

To the Church of Zion;

During the period of the Babylonian exile of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, two men, Ezra and Nehemiah, had the primary roles in the restoration of the second Temple. Nehemiah's message was a trumpet blowing to restore, both physically and spiritually, the walls of Zion, Zion being the place where the Almighty would dwell. The latter of these two concerns of Nehemiah's was reflected in fidelity to the Law, the Word, and by "keeping the covenant people free from pagan contamination." Ezra's part in the Restoration was to minister this latter principle to the people.

The second aim of their leadership was to remove benign ignorance. When Ezra stood in front of the throng of Israel to read the Book, a salient point springs forth in the observance of the Feast of Booths: they had never heard of it! Seventy years of exile had erased the realization that it ever existed in the Book!

Another example of the lack of knowledge of God's Law by the people is found in II Chronicles 34 when Josiah reigned just before the exile. As his workmen were cleansing out the Temple that had been allowed to fall into disrepair, they found the Book among the debris. As Shaphan, the scribe read it, King Josiah rent his clothes and said, "...great is the wrath of the Lord... because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord to do all that is written in this book." Josiah to that point was doing everything right to his knowledge. Tearing down the Asherim and destroying other false idols, etc., didn't alter the fact Jehovah's Law unread and unknown, lying in the dust of past generations' castoffs, was valid nonetheless!

It is to the new Zion with spiritual openness as well as those bound by traditional thinking, that this paper is addressed. The message is strange and will evoke a multitude of emotions. The truth that lies within is attributed to Him. A careful reading of the following scriptures will give greater spiritual insight to discern the whole truth.

I. SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY

Where Authority Rests

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Genesis 17:1 | El Shaddai – God Almighty, the Mountain One; what God said of Himself when He established His covenant with Abram, who fell on his face when He spoke. |
| Colossians 2:9 | The fullness of God dwelt in Jesus and <u>ALL</u> authority was given unto Jesus in heaven and on earth. Jesus was and is the Logos, the Word, and the embodiment of all God spoke. |
| Matthew 28:18 | |
| John 1:1 | |
| II Timothy 3:16 | God's word has total, ultimate and consuming authority over us; over our minds, our hearts, our emotions, our traditions, and our thoughts, by teaching, reproving, instructing, and <u>correcting.</u> |

This “correction” means a restoration to an upright or right state, referring to improvement of life and character. To this end all scriptural teaching and scriptural authority perform in harmony with each other to bring about the restoration of mankind to the position to which God intended from the beginning. Our bodies, souls (mind, will and emotions) and spirits were once all dead in sin. God’s heart and consummate purpose in Jesus’ coming, in all His words, in His Spirit moving, *is to restore His people into reconciliation with Himself.*

A. Teaching and Teachers

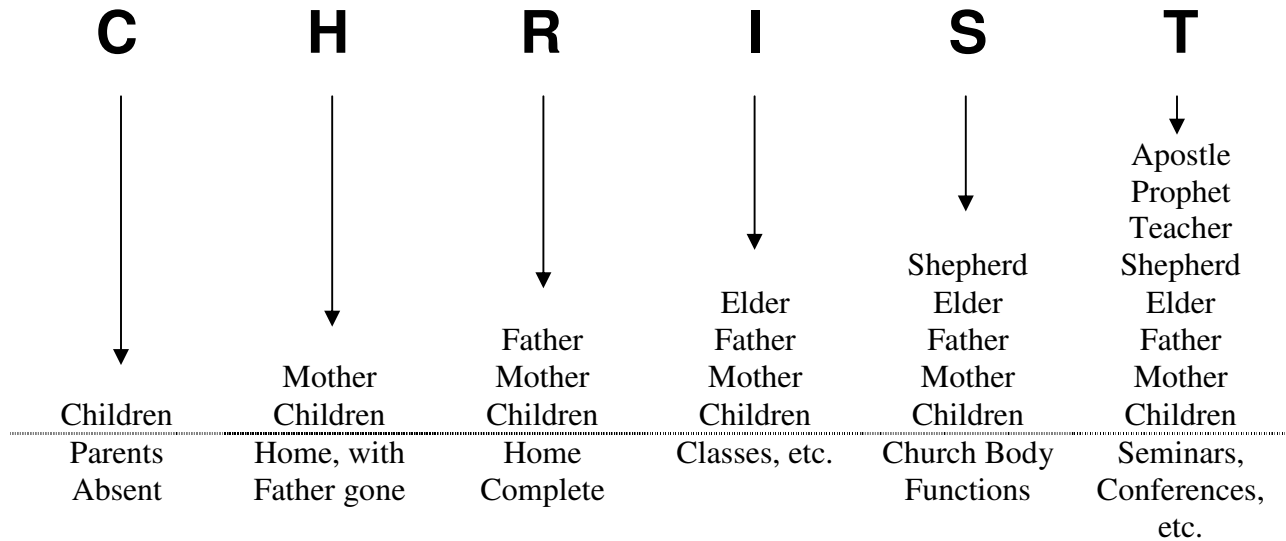
1. The First Teacher – Exodus 4:12, 15 God says He will teach Moses.
2. The Second Teacher – Exodus 18:20 Jethro counsels Moses to teach Israel the statutes (a man ordained of God).
3. The Third Teacher – Leviticus 10:11 Aaron, an ordained man, was to teach the people “...all the statutes spoken by the Lord to Moses.”
4. The Fourth Teacher – Deuteronomy 5:31, 6:7, 11:19 All Israel, teach your children.

From this point, the “teachers” of Israel are passed from generation to generation according to God’s lines of authority. The more correct word here should be responsibility/function, not authority. The latter connotes a boss and vertical separation by current understanding of the word, as is noted in the Revelation by Jesus’ hatred of the Nicolaitans (those who wanted to be over the laity for the sake of a position).

In the New Testament, God set forth a similar line of authority. Jesus was and still is, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the authority over all. Everything that is taught in His name, should square with Him, Who is the Word. He was and is over all apostles, prophets, teachers and evangelists and they are responsible to Him for all that they teach as they work in tandem with the shepherds. Those men who become shepherds (the word is “shepherd” not “pastor”), are responsible for teaching the elders (the same word) and the congregation; elders work together and along side the shepherd to teach the congregation, and husbands/fathers teach specifically their wives and children. Thus the responsibility is the God-given position with anointing, and has nothing to do with bossiness, nor being overbearing. Teaching is the responsibility that goes with the function of shepherd. Therefore, God instituted His order of both authority and teaching to bring about His purpose of restoration of mankind “to an upright state.” Teaching and God-given authority are inseparable.

Teaching/training from God’s Word through God-authorized vessels tears down (really tears down) satanic walls, breaks bonds, loosens chains, and destroys deceit and ignorance. Jesus ministered, but mainly He taught, under authority from God.

In the following diagram, one can understand the authority/teacher positions and functions directly under Christ, who is over all at all times.



The blessing, protection, anointing and responsibility is given straight downward when the one over them to the right is not present. For example, if a shepherd and his wife, along with some elders and other fathers with their families were present at a conference held by an apostle-prophet-teacher (who at that time held that function), then the order would be complete and all are under the apostle-prophet-teacher until they leave and return home to their church. There, the shepherd is responsible, directly under Christ; and so on. If a child's parents are gone, then God becomes his father and teaches him directly, or sometimes through a godly mentor. A believing mother with a husband who is away, rebellious, etc. has responsibility with anointing to teach her children God's Word in her home.

B. Scriptural References to Teaching

The scriptures that contain "instruct" (88), "teach" (106), "teacher" (72), or "teaches/teaching" (110), agree altogether with the responsibility of levels found here. Out of the total of 376 references, 369 of them refer to God the Father, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, priests, chiefs, heads of houses, and fathers (OT); apostles, prophets, shepherds, teachers, elders, and fathers (NT), as being the teachers and instructors. Seven scriptures refer to mothers' and women's roles in teaching.

- a) At home, mothers teach their children alongside fathers, or if he is gone, she teaches by herself (Deuteronomy 4:10 et al in Deuteronomy, Proverbs 1:8, 6:20, and 31:26).
- b) Older women teach (train, encourage) younger women their proper Godly relationship to their husbands (Titus 2:4).
- c) In the Church or ministry, women are helpmates alongside their husbands (Aquila and Priscilla, Acts 18).
- d) Paul explicitly instructs that no woman is to teach or exercise authority over men (I Timothy 2:12).

The message contained herein is addressed to the men of the church. References are made to women for reasons of distinction and clarification or where obvious violations of His Word have taken place (i.e. out-talking or overriding men, teaching men, having authority over men). **The main intent is to restore men to their proper place, not to tear women down.**

There is no intent to imply women are never to occupy positions that are normally men's. To the contrary, many women have been called of God to fill significant roles in the lives of His people. Such include Deborah, Lois, Eunice and Ruth, Joan d'Arc, and the daughter of the founder of the Salvation Army who were called to their positions of service. But keep in mind, they are the exceptions, not the rule, and their leadership was effective because of the anointing of the Father.

If the reader is offended, embarrassed, angered or robbed in any way of this central theme of men being in position of responsibility and teaching, then why does God in His judgments (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, etc.) always say, "Begin at my sanctuary and with the elders and shepherds"?! Because it is with these men that the primary responsibility lies!

If this present move of God is to be sustained and hold up under the all-out attempt to annihilate what remains of the home and the Church, then the men must be restored as spelled out in His Word!

C. Signs of Decay – Old Testament

During the days when Joshua was victorious in battle with God, there resulted a time of peace and prosperity. It was a time of reward for courage and obedience. But from Judges forward, decay set in. These scriptures were put on my heart pertinent to this message.

First is the story of Barak and Deborah, (a woman prophetess who was called to judge Israel at the time – no men seemed to be qualified). In Judges 4:1, it was the “sons” of Israel who did evil in the sight of the Lord. In verses 4:6-10 she summons Barak and tells him, “Behold, the Lord God of Israel has commanded, ‘Go and march to Tabor... and I will give Sisera into your hand.’” But Barak’s courage failed and compromisingly he said, “If you’ll go with me, I’ll go; if you won’t go with me, I won’t go.”

Signs of decay? First the sons do evil and then their offspring have no courage, and women rule over them.

The second scripture is in Judges 6 where there are so few, if any, real men in Israel, that god has to bodily yank Gideon out of a wine press via a heavenly visitation. The sons of Israel have again done evil.

The third scripture is in Isaiah 3:12, written several hundred years after Judges. Isaiah describes how God will remove the leaders, the mighty men and the warrior, judges, prophets, and elders, etc. and then how He will make mere lads their princes and ...women will rule over them (Amos 4:1).

The judgment begins with the elders and princes of His people, the males in position of authority and responsibility for teaching and leading! This is repeated throughout the Old Testament prophets where judgment begins with His house, specifically with the shepherds and elders. In Hebrews 13:17 they are to be held accountable for the judgment and discipline of those under their authority.

D. Conditions during Restoration – Old Testament

After the Babylonian exile and the destruction of the Temple, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin came into a spiritual vacuum without the practice and healing of God’s Word. At the time of the Restoration of the Temple, we read in Nehemiah 8, evidence of how ignorant of God’s precepts and commandments they had become. Ezra, the priest, (called and anointed with authority) brought the law before the assembly. The people were attentive, reflecting the anointing. The significance of the passage (and the central message of this letter) is those who stood at Ezra’s side to help him. In verses 4-7, some twenty-six plus men are listed that “helped the people understand the law, all who could hear with understanding, led the other men, women, and children.” These were the men of responsibility among the people. They were “chiefs” of families, “heads” of houses, “gatekeepers,” “singers,” “sons,” “overseers,” and “priests.” In verse 13, on the second day, it was the “heads of fathers’ houses,” who came to study the Law, regarding the Feast of Booths - and they promptly obeyed! They didn’t know about observing the Feast. It had simply been forgotten through neglect and tradition!

In verse 9, Ezra, Nehemiah and the Levites said to the people, “Don’t weep, this day is holy... for all the people wept when they heard.” (Don’t be overcome, but obey.)

In Chapter 9:16-30, Ezra's prayer confesses "they and our fathers acted proudly and hardened their necks and did not obey Thy commandments. Yet for many years Thou didst forbear with them and warned them by Thy Spirit speaking through Thy prophets, yet they would not give ear. Therefore, Thou gavest them into the hands of the peoples of the lands" (their enemies).

E. Conditions Preceding the Reformation – 1300-1500 A.D.

In *A Distant Mirror*,¹ Barbara Tuchman recounts the culture of the family in Western Europe, the center of what was then the civilized world. Those in the upper class had their male children raised entirely by women the first seven years of their lives. No male had any influence until then, at which time he learned war, the lance, horsemanship and so forth. But by this time all the formative years had been accomplished through the eyes of women. It goes without saying that if the upper strata of society were doing this, the middle and lower classes were mimicking them, albeit in a less efficient form.

Few historians connect cause and effect, especially after long spans of time, where God's laws are violated and His predicted judgments are the result. In this case, those same boys raised to be spiritual eunuchs were the same men in power that allowed the church (Catholic) to become so apostate. It's more than coincidental that the Dark Ages in Europe occurred when the Catholic Church was in power.

Gutless priests, elders, pastors, and chief men had become whores selling indulgences for sin to the highest bidder, just as "pastors" do today. They preach Jesus, but are subtly controlled by men who love to use their money to gratify their own lust of the eyes through manipulation.

Martin Luther came up under this same tyranny of the soul and spirit, and after tremendous agony and self-purging, exposed the lie his mind believed but his spirit rejected. So it is today, even men honestly seeking God are deceived by the culture of the day and are delivered only by the Word, as Luther was.

II. SPIRITUAL EUNUCHS – 1986 AD

A. Cause

During a time of contemplation and consolidation of thoughts, I sat in a swing early one Sunday, Mother's Day. As I meditated in His presence, a very large, young black and white Dominique rooster pranced by with his small brood in tow. Every so often he would rear back and crow; inevitably the neighbor's rooster would answer back, and so it continued. The thought struck me that in large measure the men of today resemble that rooster. Just as the fence negated any real challenge, so does our current life of ease negate us from being challenged. As the rooster gets older and older, crowing less and less often, so we too get older and assert authority less and less, until finally there is silence, eventually bitterness.

Throughout the last 50 years, as prosperity, freedom and security have flourished, Godly masculinity has declined. As it was to Israel, so it is to Christian men today. When Pioneerism is in focus due to hard times, great men are raised up. As the times soften, the Settlers come in and consolidate strength, bringing all into subjection. The third order, the Establishment, then tries to protect that which has been fought for and subdued. It is in this reign that men become figureheads, abdicating responsibility and authority and pursue pleasure. Concurrently, women rise up and rule over them, hidden at first, then bolder as time goes on.

Children become capricious and youths storm against the elders. This stage of the Establishment has no real apparent challenge to test and keep fit the type of strength and spiritual masculinity ordained by God. The last ebb after the Establishment largely contains old men who are effeminate, who couldn't take charge if they had to, much less be a spiritual warrior and a counselor for the younger.

It has been during this period (last 50 years) of luxury and abdication of authority and responsibility, that boys have been taught by women and have assumed their ways of looking at things. How could they learn leadership and masculine responsibility? Their scriptural position has become as the Feast of Booths was to all Israel in Ezra's day. They have lost it through the loss of example.

Abdication through neglect ("work", etc.) and self-centeredness, always precedes loss of position wherein women slip in to fill the vacuum. More often than not they do it illegally, usurping authority that is not theirs. Equally often, the move is made out of impatience if the man moves slower than "expected," or seemingly not at all. (Note this is the young man's testimony given later.)

The error is not necessarily in what the women say or teach to boys and men. It is in the fact that as boys and girls grow up, they see the women doing all the talking and teaching and the men are in the quiet support role! And so they grow up with that picture in mind and consider it normal. Just as Paul said it was shameful (I Corinthians 14:35) for a woman to speak in church (I Timothy 2:11), it is more shameful for a "man to remain silent when he should speak!" (Notice Satan's reversal of God's ordained positions in the Garden!) This is the same clouding of the mind via example over which Luther had so much agony.

B. Effect

This part is so awesome it is hard to begin. During the times of waiting upon Him for insight and discernment, I cried out for confirmation to strengthen me and prevent deceit.

The week of July 27, my pastor preached a word which the Spirit quickened into a *rhema* for me: Joshua 1:6-8 "be strong and very courageous (diligent) that you may do according to all the Law... turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper and have good success."

There then came three strong evidences of the effects of our fathers abdicating their God-commanded responsibility and authority. First was the story related to me about a young man, a missionary called of God to be an intercessor. One day while dining in a Tyler restaurant, a man in his hearing, was being vulgar, arrogant and blasphemous. (Unbeknownst to the young man, the other was a local doctor who regularly performs abortions.) God directed the young man twice to rebuke the doctor and he refused.

Another incident of evidence came from a “hoary-headed” old man who really loves the Lord. During a service recently, our pastor instructed the congregation to silently “wait upon the Lord.” I knew instantly what was about to happen and immediately prayed, “God, let a man prophesy, please!” About 5-10 seconds passed and a woman unscripturally prophesied in a tongue, resulting in compromise, confusion, and carnality in the service. Later I found out the old man had been moved by the Spirit to rise and prophesy, and he refused out of fear.

The third evidence comes from a young man who “has it all together,” and is genuine in his love for the Father and earnestly seeks His will. He has recently been set free from the effects of unscriptural teaching and authority. He related to me, unwittingly, how a counselor had told him all his problems were due to his mother “castrating” him at an early age! Talk about confirmation to the words “Spiritual Eunuch!”

Here is his testimony, verbatim. Feel the love and desire he has for our Father.

I grew up under a very domineering mother and a father who was rarely at home because of work. Consequently, my mother raised us kids and either made most of my decisions or told me continuously what to do, what to say or how to go about doing something from start to finish. She never gave me the feeling that I was capable of doing anything fully on my own. Over the years, I became so dependent on her and her advice; I never really trusted or fully appreciated my own feelings, thoughts and ideas.

It wasn't until college and career days that I was forced to begin making decisions with God's help and direction, that I realized I could be fairly independent. Even so, I still felt handicapped. I still doubted myself, worried, lacked boldness and courage to stand-up for myself and my beliefs. It has always been easier for me to go along with the crowd instead of confronting someone or standing up for a particular belief. Two reasons for this behavior are

- I've doubted the importance of my own opinion.
- I've wanted to be liked and accepted by others so I don't say or do anything that would jeopardize that situation. As a result, I have felt weak and ineffective in times past.

Manifestation of behavior:

- Inability to make decisions.
- Continually questioned the decisions I did make.
- Tried to dominate my wife out of fear of not being a leader or even worse, of not being a real man.
- I had poor self-image.
- Insecure (I would compensate by trying to project a “got it altogether” type image.)
- Worry about everything (job, money, home, what people thought about me, not witnessing like I should.)
- Easily intimidated by other men.
- Wondered why I could talk so openly and freely with most women but not with men.
- Not very sensitive to other people’s needs.
- Very critical of other people and myself.
- Had a hard time telling other people “no” for fear of them not liking me.
- Lacked boldness about sharing anything about my beliefs and my walk with the Lord.

Counselors went through my entire background and discovered how my folks, mainly my mother, had without knowing, “castrated” me so badly that I felt inept in anything I did or felt about myself. I was so emotionally tied to them and their wishes; I completely lost all of my own identity and personality. I think I grew to hate that arrangement and ended up, in a sense, hating myself.

Only after a lot of counseling and finding out who I am and what I already have been given by God from the beginning, changing the lies I have been telling myself all these years and getting out of the emotional ruts from the past, did I begin to change on the inside.

The counselor also told me:

- I am loved.
- I am the way God created me.
- I am valuable and important, just like I am.
- I can love God and others without being responsible for them and their feelings.

I can now say that I have experienced some victory and deliverance in almost every area mentioned above. I know as I become closer and closer to Jesus, I will take on more and more of His likeness and character and experience complete victory and deliverance over all the above.

Only until recently when I began a closer walk with the Lord and praying on a more consistent basis, have I experienced more and more boldness in my witness and ease in sharing my beliefs. I too, have worried less about rejection from others because I realize more and more who I am in Jesus.

III. EXHORTATION

I am convinced this present age, especially in America, is not real. What is real occurs in the spirit world, where evil is trying to destroy good, and good overcomes evil, wherever a vessel is available. It is where bonds have their origin and chains are real; where slavery is manifest. The only time, practically speaking, most men encounter this in the visible world is when evil breaks out of the spiritual into the physical world. When men experience that “War is Hell” they are exactly correct!

That is when evil, unchecked by responsible men, is loosed and runs amuck. War is Hell, unleashed and mobilized. Locally, men experience evil in the form of rape, murder, and suicide. Then we’re rudely awakened that the real world is spirit! Until those times, men are lulled (but not by women) into unchallenged lethargy by the mesmerizing TV, the ubiquitous recliner and sports, sports, sports!

Jesus was the bravest, most virile man ever to have lived. But He was alert to the REAL world! No dainties for Him! He knew what would quell a sharp mind and numb a quenched Spirit. No graven silver images or silver screen televisions or gold idols for Him. No frivolous excess of recreation to slow His spirited senses!

In Genesis 34, during a time of peace, Shechem and Hamor are temporarily emasculated, and by virtue of their pain, are rendered impotent to defend their city. And according to God’s Word they lost their lives. If men are not spiritual leaders during times of “peace,” what will happen to them in times of war when the enemy manifests himself, when powers and principalities begin to mobilize?

The name, respect, position, wisdom and authority of a man of God has been torn down, ridiculed and demeaned. The church has contaminated itself with the pagan viewpoint regarding God-commanded and God-ordained roles of men and women! Insidiously through TV, newspapers, and subtle advertising, we have assimilated into our ways what a “man” does and what a “woman” does. And it does not agree with what the WORD says!

His Word specifically says there is to be a spiritual leader in the family. So there exists a spot to be filled by someone. If the man is slow or unwilling to occupy it, a woman usually steps in; then it is occupied. A man will in rare cases oust her. Therefore the error is twofold! The man abdicates and/or is slow to fulfill his God given responsibility; the woman is in error for usurping a position of authority when someone is there. The gap should be left open by the woman as much as possible and pray him in, regardless of how much more “spiritual” the wife is. A man with a very small amount of spirituality, but anointed, carries more weight than a super spiritual woman with no anointing. God’s desire is to bring back, rebuild and restore the man of God, to call him by a new name, to reinstate His Spirit into him. But it must be through His Word.

It does not matter what our opinions are, or what has been, or how long a tradition has endured. Jesus said He was the Truth and the Way and the Life. It is His words that are right, not ours. As it was in the days of Josiah, neglect and ignorance do not nullify His Word, curses and all. Jesus still wants to live through us. “But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the Word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.” (II Corinthians 4:2)

The Word of God breaks us, crushes us and bends our necks. It is our Judge; and if we do not use it to judge ourselves, then He will judge us.

The judgments of God in the Old Testament were meant to do the same thing so that God could heal their wounds and cure their afflictions, and hear their cry. So it is to day. We are to use the Word to judge ourselves, so that we may come to Jesus for healing. If we do not, God will surely judge us as individuals, as families, and as a church body. And He will begin with the elders, the leaders, which are the men.

In the latter part of the exhortation there needs to be a caution to any men who repent. Throughout scripture, especially in the New Testament, the woman is to be in the support role, side by side with the man, with equal importance and worth as the male. There is to be unity between the two, physically, mentally, and spiritually. If the man is a spiritual leader only in his house, she is to be there beside him, equally participating, but him leading. If the husband is a teacher or elder in the church, she is to be there with him in support and witness, but with him leading (speaking).

The example of Aquila and Priscilla bears this out. Wherever they are mentioned, it is together as a team. Paul esteemed her highly, so he cannot be falsely accused of “chauvinism” later on in his letters. God’s Word never demeans women, to the contrary, it elevates them.

The second caution is the serious error of moving a woman with anointing in one arena, i.e., teaching younger women, organizing, etc., into an area that is within the male’s scriptural domain. Using a more secular vein as an example, companies will in serious error take a man with high technical capabilities and make a manager out of him. His anointing is in the technical-creative role, not in managing. Another example is in the political arena; (“pastors” hear this!) leaders will in error give additional responsibilities to one who has shown excellence in one realm but who is too busy to effectively take on another. In the end, a mediocre performance and health problems due to stress, especially in women, reveal the error. Anointing in one field does not mean it is transferable.

Warning

Nearly without exception, the “sons of Israel” doing “what was evil in the sight of the Lord,” brought about the fall of the nation. Then, as today, the mercy of God showed up in the women, filling many gaps to prevent sudden catastrophe from occurring sooner than it would have otherwise.

But now, as then, this can only be a short-term stopgap measure that precedes the wilderness. Women placing their spiritual fingers in the dike cannot hold long; it is the last stop light out of town.

This has been going on so long that the original concept of scriptural teaching and authority is strange. An example of how excellence is lost can be found in the modern day standard of what is considered “good furniture.” In the 1800’s and early 1900’s, most of the best furniture was made from black walnut, a very beautifully grained, light, strong hardwood. It was so popular that most of the civilized world’s forests in Germany and the United States were decimated. The resultant scarcity necessitated the manufacturers’ use of increasingly cheaper woods until finally pressed wood and Formica with simulated walnut grain has become the norm. Now, that is all anyone knows about walnut or other quality woods. A case in point; recently, in front of the offices of a local company, someone felled a large walnut tree and cut it up for firewood!

Just as furniture has been reduced to the lowest common (very “common”) denominator, so has the office of a Christian father and husband. The original standards and responsibilities have been reduced to the lowest common denominator; i.e., unisex homes!

In Isaiah, Ezekiel and throughout the Word, one of the first stages of judgment is the removal of the elder, the wise man, the prophet, and the mighty warrior. Without the leadership of these men, the Church will run unchecked, swiftly into the contamination of the world. Even now the Church is already under judgment, for those men have virtually been removed.

Spiritually castrated, the “elders” allow the young men and older women to run the place – their deep voices are virtually stilled from issuing protests, exercising leadership, and advising caution. The Church in large measure exalts the young, the talented, the educated, and the attractive. As the old men are disregarded and relegated to has-been status and trite positions, the contamination of the pagan world is evident.

Those young men who would repent after reading this message should quickly go and sit at the feet of those few old men God has graciously preserved!

The time is coming quickly, and now is in part, close to a parallel of Jesus’ day. The evil in Rome was present – Jesus saw it – but it lurked beneath the surface. Forty years later in 70 AD it became real and Jerusalem fell to a cruel hand. So it is in this hour; as it was present then, but under check and invisible, evil is present but invisible now, waiting to rise up again.

Christian men are living a life of ease that has dulled their senses. Health-and-wealth and make-me-feel-good sermons have gently formed them into Formica leaders and figurehead fathers. What God says about husbands’ and fathers’ responsibilities is dangerously approached with disbelief. The Church’s attitude resembles that captain’s reply to Elisha’s prophecy of food selling cheaply in a time of famine: “Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, how could such a thing be?” His watered down belief caused him to be trodden down at the gate.

So shall the men – husbands and fathers – be trodden down by the mobilized gates of Hell if they don't take the offensive in Jesus' name. We must storm the gates of Hell ere they trample us underfoot!

In Deuteronomy 33:11 Moses prayed, “Bless, O Lord, his (Levi, later the head of the priestly tribe) substance and accept the work of his hands: smite (crush) the loins of his adversaries, and those that hate him, that they not rise up again.” The authority structure, specifically in the family and the Church, is Satan's strong adversary. Through neglect, abdication, and adulteration of His Word, we have become spiritual eunuchs...

August 18, 1986

¹ Barbara Tuchman, A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century (Random House Publishing: New York, 1987).

