



Coffee/Question



Take feedback.

Jesus spoke to his disciples a number of times about leadership. In Mark 10 he did so after they had quarreled among themselves about who was the greatest.

Mark 10:42-44

"You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.

⁴³Not so with you.

Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

We are all aware of this kind of leadership. Where a leader will lord it over others... and make rules that they themselves don't follow... and use their position for their own benefit.

But when a person receives and believes in Jesus and is born of the Spirit, there is recreated within them a new nature... like the nature of Jesus Christ, who is the exact representation of God.

Exact in what way?

Jesus said that to have seen him was to see God the Father.

Jesus said that he and the Father are one.

When Jesus spoke of the kind of leadership he exercised, it was the same as the Father.

Mark 10:45

**“For even the Son of Man
did not come to be served,
but to serve,
and to give his life
as a ransom for many.”**

Here we learn that the exercise of leadership in the kingdom of heaven... is that of a servant... who sacrificially gives.

God Himself is a servant.

In the beginning he created humanity in his likeness.

Now through faith in Jesus Christ he recreates those who believe in the likeness of Jesus.

This is why leadership among the people of God stands in sharp contrast to the exercise of leadership among those who live without God.

Ephesians 4:24 very purposefully uses creation language to describe what happens to a person when they believe in and receive Jesus.

and to put on the
new self, created to
be like God in true
righteousness and
holiness. - Ephesians
4:24 (NIV)

The followers of Jesus pattern their lives after Jesus because they have been recreated by the Spirit to be and to live like God.

I know people laugh about the phrase WWJD.

But it is true.

And in the matter of leadership... Jesus' followers lead like Jesus.

This is what we will study today and next week.

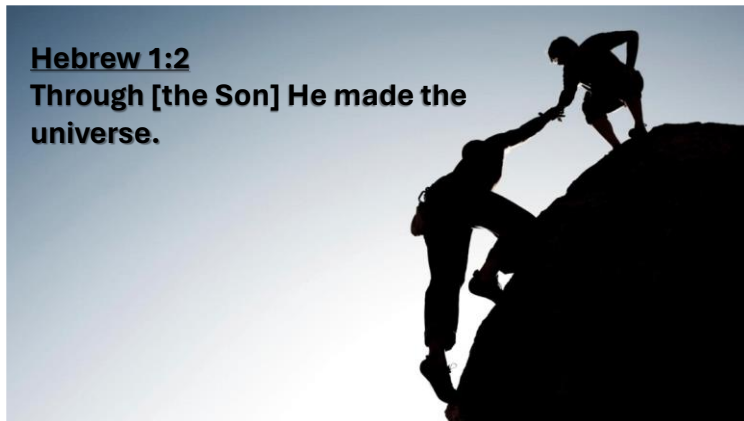
Prayer

When instructing the church at Corinth about worship, the Spirit of God through Paul said something incredibly significant...

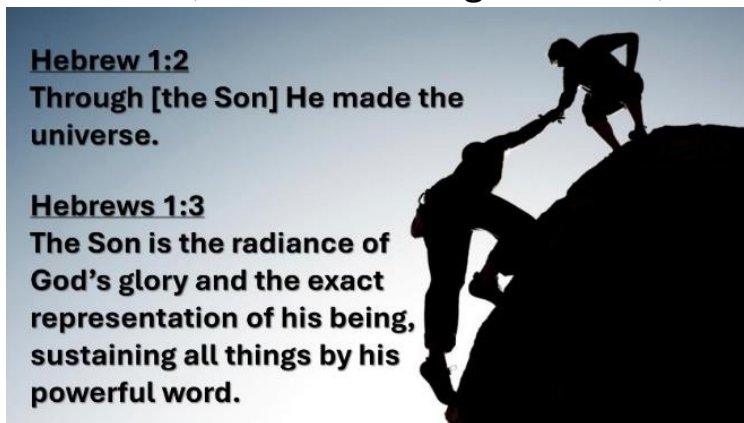


Would you have thought that the opposite of disorder was peace? Here in his Word, God reveals that his peace, that is, his shalom... perfectly holds all things together.

We know from the Scripture that through God the Son, the Father made the universe.



We also know that God the Father did not leave the creation to run on its own, but that through the Son, he sustains all things.



Since the beginning the triune God has been... actively present in his creation, even though, since the fall... all creation groans...



Everyone knows that things are broken in the world... and also within humanity.

The curse of death has left nothing untouched.

But can you imagine what life would be like on the earth... if... the Son of God did not sustain all things by his powerful word?

Can you envision the chaos that would ensue?

We thank God that he is the LORD of peace and from his peace, in the midst of brokenness, he maintains an order in this world that reflects the majesty of his person.

This peace of God is particularly seen... in his dealings with those he calls into relationship with Himself.

It's here we must go back to the time of the OT.

The descendants of Abraham numbered 70 when they went to Egypt to escape a devastating famine.

There, for four hundred years, they multiplied in number, and became a great nation within the nation of Egypt.

But there came a point, after the death of Joseph, when the Egyptians, motivated by fear and then with intrigue and cunning, enslaved and cruelly mistreated the Hebrew people.

Their cries for help were heard and in God's fulness of time, He sent Moses to rescue them.

But Pharaoh did not want to give up his slave labor.

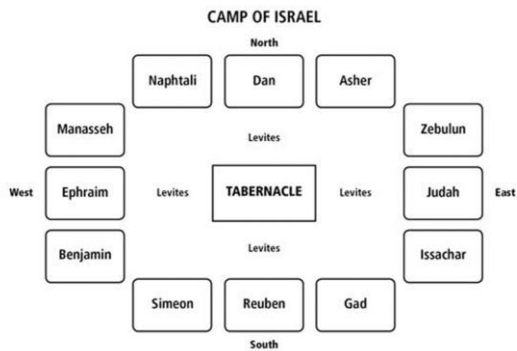
And so, God humbled him and the nation through 10 devastating plagues, which revealed God's power and the uselessness of Egypt's gods.

Finally, with his nation in ruins, Pharaoh agreed to let the people go... and on a single night, Passover, Moses led 2.5 million Hebrews out of Egypt.

They crossed the Red Sea and journeyed to Mt. Sinai.



There God organized the camp.



God also instructed the people as to how they would travel, tribe by tribe and in what order, when His presence, manifested in the pillar of smoke would rise and begin to move forward.

The nation camped at Mt. Sinai for almost a year.

It was during that year; God gave to them his law.
While there he also provided the means by which their sin could be atoned for through the sacrifice of animals.

In the early days, everything depended upon Moses, which was an unsustainable practice.

When Moses father-in-law, Jethro, visited him, and observed what was happening... he gave this advice to Moses.

Exodus 18:20-23

Teach [the people God's] decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave.

But select capable men from all the people – men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain – and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

Exodus 18:20-23

Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves.

That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.

If you do this and God so commands you, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.

What God did during that year at Mt. Sinai, was to teach the nation how he would govern them as their King and how they would live as his people.

God would do so, through Moses, through the 70 elders, through the leaders of 1000's, 100's, 50's and 10's... and through priests, who would be appointed from the tribe of Levi.

After the time of Moses, there would also come prophets, like Moses, through whom God would speak.

The laws, the statutes, the precepts and the commands which God gave, addressed all facets of life, and were applicable, not just to that generation, but to their children, to their children's children and to all the generations that would follow.

If the nation would obey God, then the peace of God, his shalom... would set the Hebrew culture apart from all other human cultures. This is how the nation of Israel would be a light to all nations.

Moses said to the people in Deuteronomy 4:7...

Deuteronomy 4:7-8

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

When Jesus was sent into the earth, a profound change took place. This change brought about by God, was not the implementation of a plan B, because plan A had failed.

What was brought about by Jesus had always been the intention of God from before creation.

Rather than a single nation, comprised of the physical descendants of Abraham, the people of God became those, who by faith, receive and believe in Jesus, and are adopted by God as his children.

Galatians 3:26-29

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

The people of God, since the ascension of Jesus, come from all nations, all tribes, and all language groups.

Their unity is found, not in their nationality, or social standing or gender, but that they belong to Christ and the community he is building, the community Jesus called "my church," which Jesus said could not be overcome by Hell.

The church is not a human construct.

It is God's creation, intended to demonstrate... the glory of He who is One and Three.

The Scripture reveals that Jesus is the King of his people, the King of his church.

From heaven Jesus rules over all things, even though...
... as Hebrews 2:8 says...

Hebrews 2:7-8

[God] crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet... God left nothing that is not subject to him. **Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.**

Psalm 110:1-2

The LORD says to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet...You will **rule in the midst of your enemies.**

... **“we do not see everything subject to him.”**

From heaven, Jesus rules in this present time, as Psalm 110:2 says, **“in the midst of his enemies.”**

When a person trusts in Jesus, the Father rescues them, as Colossians 1:13 says...

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

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... **from the kingdom of darkness.**

This rescue brings about a change of citizenship. Those who trust in Jesus are now a part of God's reign.

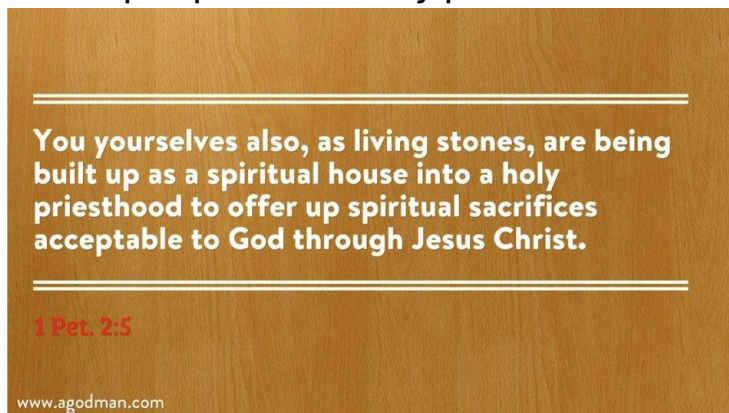
But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Phillipians 3:20

Just as God organized the life of the nation of Israel when he rescued them from Egypt, so through the Spirit he organizes the life of those he brings into his kingdom, who gather in local churches scattered around the earth.

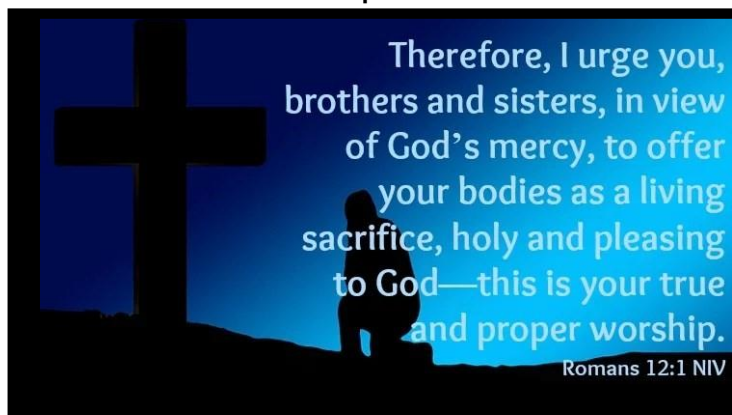
In the church... as it was in the OT days, there are priests, but not from the tribe of Levi.

God's people are a holy priesthood.



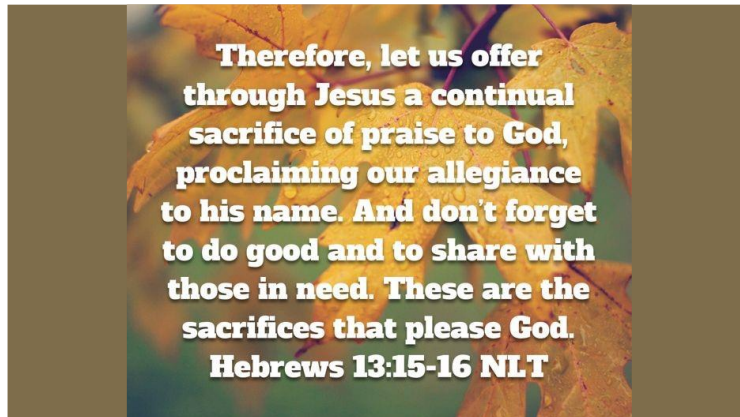
And as such... we offer sacrifices to the triune God, but not of animals.

Our sacrifices are spiritual.



We offer to God... our bodies.

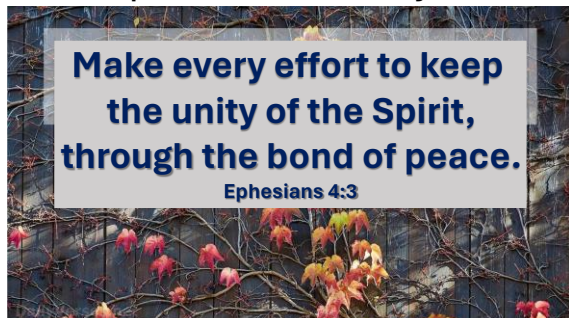
We also offer to God....



... an ongoing, never-ending sacrifice of praise.

We also offer to God... a sacrifice... of doing good and sharing with others.

As did the nation of Israel, we too live in... and under... the shalom of God. Ephesians 4:3 says to us...



This bond of peace... which we experience... was achieved by the death of Jesus on a Roman cross.

It was there that Jesus reconciled sinners... that he reconciled us... to a holy God.

This bond of peace is not abstract or ethereal.



It is personal... Jesus... is our peace.

The gathering together of God's people into the church by the Spirit... reflects the glory of the unity of God's person in his work of salvation.

This is why, as the Scripture reveals... there is one body, one hope, one faith, one baptism... because there is One God, One Lord, One Spirit.

