 28:1, KJV



"And the LORD said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy fathers house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood. And thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness . . . And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine heave offerings of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever . . . This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more:"

Numbers 8:1-2, 8, 24-25, KJV

"And he [Solomon] appointed, according to the order of David his father, the courses of the priests to their service, and the Levites to their charges, to praise and minister before the priests, as the duty of every day required: the porters also by their courses at every gate: for so had David the man of God commanded. And they departed not from the commandment of the king unto the priests and Levites concerning any matter, or concerning the treasures."

2 Chronicles 8:14-15, KJV

"And Hezekiah appointed the courses of the priests and the Levites after their courses, every man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and for peace offerings, to minister, and to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the tents of the LORD . . . Then Hezekiah commanded to prepare chambers in the house of the LORD; and they prepared them, And brought in the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully: over which Cononiah the Levite was ruler, and Shimei his brother was the next. And Jehiel, and Azaziah, and Nahath, and Asahel, and Jerimoth, and Jozabad, and Eliel, and Ismachiah, and Mahath, and Benaiah, were overseers under the hand of Cononiah and Shimei his brother, at the commandment of Hezekiah the king, and Azariah the ruler of the house of God. And Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the porter toward the east, was over the freewill offerings of God, to

distribute the oblations of the LORD, and the most holy things. And next him were Eden, and Miniamin, and Jeshua, and Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, in the cities of the priests, in their set office, to give to their brethren by courses, as well to the great as to the small: Beside their genealogy of males, from three years old and upward, even unto every one that entereth into the house of the LORD, his daily portion for their service in their charges according to their courses; Both to the genealogy of the priests by the house of their fathers, and the Levites from twenty years old and upward, in their charges by their courses; And to the genealogy of all their little ones, their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, through all the congregation: for in their set office they sanctified themselves in holiness: Also of the sons of Aaron the priests, which were in the fields of the suburbs of their cities, in every several city, the men that were expressed by name, to give portions to all the males among the priests, and to all that were reckoned by genealogies among the Levites. And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the LORD his God. And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered."

2 Chronicles 31:2, 11-21. KJV

"And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses."  
Ezra 6:18, KJV

To continue, it is likewise quite evident that the Prophets of both the Old and the New Testament periods were almost without exception all men. This point is easily verifiable simply by looking at the names of all of the Books of the Prophets. In similar fashion, the kings of ancient Israel were also all males, although a few women did try to usurp authority through very unscrupulous means, including mass murder. Thus, as we have now seen, a few rare exceptions aside, the pages of the Old Testament plainly reveal that, for the most part, the leaders of ancient Israelite society -- both religious and political leaders -- were all men. It is an indisputable point.

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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Women Shepherds, Pastors and Teachers:  
A Biblical Perspective  
Part 3

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Same All-Male Pattern Continues In New Testament, Jesus Chose Twelve Male Apostles, The Core Apostles Were All Males, Judas Iscariot Was Replaced By A Male Apostle, Seven Male Deacons Were Chosen In Book Of Acts , God Rose Up Paul -- Male -- To Be Apostle To The Gentiles, All 1st Century Church Positions Were Filled By Men, Modern Apostle Paul Haters, Poor Excuses, LGBTQ+ Perversion In Modern Church, God Hasn't Changed, Women Were In Supportive Roles, The First Century Church Hierarchy, Jesus' Siblings, The False Neither Male Nor Female Doctrine, Understanding The Bible In Context, Compare Verse With Verse, Contradiction In The Scriptures Or A Misunderstanding On Our Part?, Context Of Epistle To The Corinthians And Epistle To The Galatians, Salvation Is For All Men, Women Keep Silent

Continuing our discussion from part two, as we have clearly seen by a plethora of Scriptures, both the political and the religious leadership of ancient Israel consisted almost exclusively of all males. At the same time, Israelite women were supposed to remain respectful to, and submissive to, their husbands. Being as Christianity was an offshoot of the religion of the Jews, these same principles were later applied to the Christian Church as well. Thus, it seems evident to me that God purposely chose men for leaders in these different areas of Israelite society, as an earthly

reflection of the way that things are likewise run in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Turning our attention to the New Testament, we see the very same pattern continuing. To begin with, it is obvious that John the Baptist was a male, and carried the same spiritual anointing as the male Prophet, Elijah. It is well-known that Jesus chose twelve men to be His Apostles, as we can easily see by the following group of verses:

"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Matthew 10:1-6, KJV

"And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor."

Luke 6:13-16, KJV

Furthermore, the Scriptures of the New Testament repeatedly reveal that the core leadership of the First Century Church in fact consisted of three men. That is to say, Peter, James and John. Again, please consider this group of verses which clearly verify this particular point:

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,"

Matthew 17:1, KJV

"And he [Jesus] suffered no man to follow him, save Peter,

and James, and John the brother of James."

Mark 5:37, KJV

"And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them."

Mark 9:2, KJV

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,"

Mark 13:3, KJV

"And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;"

Mark 14:32-33, KJV

"And when he [Jesus] came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden."

Luke 8:51, KJV

"And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray."

Luke 9:28, KJV

"And when James, Cephas [Peter], and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."

Galatians 2:9, KJV

When the eleven remaining Apostles chose someone to replace Judas Iscariot in the Book of Acts, they selected two men -- Justus and Matthias -- and then they voted, or cast lots. As we know from the Scriptures, the vote fell to Matthias, as we see by the following group of verses:

"And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) Men and brethren, this

scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood. For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take. Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles."

Acts 1:15-26, KJV

When certain squabbles arose amongst the Disciples in the Book of Acts, seven deacons were then selected so that the Apostles could continue in prayer and teaching the Word of God. Once again we see that they chose seven men: Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, as we can clearly determine by this group of verses:

"And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 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. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and

Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them."  
Acts 6:1-6, KJV

Now, if we consider that this problem dealt with the serving of food and the setting of tables -- which is normally viewed as being a woman's job -- one would think that if the early Disciples were of the belief that it was alright for women to hold positions of responsibility, then surely some women would have been chosen to resolve this problem. Yet none are chosen. They are ALL MEN.

In my mind, this incident again clearly points to the fact that in the First Century Church, women were not to hold any kind of spiritual positions or leadership positions in which decision-making was involved. Tell me; what other reason can be offered to explain why women were not chosen to resolve what was obviously a woman-related job? In fact, additional Scriptures reveal that other future deacons were also men, as we can confirm by this set of verses:

"Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

1 Timothy 3:8-13, KJV

In Acts chapter nine, when God raised up a very powerful and unique Apostle to reach all of the Gentile nations outside of Israel, once again, following the very same historical and Biblical pattern, He chose a man in the form of Saul of Tarsus, who later became known as the Apostle Paul. Consider these sample verses as evidence of this point:

"Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind

all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake."

Acts 9:13-16, KJV

"And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

1 Corinthians 15:8-10, KJV

"Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;"

Ephesians 3:7-8, KJV

Moving on, as I point out in the series called "Where Are the First Century Churches?", when bishops were selected for various Churches which are mentioned in the New Testament, they were likewise men. More specifically, in the Epistles of Paul, we discover that Titus and Timothy are mentioned as being two of the first bishops. Consider these two verses as proof of this particular point:

"The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen. [The second [epistle unto Timotheus, ordained the first bishop of the Church of the Ephesians, was written from Rome, when Paul was brought before Nero the second time.]]"

2 Timothy 4:22, KJV

"All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen. (It was written to Titus, ordained the first bishop of the Church of the Cretians, from Nicopolis of Macedonia.)"

Titus 3:15, KJV

So from the time that Jesus chose the original Twelve, we



discover over and over again, that only men were chosen to fill the various positions of spiritual and administrative responsibility. We read of Apollos, Barnabas, John Mark, Justus, Luke, Matthias, Nicanor, Nicolas, Parmenas, Philip, Prochorus, Silas, Stephen, Timon, Timothy, Titus and others as well. They were all male leaders in the First Century Church, who were chosen by, directed by, and filled with God's Holy Spirit.

There is simply no way to get around the fact that all First Century Church leadership positions -- Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, Deacons, Bishops -- weren't filled by any women, but always by men. That being the case, what justification can be made for delegating authority and any leadership roles to women in the Christian Church today? There seems to be no Biblical precedent whatsoever for doing this in the pages of the New Testament. Allow me to share a few more verses of Scripture with you in order to validate this particular point. I will offer some personal commentary afterwards:

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

1 Corinthians 12:4-11, KJV

"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 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. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?"

1 Corinthians 12:27-30, KJV

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"

Ephesians 4:11-13, KJV

"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

Acts 13:1-2, KJV

In the previous verses, it is plain to see that the various positions of spiritual and administrative authority were all filled by men. The Apostle Paul specifically states several times "every man", and not "every woman and every man". Now, some people may take a legalistic approach and suggest that the original Greek word that is used in those verses -- that is, "hekastos" -- also means "every one", and thus could be stretched so that it includes women. However, if we simply take the time to study the Scriptures thoroughly, and see how the Lord and His followers operated, it is rather easy to conclude that the phrase "every man" means precisely that. That is, every man.

As I noted in part one, it is after describing the various positions within the Church body, that in 1 Corinthians 14, the Apostle Paul plainly informs his readers that women are supposed to keep silent in the Church. There is absolutely no way then that they can fulfill any of these spiritual or leadership responsibilities if they are to keep silent.

As I also mentioned in part one, some modern Christians like to falsely accuse the Apostle Paul of being a misogynist and old-fashioned. "We are living in modern times!" they insist. "Things have changed. The Church has changed. The Church has been liberated." And on and on they go with their misguided assertions, invented interpretations and poor excuses. Yes, tragically, the Church has changed so much, that there are

now gay and female priests! Some wayward churches are going so far as to bless gay and lesbian relationships, and they are in increasing numbers even marrying same-sex couples! Perhaps some of these modern priests and priestesses would like to explain the following verses to me. Obviously, such folks must understand them a lot differently than I do:

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."  
Hebrews 13:8, KJV

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."  
Malachi 3:6, KJV

As far as I am concerned, the way God designed the Church to be run during the First Century, is the same way He expects it to be run today. The people who say otherwise -- such as these liberal thinkers who accuse the Apostle Paul of being a woman-hater -- are simply trying to void Paul's words, in order to validate their erroneous interpretations of the Scriptures. They are basically saying that Paul was overly legalistic and wrong. I disagree with them wholeheartedly.

As I mentioned in part one, Paul has the Biblical record fully on his side, while they most certainly do not. All Paul has done is continue a pattern that is thousands of years old in the Biblical record. Furthermore, as we have seen, even before Paul came along, the brethren knew that the Lord expected them to choose men to fill the various spiritual and leadership positions, because this is the example that the Lord set Himself when He chose the Twelve Apostles to carry on His work. Jesus respected the pattern.

Now concerning women such as the Marys, Martha, Joanna and Susanna, as I discuss in the article "Women in the Lives of Jesus and the Apostles", they served in supportive roles. This is by no means meant to belittle them or to minimize their importance. It is common knowledge that following His Resurrection, some of these women were the very first ones to see Jesus. So it is quite obvious that Jesus loved them dearly. Yet they knew their place in God's order of things, and they accepted it gladly. In the four Gospels, women are always presented in a supportive role, such as we see in the following group of verses:

"And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him, And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, WHICH MINISTERED UNTO HIM OF THEIR SUBSTANCE."

Luke 8:1-3, KJV

In these verses, we see a clear division between The Twelve, and the other women, who it seems helped to provide some of their needs. We see this same kind of division in the very first chapter of the Book of Acts when they were gathered in the Upper Room, prior to the day of Pentecost. Notice that protocol seems to be kept here. First the three core members are mentioned -- meaning Peter, James and John -- who are then followed by the other Apostles. The remaining Apostles are then followed by the other women. After those women we see Mary -- the mother of Jesus -- mentioned. Finally come Jesus' other brethren.

Incidentally, it is my personal belief that the phrase "with his brethren" is a reference to Jesus' biological brothers; some of whom apparently believed in Him after their initial doubts had passed. I discuss Jesus' siblings in the article entitled "The Family Life of Jesus Christ: Did Jesus Have Siblings?" Consider the following group of verses:

"And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."

Acts 1:13-14, KJV

"But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother."

Galatians 1:19, KJV

Another argument which some offended women pastors, liberals and legalists sometimes try to use is this: "Well, doesn't Paul state that there is neither male nor female in Christ

Jesus? Doesn't that mean that God no longer differentiates between men and women when it comes to the administration of the Church?" To be honest, I believe that I already provided sufficient Scriptural evidence to show that the people who teach this doctrine are utterly wrong.

As I have explained in other articles such as "Understanding the Bible in Context", it is very unwise and foolish to take a single verse of Scripture, and convert it into a brand new doctrine; particularly if that new doctrine is not supported by other verses as well. We need to compare Scripture with Scripture in order to arrive at the truth. We need to look at the who, what, where and when of each verse. It is because so many Christians fail miserably at doing this, that the Church has been flooded with so many misguided, false doctrines; not only in the physical churches, but in online communities as well. But let us look at Galatians 3:28 as follows:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28, KJV

Now, if for the sake of argument we choose to accept their misguided interpretation of this verse, then we are forced to admit that not only is the Apostle Paul contradicting himself -- and contradicting what God has ordained since the Book of Genesis -- but it also forces us to conclude that the First Century Church must have been wrong. In other words, it was really out of the Spirit when they chose all men to head the various Churches, bishoprics and all of the ministries within the Church. Do you honestly believe that? I don't.

Now please think carefully about this. Obviously, Paul, a man who had at least several direct, close, personal encounters with the Resurrected Christ, and who was taught the Word by Jesus Christ Himself, is not going to author one Epistle to one congregation in which he says that women are to be quiet in the Church and are to submit to their husbands, and then turn right around and inform the Galatian church that there is now no difference between men and women in God's eyes. Therefore, we must conclude that there must be something seriously wrong with the aforementioned doctrine.

As I have explained a number of times before, when we come

across what appears to be a contradiction in the Bible, it usually lies in our own understanding of what we are reading. The very same holds true in this case. The themes addressed in the Epistles to the Corinthians and to the Galatians are very different. Instead of taking the previous single verse, and applying a very twisted interpretation to it, in order to support the women pastors doctrine, we need to read the surrounding verses and chapters, in order to place Galatians 3:28 in its proper context.

If we do that, we quickly discover that in his Epistle to the Galatians, Paul is specifically dealing with the issues of bondage to the Law, and the availability of Salvation to all men. That is the background for Galatians 3:28, and that is what Paul means when he states that there is neither male nor female in Christ. In other words, as I clearly point out in articles such as "Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?", when Jesus died on that Roman Cross, He opened the way to Salvation for all men everywhere, regardless of gender, or national origin. That is why the Lord said the following in the Gospel of John:

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

John 12:32, KJV

On the other hand, if we go to Paul's first Epistle to the Corinthians, and read the three chapters which come before the verse where he tells women to keep silent in the Church, we discover that they have absolutely nothing to do with the topic of Salvation. What they actually do deal with, is the administration of the Early Church, and the distribution of Spiritual Gifts and ministries within the Church Body. That is when Paul writes the following verses, which we examined earlier in this series:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

1 Corinthians 14:34-35, KJV

Please go to part four for the continuation of this series.

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Women Shepherds, Pastors and Teachers:  
A Biblical Perspective  
Part 4

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Sin In The Garden Of Eden, Eve's Punishment, From Genesis To Revelation: Women Must Submit, From Eve To Jezebel, Apostle Paul's Motivation, The Tattlers Busybodies and Wives' Fables, Paul To Timothy: Get Your House In Order, Great Is Diana Of The Ephesians. Modern False Claim: Men Have Failed In Church Ministry So Women Need To Take Over, Other Modern Deceptions, Church In The Home Loophole, Jezebel Spirit: Modern Jezebels, Miriam Murmurs Against Moses, Misguided Women Ministers And Teachers, Paul Permits Elderly Women To Privately Teach The Young Women Concerning Family Matters, Priscilla And Aquila, Male Preachers: No Female Public Preachers In New Testament

Continuing our discussion from part three, one might ask "Why is Paul being so dogmatic regarding women maintaining silence in the Church and learning at home from their husbands? Why does the Lord emphasize the men assuming all of these various leadership roles? Why are women required to take the lower seat to men?" As I briefly mentioned in part one, it really all goes back to the Book of Genesis and the original fall of man.

If we really study what occurred in the Garden of Eden, we discover that the Apostle Paul has NOT created a new doctrine due to some hidden dislike for women. He is NOT a woman-hater as some misguided feminists and others modern liberals accuse him of being. The fact of the matter is that since the Garden

of Eden, women being subservient to men is the way that the Lord Himself has ordained human relationships to be due to Eve's guilt in causing the First Pair to fall from grace.

Think about this for a moment. God created Eve from Adam's rib. Some theologians speculate that the reason why the Lord did this, was to remind Adam that Eve was his partner and equal. He created her from a place close to Adam's heart so that Adam would love and cherish her as his own flesh. Now, whether or not this speculation is true, I really don't know. However, what I do know, is that the minute Eve was given an opportunity to make a major decision on her own, she made a very serious mistake.

That mistake not only destroyed the harmonious relationship which the Lord had with His Creation, but it also resulted in the guilt of sin -- which John tells us is the transgression, or breaking, of the Law -- being passed to all men. Let's not forget that it was Eve who sinned first, and then she induced Adam to disobey God as well. As if this was not already bad enough, as I explain in other articles, then they each tried to blame someone else. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve then blamed the serpent. Consider the following group of verses:

"And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

Genesis 3:11-13, KJV

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Romans 5:12, KJV

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

1 John 3:4, KJV

So because Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord's Word, because they broke His Law, they had to be punished. We already know what the major consequence of their disobedience was. So let



me draw your attention to Eve's part of the punishment. As you will see, it is directly related to the reason regarding why women are to remain submissive to men, and be silent in the Church as the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 2:11-14. Please consider the following verse:

"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

Genesis 3:16, KJV

In short, we can theorize that perhaps God did create Adam and Eve as equals. I really don't know for certain, because the Bible simply does not say that directly. But regardless, even if that was true at one time, Eve soon lost her right to be an equal to Adam when she caused the pair to fall from grace. The Lord very clearly tells her "he shall rule over thee". The fact that the Lord would even tell her that this is to be a part of her punishment, offers us a possible hint that perhaps -- and I stress perhaps -- it was not that way prior to Eve making her fateful decision.

The Lord basically told Eve, "Look, I gave you everything you could possibly need to keep you happy. All I asked was that you refrain from touching the two trees in the midst of the Garden. I gave you a fair chance to prove yourself, but you failed me. Now I can no longer trust you the same. From now on, Adam is the boss. He has final say in all matters. He makes the decisions."

That is the gist of the matter, and that is why from Genesis all the way to the Book of Revelation, women normally play only supportive roles in the Lord's Church, and are required to submit to their husbands. It is not something that I made up, or that the Apostle Paul invented due to some imaginary hatred for women. It's not for any other reason that the fact that Eve disobeyed the Lord in the Garden of Eden, resulting in the fall of humankind, and so God had to symbolically place a chain on women, lest they do more damage. Period.

Ironically, just as we see the first woman sinning and leading a man astray in the first Book of the Bible, in the very last Book of the Bible -- Revelation, or the Apocalypse -- we also find one of the very last women mentioned -- that is to say,

the evil, false prophetess Jezebel -- also sinning and leading the Lord's children astray. Then, of course, we also have the wicked, false bride represented by Babylon the Great. Let me share those verses from part one with you again:

"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

Revelation 2:20-23, KJV

As we have now seen, while Paul first mentions the silence rule in his Epistle to the Corinthians, it is not until his letter to Timothy, that we fully understand why he mandated such a rule, when he takes his readers back to Eve and the Garden of Eden. So it becomes obvious that this problem with women speaking out of turn in the Church was a major concern to Paul. In fact, we know with certainty that this problem did in fact ALREADY exist in the First Century Church. It for this reason that we find verses such as the following in Paul's writings:

"But refuse profane and OLD WIVES' FABLES, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."

1 Timothy 4:7, KJV

"But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, WANDERING ABOUT FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE; and not only idle, but TATTLERS also and BUSYBODIES, SPEAKING THINGS WHICH THEY OUGHT NOT."

1 Timothy 5:11-13, KJV

"For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are BUSYBODIES."

2 Thessalonians 3:11, KJV

"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do."

1 Timothy 1:4, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and SHALL BE TURNED UNTO FABLES."

2 Timothy 4:3-4, KJV

"Not giving heed to JEWISH FABLES, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."

Titus 1:14, KJV

As we saw earlier, Timothy became one of the first bishops of the New Testament Church in Ephesus. When we realize what occurred in Ephesus, it becomes even more apparent exactly why Paul wrote these things to Timothy, and extended such a serious warning to him, to basically get his house in order. If you read Acts 19 in its entirety, you will discover that when Paul and his companions travelled there, they stirred up big trouble due to their preaching about Jesus Christ.

You see, Ephesus was the center for the worship of the false goddess Diana. Not only did a lot of women worship her, but the local craftsmen earned quite a bit of money from all of the Diana idols and trinkets that they sold there. So then comes along Paul and his companions talking about this new God. It was not before long that their presence in Ephesus resulted in a serious public altercation, with the angry citizens of Ephesus shouting in protest for two whole hours "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!", as we see here:

"And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people. But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians. And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter?"

## Acts 19:33-35, KJV

So for good reason, Paul wrote these things to Timothy. Paul wanted to make sure that Timothy really understood what the Lord required of him as a leader in the young new Church in Ephesus. Doctrinal purity was extremely important to him, and loud-mouthed women who interrupted their fellowship and who spread gossip and fables about Diana or other nonsense had to be silenced. It had to be nipped in the bud.

Despite what the Apostle Paul wrote in his first Epistle to Timothy, in our modern day, it has been said -- erroneously so -- that women need to step up to the plate because men are supposedly failing in their duties today as spiritual leaders in the Church. This belief is rather ludicrous in light of the fact that it outright contradicts everything I have shared with you in this series. It is both a lie and a self-imposed deception.

Not only is this mentality a total deception, but in so many words, this attitude subtly conveys the misguided idea that modern Christian women are better, or perhaps more spiritual than men. It really reeks of the feminist attitude. In fact, sadly, I have had some of my own online friends tell me this very thing. It basically says, "Men have failed, so we women now have to take over the Church." Another subtle deception I have seen online are those women who mention the fact that not all the Disciples of the First Century were men. While this is indeed true, the reason why those women are really saying this, is because they are trying to use it as their justification for being public preachers. In other words, because these women also view themselves as Disciples, they have a right to preach.

As we have seen, we do not find this mentioned anywhere in the New Testament Church pattern. It is in fact the Jezebel spirit, and it has taken over many churches already, sad to say. It is proud, arrogant, misguided women trying to usurp authority which God NEVER gave to them, just as evil Jezebel proclaimed herself a prophetess. I will be discussing the issue of women preachers -- as opposed to teachers -- in a moment.

Another modern, very misguided attitude I have seen concerns those Christians who seem to believe that they have a choice

regarding whether they attend a church which is pastored by a man, or pastored by a woman. For me personally, and based on everything I have shared with you in this series, there really is no choice to be made, because female leaders in the Church was simply never ordained by God. That being the case, how can there really be any choice?

Being as I am exposing some of the various "loopholes" and invented interpretations that certain Christians -- namely women -- like to create in order to try to circumvent what's plainly stated in the Scriptures regarding male leadership in the Church, allow me to mention another one. As I explain in the series "Where Are the First Century Churches?", it is a Scriptural fact that the Christians of the Early Church did NOT congregate in church buildings. Such edifices didn't even exist yet. Instead, they held private fellowships in people's homes. This point can be easily verified by the following group of Bible verses:

"As for Saul, he made havock of the church, ENTERING INTO EVERY HOUSE, and haling men and women committed them to prison."

Acts 8:3, KJV

"Likewise greet THE CHURCH THAT IS IN THEIR HOUSE. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ."

Romans 16:5, KJV

"The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with THE CHURCH THAT IS IN THEIR HOUSE."

1 Corinthians 16:19, KJV

"Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and THE CHURCH WHICH IS IN HIS HOUSE."

Colossians 4:15, KJV

"And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to THE CHURCH IN THY HOUSE:"

Philemon 1:2, KJV

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, AND FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE,"

Certain contentious Christians might argue that some of these First Century fellowships may have been held in the homes of rich women who came to the faith. This is indeed a very real possibility. However, it is where this argument can be taken from there which is deceptive. The assumption can be made -- erroneously so -- that because some of these Churches were in the homes of such rich women, these women were actually the leaders of those Home Churches.

However, this is really stretching what those verses actually state. If you closely examine those verses, you will notice that Paul addresses the male in each case. Furthermore, even in the few verses where a woman is mentioned, a male is also mentioned. We need to remember that all of the Churches that were located outside of Israel were founded by Paul and his companions. That being the case, given Paul's strong stance regarding female leadership in the Churches, there is no way on Earth that he would have permitted a woman to lead any of them. He would have followed the pattern set by God, Jesus and the Apostles who came before him.

In short, even if a Home Church was located in the home of any rich woman who came to the faith, the fellowship would have been led by a male member of the congregation; either by the husband, or by some other male figure who was deemed worthy of that position. This would be in agreement with everything I have shared with you in this series.

But returning to this bogus idea of modern Christian women being better or more spiritual than Christian male leaders, let me add a degree of balance to my previous statements by saying the following. If you have read a fair amount of my BBB articles and series, then you will already know that I am most certainly not blind to the failures of organized religion. Some male servants of the Lord have indeed failed in very major and very public ways, to their own shame. They are a huge embarrassment to our faith, and to the cause of Christ. As I said, I mention a few of them in some of my other articles if you care to take the time to read them.

However, at the same time, aside from the women who caused trouble in both the Old and the New Testaments of the Bible, in our modern day, we have had our Jezebels as well. Now, to

name a few of them, consider Margaret MacDonald, who along with John Nelson Darby began the whole false Pre-Tribulation Rapture business. To this very day, this false doctrine is heavily propagated, and in so doing, is giving millions of naive, gullible Christians false hope and false expectations.

Then there's Ellen G. White who became the prophetess of the legalistic Seventh Day Adventist cult. Sadly, those people seem to quote from her writings as much as they do from the Bible, much as the misguided Mormons also rely heavily upon the writings of their founder, Joseph Smith. As I mention in other articles, White foolishly taught her followers that the Seventh Day Adventists are the one and only church which God recognizes on Earth. That same attitude of exclusivity is likewise prominent in the Roman Catholic Church and in many other cults as well.

Then there is Karen Zerby who became the de facto leader of the Children of God cult following the demise of the cult's founder, David Brandt Berg. This cult is notoriously known for mixing illicit sexual engagements with preaching the Gospel. I won't even go into the details because you won't want to hear it.

Lastly, let me just mention Joyce Meyers. Like many popular preachers of our current time -- both male and female -- Ms. Meyers propagates the misguided, erroneous prosperity gospel which finds no basis in the Scriptures whatsoever. I discuss this false doctrine at length in articles such as "Abundant Life Doctrine: Scripturally Exposed!", which you will find listed at the end of this same series.

So again, in contradiction to the Scriptures, women priests, pastors, bishops, ministers, preachers and teachers abound everywhere. It is an army of deceptive Jezebels who are in defiance of the very pattern set down by God Himself. As I mentioned in part one, if you are an active member of any of the social networks, you will no doubt know that there are women teachers all over the place. I come across their posts all the time, and quite frankly, some of them are teaching some very misguided doctrines which really make me cringe.

I rarely say anything to any of these deceived women, due to the simple fact that I already know from experience how they will react. They become defensive and try to justify what

they are doing by twisting the meaning of Scriptures. Also, if I do press the issue, they will unfriend me, and perhaps even block me if I irk them enough. Not that I really care.

As I also mention in the article entitled "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth" and in a number of other articles, I find it rather interesting that the original Queen Jezebel of the Old Testament was likewise in rebellion against the Lord, and even tried to kill God's Prophet, Elijah. Lastly, let us also not forget the punishment of Miriam, who murmured against the leadership of her brother Moses. Very similar to the Jezebels we have been discussing, Miriam also foolishly claimed to be a prophetess. God did not put up with her rebellious nonsense for a minute, as we can determine by the following verses:

"And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it. (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed. And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp



seven days, and after that let her be received in again. And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again."

Numbers 12:1-15, KJV

So ladies, don't you dare be another Miriam, or a Jezebel. If you are smart, stay submitted to the Lord and obedient to His Word. Obey your husband, and respect those people who may have spiritual authority over you in your local church, congregation or fellowship. God will bless you for it in the end, just as He apparently did with humble Queen Esther.

Now, out of a sense of fairness and Scriptural balance, let me remind you that as I pointed out in part one, in Paul's Epistle to Titus, he does encourage the elderly women in the Lord's Church to instruct the younger women regarding how to comport themselves as both wives and mothers. Let me share those verses with you again to refresh your memory:

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

Titus 2:3-5, KJV

However, please carefully notice again that while Paul states that the elderly women can teach, he then more specifically informs his readers what the elderly women can teach, as well as to whom they should teach it. In other words, they are NOT preaching before a church congregation as a priest, pastor or minister. Nor are they in any other large public venue. What Paul advocates is more along the lines of private instruction being given to the younger women with regards to their family matters.

To reiterate, as all of the previous Bible verses clearly indicate, the man is the spiritual head of the household. As such, it is his primary obligation to provide spiritual instruction, insofar as doctrine is concerned. The woman should NOT usurp this authority from him. He is the head of the wife and the family, just as Christ is the Head of the Church. In light of this Biblical evidence, if we follow the

Biblical pattern, we can only arrive at one conclusion; and that is that there is no place in the Church leadership for women. To believe otherwise is to contradict the Scriptures.

Paul was not alone in this view concerning the proper place of women in the Lord's Church. As I already pointed out in part three of this series, even before we are introduced to Paul in the Book of Acts, we already find a New Testament Church which is clearly dominated by all male figures. One would have to be totally deceived to not recognize this.

This leads us to another rather interesting question which a few of my friends have asked me about. If, as the Paul wrote, women are to maintain silence in the Church, and if they are to learn at home from their husbands, how do we justify women boldly preaching the Gospel on city streets, or maybe online for that matter? Well, my friends, all I can do is point all of you to the Scriptures, and I can tell you right now that some of my online female friends are not going to like what I have to share here. Who knows, maybe some of my male friends as well. If you don't like what I am about to share with you, well, then I suggest that you take it to the Lord in prayer.

The simple truth of the matter is that you will not find one instance of women publicly preaching in the New Testament. I was curious about the well-known Christian couple Priscilla and Aquila. As we learned earlier, they had a Church in their home. So I wondered if Priscilla may have possibly preached in such a public manner. I conducted a Bible search in order to find out. Below are all of the Scriptures where Priscilla and Aquila are mentioned in the KJV Bible:

"After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers . . . And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow . . . And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the

Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly."

Acts 18:1-3, 18, 24-26, KJV

"Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles."

Romans 16:3-4, KJV

"The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house."

1 Corinthians 16:19, KJV

"Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus."

2 Timothy 4:19, KJV

As you can plainly see, aside from taking Apollos aside on one occasion in order to instruct him more fully concerning the Gospel of Christ, we find no evidence that Priscilla and Aquila did any public preaching, as was plainly done by Paul and companions on many occasions. Even if they had done so, I am convinced that it would have been Aquila who did the actual preaching, which would be in agreement with all the verses we have examined in this series.

In contrast, consider what is so clearly written concerning Stephen, Apollos and the Apostle Paul. They were very bold, PUBLIC witnesses of our faith, because God obviously chose men to be PUBLIC PREACHERS, and not women. And, of course, they were not the first to do so. That began on the Day of Pentecost when the Twelve Apostles were miraculously filled with the Holy Ghost and preached to thousands in Jerusalem:

"And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles AMONG THE PEOPLE. Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake."

Acts 6:8-10, KJV

"For he [Apollos] mightily convinced the Jews, and that PUBLICLY, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ."  
Acts 18:28, KJV

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you PUBLICLY, and from house to house,"  
Acts 20:20, KJV

The simple fact of the matter is that whenever we see someone standing up boldly for the truth in the Scriptures -- meaning Old Testament Prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus, the Apostles or some other Disciple -- it is ALWAYS a man, or else a group of men. They were called to be public witnesses of our faith, and NOT women. There is simply no evidence for the latter.

Please go to part five for the conclusion of this series.

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Women Shepherds, Pastors and Teachers:  
A Biblical Perspective  
Part 5

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Forty Years And No Female Public Preachers In New Testament, Exposing The Male-Dominant Jewish Culture Excuse, Genesis And Corruption Of Galatians 3:28, Human Realm Is A Reflection Of Spiritual Realm, Angelic Beings In Scripture Were All Males, Angelic Encounter At Jericho, Twenty-Four Elders Near Throne Of God, Twelve Gates And Foundations Of New Jerusalem Have Male Names, My Father Your Father And Our Father, Holy Spirit Is Addressed As "He", Human Realm And Heavenly Realm Are Both Male-Dominant, Wicked Pervasive Rebellious Spirit Of Jezebel,

As I concluded in part four of this series, a careful study of the New Testament reveals that there is not one single instance where we find a Christian woman engaged in public preaching. What I find interesting about this is the fact that from the day of Pentecost when the Twelve Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, and the population of the Early Church began to grow by the thousands, sometimes in one day, the New Testament covers a time frame of approximately forty years of Bible history. Of course, some folks will probably debate this number depending on when you personally believe the Book of Revelation was written, but we will leave that discussion for another time.

The point is, during this period of time, the events of which are described in considerable detail in the Book of Acts, in the Epistles, and in the Book of Revelation, a lot of other people were likewise filled with the Holy Spirit. Yet despite this fact, in every case, whenever bold, public witnessing is mentioned, it is only being done by men. As I said, we do not find any examples of women doing this. Why is this? Isn't the answer rather obvious? Haven't I already provided you with enough information so that you know the resounding answer?

Sadly, as I mentioned earlier in this series, when some folks don't like what the Scriptures state -- or in this particular case don't state -- they will invent their own interpretation of the same. This is exactly what some Christians have done. One of the arguments that has been put forth by some of these misguided Christians who support women pastors and preachers, is that the reason why they are absent in the New Testament, is because Jewish society was male-dominant.

While this is indeed true, just by using this excuse, they are in effect intentionally or unintentionally ignoring the events in Eden, which we discussed in part four. In case you don't quite understand, by saying that women remained silent during the aforementioned period insofar as public preaching is concerned because of Jewish culture, they are refusing to recognize that the reason why it was like that, is because God Himself mandated that it be that way in Genesis chapter three when He made Eve subservient to Adam following her sin.

But here is where the real subtlety of this deception enters the picture. Today, because the Christian Church isn't bound by the mores of Jewish culture, these misguided people adopt the erroneous position that women are no longer bound by the restriction on keeping silent. Thus, they can now be pastors and preachers or whatever.

Do you understand what they have actually done? They use the male-dominant Jewish society excuse to circumvent the clear pattern which is so evident throughout the Bible where men are the leaders, the preachers, the prophets, the deacons, the bishops, etc. They circumvent God's own order for women to be subservient to their husbands, and to not usurp the authority of men. "It's okay now for women to be leaders in the church, because we are not Jews. Men have failed at the job God gave them to do, so we are taking over. We will do a much better job." And that is the Jezebel spirit!

This goes hand-in-hand with what we discussed in part three regarding how they misinterpret Galatians 3:28 and take the verse out of its proper context, so that to them, "there is neither male nor female" means that women can now be pastors and preachers. Let me tell you, some of those people really distort Galatians 3:28 to the max. One person told me that God does not view our gender, but only our spirit. He then challenged me to show him in the Bible where a soul has a gender.

Well, I am sorry, but if God does not recognize our genders, and has no interest in it, then why does Genesis inform us that God made man in His OWN image, and then He proceeded to make them male and female? Why does God command Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, if He does not recognize human gender? Why in fact is the Church symbolically viewed as the bride of Christ, if gender is meaningless to God? Yes, this deceived fellow insists that God does not view gender simply because he is trying to justify women preachers and pastors. Tsk, tsk!

Well, while we have now thoroughly examined the evidence on the human side of this issue, what about on the spiritual side? In other words, we have clearly seen male leadership in the human realm. We have seen that ancient Jewish culture was very male-dominant. We have likewise seen that the First

Century Church was male-dominant as well. As I pointed out to you in part two, human marriage relationships are in fact a reflection of Jesus' marriage to His spiritual bride, the Church. So what does that tell us about the Spiritual Realm?

I think the answer is again rather obvious, if we consider that the human realm is a reflection of the Spiritual Realm. Needless-to-say, all of the Angels who we see specifically mentioned in the Holy Scripture are males. That is to say, Michael and Gabriel. Likewise, during the battle of Jericho, Joshua was visited by a powerful, but unnamed, Angelic Being who identified himself as the captain of the Lord's host, or army. Some people say he was either Jesus himself, or the Archangel Michael. I don't know for certain. Consider this group of verses:

"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."  
Joshua 5:13-15, KJV

Furthermore, let me add that in other Angelic Appearances which occur throughout the Scriptures -- such as during the announcement of Samson's birth, or the spiritual battles in the Book of Daniel, etc. -- the Angels are always male. In the Book of Revelation, we find multiple mentions of the Twenty-Four Elders. Is it just a coincidence that there are twenty-four of them, just as there were twenty-four courses, divisions or courses in the Jewish priesthood, and that the courses were performed by male priests? Consider this group of verses:

"And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold . . . The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,"

Revelation 4:4, 10, KJV

"And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints . . . And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever."

Revelation 5:8, 14, KJV

"And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,"

Revelation 11:16, KJV

"And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia."

Revelation 19:4, KJV

You may disagree with me if you like, but I believe that the Twenty-Four Elders are also all males. After all, this would be in perfect agreement with everything else we have studied in this series. Towards the end of the Book of Revelation, we are also informed that the Twelve Gates of the Heavenly City -- New Jerusalem -- are named after the Twelve Tribes of Israel, meaning twelve men. Furthermore, the foundations of the great wall which surrounds the Heavenly City are also named after twelve men. That is to say, the Twelve Apostles. Consider the following group of verses which verifies these points:

"And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb . . . And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass."

Revelation 21:12-14, 21, KJV

Lastly, and most importantly, we all know that our very own Savior took the form of a man, and that Jesus addressed the



great Creator of the Universe as "my father", and said that He is also "our father". Furthermore, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit using the pronoun "he". There are so many New Testament verses which use these phrases that I will refrain from listing them all here. However, I will share this list of sample verses where we see "my Father", "your Father" and "our Father" being used, as well as where the Holy Spirit is referred to as "he":

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 7:21, KJV

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 10:32-33, KJV

"All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him."

Matthew 11:27, KJV

"For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Matthew 12:50, KJV

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16, KJV

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Matthew 6:14-15, KJV

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

Matthew 7:11, KJV

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."

Matthew 6:9, KJV

"And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth."

Luke 11:2, KJV

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you . . . But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:16-17, 26, KJV

It should be clear to you then that just as the human realm is very much male-dominant -- including the Lord's Church -- the Heavenly Realm is just as much male-dominant. As I said already, that is because the human realm is meant to serve as a reflection of the Heavenly Realm, including the sacred institution of human marriage.

In light of all of this Scriptural evidence, and this very lengthy Biblical pattern which stretches across literally thousands of years, it seems to me that our main question has truly been answered. As I mentioned earlier, one would have to be truly deceived, spiritually blind, and extremely stubborn to not see or accept the plain Scriptural truth I have laid out before you in this series. The answer is just beyond dispute.

Sadly, as we all know, there are those people who soundly reject this Scriptural evidence. There are proud, stubborn women who take upon themselves usurped authority, and who self-proclaim themselves preachers, pastors, teachers and prophetesses, just like wicked Jezebel of old. What I find equally alarming is the fact that this rebellious feminist spirit of Jezebel has NOT just invaded the Lord's Church. It is in fact now everywhere!

So what do I mean by this? Well, consider the following: For literally decades now, the New Age movement has basically worshipped the planet Earth, and refers to her as a female entity named Gaia, after the false Greek goddess of the same name. In the entertainment industry, we have famous female superstars who strut their flesh across the stage as they brazenly bewitch people with their songs, and their blatant devilish performances where they openly worship Satan.

But it doesn't stop there. We have other female celebs such as Oprah Winfrey who falsely insist that there is more than one path to God the Father. We have a generation of boys and very sick men who deceive themselves into believing that they were really meant to be girls and women, as if God made one terrible mistake when assigning them their gender. They even go so far as to mutilate their own bodies in order to fulfill their perverted fantasies.

Lastly, we have a very ungodly woman who supports late-term abortion, LGBTQ+ rights, and other evils, who has ambitions to become the next president of the USA. God help us all if she achieves her objective! So, yes, the rebellious spirit of Jezebel is indeed everywhere, both inside the Church, as well as outside of it, and foolish America has chosen to follow her, as she leads the nation straight to Hell! As we read in the Book of Psalms:

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."  
Psalm 9:17, KJV

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you have found it informative, enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To

read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Abundant Life Doctrine: Scripturally Exposed!  
Apostasy of Oprah Winfrey: America's False Prophetess?  
Are You Committing Adultery?  
Churchianity or Christianity: Which Do You Practice?  
Facebook and the Battle for Our Youth  
Facebook False Prophets and Misguided Teachers  
Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?  
Please Stop Misinterpreting the Scriptures  
Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth  
The Family Life of Jesus Christ: Did Jesus Have Siblings?  
The Fruits of Disobedience  
The Office of Prophets and Teachers  
Understanding the Bible in Context  
Where Are the First Century Churches?  
Why Did Jesus Call His Mother "Woman"?  
Women in the Lives of Jesus and the Apostles

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