



PARADIGM SHIFT

by Matt German

There is a paradigm shift going on in the Body of Messiah. A paradigm is “an example serving as a model; pattern; a set of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitutes a way of viewing reality for the community that shares them, especially in an intellectual discipline”. For our purposes a paradigm shift is a change in attitude, mindset, and approach. For too long the Body of Messiah has operated more like a worldly organization than a dynamic, living organism. It has followed the pattern of men rather than the pattern of the Kingdom. That is changing.

Prior to his death King David commissioned his son Solomon to build a temple to Yahweh. In doing so he gave him some very specific instructions:

1 Chron. 28:9-14 You, Solomon my son, know you the God of your father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind; for Yahweh searches all hearts, and understands all the imaginations of the thoughts: if you seek Him, He will be found of you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. ¹⁰ Take heed now; for Yahweh has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it. ¹¹ Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch [of the temple], and of the houses of it, and of the treasuries of it, and of the upper rooms of it, and of the inner chambers of it, and of the place of the mercy seat; ¹² and the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit, for the courts of the house of Yahweh, and for all the chambers round about, for the treasuries of the house of God, and for the treasuries of the dedicated things; ¹³ also for the courses of the priests and the Levites, and for all the work of the service of the house of Yahweh, and for all the vessels of service in the house of Yahweh; ¹⁴ of gold by weight for the [vessels of] gold, for all vessels of every kind of service; [of silver] for all the vessels of silver by weight, for all vessels of every kind of service;

Notice that David gave to Solomon “the pattern of all that he had by the Spirit”. This was not something he had read in a book or heard other people talk about – it was direct spiritual revelation that he had received by the Spirit.

v19-21 All this, [said David], have I been made to understand in writing from the hand of Yahweh, even all the works of this pattern. ²⁰ David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: don't be afraid, nor be dismayed; for Yahweh God, even my God, is with you; He will not fail you, nor forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of Yahweh is finished. ²¹ Behold, there are the courses of the priests and the Levites, for all the service of the house of God: and there shall be with you in all manner of work every willing man who has skill, for any manner of service: also the captains and all the people will be wholly at your commandment.

Take note of the promise, that Yahweh “will not fail you nor forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of Yahweh is finished.” That was a promise to Solomon, but it also applies across the board to Yahweh's children – as many as are called by His Name. He will not fail nor forsake us as long as we are pursuing His will and purpose, as long as we have our hands in the work of the Kingdom.

1 Chron. 29:1-9 David the king said to all the assembly, Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great; for the palace is not for man, but for Yahweh God. ² Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for the [things of] gold, and the silver for the [things of] silver, and the brass for the [things of] brass, the iron for the [things of] iron, and wood for the [things of] wood; onyx stones, and [stones] to be set, stones for inlaid work, and of various colors, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance. ³ Moreover also, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, seeing that I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, I give it to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, ⁴ even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, with which to overlay the walls of the houses; ⁵ of gold for the [things of] gold, and of silver for the [things of] silver, and for all manner of work [to be made] by the hands of artificers. Who then offers willingly to consecrate himself this day to Yahweh? ⁶ Then the princes of the fathers' [houses], and the princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers over the king's work, offered willingly; ⁷ and they gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand darics, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and of iron a hundred thousand talents. ⁸ They with whom [precious] stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of Yahweh, under the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. ⁹ Then the people rejoiced, because they offered willingly, because with a perfect heart they offered willingly to Yahweh: and David the king also rejoiced with great

joy.

Notice that both David and the people were willing to give to the house of Yahweh. In fact, the people actually rejoiced to be able to offer willingly to Yahweh and the building of His house. As believers in Messiah, we can't expect to build Yahweh's house or establish His Kingdom "on the cheap". Are we willing to sow abundantly into His Kingdom? Are we willing to give – and to rejoice in that giving?

On a more personal level, what price are you willing to pay to see Yahweh's will accomplished – not just in your life or your family – but in the local manifestation of the Body of Messiah in which you find yourself?

2 Chron. 2:3-9 Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, As you did deal with David my father, and did send him cedars to build him a house to dwell therein, [even so deal with me]. ⁴ Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of Yahweh my God, to dedicate it to Him, and to burn before Him incense of sweet spices, and for the continual show bread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the set feasts of Yahweh our God. This is [an ordinance] forever to Israel. ⁵ The house which I build is great; for great is our God above all gods. ⁶ But who is able to build Him a house, seeing heaven and the heaven of heavens can't contain him? Who am I then, that I should build Him a house, save only to burn incense before him? ⁷ Now therefore send me a man skillful to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, and in iron, and in purple, and crimson, and blue, and who knows how to engrave [all manner of] engravings, [to be] with the skillful men who are with me in Judah and in Jerusalem, whom David my father did provide. ⁸ Send me also cedar trees, fir trees, and algum trees, out of Lebanon; for I know that your servants know how to cut timber in Lebanon: and, behold, my servants shall be with your servants, ⁹ even to prepare me timber in abundance; for the house which I am about to build shall be great and wonderful.

David was asking for "a man skillful to work" (v7), to join in the work with all of the other skillful men who were with him. As pertaining to our local assembly, I'm believing Yahweh to send me the man or men – and everything else – we need to complete the job that He's given us. But even more than that, I'm determined to BECOME THE MAN that I need to be to fulfill my calling. Are you?

2 Tim. 1:6-14 For this cause, I remind you that you should stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and discipline. ⁸ Don't be ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me, His prisoner; but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For this, I was appointed as a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. ¹² For this cause I suffer also these things. Yet I am not ashamed, for I know Him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to guard that which I have committed to Him against that day. ¹³ Hold the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which is in Messiah Yahshua. ¹⁴ That good thing which was committed to you, guard through the Holy Spirit which dwells in us.

Paul is reminding Timothy to "hold the pattern of sound words" (v13). This, of course, is reminiscent of the passing on of the pattern of "all that he had by the Spirit" that David gave to Solomon regarding the temple. Paul went on to instruct Timothy to "guard through the Holy Spirit" the good thing that had been committed to him (v14).

In the next chapter, he also exhorts him to pass on that pattern of sound words to others. In fact, he identifies 4 generations of that spiritual inheritance: himself, Timothy, 'faithful men' (a third generation), and 'others' (a fourth generation).

2 Tim. 2:1-4 You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Messiah Yahshua. ² The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. ³ You therefore must endure hardship, as a good soldier of Messiah Yahshua. ⁴ No soldier on service entangles himself in the affairs of life, that he may please him who enrolled him as a soldier.

Notice that he also encouraged him to "endure hardship". There is a price to pay for discipleship – it's not always easy. He continues to build on this concept a few verses later, when he challenges Timothy to "give diligence" to present himself approved by Yahweh, as a true workman who is skillful with the Word of Truth:

v14-16 Remind them of these things, charging them in the sight of the Master, that they don't argue about words, to no profit, to the subverting of those who hear. ¹⁵ Give diligence to present yourself approved by Yahweh, a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed, properly handling the Word of Truth. ¹⁶ But shun empty chatter, for they will proceed further in ungodliness.

Regardless of individual calling, each of us has a responsibility to "preach the word" within our own sphere of influence and to have a sense of urgency about the things of the Kingdom.

2 Tim. 4:1-5 I charge you therefore before Yahweh and the Master, Yahshua Messiah, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be urgent in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all patience and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, will heap up for themselves teachers after their own lusts; ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside to fables. ⁵ But you be sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill your ministry.

Are you urgent in season and out of season? Are you urgent when things are going well and when things aren't going so well, when there is peace and calm and when there is all hell breaking loose around you? As mature believers we must have a consistent sense of urgency in our pursuit of the things of the Kingdom.

Hebr. 3:1-4 Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Yahshua; ² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as also was Moses in all his house. ³ For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by so much as he who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For every house is built by someone; but He who built all things is Yahweh.

We are partakers of a heavenly calling – do we treat it that way, as something priceless, of immense value?

Yahweh bore witness to them by signs and wonders, manifold powers and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Do we have the faith to believe that He will do the same for us? Are we committed to giving earnest heed to His voice and doing what He shows us to do TODAY?

v5-9 Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were afterward to be spoken, ⁶ but Messiah as a Son, over His house; whose house are we, if we hold fast our boldness and the glorying of our hope firm to the end. ⁷ Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you will hear His voice," ⁸ Don't harden your hearts, as in the provocation, Like as in the day of the trial in the wilderness, ⁹ Where your fathers tested Me by proving Me, And saw My works for forty years.

v12-15 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there will be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God; ¹³ but exhort one another day by day, so long as it is called "today;" lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Messiah, if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm to the end: ¹⁵ while it is said, "Today if you will hear His voice, Don't harden your hearts, as in the provocation."

How important is it for us to hear His voice TODAY?

Announcing the Launching of The ACADEMY OF WORD, SPIRIT, AND MINISTRY (AWSM)

*~ Teaching, Training, and Equipping the Body of
Messiah to rule and reign... in this life and in the
Kingdom to come ~*

Yahshua the Messiah, prior to His ascension to the Father, gave this instruction to His disciples: "Go you therefore, and make disciples of all nations, immersing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit teaching them to observe all things whatever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20).

If the Body of Messiah is to fulfill its calling, discipleship isn't optional, it's required. While the message of salvation has been preached throughout much of the earth, the process of actually making disciples has been haphazard at best. The purpose of the ACADEMY OF WORD, SPIRIT, AND MINISTRY is to change that by providing in-depth, hands-on training for believers through the teaching of sound Biblical principles. The focus of the school is on Yahshua, His words, and His example; the emphasis is on practical application to our daily lives – not just in Word but in Spirit.

Objectives

1. To establish the believer on the firm foundation of Messiah and ground him/her on solid, practical Biblical principles
2. To encourage personal initiative, accountability, and critical thinking
3. To develop the gifts and fruits of the Spirit
4. To cultivate a healthy spiritual lifestyle of faith, including prayer, devotion, praise & worship, fellowship, and works of service

While the ACADEMY OF WORD, SPIRIT, AND MINISTRY is intended as a comprehensive training program, it cannot and isn't designed to cover every aspect of the Bible or develop "Bible scholars". It's meant to provide the "how to" of walking in the Kingdom and should be used in conjunction with and as a complement to the Bible, not as a replacement for it. It's also essential to recognize that study of the Word and walking by the Spirit are lifelong pursuits that don't end at the completion of a training program, no matter how extensive. Advanced specialized training will be provided based on individual gifting and calling.

Organization. This curriculum will be presented in an outline teaching format, but will also emphasize group interaction (discussion) and practical, hands-on training, where applicable – we learn more by doing than by simply hearing.

Recent Sermons

- Beware the False – Cling to the True (7/14/12)
- Write the Vision (6/30/12)
- Paradigm Shift (6/16/12)
- Earnestly Desire Spiritual Gifts (5/12/12)

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

Recommended Video of the Month

Facing the Giants – Provident Music Distribution / DVD
(Rated PG)

“Created by a church in Georgia to evangelize non-believers and encourage believers, this inspiring story about a losing high school football coach with a new game plan will have your whole town talking about trusting God for the impossible! After six consecutive losing seasons and fear surrounding his life, coach Grant Taylor turns to God in desperation. Taylor and his Shiloh Christian Eagles soon discover how faith plays out on the field and off!”

Available at many of your favorite retailers.

Yahweh's Feast Calendar – 2012

We understand that people have different understandings of Yahweh's calendar. These are the feast dates for 2012 as observed by Lion of Judah Family Worship Center:

Passover*	Apr. 5 th (Thu.)
Days of Unleavened Bread	Apr. 6 th – 12 th (Fri. – Thu.)
Pentecost	May 27 th (Sun.)
Trumpets	Sep. 16 th (Su.)
Day of Atonement	Sep. 25 th (Tue.)
Feast of Tabernacles	Sep. 30 th – Oct. 6 th (Su. – Sab.)
Last Great Day	October 7 th (Su.)

* observed the evening before

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

Contact us:

(PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS)

Lion of Judah Family Worship Center	www.4lionofjudah.com
P.O. Box 11141	pastor@4lionofjudah.com
Huntsville, AL 35814	(256) 797-9779

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P.O. Box 11141
Huntsville, AL 35814

