



## SEASON OF TRANSITION

*'Embracing the Apostolic'*

by Matt German

We are living in interesting and uncertain times, with political, financial, social, and religious upheaval going on all around us. Likewise, the Body of Messiah is also going through a season of transition in the Spirit. Yahweh, our heavenly Father, is in the process of shaking that which can be shaken and, in so doing, He is refining the Body (see Hebrews 12:22-29). While this is rarely a pleasant process, it is needful: without it we cannot become all that we are ultimately destined to be.

We here at Lion of Judah Family Worship Center are also going through a season of transition. I have been in prayer over the last few months seeking direction and clarity from Yahweh on the future and direction of this ministry – and He has given me some specific answers. In fact, I'm writing to inform you of some of these things.

For several years I've recognized that Yahweh has called me not only to be a teacher and a pastor but also an apostle. This calling has been confirmed through multiple prophetic words. In recent months Yahweh has made it clear that it's time to take up that apostolic mantle; He has further made clear that it's time to let the ministry known as "Lion of Judah Family Worship Center" die... so that He might resurrect it in supernatural power:

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, Except a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it die, it brings forth much fruit.." (John 12:24)*

To that end, we will be adopting a second ministry name, **Lion of Judah Apostolic Ministry**. In addition, at the end of the month we will be relocating from our present meeting place in Madison to the facilities at The Olive Branch of Huntsville, which Pastor Reggie Whiddon has graciously made available to us. This is about much more than a simple change in ministry name or venue – it's a shift in perspective, a shift in position, and a shift in priorities. Though we will still have corporate worship services as the Spirit leads, our focus will be upon hands-on ministry, spiritual impartation, and ministry training. The new location will service as a "base of

operations" from which to send out ministry teams into the local community and beyond. In short, it will be about evangelism and outreach. There is much more to share on this, but for now, I invite you to join us in prayerfully supporting this vision and partnering with us in this new ministry endeavor.

Another change that we will be making deals with our audio sermon program. For a number of years we have been able to provide solid Biblical teaching and preaching through our audio program – first with audio cassettes and, more recently, with CDs. Though we're currently still a small assembly, we've always done this free-of-charge and without obligation, and have never asked for offerings of any kind to cover the costs of this service. However, due to the considerable labor and expenses involved in copying, labeling, packaging, and mailing these CDs, we will no longer be able to provide this service. Please know that all of our most recent sermons are still available for immediate download in mp3 format via the Sermons page on our website.

We're excited about the doors that the Father is opening for us and we look forward to a bountiful harvest as we continue to hear and obey His voice. May He richly bless you as you pursue His will and purpose for your life.

### Understanding Your Destiny and Your Calling

The more time goes by, the more I realize how few believers seem to really understand their destiny; few really understand their calling; and even fewer understand the difference between the two.

Destiny is defined as "something to which a person or thing is destined: fate: a predetermined course of events". To most people the word carries with it a sense of inevitability, that there's nothing we can do to alter or affect it. But the word actually derives from a Latin word, *destinare* – "make firm or establish". It shares the same root as the word "destination", which comes from L. *destinatio* – "an establishing purpose". Our destiny is the "establishing purpose" the Father has for us.

**Eph. 1:3-5, 11-12** Blessed be the Elohim and Father of our Sovereign Yahshua Messiah, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Messiah; <sup>4</sup> even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and without blemish before Him in love; <sup>5</sup> having pre-destined us for adoption as children through Yahshua Messiah to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His

desire... <sup>11</sup> in whom also we were assigned an inheritance, having been foreordained according to the purpose of Him who works all things after the counsel of His will; <sup>12</sup> to the end that we should be to the praise of His glory, we who had before hoped in Messiah:

Yahweh chose us in Messiah that we might be holy and without blemish. He has predestined us to be His children through Yahshua, to the end or for the ultimate purpose that we should be to the praise of His glory. In other words, as believers, our lives ought to bring praise to Yahweh's glory.

**Rom. 8:29-31** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined<sup>G4309</sup> to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> Whom He predestined, those He also called. Whom He called, those He also justified. Whom He justified, those He also glorified. <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say about these things? If Yahweh is for us, who can be against us?

G4309 *proorizō* (pro-oridzō) – to limit in advance, that is, (figuratively), predetermine:-- determine before, ordain, predetermine, from:

G4253 *pro* – fore, that is, in front of, prior

G3724 *horizō* (horidzō) – to mark out or bound (“horizon”), that is, (figuratively) to appoint, decree, specify:-- declare, determine, limit, ordain.

Yahweh has “marked out the horizon before us”, showing us what we are to become: ultimately, our destiny is to be conformed to the image of His Son – to become just like Yahshua! He has given us the “power to become sons”, to become “words made flesh” (John 1:12,14). But it is up to us whether or not we do. We still have free will. Yahweh's will is for us to have the mind, character, and attributes of His Son.

Destiny and calling are related, but they aren't the same thing. We have a common destiny but unique individual callings. Our calling, simply put, is that which Yahweh has called us to do for the Kingdom. The apostle Paul recognized and identified his unique calling as a preacher, apostle, and teacher:

**2 Tim. 1:1, 9-11** Paul, an apostle of Yahshua Messiah through the will of God, according to the promise of the life which is in Messiah Yahshua... <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Messiah Yahshua before times eternal, <sup>10</sup> but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior, Messiah Yahshua, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup> For this, I was appointed as a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Like Paul, we each have an important and unique calling. It is

a high and holy calling, and we must treat it as something precious – as a prize to be pursued fervently. To do so we, too, must be able to recognize and clearly identify it.

**Php. 3:13-15** Brothers, I don't regard myself as yet having taken hold, but one thing I do. Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Messiah Yahshua. <sup>15</sup> Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, think this way. If in anything you think otherwise, God will also reveal that to you.

Paul didn't see himself as someone who had “arrived” spiritually. He was focused on reaching and stretching for those things which the Father had set before him. We must do likewise, recognizing the awesome things He has in store for us. To do so we must forget and release the things in the past, and then truly understand the hope [confident expectation] of His calling:

**Eph. 1:18-19** “having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe”

When we truly recognize the hope (expectation) of His calling by the Spirit, we will also recognize our true inheritance as saints and the exceeding greatness of His power toward us – that He will move heaven and earth on our behalf so that we might become all that He has predestined us to be!

**Hebr. 3:1-2a** “Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Yahshua; who was faithful to Him who appointed Him...”

**2 Pet. 1:10** “...brothers, be more diligent to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never stumble”

Like Yahshua, we must be faithful to the One who appointed us, recognizing that we are partakers of a heavenly calling. And we must be more diligent to make our calling and election sure. When we do these things, we will never stumble.

### Missing

Have you ever noticed that popular culture sometimes provides an eerie reflection of the spiritual condition of the body of Messiah? One trend that I noticed a while back is the proliferation of “missing person” programs on TV, such as *Cold*

Case, MISSING, and Without a Trace. Ironically, it was a case of life imitating “art” several years ago with the well-publicized runaway bride story in the news.

Surveying the general body of Messiah across America, I find that this provides an interesting (and troubling) metaphor: within the *ekklesia* there are and have been a lot of “missing person” and “runaway bride” cases, people who are excited and enthusiastic to be a part of a ministry or house, then, a short time later, simply vanish without a trace. Why does this happen? We could speculate endlessly, but I believe it comes down to two basic truths:

First, those who left never really identified themselves as a part of that house or ministry. Yes, they might have been involved at some level, but they didn’t make the heart connection that “this is where Yahweh has placed me.” They didn’t understand that Yahweh “sets the solitary in families (houses)” (Psa. 68:6). Therefore, they never really put down roots. Most of us, at one time or other, have probably been there. We attended a church or ministry and might even have committed ourselves to it financially, but in the back of our minds we had an “until-something-better-comes-along” mentality. If we truly recognize by the Spirit that Yahweh has set us in place within a local ministry, then that mindset cannot exist in us. There is no “something better” – we’re either in His will or we’re not. In fact, if we really understand Yahweh and His nature, we will recognize that His will is the “something better”! His perfect will is always meant for our ultimate benefit.

Secondly, I believe there is a basic lack of understanding within the *ekklesia* of what true covenant relationship really is. That’s why the divorce rate within the Body is on par with that of secular society; and that’s why “divorce” is also rampant between brothers and sisters in Messiah. Yahshua said, “What Yahweh has joined together, let no man separate” (Matt. 19:6). While He was specifically referring to the marriage covenant between husband and wife, the statement can also be extrapolated and applied to relationships within the Body. If Yahweh has made a spiritual connection between two people, no one – not even the two involved – has the right to capriciously dissolve it or cause its separation.

**Prov. 18:1** “He that separates himself seeks his own desire, and rages against all sound wisdom.”

This verse really brings the point home: when we separate ourselves, we’re raging against all sound wisdom. In other words, “it ain’t too smart.” The word ‘separates’ is translated from the Hebrew *parád*, which means “to break through, spread or separate (oneself), disperse, divide, be out of joint.” It is the same word used in Psalm 22:14 (“all My bones are out of joint”). So another way to translate the verse is “He who gets ‘out of joint’ seeks his own desire, and rages against all

sound wisdom.” The Amplified Bible renders it this way: “He who willfully separates and estranges himself [from Yahweh and man] seeks his own desire and pretext to break out against all wise and sound judgment.”

When we aren’t fully committed to the place where Yahweh has set us, we can allow our **own desire** for “greener pastures” to draw us away, or we can find almost any **pretext** (excuse) to separate ourselves. If the going gets tough – a problem arises, we have a disagreement with a brother or sister, someone succumbs to a gossiping tongue, or someone says or does something we don’t like – then it’s fairly easy to get offended and just walk away from the entire situation. It’s always easier to run away from a conflict than to work through it. The problem with that approach is that it’s not the kind of lifestyle the Father has called us to! He desires that we be joined, fitly framed, and knit together (Eph. 2:21, 4:16, Col. 2:19) in the place where He has set us (1 Cor. 12:24, 28). That requires a lot of work, patience, love, and forgiveness; in short, commitment.

**Prov. 17:17** “A friend loves at all times; And a brother is born for adversity.”

A true friend loves at all times, not just when times are good; a true brother or sister is actually revealed when the winds of adversity are blowing the hardest. It’s easy to make a verbal commitment to someone; it’s something else to see that commitment through when the fires are raging all around us. I heard someone say a long time ago that true character is seeing a decision through, long after the original passion under which the decision was made has passed. As mature believers we can’t have a “running away from home” mentality every time something doesn’t go exactly the way we want.

I can only speak to what I see or what I know by the Spirit. And what I see in the natural and what I know by the Spirit is that the American *ekklesia* is, by and large, a body dismembered, disjointed, disengaged, and divorced.

The Father didn’t intend it to be that way; Messiah didn’t die for it to be that way; therefore, the good news is that it need not be that way. But any change must begin with each of us.

Let us entreat the Father, asking Him to renew our hearts and our minds and bring a greater depth of spiritual understanding to the meaning of true covenant relationship. Let us, with sincere and humble hearts, ask Him to help us recognize where He has joined us by the Spirit to others in the Body. Let us resolve to lay hold of those relationships and not allow anyone or anything to cause us to separate. Finally, let us pray the same prayer that Yahshua prayed on the last night before His death – that we may be one, even as He and the Father are one (John 17:22).

## Recent Sermons

- Incubators of His Word (10/30/10)
- Understanding Your Destiny and Your Calling (11/20/10)
- Prophetic Intercession (12/04/10)
- Gospel of the Kingdom – Pts. 1&2 (12/11/10, 1/01/11)

For all the latest teaching & preaching from this ministry, please visit us online – [www.4LionofJudah.com](http://www.4LionofJudah.com). Most recent sermons are available for immediate download in mp3 format.

## Recommended Tool of the Month

Moving in the Apostolic by John Eckhardt.

“Why is God restoring apostles to His Church? Because restoration of the apostolic ministry is necessary for the Church to complete its mission on earth. We are now experiencing the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit the world has ever known, and we should expect to see multitudes swept into the Kingdom as a result. In this book, John Eckhardt reveals how the apostolic dimension affects the preaching, teaching, worship, prayer and giving of the local church -and how apostolic leadership will point the way toward fulfillment of the Great Commission.”

Available at Amazon.com for \$10.19 (paperback).

## *Yahweh's Feast Calendar – 2011*

We understand that people have different understandings of Yahweh's calendar. These are the feast dates for 2011 as observed by Lion of Judah Family Worship Center:

Passover*	Apr. 17 <sup>th</sup> (Sun.)
Days of Unleavened Bread	Apr. 18 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> (Mon. – Sun.)
Pentecost	June 12 <sup>th</sup> (Sun.)
Trumpets	Sep. 28 <sup>th</sup> (Wed.)
Day of Atonement	Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup> (Fri.)
Feast of Tabernacles	Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> (Wed. – Tue.)
Last Great Day	October 19 <sup>th</sup> (Wed.)

*\* observed the evening before*

*Bear in mind that the Biblical day begins at sunset the night before.*

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### Contact us:

**(PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS)**

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