

## AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST PART 2

### Ambassadors For Christ Are Stewards Of God's Mysteries

1. Ambassadors for Christ are entrusted with the mysteries that God has revealed; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Ephesians 6:19-20
2. They are presently being diligent "to make their CALLING and ELECTION sure; 2 Peter 1:10. There are both gifts AND callings of God; Rom. 11:29.
3. God's ambassadors are "pressing in" to become fully mature and responsible; they desire to bear much fruit, as the 100-Fold Christian; Mark 4:8, 28.
4. God's ambassadors **seek to attain the high calling**, the out-resurrection from among the dead; Philippians 3:11-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
  - a. Ambassadors consult with kings. Those who meet with King Jesus daily, will come to know Him intimately, in the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His sufferings, and shall be conformed unto His death; Philippians 3:10.
  - b. There is a difference between a CONVERT and a DISCIPLE. Every ambassador for Christ begins as a "convert" to the faith, and then progresses into different degrees of discipleship, and greater realms of glory; 1 Corinthians 15:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18.
  - c. There is a GIFT (of eternal life) to be received by faith; Romans 6:23
  - d. There is also a PRIZE (a high calling) to be won through obedience; 1 Cor. 9:24
5. Some will obtain "the prize" as "joint heirs", who are called UP (an upward call to the summit, Mount Zion), to the place where kings reign. They shall inherit the Heavenly Kingdom (out from this earth into the glorified life); Psalm 72:16; Romans 8:17.
  - a. Ambassadors are given Kingdom privileges. There is a difference between "entering" the Kingdom; John 3:3-5, and "inheriting" the Kingdom; Matthew 25:34; Luke 19:17-19; 1 Corinthians 3: 10-15. Inheritance varies among individuals.
  - b. According to 1 Corinthians 15:40-54, there are different kinds of "bodies": natural and spiritual, mortal and immortal, terrestrial and celestial bodies; Philippians 3:21.
6. Ambassadors will come and go from God's City to carry out their responsibilities. Those who are given glorified bodies when Jesus returns, will have the ability to "come and go" different places as Jesus did in His glorified body. This will enable them to function in BOTH the heavenly realm and the physical realm; Luke 24:39.
7. Jesus was God's original Ambassador, Who reconciled us to God. After the resurrection, He had a glorified, ascended body; Lk. 24:15-31; Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 1:10-11.
8. Ambassadors for Christ have a vision and a burden for nations; Psalm 2:8. Those who "come of age", having been sufficiently proven, purified and prepared, are placed as sons in the Heavenly inheritance; Galatians 4:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:1-4.
9. During the Kingdom Age, ambassadors shall teach people the ways of the Lord; Ps.103:7, perform God's will, and give instruction and guidance; Zech.14:16-17
10. 2 Thessalonians 1:10-11 describes 2 groups of believers at the Lord's coming:
  - a. "When He (Jesus) shall come to be glorified in his "**saints**" (Greek word: sacred, pure, blameless, consecrated), and
  - b. to be admired in all **them that believe** (converts to the faith), because our testimony among you was believed in that day.
  - c. Wherefore, also we pray always for you, that our God would **count you worthy of this calling**, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power"

### Watch Out For False Ambassadors

There are lessons for us throughout scripture: “Now all these things happened unto them (Israelites) for examples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come”; 1 Corinthians 10:11. Jesus warns His disciples that it is possible for the elect to be deceived; Mark 13:22; Matthew 24:4-5

#### **A. THE DECEIT OF THE GIBEONITES– Joshua 9:1-15**

The kings of the various nations gathered together in one accord to fight with Joshua and Israel. The Hebrew meanings of these names reflect their behavior and spiritual attributes; Joshua 9:1-2

1. The Hittite – name means “sons of terror, dread”
  - a. **a spirit of violence**, which manifests through anger, murder, utilizes threats
2. The Amorite – name means “publicity, prominence; mountaineers”
  - a. **a spirit of pride**, which denotes arrogance, haughtiness, self righteousness, domination, rule over others, elitist mentality
3. The Canaanite – name means “peddler, merchant, trafficker”
  - a. **a spirit of materialism**, mammon (wealth), Matthew 6:24, commercialism: buying and selling the Gospel for profit; lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life
4. The Perizzite – name means “rustic dwellers of earth”
  - a. **a spirit of a lack of vision**, those who “err in vision”; Isaiah 28:7; without a vision the people perish; Proverbs 29:18; hinders men from spiritual advancement
5. The Hivite – name means “villager; animation”
  - a. **a spirit of human effort**, which speaks of the “beast nature” (wool) instead of “linen” (righteousness by faith); human accomplishment, hedonism, earthly inheritance
6. The Jebusite – name means “trodden down; threshing; conquered”
  - a. **a spirit of fear**, utilizes intimidation, anxiety, worry, doubt, suppresses true spiritual authority, “beats the people” with emotional abuse

**B. A CONFEDERACY OF KINGS**, the inhabitants of Gibeon, heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, so **they did work “wilyly”** (cunningly, craftily, with trickery); they made “**as if they had been ambassadors**”; Joshua 9:3-4

1. Joshua was deceived because he did not seek the Lord on this occasion; Deut. 7:1-2
2. The Lord cautions His people concerning false brethren, who attempt to beguile even seasoned leaders such as Joshua. They come “wrapped and robed” (disguised and convincing), quoting the Word of God. They went to considerable effort to deceive:
  - a. They had old sacks, and old, “bound up” (mended) wine bottles (not “new” wineskins as Jesus taught); Luke 5:36-38
  - b. They had old shoes, “clouted” (patched) upon their feet; Deuteronomy 29:5
  - c. Their provision of bread was dry (withered); it was mouldy (spotted, crumbly) bread (no fresh, living bread from Heaven)
  - d. They claimed to come from “a far country”, (like the heavenly country); Joshua 9:6,9
3. Instead of an open, outward assault, sometimes the enemy comes as an “angel of light” to deceive, pressuring God’s people to enter into a covenant, an alliance, without carefully seeking the Lord.

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