



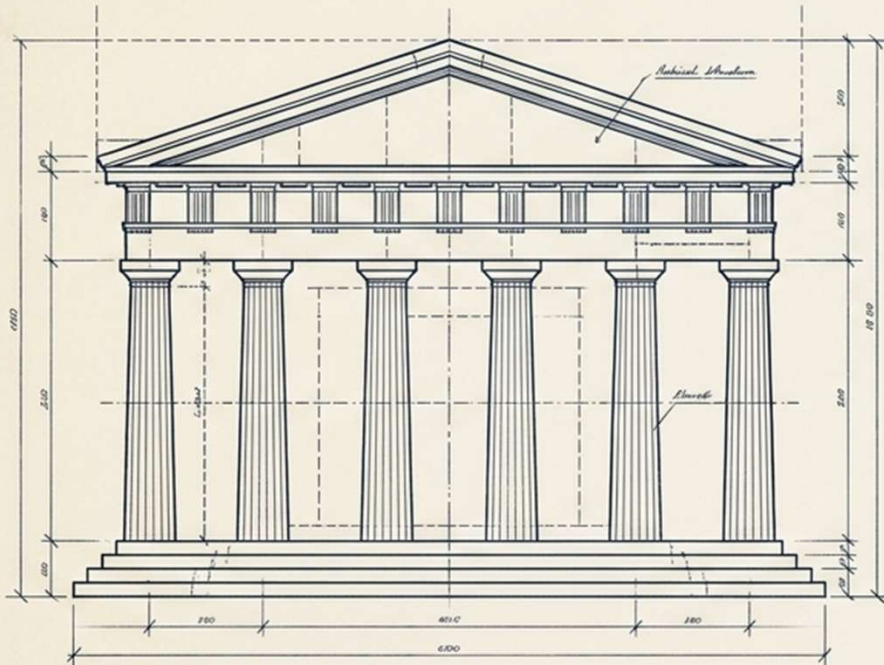
THE LIVING TEMPLE

Shaping Congregational Culture Through the Character of God.

A blueprint for stewarding ministry atmosphere and the manifest presence of God.

A Structure Built Upon People

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:22)



Congregations are not merely institutions or corporate entities.



They are revelatory communities—cultures designed to perfectly reflect God's heart.

Anatomy of the Foundation

Determines the absolute soundness of the foundation. Its angles are so precise they ensure all joining walls are perfect.

Apostles

FOUNDATION DEPTH

STRUCTURAL
INTEGRITY TESTED

LOAD BEARING
STRUCTURAL

Pillars
(Peter, James, John)

LOAD BEARING
CAPACITY

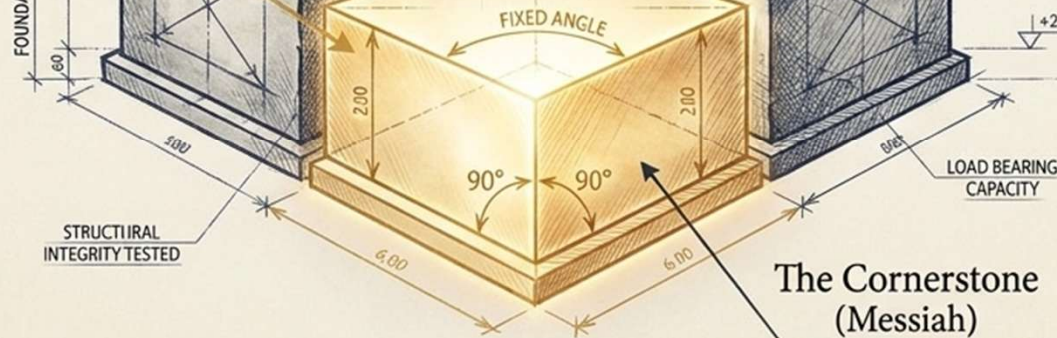
Leaders function as load-bearing supports only when perfectly adhered to the Cornerstone.

Apostles and prophets must be the most closely aligned to this stone, requiring absolute devotion to its outlook.

Prophets

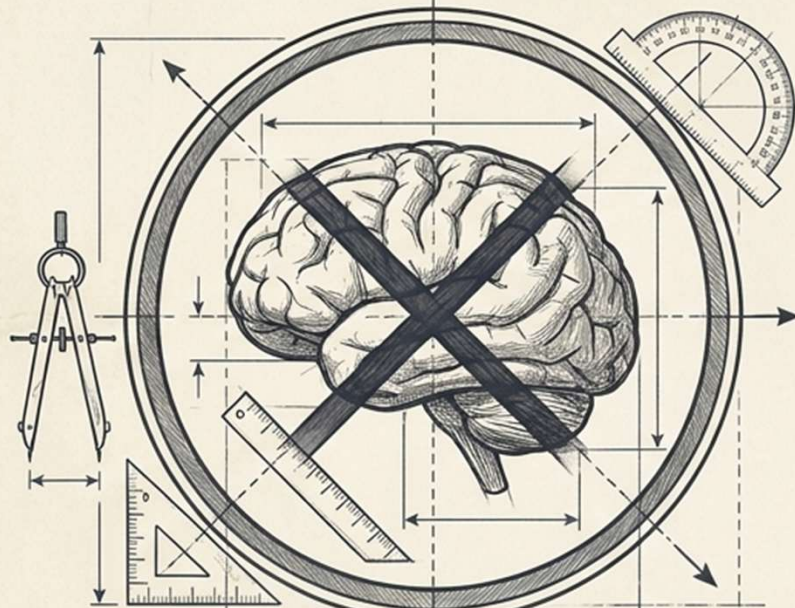
LOAD BEARING
CAPACITY

The Cornerstone
(Messiah)



The Mechanism of Revelation

Jesus led the disciples to a place of decision (Matthew 16).
Peter's realization that Jesus was the Messiah prompted a divine response.



Mere Deduction



Spirit-Given Illumination

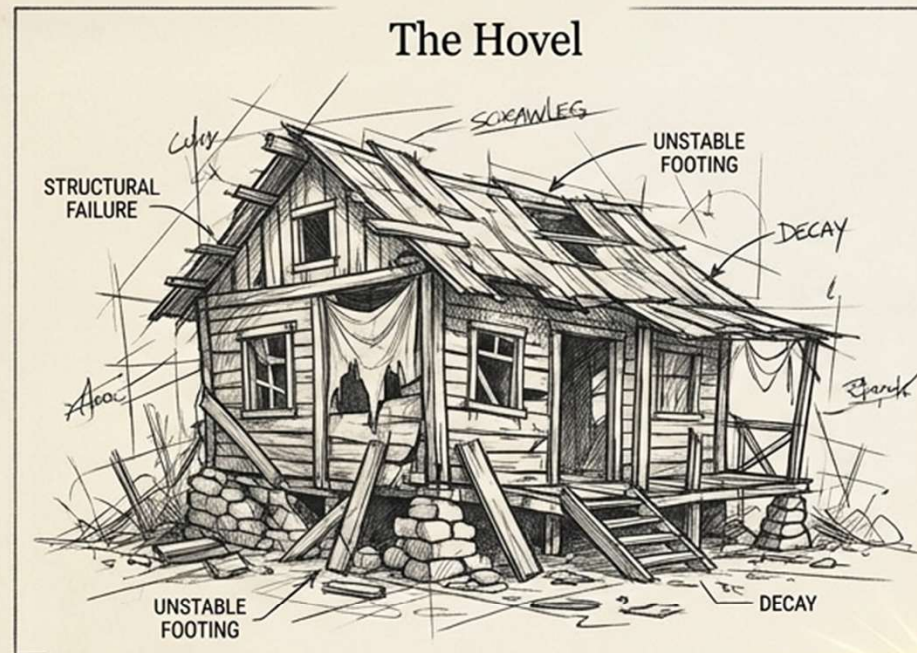
Key Insight

The foundation rock is not simply the revelation itself. It is the revelation in the man, and the man who has the revelation. True heart-to-heart fellowship with God requires Spirit-given illumination, not just deduction.

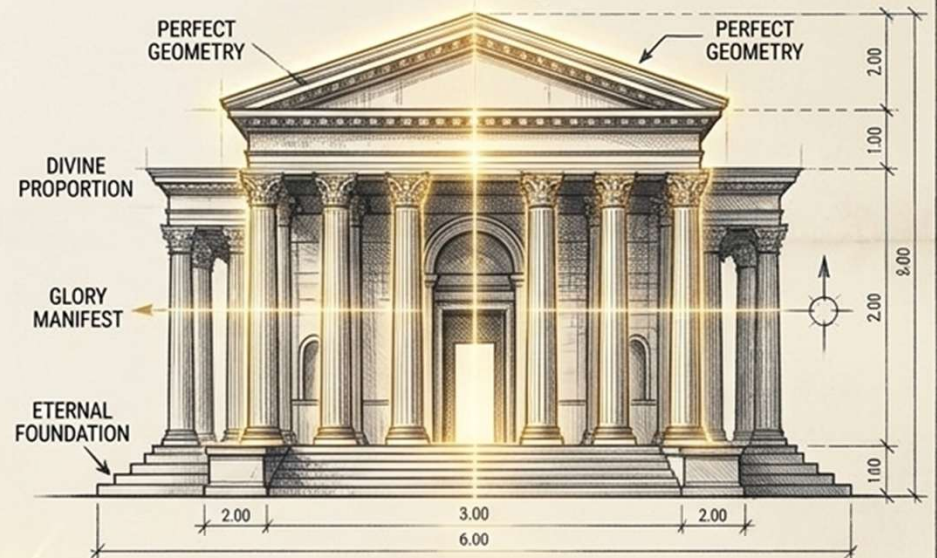
The Standard of the House: Hovel vs. Temple

A King does not live in a hovel (a dirty, run-down shelter). When the disciples marveled at Herod's temple ("Teacher, see what stones!" – Mark 13:1), they looked at the physical. God looks at the spiritual.

The Hovel



The Temple

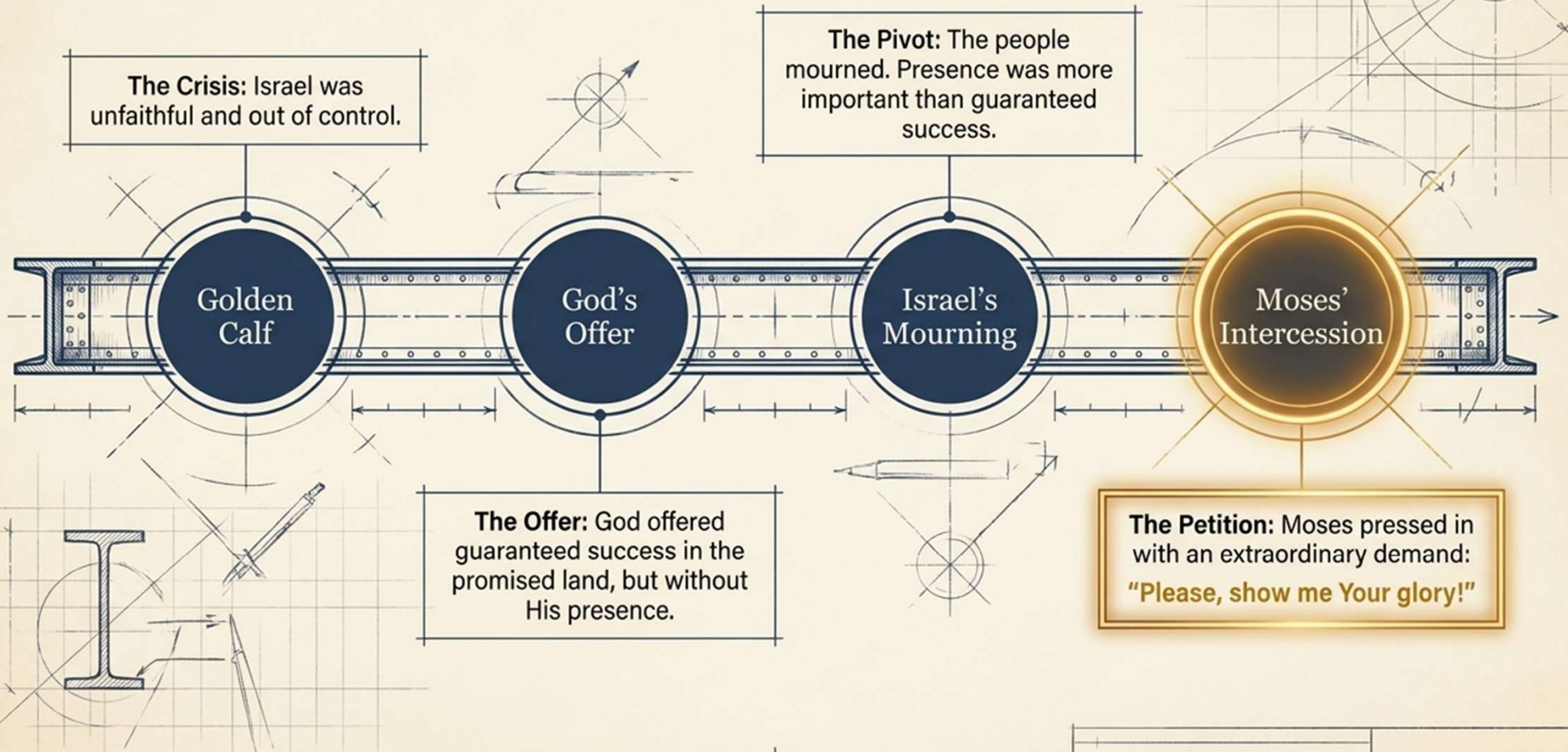


1. Reflect the glory of the God who dwells there.

2. Resemble the glory of His manifest presence.

3. Reveal the glory of the God who abides within.

The Desperation for Presence



Re-defining Glory



Human Expectation

Visual Splendor: Earthquakes, lightning, and cherubim (Missing)

Displays of Power: Declarations of omniscience and omnipresence (Missing)

Atmosphere: Overwhelming dread (Missing)

Divine Revelation (Exodus 34)

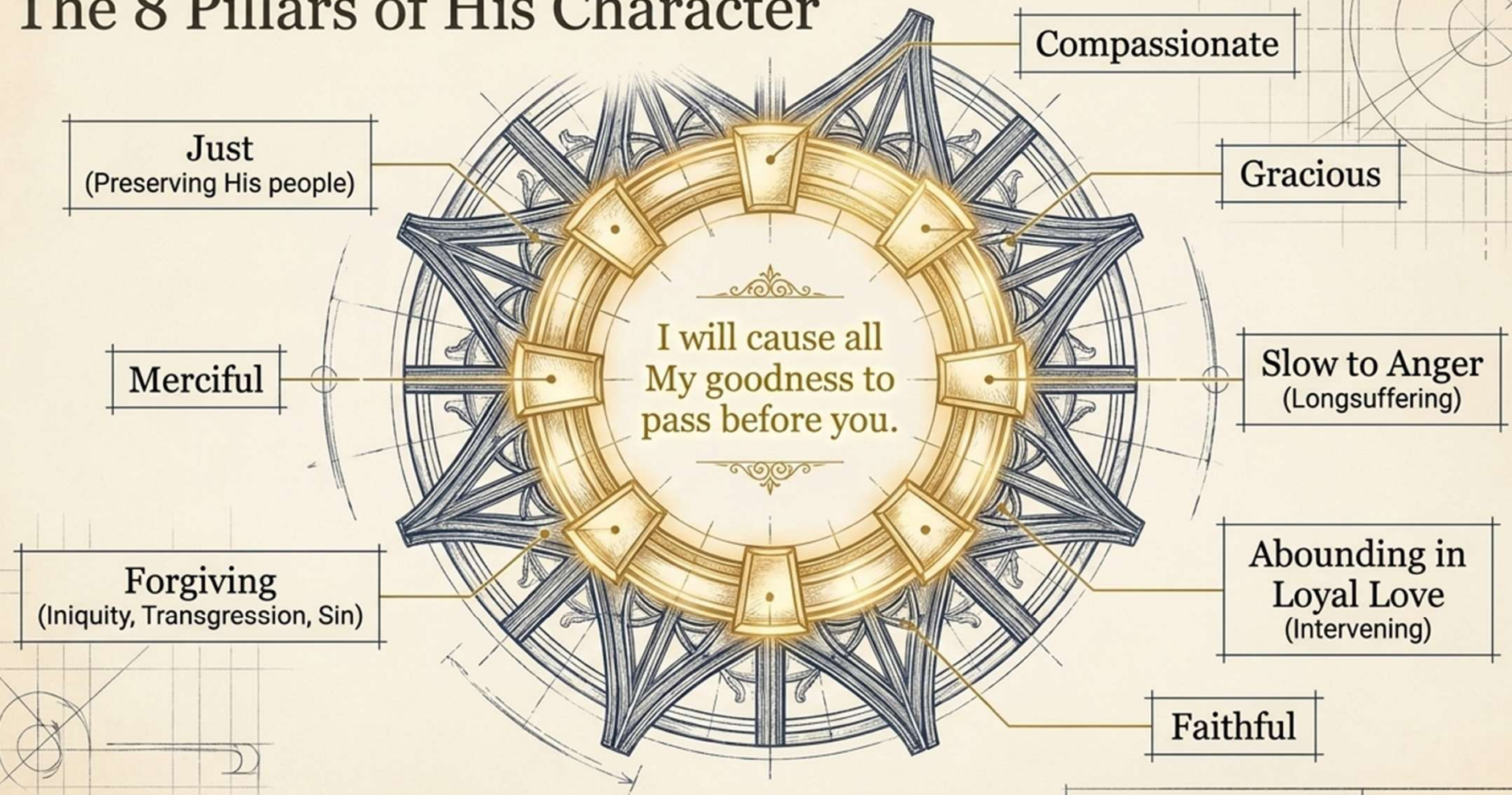
Compassion and Grace (Revealed)

Patience and Intervening Love (Revealed)

Deep relational loyalty to His people (Revealed)

God's glory is not an abstract display of power; it is the specific attributes He loves about Himself, revealed within relationship to His people.

The 8 Pillars of His Character



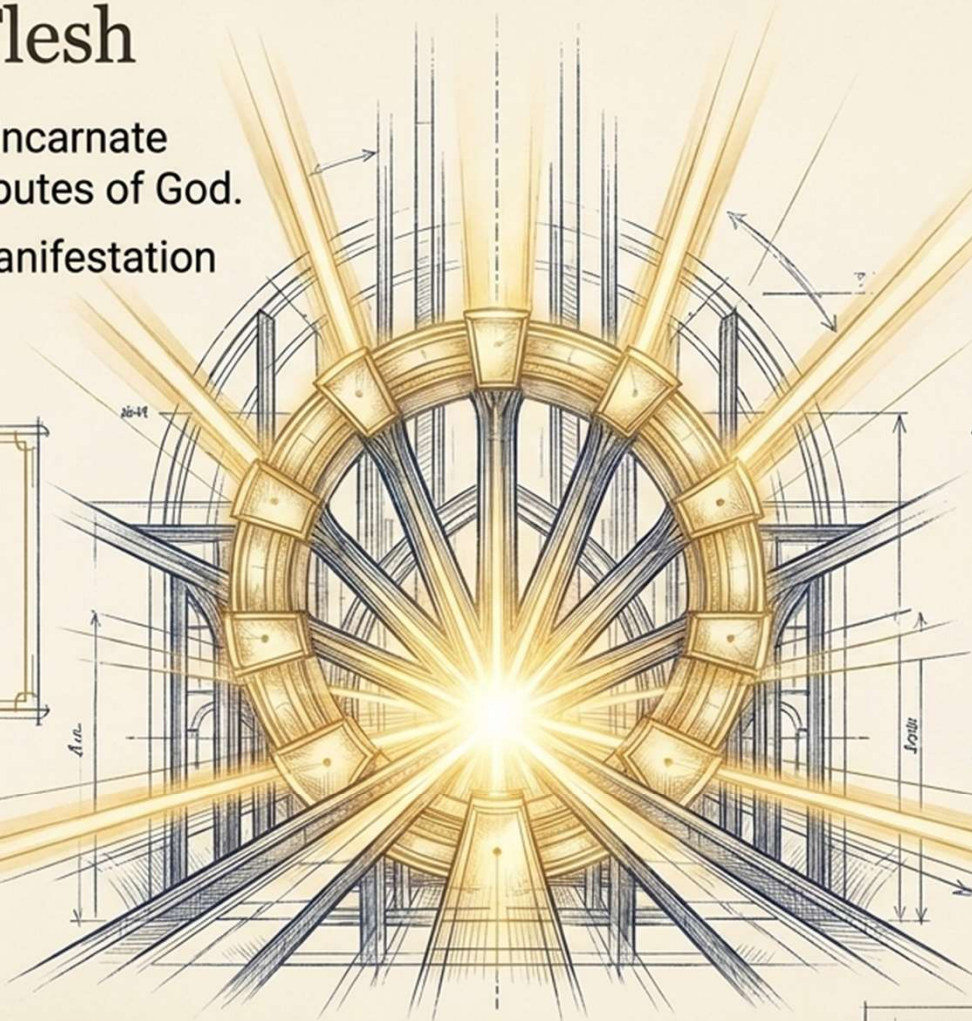
Glory in the Flesh

Exodus 34 was the pre-incarnate Son calling out the attributes of God.

Jesus is the ultimate manifestation of this exact blueprint.

We have seen his glory,
glory as of the only
Son from the Father...
(John 1:14)

God... has shone in
our hearts to give the
light of the knowledge
of the glory of God in
the face of Messiah.
(2 Cor 4:6)



The Transformation Loop

1. Behold

Leaders immerse themselves in praising His specific characteristics (compassion, grace, longsuffering).

4. Cultivate

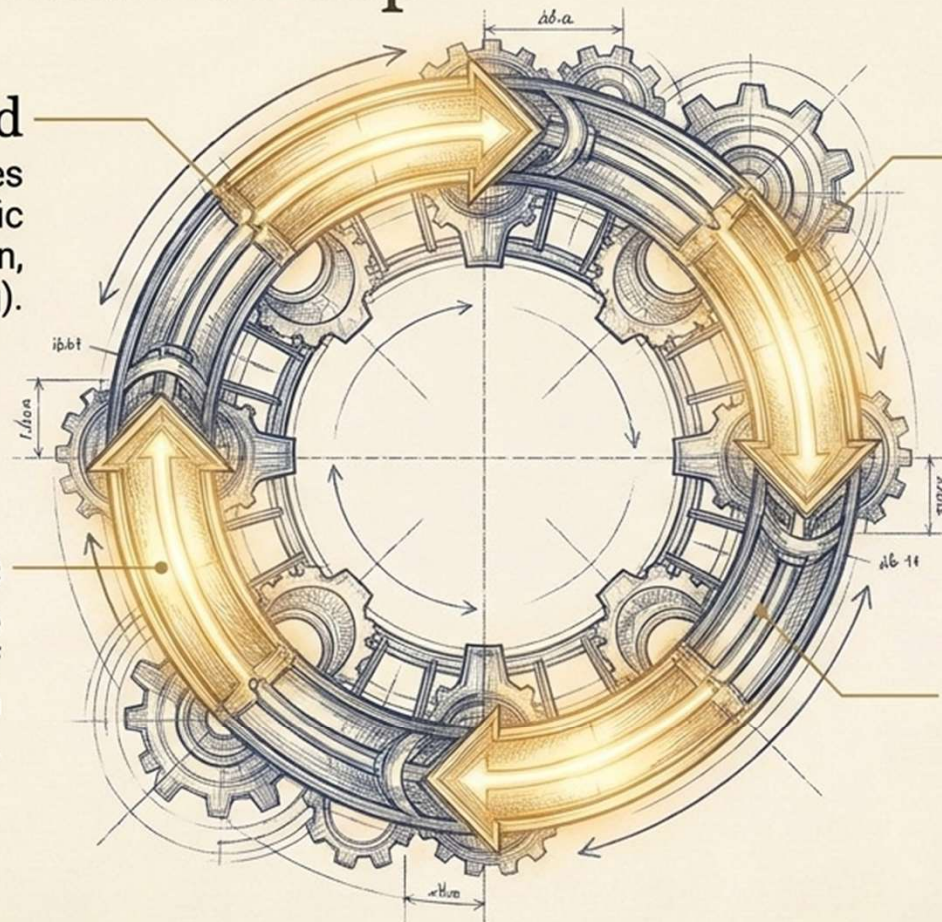
These foundational people determine the culture of the fellowship, creating a place where God wants to live.

2. Transform

We are changed from "glory to glory" (2 Cor 3:18)—conformed to the likeness of what we truly worship.

3. Interpret

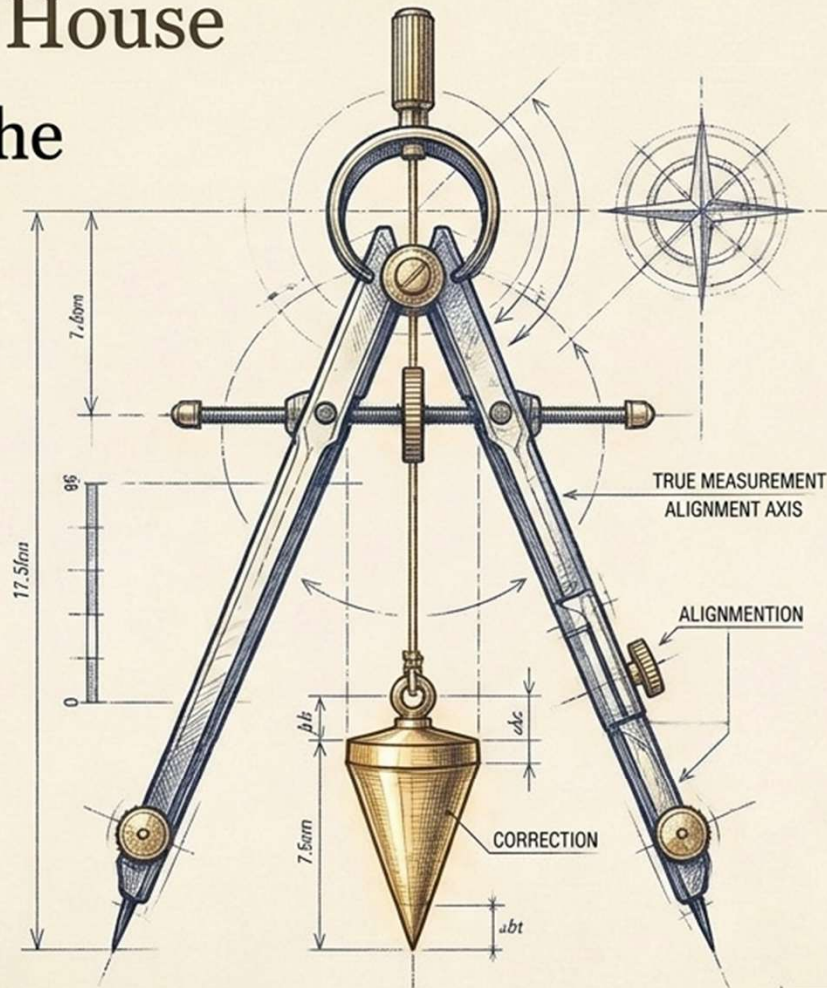
Transformed leaders become reliable interpreters of circumstances through the lens of His character.



Stewarding the House

7 Guardrails for the Living Temple

God already lives in our fellowships, but there is so much more available.



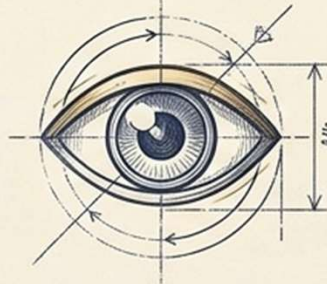
To steward the increase of His manifest presence and activity, leaders must aggressively guard against specific hindrances.

Guardrails 1-3: Character Over Charisma



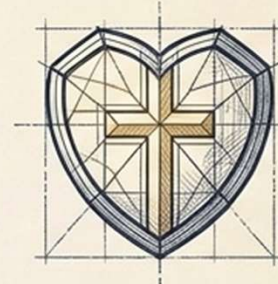
1. Decouple Power from Purity

Do not confuse His dynamic activity (anointing/gifts) with a leader's virtue or correct doctrine. History proves charismata is not a guarantee of character (Sermon on the Mount warning).



2. Watch Yourself

Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching... take heed lest he fall (1 Tim 4:16, 1 Cor 10:12).



3. The Pure Heart

You will be attacked, regardless of perfection.
Pray: "Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me" (Psalm 69:6).
Remember: We are not the point.

Guardrails 4-5: Navigating Time & Honor



4. The Clock & The Quenching.

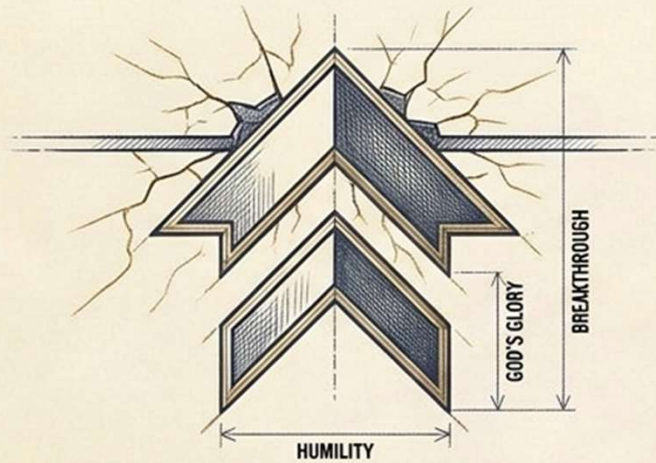
Stop clock-watching. Deliberately, and awkwardly if necessary, make room for Him. Get out of the way when He makes Himself manifestly known.



5. The Double Snares of Honor.

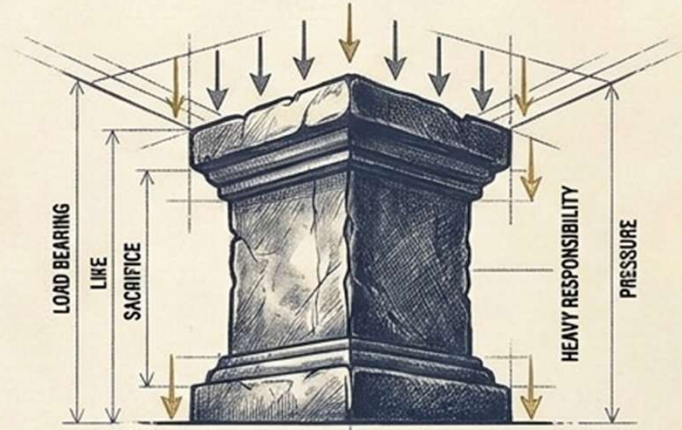
The Snare of Lack: When finances are choked, leaders pander to donors.
The Snare of Success: When double honor is given, leaders get puffed up.
The Antidote: Cultivate relentless personal and corporate generosity.

Guardrails 6-7: Ultimate Credit & The Cost of Labor



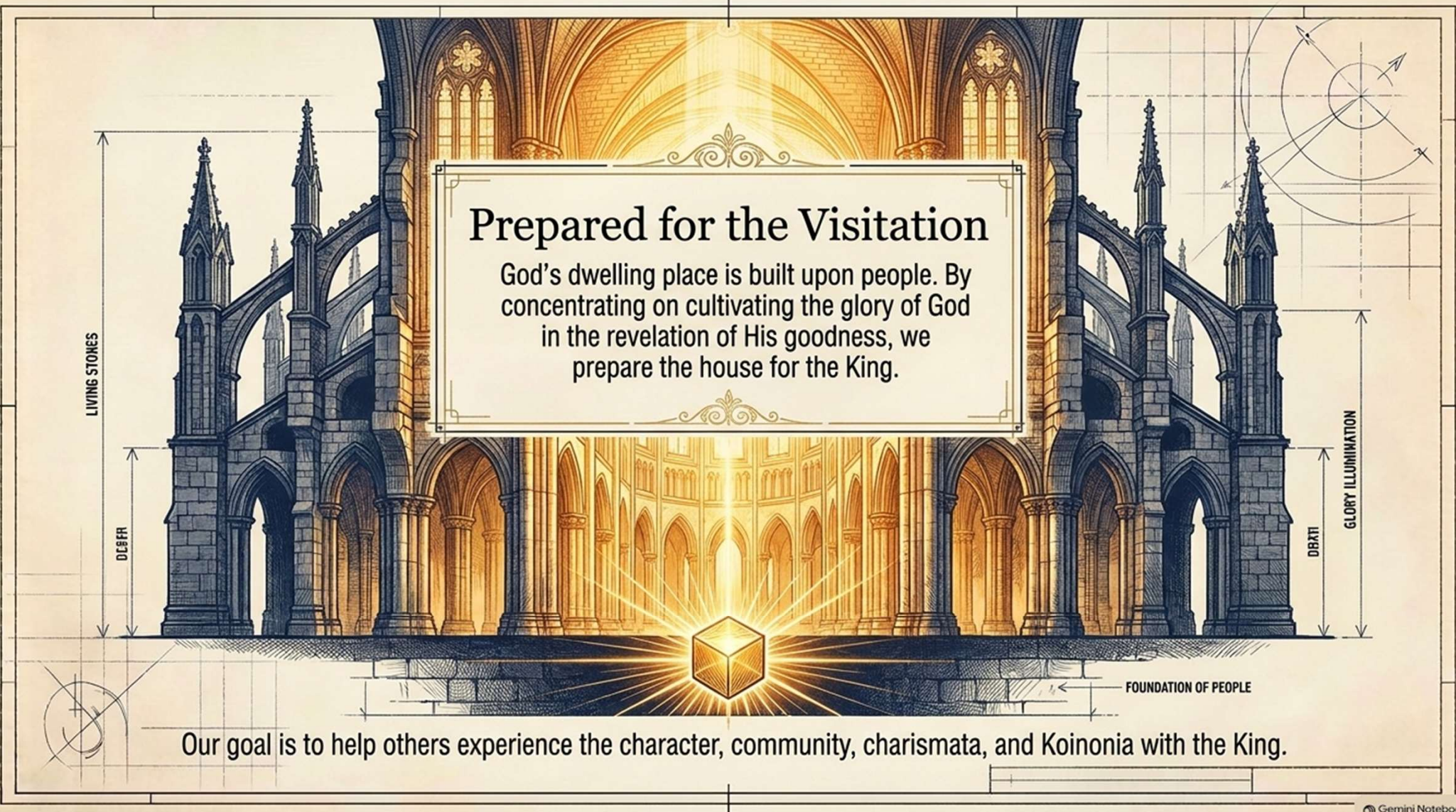
6. Ultimate Credit

Maintain that all credit goes to God—not just in our mouths when we have the opportunity, but deeply in our hearts and demeanor.



7. The Cost of Intercession

This is hard, natural-life-threatening work. Like Epaphroditus (risking his life) and Epaphras (struggling in prayer), leaders must take on the heavy responsibility of praying for those they lead.



Prepared for the Visitation

God's dwelling place is built upon people. By concentrating on cultivating the glory of God in the revelation of His goodness, we prepare the house for the King.

Our goal is to help others experience the character, community, charismata, and Koinonia with the King.