

# GOSPEL AUTHORITY IN THE ANCIENT GATES

*“A Vision for Life and Family - the City of God”*

(Genesis 28:10-22; Psalms 24:9)

*“Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory! Selah.” (Psalms 25:7-10)*

Notice the words of John in Revelation 21:9,

*“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God having the glory of God ...”*

*“Wives, be subject to your own husband’s, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.” (Ephesians 5:22-32)*

## ❖ Purpose and Destiny Comes Out of Identity

- Scriptural Analogies

Listen to these descriptions for in God's Word.

- "You are the SALT of the Earth" (Matthew 5:13)
- "You are the LIGHT of the World" (Matthew 5:14)
- "The SHEEP of His Pasture" (Psalms 74:1)
- "I am the Vine, You are the BRANCHES" (John 15:5)
- "You are Abraham's SEED" (Galatians 3:9)
- "Our Earthly House, This TENT" (II Corinthians 5:1)
- "You also as Living STONES" (I Peter 2:5)
- "We shall be Like a TREE Planted by the Rivers of Water" (Psalms 1:3)

Paul told the Corinthians ...

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*  
(II Corinthians 5:17)

- Significant Examples
  - Abraham was IDENTIFIED by God and SEPARATED out from his people and his homeland. He was ANOINTED and then GUIDED toward PURPOSE in life.

*"The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:1-3)*

- ▶ Joseph was IDENTIFIED by his father as the chosen one and SEPARATED from his brothers. He was ANOINTED with the coat of many colors and then GUIDED by God toward His PURPOSE in life.

▶

*"Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Please come closer to me.' And they came closer. And he said, I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall live in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children and your flocks and your herds and all that you have. There I will also provide for you, for there are still five years of famine to come, and you and your household and all that you have would be impoverished."' (Genesis 45:4-11)*

- David was IDENTIFIED by the prophet and SEPARATED from his brothers and family. He was ANOINTED by the prophet and then GUIDED by the Lord toward his PURPOSE in life.

*"The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters. Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face. Selah." Lift up your heads, O you gates and be lifted up you everlasting doors and the King of glory shall come in! Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty; the Lord, mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up you everlasting doors and the King of glory shall come in! Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!" (Psalms 24:1-10)*

*"I am the way, the truth and the life: no man comes unto the Father except **through Me**" (John 14:6)*

*"Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." (Psalms 126:5-6)*

#### ❖ **Purpose and Destiny Comes Out of Initiative** (Genesis 28:10-17; Matthew 16:14-19)

What kind of material makes for a strong GATE?

- Simon to Peter - Material for the Master's Plan

- From a Man with Knowledge to a Minister Motivated by Revelation

Now Peter the stone could exercise the authority Christ gave concerning ...

- Keys of the Kingdom - Authority for the Master's Purpose
  - The Misunderstanding of To Bind and To Loose
  - The Meaning of To Bind and To Loose

As the Ekklesia (mentioned earlier in this passage), the church governs by:

- ✓ Binding anything that would stand against the Gospel having its full effect on the life of the believer and the release of Christ's Kingdom.
- ✓ Loosing the power of the Word to have its full effect in the transforming process of every believer and the full revelation of new creation.

Binding and Loosing is comparable to ENTRANCE and EXIT. It is the connected to the role of a GATE. The gates were the authority of the city and it is there that people were allowed in and/or driven out.

*"As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup> you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and*

whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”<sup>8</sup> and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:4-10)

- From a Living Stone to a Pillar People (1 Peter 2:4-10)

The New Testament refers to ...

- The House of God is Built with People as Living Stones

- People as Reeds

*“For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3)*

- People as Stones

- People as Pillars

*“Jacob took the stone ... set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it.” (Gen. 28:18)*

- The House of God is Expanded with People as Stone Pillars

A pillar person is SELF-MOTIVATED!

- ✓ Faithfully Serve and Provide Strength and Support
- ✓ Faithfully Stand without the Need for Recognition or Reward
- ✓ Faithfully Seek the Completion of Tasks and Assignments

A pillar person is MATURE!