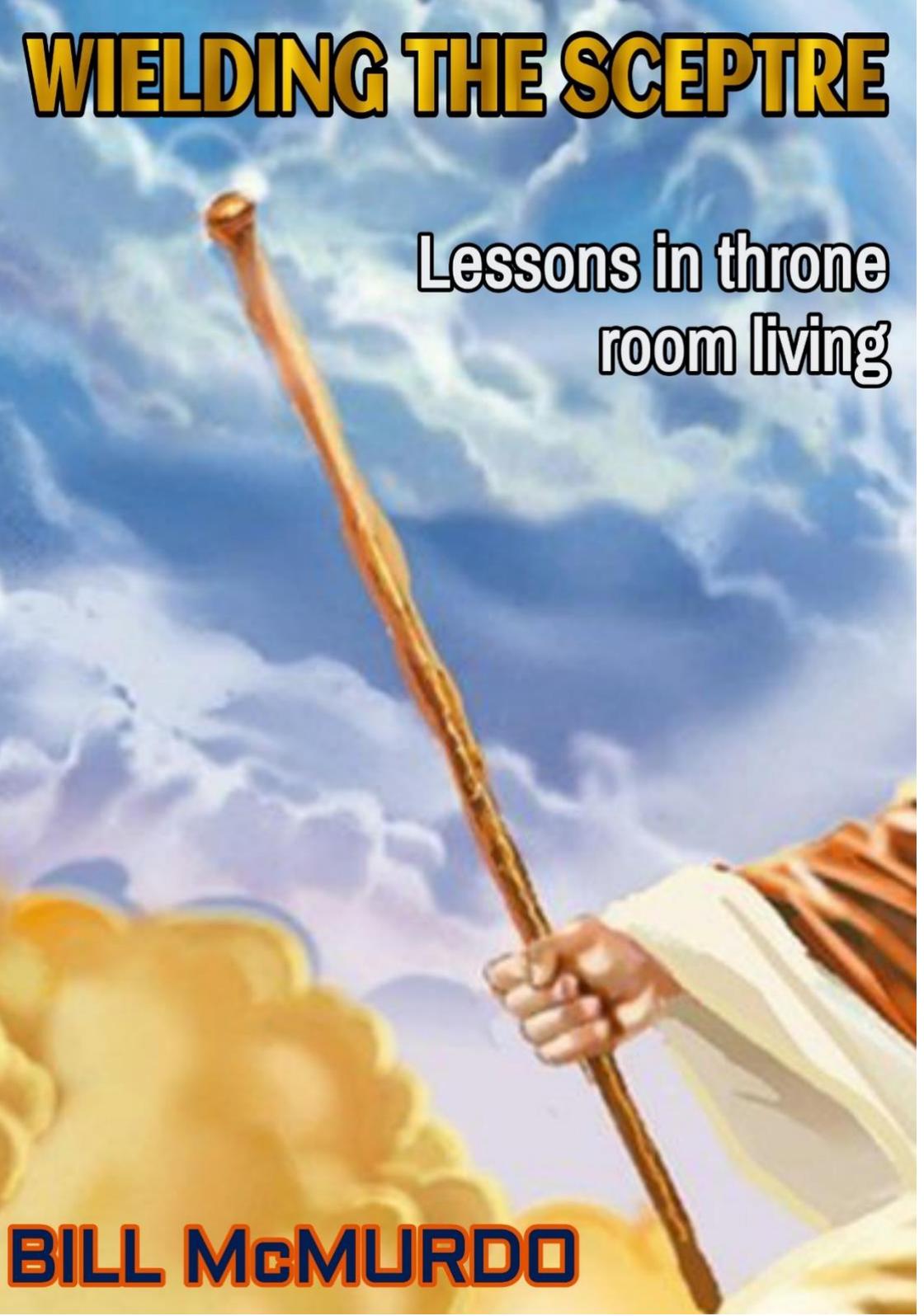


WIELDING THE SCEPTRE

A hand holding a long, golden sceptre against a blue sky with white and yellow clouds. The hand is wearing a white sleeve with a gold and red patterned cuff. The sceptre has a golden, bulbous top.

Lessons in throne
room living

BILL McMURDO

WIELDING THE SCEPTRE

Lessons On Living The Throne Life

BILL McMURDO

MATURE SONS AND DAUGHTERS

I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

1 JOHN 2:12-14 KJV

There are three stages of growth and maturity mentioned here: children, young men and fathers.

Children are young Christians – babes in Christ – who are all excited because their sins are forgiven. They are rejoicing in salvation and being part of God's family. Knowing they are loved by God is a big deal to them as they feel the difference between living in sin and darkness to now being cleansed and living in the Kingdom.

Then there are the young men, the adolescents. These are believers who have learned they have authority over the devil and his demons.

Sandwiched between children and adolescents are the fathers. Why does the Bible not list children, young men and fathers chronologically?

There is a simple and powerful reason for this, which is that spiritual growth is not subject to time; it is subject to hunger and revelation.

When you are born again, you receive a perfect redemption and are perfect in Christ. Spiritual growth happens as this perfection is *revealed* to you. It is a matter of manifestation. You see the end from the beginning. The more you see with the eyes of your inner man who you are in Christ and who He is in you, the more you "grow" spiritually. It isn't that you *become* more perfect, it's that more of the perfect Christ in you is *revealed* to you.

The growth we measure is in this earthly realm as you are already perfect in Christ (see 1 John 3:2). You "grow" as this is revealed to you.

Spiritual maturity is not subject to time in the same way as natural maturity. You can manifest maturity spiritually in a relatively short period of time here on earth by being hungry for revelation.

In this passage, fathers clearly represent leaders. Maturity is essential for leadership. Novices should not be appointed to leadership roles as they can get puffed up with pride and fall into condemnation of the devil (see 1 Timothy 3:6).

In the passage in 1 John 2 here we see children walking in the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and young men (youths) growing in their consciousness of authority over the wicked one. But fathers know Him who is from the beginning.

Maturity is not sonship; maturity is fatherhood. True fathers raise fathers, not sons. We must mature beyond knowing our sins are forgiven and our ability to wage spiritual warfare and overcome the wicked one.

Some people want to stay in the warrior life, fighting demons and binding strongmen. But there is more to life than conflict. There is modelling peace in the home which, if implemented properly, can radiate into the community. Leadership is not about constant warfare; it is about building communities in peace.

God's Kingdom is one of peace, not strife. A father will bring peace to the home and to those around him.

Fathers know Him who is from the beginning. This means that fathers see the big picture and know the purpose of God in time. Sons that are engaged in fighting the wicked one see only the battle, not the purpose of the battle. That purpose is peace.

There remains a rest for the people of God. That place of rest is full maturity i.e. fatherhood. In times of war the nation looks for young men of strength to go out and fight the battles. The fathers stay at home. It's not that they haven't the vigour to fight but a father's job is to be in the home. He is the source of wisdom, strength and comfort. He is the man of peace.

We have enough warrior energy. We need more father energy. That is why Paul said "You have not many fathers." Father energy is rare.

There are thousands of instructors and military captains teaching us how to wage war and be strong Christians. Much of that is activity – more praying and studying. But time spent sitting with a father is much more precious than time spent listening to instructors.

A father's maturity can be transferred to you if you will honour that father and purpose to absorb his energy. It's not about receiving information; it's about receiving impartation.

True fathers raise fathers, not just obedient sons. You can train a man to be obedient – like the elder brother in the parable of the prodigal – but all you have is a resentful son. A good father is not looking to raise slave sons but mature, capable fathers.

Men must leave their fathers and mothers and cleave to a woman. This means a man must be the source in his home, not the dependent. All men must be fathers. Even if a man is single, he is called to be a mature father.

A mature father only has to sit in his house. Thieves and destroyers will not seek to enter a home where a seasoned warrior dwells. Seasoned warriors are those who have moved beyond the phase where they have to prove their prowess in battle. They can live in peace because enemies will step warily round them.

Maturity takes time in the natural. But in the spirit, there is no time. Spiritual maturity comes through revelation. By that I mean that maturity is developed in us in this temporal realm by revelation. It is revealed to us who we are!

Yes, there is a growing into. Yes, time is part of the process. However, you can mature very quickly (from a time perspective) by purposefully and actively spending time with God. And by spending time with mature fathers.

Leadership must be fathering. Armies need Captains and Majors leading the soldiers in the field. But they also need Generals and Field Marshall back at Headquarters. Their role is to be fathers.

Men must be led by fathers. That is why Jesus came to reveal the Father to us. Fatherhood must permeate everything. The Father must be all in all. The enemy's attack on manhood is because of this. Satan hates man because man is made in the image of the Father.

Children of God must come through sonship to fatherhood. Many choose to stay in sonship. Sonship is the place of being zealous for the things we have learned. Yet sonship is a phase. While we are always children in that we came from a father and mother, we must leave childish things behind. If we don't, we get stuck in a place where our zeal for truth mutates into trying to impress others with how good sons we are. We become like the elder brother, seeing ourselves as competing with other sons to be the Father's go-to son.

Fathers transcend; that is their role. A father sees all and loves all. A father knows all that is going on in his house. Fathers are the heart of the home. That is why everything goes toward and through the father. The home must revolve around the father.

To be an authentic leader, be a father. Be mature. And raise up sons to be fathers.

Young men like to fight and prove their prowess in battle. But there comes a time when a warrior serves best in the command centre rather than on the field.

Battle-hardened soldiers get promoted. They trade in their swords for sceptres.

As an officer goes through the ranks, it becomes less about his prowess with weapons and more about his command of the battlefield.

Field Marshals take dominion by edicts rather than direct use of weapons. This is why they are given Field Marshal batons as symbols of their authority.

As a mature saint, you must transition from spiritual warfare in the trenches fighting demons to taking dominion over cities, regions and nations.

You must move from the sword to the sceptre.

MATURITY AND IDENTITY ARE DESTINY

**There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit
of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom
and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord .
His delight is in the fear of the Lord , And He shall not
judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the
hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall
judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek
of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of
His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall
slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of
His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.
ISAIAH 11:1-5 NKJV**

This Messianic passage depicts Jesus as smiting the earth with the rod of His mouth. This phrase "the rod of His mouth" is used in many translations.

Interestingly, the Hebrew word *shebet* used here for rod is the word for tribe. It is translated as rod 34 times and as sceptre 10 times.

The definition of sceptre according to Wikipedia is: *A sceptre or scepter is a staff or wand held in the hand by a*

ruling monarch as an item of royal or imperial insignia. Figuratively, it means royal or imperial authority or sovereignty.

This passage reminds us of another in Revelation:

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. REVELATION 19:11-16 NKJV

Note here that Jesus strikes the nations with a sharp sword.

Revelation 1:16 tells us that this sword is two-edged. The same phrase is used in Hebrews 4:12. The Greek for this is *distomos*, which means "two-mouthed"!

Clearly both the rod and sword in these two passages (Isaiah 11 and Revelation 19) are a metaphor for the Word. Jesus IS the Word so the "rod of His mouth" is not just a rod *from* His mouth but His very mouth.

We can learn a great deal from understanding that the Word of God is both a sword i.e. a weapon and a sceptre i.e. an instrument of dominion. We saw in our last lesson that young men are proficient in warfare but that this leads in the military to promotion. There comes a point where the capable warrior is of far more use in headquarters, where wars and battles are strategised.

A principle we need to understand from a leadership perspective is that promotion is not for the benefit of the one promoted but for the collective. There comes a point where we need to move from the sword to the sceptre, from fighting in the battlefield as warriors to fighting in the command centre as generals.

In truth, this metaphor is inadequate because, as believers, we are called to wage war in the Throne Room as co-regents with Christ.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He

might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 2:4-7 NKJV

We see here that we are positioned in heavenly places in Christ. This tells us we are bi-local. We are both here on earth yet mystically in heaven at the same time. To refer back to our last lesson we could say it like this: We need to transition from being young men who fight demons here in earthly realms to being fathers who function from heavenly realms and see the bigger picture strategically. There comes a point where being a father and raising young men to be warriors is more important to the Kingdom than fighting in every skirmish.

The battle must go from what we can do to who we are. It's great to know we have power over the demonic but God wants us to plant His Kingdom and learn to rule. We must move from sword to sceptre. We must mature from a sword perspective to a sceptre perspective.

It's all about maturity. We must transition from an activity focus to an identity focus. If you see yourself as a beggar, you will act like one and talk like one. If you see yourself as a warrior, you will always be looking for a fight and how to prove yourself in one. You will be stuck in "young men" mode i.e. not fully mature. However, if you see yourself as a king, you will act like one.

Kings make decrees that effect nations. When kings get up in the morning, they reach for the sceptre, not the sword.

When Moses sent out twelve spies to look at the Promised Land, ten came back with the wrong perspective. Their focus was the problems. Only Joshua and Caleb came back with the right perspective. They were dominion-minded. Ten spies focused on what could be done by the power of the sword. They focused on activity and came up wanting in their thinking.

The ten spies had an identity problem. They saw themselves as grasshoppers! When you see yourself as a bug, you fear getting squashed like one. Immature people don't see themselves in the right perspective. They are either puffed up with pride and an exaggerated sense of their own importance or crippled by an inferiority complex.

You don't give immature people a sceptre just like you don't give a raw recruit a Field Marshal's baton. Promotion is given to the mature. To move from sword to sceptre is to submit yourself to the maturing process. It is growing up and accepting responsibility.

Fathers know Him that is from the beginning. They function from the perspective of eternity. Fathers don't sit and figure out who they can fight with; they are concerned with a much larger and more mature picture.

They are thinking years ahead and planning a good future for their families, not trying to decide who they can punch out next.

It's vital in the world that kings produce heirs. This is not just to ensure succession of the throne but because having heirs gives kings a long perspective. The blessed man will have descendants (see Psalm 128:5,6).

Kings understand that decrees they make today will set the course of destiny, perhaps for centuries. We are living today under laws and customs decreed by monarchs many years ago. This authority comes from the sceptre. We must be sceptre-minded as kings and priests unto God.

ASCENDING TO THE SCEPTRE

Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. “Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord . All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will glorify the house of My glory. “Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like doves to their roosts? Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, To the

name of the Lord your God, And to the Holy One of Israel, Because He has glorified you. “The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, But in My favor I have had mercy on you. Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession. For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, And those nations shall be utterly ruined. “The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, The cypress, the pine, and the box tree together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I will make the place of My feet glorious. Also the sons of those who afflicted you Shall come bowing to you, And all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you The City of the Lord , Zion of the Holy One of Israel. “Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, So that no one went through you, I will make you an eternal excellence, A joy of many generations. You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, And milk the breast of kings; You shall know that I, the Lord , am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. “Instead of bronze I will bring gold, Instead of iron I will bring silver, Instead of wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron. I will also make your officers peace, And your magistrates righteousness. Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall

call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise. “The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, Nor shall your moon withdraw itself; For the Lord will be your everlasting light, And the days of your mourning shall be ended. Also your people shall all be righteous; They shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, And a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time.”

ISAIAH 60:1-22 NKJV

This marvellous chapter is regarded by many as being pertinent to the times we live in.

Note that this chapter speaks of overwhelming victory, glory and abundant prosperity. What we need to be aware of is this is not about spiritual warfare. There's no “battle” in Isaiah chapter 60.

Yes, there is opposition but this opposition is completely subservient to the people of God. They are bowing down and building on behalf of the Kingdom.

Yes, there is darkness and even great darkness but there is no warring with darkness – there is only rising and

shining! The light doesn't need to fight darkness; light only has to shine and the darkness flees.

Darkness can never overcome the light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

JOHN 1:5 NLT

There is no battle between light and darkness. The darkness is powerless to prevent the light from shining. The light shines in the darkness. Always.

We need to move from the sword to the sceptre. We need to shift from a paradigm where we need to fight to one where we just need to show up and shine! When the enemy sees you have a sword in your hand, he knows you have come for a fight. However, when you show up with a sceptre, all notion of fighting or even negotiating is gone. Sceptres are given to rulers, to matured sons and daughters.

Verse 18 tells us: *Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, Neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall call your walls Salvation, And your gates Praise.*

The days of warfare are ended. Violence, wasting and destruction have ceased. These are not the days of fighting with the sword; these are the days of ruling with a sceptre.

You live in the paradigm you believe for.

**According to your faith be it unto you.
MATTHEW 9:29**

According to the substance you are walking in, be it unto you. You can walk in a sword paradigm where you are fighting the devil for every inch of territory – or arise and shine above the battlefield. You can be seated in heavenly realms in Christ. This is living the Ascended Life.

**Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon
the earth beneath: ISAIAH 51:6**

This is the correct posture. We must be heavenly-minded and look down on the earth from heaven's perspective.

We must live from above. The ascended life is the true Christian life. Living from the earth is hard and full of sorrow. Choosing to live by the sword is the way of battle. Living by the sceptre is the life of being seated in throne dimensions.

We must move from sword to sceptre. This is the path and trajectory of maturity. Young men fight and wield the sword. Fathers wield the sceptre and sit at rest.

The saints in Psalm 149 are resting upon beds. They are wielding authority over nations and rulers. Their swords have become tools and weapons of dominion.

We must become so proficient in using our swords that they become sceptres of dominion and governmental authority.

We have access to the highest and holiest place through the shed blood of the Lamb. This is our overcoming – our consciousness of access. And the word of our testimony is the declaration of our position in Christ. We speak His Word concerning who we are and what we have access to. This Word is our sword and sceptre. By this Word we exercise co-rulership with the Lord Jesus.

Remember that we overcome by the shed blood of the Lamb. This has already been done for us. And the word of our testimony is simply our affirming that the battle has already been won by Jesus Christ.

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no

man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

REVELATION 3:7-13 KJV

This passage, it could be argued, is a parallel one to Isaiah 60. It is the Church of the Open Door. Again, there is reference to the enemies of God's people bowing down to them. No force can withstand this church. No man can open shut the doors Jesus opens for His ekklesia.

RULING IN THE MIDST OF OUR ENEMIES

The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. The LORD has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.” The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head.

PSALMS 110:1-7 NKJV

This passage is David describing an interaction between YHWH God i.e. the Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus. Notice that David describes Jesus as “my Lord” (verse 1) and “the Lord” (verse 5).

The capitalisation LORD is actually the Name of God in Hebrew i.e. Yahweh or Jehovah. The word Lord is the Hebrew *adon* which means lord or master. Notice that Yahweh instructs Jesus to sit at His right hand. The

reason for this is that the right hand is the place of power and delegated authority.

We must understand that alignment with Father God's authority is vital if we are going to function in the Kingdom. The right hand of God is a place of elevation and promotion.

Something absolutely vital to see here is that it is God who makes our enemies our footstool. Our job is to position. HIS job is to subdue our enemies. This beats fighting in our own strength! This is far better than spiritual warfare. It is ruling and reigning with Him.

I like how the NIV translates verse 2:

The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of your enemies!" PSALMS 110:2 NIV

Jesus has a mighty sceptre! And He gives us authority to reign with Him.

Something we need to note here is that Jesus is told to rule in the midst of His enemies. Now there are no enemies in heaven so clearly this verse is speaking about the rule of Christ in the earth, where we are. We are the many-membered corporate Christ in the earth. It is here where Christ's enemies are to be found.

We see this in the very next verse where it says “Your people shall be volunteers in the day of your power.” The word “power” is *chayil* in Hebrew. It can mean forces or a gathered people like an army. This is a reference to the church, the army of God. It is a corporate Body of Christ.

As the ekklesia of God, we are called to rule in the midst of our enemies. Christ's enemies are our enemies. We are in Him and He is in us therefore whoever opposes Him opposes us.

Note the command is to rule, not to fight. Yes, we wage a warfare but it is the warfare of an occupying force on behalf of a victorious King who has already won the fight. We put down the vestiges of rebellion by rogue spiritual forces opposed to God's Kingdom rule.

It is vital to realise that the sceptre ministry of King Jesus is ours to function in. The reference here to Jesus being of the Order of Melchizedek is a powerful reminder of our own king-priest ministry (see Rev.1:6 and Rev. 5:10).

As priests we have access into heavenly realms beyond the sacred veil where we decree as kings into the earth. We have entered into a sceptre ministry.

**And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
EPHESIANS 2:6 KJV**

The Passion Translation puts it beautifully:

He raised us up with Christ the exalted One, and we ascended with him into the glorious perfection and authority of the heavenly realm, for we are now co-seated as one with Christ! EPHESIANS 2:6 TPT

We are created to be kings and priests in the eternal Kingdom of God. Right now we have enemies in our midst and our task is to rule over them. These enemies oppose us and we must put them down.

We can either do this by adopting a combative approach and getting stuck in a “spiritual warfare” mindset or rise above the battle and rule from heavenly realms. To do this we must be conscious of our oneness with Christ. We are co-rulers with Christ. As He is, so are we in this world.

Our job is to wield the sceptre, which means declaring His will and purpose in the earth. We make decrees in line with His Word and pray to Him with intercession, supplication, praise and worship. We are His occupying army in the earth.

It is HIS authority we function in and it is HIS power that gets the job done. Nevertheless, it is OUR responsibility to exercise these things as His people.

Notice that these things have consequences and those consequences are on the earth.

Nations will know judgement. Kings and heads of countries will be executed. There will be people dying.

We have already seen this in history. It is a terrifying truth that the very presence of God's people on earth brings judgement because we are His co-rulers.

Your prayers impact nations, child of God. What comes out of your mouth can transform cities (see Proverbs 11:11).

The Word of God is given to us as an instrument of dominion. It is designed to be a rod of strength, a mighty sceptre with which we can rule the nations.

Understand that sceptre authority and sceptre ministry flow from an agreement between the Father and the Son and that we get to be involved in this. We are called as His corporate Body to wield His sceptre authority.

Now, on an individual level you could say that we are trained in warfare, learning to use His Word as a two-edged (two-mouthed) sword in battle till the point we are proficient enough to wield it as a sceptre.

At this point we are decreeing from a heavenly realm and God is causing the angel armies to do our bidding. That is our role and function as the ekklesia of God.

We receive the will of God by His revealed Word and by the Spirit of God. We then speak and decree this will from

heavenly realms into the earth. This subdues God's enemies and brings about His purpose. It is amazing that David was given this revelation of how God's system works - and of the central role Christ plays in it – 1,000 years before Jesus walked the earth. It is abundantly evident that God has placed His people at the very heart of how His Kingdom functions.

God's people are the portal by which the sceptre authority of Christ is wielded to effect in the earth.

A SCEPTRE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

We observed in Psalm 110 that Jesus has a mighty sceptre. The sceptre is a symbol of authority and dominion.

Jesus is, of course, the King and Lord seated at Yahweh's right hand. As joint-heirs with Him, we are also king-priests.

We are studying how we move from a spiritual warfare mindset to a dominion paradigm. This is transitioning from sword to sceptre. This is equated with maturity and promotion.

God's purpose for us is maturity. It is fatherhood. Young men go out as warriors to fight but fathers are at home sending out the warriors.

God wants the ekklesia to become the Perfect Man of Ephesians chapter 4 and the manifest sons of maturity that creation cries out for in Romans chapter 8. This necessitates being a people who can wield the sceptre.

Of course, only Jesus is authorised to do this but He has called us into this ministry of wielding the sceptre by mandating us with His *exousia* in the earth (see Matthew 28:18-20).

Let's look at a passage of scripture that shows us the place of the sword and sceptre in our lives as kings and priests:

My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever. Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things. Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under thee. Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad. Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir. Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him. And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favour. The

king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace. Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth. I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever. PSALMS 45:1-17 KJV

This psalm is speaking of the Lord Jesus. We know this from Hebrews 1:8,9.

It is a picture of the perfect King. As such, it is also a template for us as kings and priests.

It says that the King is fairer than the children of men. The NIV puts it: "You are the most excellent of men." We cannot emphasize enough that if you are going to wield the sceptre effectively, you must be a person of character and excellence. This is not a role for sloppy Christians.

Note in verse 3 that the King wears His sword at His side. This is no mere ceremonial display. Kings generally tend to be trained from a very young age to be trained in the arts of war and to become great warriors. If you have been properly disciplined as a Christian you will have been

taught from when you were first saved how to use your Bible as a two-edged sword.

Verse 4 amplifies this, speaking of being victorious and referring to the King's right hand doing mighty deeds

Verse 5 talks of the devastating effect of the King's arrows.

In short, the King is a mighty man of war; a battle-hardened veteran of great fighting prowess and esteemed victories.

In the sixth verse we see the eternal stability and immovability of the Throne. Then we are told that the sceptre of the King is a right sceptre i.e. righteous and just.

This is the picture of a King who has won wonderful battles. His arrows are in His defeated foes. His sword is upon His thigh. He is now seated with His sceptre.

It's not just a picture of the Lord Jesus; it's a picture of mature saints who know their king-priest identity in Him. It is a picture of the overcoming believer who has power over the nations and rules them with an iron sceptre (see Revelation 2:26,27).

The 12th chapter of Revelation speaks of the corporate Manchild that will rule the nations with an iron sceptre.

This sceptre is a sceptre of righteousness and justice. The nations need this. Romans 8 tells us that creation longs for the sons of God to be manifest. It is the sons of God who bring peace. Peace is always the result of righteous government.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. ISAIAH 9:6-7 KJV

Note that government and peace go hand in hand and that they are established by justice. Where there is no righteous foundation, there can be no authentic government and certainly no real peace.

The sceptre of Christ's Kingdom government is a righteous sceptre, bringing justice and equity.

The Passion Translation renders Psalm 45 beautifully:

My heart is on fire, boiling over with passion. Bubbling up within me are these beautiful lyrics as a lovely poem to be sung for the King. Like a river bursting its banks, I'm overflowing with words,

spilling out into this sacred story. Beautiful!
Beautiful! Beyond the sons of men! Elegant grace pours out through every word you speak. Truly God has anointed you, his favored one, for eternity! Now strap your lightning-sword of judgment upon your side, O mighty warrior, so majestic! You are full of beauty and splendor as you go out to war! In your glory and grandeur go forth in victory! Through your faithfulness and meekness the cause of truth and justice will stand. Awe-inspiring miracles are accomplished by your power, leaving everyone dazed and astonished! Your wounding leaves men's hearts defeated as they fall before you broken. Your glory-kingdom, O God, endures forever, for you are enthroned to rule with a justice-scepter in your hand! You are passionate for righteousness and you hate lawlessness. This is why God, your God, crowns you with bliss above your fellow kings. He has anointed you, more than any other, with his oil of fervent joy, the very fragrance of heaven's gladness. Your royal robes release the scent of suffering love for your bride; the odor of aromatic incense is upon you. From the pure and shining place, lovely music that makes you glad is played for your pleasure. The daughters of kings, women of honor, are maidens in your courts. And standing beside you, glistening in your pure and golden glory, is the beautiful bride-to-be! Now listen, daughter, pay attention, and forget about your past. Put behind you every attachment to the familiar, even those who once were close to you!

For your royal Bridegroom is ravished by your beautiful brightness. Bow in reverence before him, for he is your Lord! Wedding presents pour in from those of great wealth. The royal friends of the Bridegroom shower you with gifts. As the princess bride enters the palace, how glorious she appears within the holy chamber, robed with a wedding dress embroidered with pure gold! Lovely and stunning she leads the procession with all her bridesmaids as they come before you, her Bridegroom King. What a grand, majestic entrance! A joyful, glad procession as they enter the palace gates! Your many sons will one day be kings, just like their Father. They will sit on royal thrones all around the world. I will make sure the fame of your name is honored in every generation as all the people praise you, giving you thanks forever and ever! PSALMS 45:1-17 TPT

Jesus is enthroned to rule with a justice-sceptre in His hand! This also applies to us as His saints. Notice that it speaks of us as His sons and that we also are kings seated on thrones all around the world.

THE ASCENDED LIFE

Moving from sword to sceptre is all about the ascended life.

Kelley Varner wrote a wonderful book called “Secrets Of The Ascended Life.”

He said in this book that the key to the ascended life is in 1 Corinthians 6:17

**But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 1
CORINTHIANS 6:17 KJV**

Our oneness with the Lord is key to ruling by the sceptre and living the ascended life.

This verse reminds us of the fascinating phenomenon known as Quantum Entanglement, where at the subatomic level particles are mysteriously linked and there is no distance at that quantum level between them.

We could say it like this: Wherever He goes or wherever we go, we are entangled i.e. joined to Him. The Greek means glued together.

You cannot be separated from Him. Separation is the great illusion and deception. The revelation of this is the key to sceptre thinking and ministry.

As Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father wielding His sceptre, so we are in Him. Equally, He is with us here on earth ruling in the midst of His enemies (and ours) in us, through us and as us! We are the portals through which His sceptre is extended to the earth realm.

The sceptre life is the ascended life.

Remember that the blessings and dominion enjoyed by the people of God in Isaiah chapter 60 come from our arising and taking our rightful place in Him.

There is a principle in God's Word that we function in authentic ministry in the earth because we are positioned appropriately in our heavenly seat with Christ (Ephesians 2:6).

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength. Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His

courts. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously.” Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord . For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

PSALMS 96:1-13 NKJV

You will see that we are to declare His glory among the nations and say to the nations that the Lord reigns. This is wonderful but note that this is done from a certain position. It is done from His sanctuary (verse 6). It is done from the courts of heaven (verse 8). It is done from the beauties of holiness (verse 9). An alternative rendering to this is *in the glorious sanctuary*.

We speak from what we have seen and heard. In order to proclaim His glory, we must enter into it. In order to say among the nations that the Lord reigns, we must see Him in the Throne Room and proclaim His Lordship from there.

We see this principle in Isaiah chapter 52:

Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! ISAIAH 52:2,7 KJV

Verse 2 tells us to arise and sit down. This might seem strange language but we see that these people are in the dust. They are wallowing in things of death. The dust represents the earth life, the carnal, the flesh. It is representative of man's ideas and the limits of the earth realm.

We need to arise out of this limitation and take our place on our God-appointed seats of authority. Here are some other translations of this verse:-

Shake yourself from the dust; arise, sit [erect in a dignified place], O Jerusalem; loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion. ISAIAH 52:2 AMPC

Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, Daughter Zion, now a captive. ISAIAH 52:2 NIV

Rise from the dust, O Jerusalem. Sit in a place of honor. Remove the chains of slavery from your neck, O captive daughter of Zion. ISAIAH 52:2 NLT

These translations bring out the intrinsic meaning that we are called to an elevated place, to seats of honour, to thrones.

Perspective is vital. Position is key to walking in the sceptre life. Note that in verse 7 it says our feet are beautiful UPON the mountains.

We are called to put our feet upon the mountains.

Mountains here means nations, kingdoms and empires. We are called to put our feet on these. This is a reference to making the earth His footstool.

It is also a clear indication we are called to the throne life and to sceptre ministry. Note our message is that our God reigns. This is identified as good tidings i.e. good news and as a saving message.

Paul referred to this verse in Romans 10:15 and called it the Gospel. Of course, in the New Covenant we would say JESUS IS LORD.

That is the message we are called to say among the nations. That's the message that will make the nations and peoples His footstool in the earth.

Jesus is Lord is the testimony we have of Jesus. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. What that means is that what we say of Jesus is a prophetic

release of what He will be in our sphere of influence because we said it.

Therefore, when we speak the Lordship of Jesus over the nations it will have the same life-releasing power it had in our lives when we spoke it and got saved (see Romans 10:9).

Now this will be effective because we speak it from our place of reigning with Christ in heavenly places. We release on the earth with our mouths the decree of Christ's Lordship because we have seen it in heaven. When you release the decree that Jesus reigns it is speaking that reality from heaven to earth and it has prophetic *dunamis* in it.

Look at this passage in Revelation chapter 19:

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies

which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND Lord OF LORDS. REVELATION 19:10-16 KJV

The heavenly messenger tells John that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. It could be argued that this activates what happens next i.e. heaven is opened and Jesus is seen in all His majesty and glory.

What you say of Jesus is what He will show forth. To say it, you must see it.

If you want to proclaim the message that the world needs to hear – the message that will bring salvation, healing and peace to the nations – that Jesus is Lord, you must go beyond the veil into heavenly realms and sit with Him on His Throne.

Yours must be a voice from heaven to bring His glory and Kingdom into earthly realms.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. REVELATION 3:21 KJV

The Throne Life is for those who ascend. It is for the overcomers i e. those who understand that soaring above and dwelling in the secret place is the key to overcoming.

You can see this when you consider that we have access beyond the veil through the blood of Jesus (Hebrews 10:19,20) and it is this blood by which we overcome (Revelation 12:10,11).

We could say it like this: Victory is ours by the access to the ascended life, the life of throne and sceptre in heavenly realms with Him.

The blood of the Lamb is the key to throne room living and sceptre ministry.

RECOMMENDED READING

Moving From Sword To Scepter by Wanda Alger

Secrets Of The Ascended Life by Kelley Varner

The Believer's Authority by Kenneth E. Hagin

The Triumphant Church by Kenneth E. Hagin

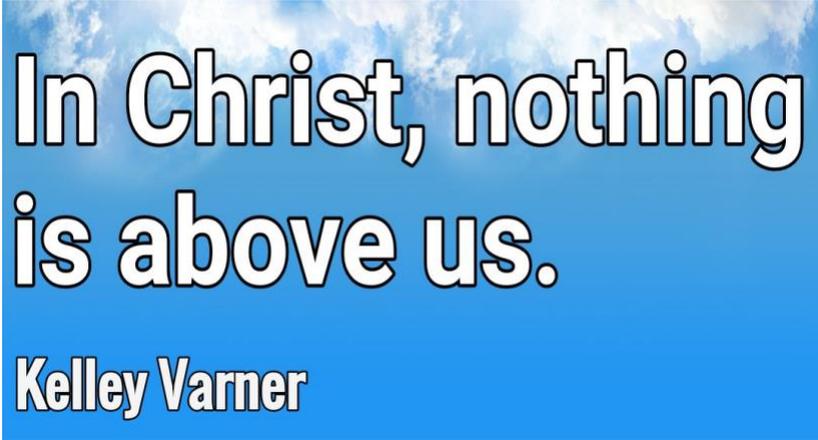
I See Thrones by Dr Gordon E. Bradshaw

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill McMurdo is a pastor, writer and leader who ministers on governmental matters and speaks prophetically to the ekklesia and to nations.

For more info on Bill's ministry, go to:

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**In Christ, nothing
is above us.**

Kelley Varner