Church Governance



The last words of David



1 These are the last words of David: . . . 2 "The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. 3 The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: 'When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, 4 he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth.'



God's covenant with David



8 I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel... 11 The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you . . . 15 But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."



Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (NASB)



David's last psalm



1 Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. 2 May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. 3 May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. 4 May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.



PSALM 72:1-20

Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;

Psalm 97:1 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. (NASB)

Isaiah 9:7 He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness



Solomon's Prayer



7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." 8 Solomon answered God, "You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, LORD God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. 10 Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?"



2 CHRONICLES 1:7-12

11 God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, 12 therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."



2 CHRONICLES 1:7-12

The purpose of authority

1. PROSPER

Build others up



So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it.



This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.



The purpose of authority

2. PROTECT

Stand in front of



4 He must manage (rule NKJV, lead YLV) his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)



The purpose of authority

3. PROPEL

Cause to launch



7 Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. 8 For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:7-8



Attendants of the Bride



I am a servant of the bride
but the bride is not my master
The bride is called to submit to me
but I am not her Lord



My authority is given to build up God's bride BUT I have none to tear her down

God's bride is free to respond to leaders however she likes BUT there is no advantage to resisting those God has appointed



Attendants who lay their own lives down for the bride will see the most resultant life in her Members of the bride who honor and co-operate with the attendants best, will experience the most resultant inheritance

TO BRIDE

- Respect them as skilled servants
- Loving hold them in high regard
- Obey them
- Submit to their authority
- Don't begrudge them a good salary
- Imitate their faith
- Pray for them
- Don't accuse or slander them



TO ATTENDANTS

- Equip her
- Build her up through exercise
- Protect her
- Be examples for her
- Serve her
- Present her
- Guide her



Lead her

Church Governance

