



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 18:1-20:26
- Ephesians 2:19-22
- I Peter 2:4-10

ROCK PAPER SCISSORS

- The Power of Testimony
- The Separation of Powers
- Improper Governance

The U.S. government is made up of three distinct branches modeled after the biblical order of governance that mandated a separation of powers. In the Old Testament we see the King, the Priest, and the Prophet. Today we call these branches, the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial. Three branches sharing equal power, meant to keep each other in check. It should be easy to connect the dots here. One branch enforces the laws (the King or Executive), one branch brings forth the laws (the Priest or Legislative), and one branch rules if the laws are being interpreted and obeyed as per their intent (the Prophet or Judicial). Think Rock — Paper — Scissors! What a beautiful balance of powers. And such a beautiful form of governance was created by none other than the Creator of all things.

What happens when any one of these branches attempts to override the other two? The Executive Branch can overstep its power by use of executive orders. A King without a Priest and a Prophet is a tyrant! In today's vernacular we might say a President without a legislature or judiciary is a dictator. When the Legislative Branch oversteps its authority, it's equivalent to "me, me, me," or "mob rule." A Priest without a King and a Prophet is an Idol! Today we might say this happens when legislative representatives (lawmakers) have sunk to the lowest common denominator, when all that matters is to appease the majority! And when the Judicial Branch has gone off the rails it begins to "legislate from the bench." A Prophet without a King and a Priest is an anarchist! Who needs to interpret if laws are being properly applied when we can simply invent our own laws at any moment.

Moses was called to be a Prophet of the Most High, but he finds himself also filling "priestly duties", even though the Levitical Priesthood has not yet been formally initiated. Moses is about to get a lesson from Jethro, his pagan priest father-in-law. "Son, this is how you run an organization without burning out." No doubt Moses has been hearing from Yahweh, the King, and making judicial decisions, but he is also trying to take on all the ministry to the people. Suddenly a priesthood, the people ministry, makes a whole lot of sense. Shortly after Moses takes Jethro's advice, God confirms that

this is the direction He is taking His people. "If you obey Me," He says, "You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Yahweh is the King, Moses is the Prophet, and now we need a formal ministry of, to, and for the people!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: **Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God. And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws,** and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do. **Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God,** men of truth, hating covetousness; **and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.** And **let them judge the people at all times.** Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you." Exodus 18:17-22 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being **built together for a dwelling place of God** in the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. The portion tells the story of Jethro's visit to the camp of Israel, then recounts the physical manifestation of God to man (a theophany) at Mount Sinai. This is when and where Yahweh gives Israel His commandments and the Ten Commandments (the bullet point summary of the commandments) are written on two stone tablets. God then invites the people to enter a special covenant relationship with Him.
2. **Special Note:** When you read Exodus Chapter 20 in a Torah or the Complete Jew Bible (CJB), you will discover only 23 verses. In all other English translations of the Bible you will find 26 verses. **The content is the same** but the verses are separated

differently toward the end of the chapter. For our purposes we use the 26-verse versions.

3. Moses reunites in the wilderness with his father-in-law Jethro, and his wife Zipporah and with his sons.
4. During the conflict with Egypt Zipporah and the children were staying with Jethro.
5. Jethro acknowledges that Yahweh is the one true God as he recounts Israel's deliverance. He then offers a burnt offering to Yahweh. It would seem this is Jethro's moment of conversion.
6. Then Jethro witnesses Moses dealing with the people morning and night and handling all inquires and difficulties (remember there are a few million of them).
7. "When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws." Exodus 18:16
8. Jethro then counsels Moses, as he warns him that this approach will wear him out. He insures Moses that Yahweh will bless a new approach.
9. He advises Moses to select God-fearing men to help him, and to make leaders over groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.
10. He tells him to reserve only the most difficult cases for himself and Moses does exactly as advised.

11. Then in the third month, Israel arrives at Mt. Sinai. The Law and the Holy Spirit were “given” at the same time in relationship to Passover. Here in Exodus the Law is given in relationship to the first Passover and the exodus from Egypt and in Acts the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost in relationship to the Passover for which Y’shua was the Lamb of God.
12. Yahweh reminds Moses all he has done to bring them there and tells Moses He wishes to make a covenant with the people.
13. He promises Moses that if Israel will obey His voice and keep His covenant: He will make them a special treasure above all people, and they will be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.
14. This is a marriage proposal to Israel for them to become Yahweh’s bride. And they accept. “All that the LORD has spoken we will do.” Exodus 19:8
15. Yahweh tells the people to consecrate themselves that in three days He is coming “down on the mountain.” And He warns the people not to step foot on the mountain.
16. On the third day Yahweh calls Moses and tells him to set boundaries around the mountain, lest the people come near, and then he calls Moses and Aaron to come up.
17. Then Yahweh speaks the Ten Commandments to Moses (Exodus 20:2-17).
 - I. You shall have no other gods before Me.

- II. You shall not make for yourself a carved image [no idolatry]—you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.
 - III. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God [Yahweh or Y'shua] in vain—for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who does.
 - IV. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy—the seventh day is the Sabbath of Yahweh your God.
 - V. Honor your father and your mother, so you may live a long life.
 - VI. You shall not murder.
 - VII. You shall not commit adultery.
 - VIII. You shall not steal.
 - IX. You shall not bear false witness.
 - X. You shall not covet.
18. The people hear the thunderous interaction from down below and they tremble.
19. They tell Moses to speak to them for Yahweh as a go between as they fear a direct encounter.
20. Moses explains that Yahweh has come to test them so that they may not sin.
21. At the end of the portion Yahweh warns the people not to make any type of idol to use as a way to get close to Him.

22. Yahweh teaches them how to make an altar and promises that every place where He records His name He will come to them and bless them.

THE POWER OF TESTIMONY

1. Tell of all Yahweh's Wonders

A. Moses and Jethro

(1) The testimony is spreading!

(a) “And Jethro, the **priest of Midian**, Moses’ father-in-law, **heard of all that God had done** for Moses and for Israel His people—that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.” Exodus 18:1 NKJV

(2) Jethro comes to meet Moses and bring him his wife and sons after the exodus (the end of Egypt and new beginning of Israel!)

(a) “and Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, **came** with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness, where he was encamped at the mountain of God.” Exodus 18:5 NKJV

1. **The Nations come** — “But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be **preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations**, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:13-14 NKJV

(3) Relationship First

- (a) “So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and kissed him. **And they asked each other about their well-being,** and they went into the tent.”

Exodus 18:7 NKJV

1. “**Be kindly affectionate to one another** with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;”

Romans 12:10 NKJV

(4) The testimony—We were hard-pressed on every side at the sea and Yahweh destroyed the entire Egyptian army!

- (a) “And Moses told his father-in-law **all that the LORD had done** to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel’s sake, **all the hardship that had come upon them on the way,** and **how the LORD had delivered them.**” Exodus 18:8

NKJV

1. **Remember:** “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed**— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live

are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh." II Corinthians 4:7-11 NKJV

(5) The effect—conversion testimony—Now I know that Yahweh alone is God!

(a) **"Then Jethro rejoiced for all the good which the LORD had done** for Israel, whom He had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians. And Jethro said, **"Blessed be the LORD**, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. **Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them.**"

Exodus 18:9-11 NKJV

(6) The response—like a Passover—celebrating the end of Egypt and the beginning of Israel

(a) "Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt **offering** and other sacrifices to offer to God. And Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to **eat bread** with Moses' father-in-law before God." Exodus 18:12 NKJV

B. Testimony of a New Kingdom

(1) The Kingdom is shown with Testimony

(a) “For the kingdom of God is not in word but in **power.**” I Corinthians 4:20 NKJV

1. The testimony of Moses with Jethro is like the Gospel of the Kingdom (GOTK). It comes with miracles, signs, and wonders, and power. It comes as a witness to the nations (Jethro) and then the end (Passover— lamb and bread) can come!
2. “But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be **preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations**, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:13-14 NKJV

(2) Obedient Gentiles

(a) “For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, **to make the Gentiles obedient— in mighty signs and wonders, by the power** of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man’s foundation, but as it is written: **“To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand.”**” Romans 15:18-21 NKJV

(3) Bearing witness both with signs and wonders

(a) “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, **and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit,** according to His own will?” Hebrews 2:1-4 NKJV

(4) Bearing witness to the word of His grace

(a) “Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. **Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders** to be done by their hands.” Acts 14:1-3 NKJV

(5) These signs will follow those who believe

- (a) “Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. **And these signs will follow those who believe:** In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”” Mark 16:14-18 NKJV
- (6) Confirming the word through the accompanying signs
- (a) “So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.** Amen.” Mark 16:19-20 NKJV
- (7) Patterns: Persecution—Preaching—Miracles—Deliverance—Joy

(a) “Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, **he made havoc of the church**, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.” Acts 8:1-3 NKJV

(b) “**Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.** Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and **seeing the miracles which he did.** For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. **And there was great joy in that city.**” Acts 8:4-8 NKJV

1. **Remember:** “**Then Jethro rejoiced for all the good which the LORD had done** for Israel, whom He had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians. And Jethro said, “**Blessed be the LORD**, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand

of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. **Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them.**”” Exodus 18:9-11 NKKV

Summary: THE POWER OF TESTIMONY

1. Moses has an encounter with Jethro that bears many similarities to the effect of signs and wonders seen in the New Testament.
2. Jethro seems to already know that the God of Israel performed outrageous miracle against Egypt and how He delivered Israel.
3. Moses then fills in the testimony in great detail!
4. This seems to be powerful enough to elicit what looks like to be a conversion moment for Jethro. “Now I know that Yahweh is greater than all the gods.”
5. Moses’ relationship and witness to Jethro accomplishes “in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient—in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God.”

THE SEPARATION OF POWERS

2. **Now that you are a nation—setting up proper governance**
 - A. **Recognizing the need for the separation of powers and a governing document!**

- (1) **Introduction:** God's perfect governance is achieved when there is a Separation of Powers (SOP). There needs to be three branches, which may be known under different names, but they are always in operation.
- (2) **Note:** when I say perfect, I refer to this entire system as an accommodation, as truly perfect would exist had Adam never eaten the forbidden fruit. Man would be directly governed by Yahweh with no other branches of government needed.
- (3) God's Leadership Plan:
 - (a) Israel
 1. The King
 2. The Priest
 3. The Prophet
 - (b) The Church (the whole Body of Christ as well as the local church)
 1. The LORD (King of kings)
 2. The Apostle (All pastoral ministries to the people)
 3. The Prophet (Course direction and correction)
 - (c) U. S. Government
 1. The Executive Branch
 2. The Legislative Branch
 3. The Judicial Branch

- (d) Corporate and Organizational
 - 1. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
 - 2. The Chief Serving Officer (CSO)
 - 3. The Chief Integrity Officer (The CIO)
- (4) Hey Moses, what are you doing? This is not a viable government model for governance (Yahweh & Moses alone). The King and the Prophet only!
 - (a) “And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening. So when Moses’ father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, “**What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit,** and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?”” Exodus 18:13-14 NKJV
- (5) Moses—I wait for a problem and then I use God’s laws to judge between parties
 - (a) “And Moses said to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to inquire of God. **When they have a difficulty,** they come to me, and I judge between one and another; **and I make known the statutes of God and His laws.**”” Exodus 18:15-16 NKJV
 - 1. Notice that Moses is using God’s laws and statutes before they were codified coming up starting in

Chapter 20. Why are they then codified? To make sure transgressions were clear!

- a) “What purpose then does the law serve? **It was added because of transgressions**, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.” Galatians 3:19 NKJV
- b) “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known sin except through the law**. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.” But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. **I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died**. And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. **For sin, taking occasion by the commandment**, deceived me, and by it killed me. Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.” Romans 7:7-12 NKJV

- (6) Jethro—Moses, you cannot be the only one administering governance from Yahweh or you will burn out. Here's my advice...
- (a) "So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good. Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. **For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself. Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel,** and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God." Exodus 18:17-19 NKJV
- (7) Here is my counsel—Like you indicated, you are already using the law, a founding system from which to rule, "*When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and **I make known the statutes of God and His laws.***" (Exodus 18:16), but you should teach it to the people before the conflict arises, not wait until it does.
- (a) **Leadership training for godly government—don't wait until the problem exists to teach the God's statutes and laws.** "And you shall **teach them the statutes and the laws,** and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do." Exodus 18:20 NKJV

(8) Plus—you need a third branch of government (Yahweh—Moses—People) King—Prophet—Legislators (a legislature). Eventually these legislators would become the priests or pastors (***remember** that Jethro was a priest—so he understands the idea of a representative government.)

(a) *see Jethro, the priest of Midian (Exodus 2:16-18; 3:1; 18:1)

(b) “Moreover you shall select from all the people **able men**, such as fear God, men of **truth, hating covetousness**; and place such over them to be **rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.**” Exodus 18:21 NKJV

1. Notice that these men have to meet certain standards:

a) **Paul to Timothy:** “This is a faithful saying: **If a man desires the position of a bishop**, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he

take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” I Timothy 3:1-7 NKJV

b) **Paul to Timothy:** “**Likewise deacons must be** reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise, **their wives** must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” I Timothy 3:8-13 NKJV

c) **Paul to Titus:** “For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders** in every city as I commanded you— if a man is blameless, the

husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.” Titus 1:5-9 NKJV

(9) Here is how the hierarchy should work

- (a) “And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that **every great matter they shall bring to you**, but every **small matter they themselves shall judge**. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you. If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace.” Exodus 18:22-23 NKJV

(10) Good advice

- (a) “So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of **thousands**, rulers of **hundreds**, rulers of **fifties**, and

rulers of **tens**. **So they judged the people at all times**; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.” Exodus 18:24-26 NKJV

B. Israel (the King, the Priest, the Prophet, the Torah)

(1) The King—

- (a) ““When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,’ **you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses**; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. **But he shall not** multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall not return that way again.’ **Neither shall he** multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. **“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to**

observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that **his heart may not be lifted** above his brethren, **that he may not turn aside from the commandment** to the right hand or to the left, and **that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children** in the midst of Israel." Deuteronomy 17:14-20 NKJV

(2) The Priest—the need for representation

- (a) **Go ask the priest!** **““If a matter arises which is too hard for you to judge,** between degrees of guilt for bloodshed, between one judgment or another, or between one punishment or another, matters of controversy within your gates, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the LORD your God chooses. **And you shall come to the priests,** the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, **and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment. You shall do according to the sentence which they pronounce** upon you in that place which the LORD chooses. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they order you. **According to the sentence of the law in which they instruct you,** according to the judgment which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left from the

sentence which they pronounce upon you. Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously.”

Deuteronomy 17:8-13 NKJV

- (b) **Joshua get’s selected to lead yet only gets some authority because he needs to hear from the priests:**

“Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying: “Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, **set a man over the congregation**, who may go out before them and go in before them, **who may lead them** out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd.”” Numbers 27:15-17
NKJV

- (c) “And the LORD said to Moses: “Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. And you shall **give some of your authority** to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. **He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who**

shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him—all the congregation.” So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.” Numbers 27:18-23 NKJV

(3) Now see the “Prophet” and “Priest” interact in our Portion—the need for representation...

(a) “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. **And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests** and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”” Exodus 19:5-6 NKJV

(b) “And the LORD said to Moses, “**Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud**, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever.” **So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.**” Exodus 19:9 NKJV

- (c) “You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, ‘Take heed to yourselves that **you do not go up to the mountain** or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.” Exodus 19:12 NKJV
- (d) “**Also let the priests** who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them.” Exodus 19:22 NKJV
- (e) “But Moses said to the LORD, “**The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai**; for You warned us, saying, ‘Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.’ ” Then the LORD said to him, “Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. **But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD**, lest He break out against them.” So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.” Exodus 19:23-25 NKJ
- (f) The Church as priests
1. “But **you shall be named the priests** of the LORD, They shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, And in their glory you shall boast.” Isaiah 61:6 NKJV

2. “Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God, that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering **[as a priest of]** the gospel of God, that the **offering** of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:15-16 NKJV
 3. “But you are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;” I Peter 2:9 NKJV
- (4) The Prophet—speak what Yahweh commands to direct the people (everyone including the king and priest)
- (a) ““The LORD your God will **raise up for you a Prophet like me [Moses] from your midst**, from your brethren. **Him you shall hear**, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ “And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. **I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I**

command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.' And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?'— when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him." Deuteronomy 18:15-22 NKJV

- (b) "Behold, I will send you **Elijah the prophet** Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, **Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**" Malachi 4:5-6 NKJV
- (c) "And His disciples asked Him, saying, "**Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?**" Jesus answered and said to them, "**Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.** But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but

did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist." Matthew 17:10-13 NKJV

1. **Restore all things? How? Back to Malachi**

“Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments.” Malachi 4:4 NKJV

- (d) **Back to our portion:** “Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, **“You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”**”

Exodus 20:18-19 NKJV

- (e) “And Moses said to the people, “Do not ***fear**; for **God has come to test you**, and that His ****fear** may be before you, **so that you may not sin.**”” Exodus 20:20 NKJV

1. *Do not be in awe because God tests you.

2. **Be terrified so you DO NOT sin!

- (f) “So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.” Exodus 20:21 NKJV

- (5) The Torah—The Constitution—the single biggest rule of relating to the King—no idolatry as a method of connection!
- (a) “And you shall **teach them the statutes and the laws**, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.” Exodus 18:20 NKJV
1. “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; **But happy is he who keeps the law.**”
Proverbs 29:18 NKJV
- (b) “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘**You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. You shall not make anything to be with Me**—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves.” Exodus 20:22-23 NKJV
- (c) **You can make an Altar (of earth or of stone if they are natural—not hewn, cut, quarried)** “An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. **In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.** And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.” Exodus 20:24-25 NKJV

- (d) **Anyone coming up to the altar better know that they will be exposed.** “Nor shall you **go up** by **steps** to My altar, that your **nakedness** may not be exposed on it.”

Exodus 20:26 NKJV

1. “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we **shall receive a stricter judgment.**”

James 3:1 NKJV

2. And one more time:

- a) “And you shall **teach them the statutes and the laws**, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.” Exodus 18:20

- b) “**Remember the Law of Moses**, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments.” Malachi 4:4 NKJV

C. The Church (The King of kings, the Apostle, the Prophet)

- (1) The church: Built on foundation of the apostle and projects with Y’shua as the Chief!

- (a) “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief** corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a

holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV

1. Apostles—all pastoral ministries—ministry to the People. The Apostle is the Pastor who oversees Pastors or modern-day Priests who minister to God’s people (the spiritual temple).
2. Prophets—truth, integrity, alignment, strategies, advice and oversight. “Surely the Sovereign LORD **does nothing** without revealing his plan to his **servants the prophets.**” Amos 3:7
 - a) **Note about the prophets: Today the church has all but killed the prophetic much like Israel did.**
“Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, **and your fathers killed them.** In fact, you bear witness **that you approve the deeds of your fathers;** for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore the wisdom of God also said, **‘I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,’** that **the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation** of the world may be required of this generation,” Luke 11:47-50 NKJV

3. Chief—the King of kings

4. Scripture—The Constitution

1) “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, **and is profitable for** doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

2) “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. **For the word of God is** living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:11-13 NKJV

(2) Five Fold Ministry

(a) “And He Himself gave some to be **apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of

the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;" Ephesians 4:11-13
NKJV

(b) Notice how FOUR of these Offices are "people offices" and ONE is a "direction office" Two of them are foundations (built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets)

1. Cultivating Leaders—Apostolic (Foundation)—About People

1) Inspiring Repentance—Evangelist—About People

2) Guiding the Flock—Pastoral—About People

3) Making Disciples—Teaching—About People

2. Preparing the Way—Prophetic (Foundation)—About Direction

(3) Assignments and Gifts

(a) Separation of Duties— Given to Serving tables?

(a) "Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, **"It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.** Therefore,

brethren, **seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”” Acts 6:1-4 NKJV

(b) Spiritual Gifts—Bonus

1. **Eight Different gifts according to the grace that is given to us:** “For I say, **through the grace given** to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, **as God has dealt to each one a [1] measure of faith.** For as we have **many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,** so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them:** if [2] **prophecy,** let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or [3] **ministry,** let us use it in our ministering; he who [4] **teaches,** in teaching; he who [5] **exhorts,** in exhortation; he who [6] **gives,** with liberality; he who [7] **leads,** with diligence; he who shows [8] **mercy,** with cheerfulness.” Romans 12:3-8 NKJV

2. **Nine Spiritual Gifts One Spirit:** “Now concerning **spiritual gifts**, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. **There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.** But the **manifestation of the Spirit** is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the [1] **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the [2] **word of knowledge** through the same Spirit, to another [3] **faith** by the same Spirit, to another [4] **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, to another the [5] **working of miracles**, to another [6] **prophecy**, to another [7] **discerning of spirits**, to another different kinds of [8] **tongues**, to another the [9] **interpretation of tongues**. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” I Corinthians 12:1-11 NKJV

3. **Do not compare yourself to anyone else!** How to consider those gifts when compared to others: “For **as the body is one and has many members**, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, “**Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,**” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “**Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,**” is it therefore not of the body? **If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing?** If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now **God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.** And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. **And those members of**

the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But **God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,** that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. **Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.** And God has appointed these in the church: first **apostles,** second **prophets,** third **teachers,** after that **miracles,** then gifts of **healings, helps, administrations,** varieties of **tongues.** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. **And yet I show you a more excellent way."** I Corinthians 12:12-31 NKJV [What is the more excellent way? Love in 1 Corinthians 13]

D. The United States Government

(1) The Executive Branch

- (a) The King— A king without a priest and a prophet is a tyrant!
 - (b) Commander and Chief
 - (c) Enforces Law
- (2) The Legislative Branch
- (a) The Priest—A priest without a king and a prophet is an idol!
 - (b) The representative and servant of the people
 - (c) Makes Law
- (3) The Judicial Branch
- (a) The Prophet— A prophet without a king and a priest is an anarchist!
 - (b) The lower courts and Supreme Court insures integrity and oversight of the system
 - (c) Interprets law and evaluates compliance
- (4) The Constitution
- (a) Guides to insure that all three branches stay true; places limitation of power on the human element in any branch (like the Bible)!

E. The Corporate World—BONUS MATERIAL

- (1) The Chief Executive Officer (Identity and Vision—The King defines who we are and where we are going)

- (a) Represents the identity and insures that the vision of the organization is fulfilled
 - (b) **Chief Attributes:** Visionary: First know your personal and corporate identity and then see where the company is going! And hold that vision in your heart and impress that vision on everyone in the organization.
- (2) The Chief Serving Officer (The Priest oversees how we operate and why we care—always putting people first)
- (a) This officer sit over anything to do with people, be they employees, strategic partners, or customers. Represents the mission and purpose of any organization.
 - (b) **Chief Attributes:** Mission and Purpose: How and with whom will we reach your ultimate goals individually and corporately, and why should anyone care? Each person needs to be on a mission for the purpose of the organization. What is the role of everyone involved, whether you are on the giving end as part of the company, or on the receiving end as the customer? This is the dynamic Human Resources Department that helps each worker discover how they fit into the big picture and then to utilize that inspiration to help them benefit. Their unique skill set is utilized to the maximum benefit of themselves, coworkers, partners, customers, and

company. Under this department sit all the other officers that deal with how the company operates and why it exists in the first place.

1. The Chief Operations Officer—How we operate
 2. The Chief Financial Officer—How we handle our finance
 3. Personnel Care Officer—why we care about our employees
 4. Customer Retention Officer—Why we care about our customers
 5. Quantity Control Officer—Why we care about our products or services
 6. Chief Marketing Officer—How we handle our public image and advertising
 7. Etc. Etc. Etc.
- (3) The Chief Integrity Officer (Values—The Prophet maintains uncompromising standards)
- (a) The Guardian of the Values as they relate to the Corporate Identity, Vision, Mission and Purpose.
 - (b) **Chief Attributes:** Values—the integrity of every decision needs to come into full alignment with the heart of God. Pure strength comes only when there is balance and stability. Think of structural integrity and proper

engineering that adheres to all the laws of physics. Each part and all the materials incorporated are utilized to their maximum benefit only when they are used properly as dictated by their inherent material properties. Anything used contrary to its natural characteristics has an increased failure rate.

(4) Identity—Vision—Mission—Purpose—Values Statements
(Like a Corporate Constitution)

- (a) Identity: Who you are
- (b) Vision: Where you are going
- (c) Mission: How you will get there
- (d) Purpose: Why you care
- (e) Values: What uncompromising standards you will keep throughout the journey

Summary: THE SEPARATION OF POWERS

1. Jethro recognizes that Moses is taking on too much to be sustainable.
2. He encourages him to select some men to share the duties of intermediaries for the people (much like a priesthood).
3. He also recommends that Moses should instruct the people in God's laws BEFORE any conflict, instead of BECAUSE of a conflict.

4. We explored how this added ministry to the people, “the priestly duty”, painted the picture of the third branch of government. God is the King, Moses is the Prophet, and now we have a Priest!
5. We then could see that this three branch system of Israel, a separation of powers, shows up in all sorts of good governance (the Church, the US Government, and Corporation).
6. We also see how important it is to have a foundational document like the Torah, or the Constitution, or a Corporate Statement.
7. When followed, this document will protect against rogue branches of government.

IMPROPER GOVERNANCE

3. Desegregation of Powers (Stories about how to do it wrong!)

A. Desegregation

- (1) The process of ending the of separation of groups. For our purposes, this is a rogue exit of one branch of government from its check and balance system, in order to make decisions independent of accountability.
 - (a) A king without a priest and a prophet is a tyrant!
 - (b) A priest without a king and a prophet is an idol!
 - (c) A prophet without a king and a priest is an anarchist!

(d) Misuse of the Law: “and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that **he blesses himself in his heart**, saying, ‘**I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart**’— as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.”

Deuteronomy 29:19 NKJV

1. “You **shall not follow a crowd** to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to **turn aside after many** to pervert justice.” Exodus 23:2 NKJV

2. “**Do not follow the crowd** when it does what is wrong; and **don’t allow the popular view** to sway you into offering testimony for any cause if the effect will be to pervert justice.” Exodus 23:2 CJB

(2) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge—The Prophets Stumble and the Priests are Rejected

(a) “Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: “There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, Killing and stealing and committing adultery, **They break all restraint**, With bloodshed upon bloodshed. Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away With the beasts of the field And the birds of the air; Even

the fish of the sea will be taken away. “Now let no man contend, or rebuke another; For your people are like those who contend with the priest. Therefore you shall stumble in the day; **The prophet also shall stumble** with you in the night; And I will destroy your mother. **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me;** Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”
Hosea 4:1-6 NKJV

B. Poor Examples (Kings, Priests, Prophets, Law Breakers)

- (1) The Foolish King—Executive Orders—I make up my own rules! (Note: Samuel was from the line of Ephraim—trained under Eli the priest, whose sons were Hophni and Phinehas.)
 - (a) **Saul—the quintessential bad king:** “Samuel [the Prophet] also said to Saul [the King], “The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. **Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD [direction of the prophet]**. Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and **utterly destroy**

all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' " So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley. Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. **He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive,** and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. **But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of [violation of direction]** the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, "**I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.**" **[the**

King exercised his own choice rather than obeying Yahweh] And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night. So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, **he set up a monument for himself;** and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.” Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “**Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD.**” **[His own executive orders]** But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; **for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.**” Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.” So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are

consumed.' **Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD?** Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" And Saul said to Samuel, **"But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."** [Self-deception—**disobedience while claiming obedience—the height of rebellion**] So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. **For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,** And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. **Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.**" [the personal penalty for rogue Kings] Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. [cared more about man's opinion than God's

commands] Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD." But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. So Samuel said to him, "**The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, [the corporate penalty for rogue Kings]** and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent." Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God." So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD. Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal. Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house

at Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.” 1 Samuel 15:1-35 NKJV

- (b) **Manasseh—Bad executive example as he will not listen to the prophets (And the LORD spoke by His servants the prophets, saying, “Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations...I am bringing such calamity):** “Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Hephzibah. **And he [the King] did evil in the sight of the LORD,** according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he raised up altars for Baal, and made a wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel had done; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, “In Jerusalem I will put My name.” And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and

consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD had said to David and to Solomon his son, “In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever; and I will not make the feet of Israel wander anymore from the land which I gave their fathers—only if they are careful to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them.” **But they paid no attention , and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations [he followed his own executive orders] whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spoke by His servants the prophets, saying, “Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations [rogue kings have consequences] (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols), therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Behold, I am bringing such calamity [the penalty for rogue kings] upon Jerusalem**

and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle.” II Kings 21:1-12 NKJV

(2) The Unclean Priests—Selfish Legislators

- (a) **Summary:** ““For **the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD** of hosts. **But you have departed from the way; You have caused many to stumble at the law.** You have corrupted the covenant of Levi,” Says the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 2:7-8 NKJV
- (b) **Full Version:** ““A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the LORD of hosts **To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’ [a long list of violations by rogue priests]** “**You offer defiled food on My altar,** But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the LORD is contemptible.’ And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?” Says the LORD of hosts. “But now entreat

God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts. "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the LORD of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands. For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts. "But you profane it, In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.' You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the LORD of hosts. "**And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?**" Says the LORD. "But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King," Says the LORD of hosts, "And My name is to be feared among the nations." Malachi 1:6-14 NKJV

(c) **Priests that go rogue cause the people to stumble:**

““And now, **O priests, this commandment is for you.**

[Priests must follow the law] If you will not hear, And if you will not take it to heart, To give glory to My name,”

Says the LORD of hosts, **“I will send a curse upon you,**

And I will curse your blessings. [Penalty for rogue

priests] Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take it to heart. “Behold, I will rebuke your

descendants And spread refuse on your faces, The refuse of your solemn feasts; And one will take you away with

it. Then you shall know that I have sent this

commandment to you, That My covenant with Levi may continue,” Says the LORD of hosts. “My covenant was

with him, one of life and peace, And I gave them to him that he might fear Me; So he feared Me And was

reverent before My name. The law of truth was in his mouth, And injustice was not found on his lips. He

walked with Me in peace and equity, And turned many away from iniquity. **“For the lips of a priest should keep**

knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

But you have departed from the way; You have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the

covenant of Levi," Says the LORD of hosts. "Therefore I **also have made you contemptible and base Before all the people, Because you have not kept My ways But have shown partiality in the law."**" [You made it up yourself] Malachi 2:1-9 NKJV

(d) Examples:

1. **Nadab and Abihu—bad priests:** "Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, **and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.** And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' " So Aaron held his peace." Leviticus 10:1-3 NKJV
2. **Hophni and Phinehas—violating the law:** "Now the **sons of Eli were corrupt;** they did not know the LORD. And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling. Then he

would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; **and the priest would take for himself all that the fleshhook brought up.** So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. Also, **before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest,** for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw." And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "**No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force.**" **Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD."** 1 Samuel 2:12-17 NKJV

3. **Warning—They will be toast!** "Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and **how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.** So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. **You make the LORD's people transgress.** If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the

LORD, who will intercede for him?" **Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them.** And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men. Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire? **Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me,** to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?' Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: '**Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be** lightly esteemed. Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's

house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. **And there shall not be an old man in your house forever.** But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. **And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age.** Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on **Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them.** Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever. And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, "Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat a piece of bread." ' "' I Samuel 2:22-36 NKJV

4. **Very bad advice from two priests with a death sentence!** "And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. **Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines,** and encamped beside Ebenezer; and the

Philistines encamped in Aphek. Then the Philistines put themselves in battle array against Israel. And when they joined battle, **Israel was defeated** by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men of the army in the field. And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, **“Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD** from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies.” **So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD** of hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. **And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.** And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook. Now when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, “What does the sound of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean? ” Then they understood that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp. So the Philistines were afraid, for they said, “God has come into the camp!” And they said, “Woe to us! For such

a thing has never happened before. Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. Be strong and conduct yourselves like men, you Philistines, that you do not become servants of the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Conduct yourselves like men, and fight!” I Samuel 4:1-9 NKJV

5. **Dead Priests: “So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated,** and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. **Also the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.**” I Samuel 4:10-11 NKJV
6. **You have scattered My flock and not attended to them!** ““Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!” says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: **“You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them.** Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,” says the LORD. “But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I

have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. **I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,**" says the LORD." Jeremiah 23:1-4 NKJV

(3) The False Prophets—Corrupt Judges and Courts and Direction

(a) **Summary:** "Thus says the LORD of hosts: **"Do not listen to the words of the prophets** who prophesy to you.

They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD. They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, **"You shall have peace"** '; **And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'** "" Jeremiah 23:16-17 NKJV

(b) **Full:** **"My heart within me is broken Because of the prophets;** All my bones shake. I am like a drunken man, And like a man whom wine has overcome, Because of the LORD, And because of His holy words. For the land is full of adulterers; For because of a curse the land mourns. The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up. Their course of life is evil, And their might is not

right. **“For both prophet and priest are profane; Yes, in My house I have found their wickedness,”** says the LORD. **“Therefore their way shall be to them Like slippery ways; In the darkness they shall be driven on And fall in them; For I will bring disaster on them, The year of their punishment,”** says the LORD. **“And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria: They prophesied by Baal And caused My people Israel to err. [False Prophecy]** Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: **They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness. [False Prophecy encourages sin]** All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah. **“Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets: ‘Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, And make them drink the water of gall; For from the prophets of Jerusalem Profaneness has gone out into all the land.’ ”** Thus says the LORD of hosts: **“Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the LORD. [Rogue Prophets—doing their own thing]** They continually say to those

who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, **"You shall have peace"** '; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.' **[Rogue Prophets—It will work out even if you follow you own heart]** " For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it? **Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD has gone forth in fury— A violent whirlwind! [Rogue Prophets—violent destruction]** It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. **"I have not sent these prophets,** yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. **But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way [Prophets—should have redirected people]** And from the evil of their doings. " Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD, "And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD. **"I have heard what the prophets**

have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget My name [Rogue Prophets—are deceived themselves] by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD. " [Rogue Prophets—this is what is in store for you...] Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.' Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the LORD, "and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the LORD. "So when these people or the prophet

or the priest ask you, saying, 'What is the oracle of the LORD?' you shall then say to them, 'What oracle?' I will even forsake you," says the LORD. **"And as for the prophet and the priest and the people who say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' I will even punish that man and his house.** Thus every one of you shall say to his neighbor, and every one to his brother, 'What has the LORD answered?' and, 'What has the LORD spoken?' And the oracle of the LORD you shall mention no more. **For every man's word will be his oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living God,** the LORD of hosts, our God. **Thus you shall say to the prophet, 'What has the LORD answered you?'** and, 'What has the LORD spoken?' But since you say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' therefore thus says the LORD: 'Because you say this word, "The oracle of the LORD!" and I have sent to you, saying, "Do not say, 'The oracle of the LORD!'" **therefore behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you and forsake you,** and the city that I gave you and your fathers, **and will cast you out of My presence.** And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.' ""

Jeremiah 23:9-40 NKJV

(4) Improper administration of the Law—Constitutional Violations

- (a) ““But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that **all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:**” Deuteronomy 28:15 NKJV [See [The Sin that Leads to Death](#)]

Summary: IMPROPER GOVERNANCE

1. Bad governance happens when any of the branches goes rogue.
2. We called this the “desegregation of powers”.
3. We discovered that:
 - a) A king without a priest and a prophet is a tyrant!
 - b) A priest without a king and a prophet is an idol!
 - c) A prophet without a king and a priest is an anarchist
4. We looked at examples and consequences of a King who would rather rule by executive order.
5. We saw the devastation from priests who led the people away from the law.
6. We witnessed the destruction of the people who followed false prophets.

7. We learned how God deals with rogue Kings, Priests and Prophets. It's not pretty.
8. And we explored the consequences for violating the foundational Constitution of our faith—the Law.

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. Describe what seems to happen to Jethro as he returns Moses' family after the exodus:**
 - A. What does Moses tell him?
 - B. How does he react?
 - C. Relate this to similar events in the New Testament.
- 2. What is Jethro's advice to Moses about how to better deal with matters of judging the people?**
 - A. What does Moses do with his advice?
 - B. How can this be related to a priesthood?
- 3. Name the three branches of government for Israel that we see in the Old Testament Scriptures. Compare those branches to:**
 - A. The government of the United States.
 - B. Proper Church governance.
 - C. Governance of a Corporation.
- 4. Good governance is best accomplished with a separation of powers. Describe the function of each branch in the following**

examples and how their interaction and interdependence enables good governance.

- A. The Government of Israel in the Old Testament
- B. The government of the United States.
- C. Proper Church governance.
- D. Governance of a Corporation.

5. Good governance always seems to have a founding document to lean on when making decisions and navigating operations:

- A. Why do you believe this is important?
- B. What is that document for Israel?
- C. What is that document for the United States of America?
- D. What should be that document for any business or organization?

6. When any branch of government oversteps its authority and refuses to submit to the other branches, it creates a dangerous imbalance. In each of our four governing examples, Israel, United States, Church, and Corporation, describe how:

- A. A king without a priest and a prophet becomes a tyrant!
- B. A priest without a king and a prophet becomes an idol!
- C. A prophet without a king and a priest becomes an anarchist!

7. BONUS! Think of the game often played that we call Rock, Paper, Scissors:

- A. How is this an example of the separation of powers?

B. If you were to compare each element of this game to corresponding branches of government (Israel, United States, Church, Corporation), which element would relate to which branch and why?