



The Setman - Setting God's House In Order

By Beverley Watkins

We all long to see God's kingdom established in the earth and yet, despite our best efforts, we still do not see it in our communities and nations. I was recently reading Mark Hanby's book on THE MINISTRY OF THE SAINTS and he believes that if we want to see the Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, one of the principles that need to be established among His people is God's order and government. Ministry is not the work of one man or a small group of super-spiritual people, it is EVERY member of the body of Christ utilizing their gifts and callings as they focus on singularity of vision.

David brought radical change when he wanted to establish God's government in the earth. He moved the ark (symbol of God presence) from Shiloh to Jerusalem. He created a new place of worship, a new pattern of worship and a new order of ministry. David was working with God to do all this, but he made mistakes. We all know the story of how he had a cart made on which to carry the ark and his plan failed dismally. David had to learn that the Presence and government of God will never be carried on man-made structures, but must be carried on the shoulders of a corporate people. In 2 Samuel 6:15 we read that it took the WHOLE house of Israel with David to bring up the ark.

*So David **and all the House of Israel** brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of a trumpet. (emphasis my own)* It is going to take EVERYONE in correct order before we see the Kingdom established.

The key principle in establishing order and government is spiritual alignment. Every saint finding their place in the body and functioning according to their gifts and callings. In order to achieve this, we need God's order in the body. God has an established order for everything, just look at the human body. Every organ and cell has a designated place and function. When each part is in place and working, the body is healthy and can achieve amazing things. When even one small part is out of alignment, the whole body suffers. Ask anyone who has ever had a vertebrae out of alignment!

In the same way, the spiritual body needs to come into God's order and alignment in order to work most effectively. This is such a basic concept and yet we seem to miss it so often. God's order for His body is seen throughout the old and new Testament. From Jacob to Moses to Jesus and Paul, we see God's established order in their ministries. Their ministries were not built around one person, but they were ordered according to God's pattern so that all the saints might fulfill the work of the ministry.

I will provide a brief overview of this order here, but I encourage you to read Mark Hanby's book for a fuller understanding.

We must firstly understand that the principle that ministry is always built on the father / son order. Ministry is passed from father to son and I again recommend Mark Hanby's book **YOU HAVE NOT MANY FATHERS** for excellent teaching on this subject.

The second principle is that of a set ministry or set man. God sets people over the congregation. This can be one person or a husband / wife team, but it is the person with whom the buck stops! In local churches, we would call this person the pastor, in nations, we call him the president, in companies, the CEO and in apostolic houses, the apostle. No matter the title, it is the set ministry over the entity. The biblical precedent is found in Number 27: 16 – 20. Moses is about to die and he asks God to '*set a man over the congregation who may go out before them and go in before them...*'. God then sets Joshua (Moses spiritual son) over the congregation. We see this same principle in the New Testament where Paul is the set apostle over the churches and his rule is established through his sons.

In God's order there is a set person who establishes and oversees the ministry or church. The set ministry gives the vision (as they have received it from the Lord) and must institute order in their own ministry. They are also the only one who can ordain local leadership. (I have covered much of this in my teaching on the apostolic commission.) The set person is responsible for:

- The effective operation of the house
- To establish the house according to the government of God
- Oversee what and how it is taught
- Training of saints and establishing of the multiplicity of ministry within a house

- Accommodating the move of the Holy Spirit.

It is a large responsibility that this person carries and like Moses, it can become too much for one person. This brings us to our next principle – team of elders sharing the burden. The story in Numbers 11:14 – 17 explains God’s pattern for helping the set person. Jethro (Moses father-in-law) previously gave Moses the same advise in Exodus 18. *Gather to Me 70 of the men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be elders of the people and officers over them, bring them to the tabernacle of meetingI will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; **and they shall bear the burden of the people with you.** (Numbers 11:16 – 17)*

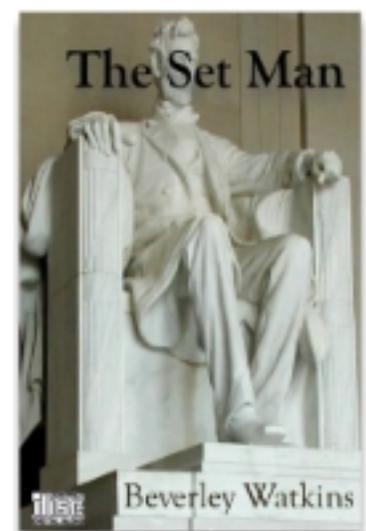
God’s order is that there be elders who carry the same spirit as the set person that will help him or her carry the burden of responsibility for the people assigned to that house. They will help to carry out the responsibilities listed above. The set person will always do the work of an apostle, but may not necessarily carry the office of the apostle. He may be an evangelist. Whatever the case, the set person should surround himself with elders who carry 5 fold giftings so that there is not lack in the training of the saints.

Ephesians 4:11 – 12 tells us God’s intention in giving the 5 fold gifts to men - *His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ’s body (the church).* That word *perfecting* can also mean *alignment*.

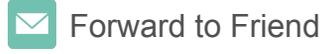
The 5 fold gifts are for the aligning of the saints! So the set person, together with the elders, are there to primarily train, teach and align the saints with their calling and destiny in God.

The apostle will govern, the prophet will guide, the evangelist will gather, the pastor will guard and care for the flock and the teacher will ground and establish the saints. When each person comes into their place of alignment, the purposes of heaven can flow through the perfectly aligned corporate body of Christ and we will begin to see the Kingdom established on the earth as it is in Heaven!

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