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A Nation of Leaders

Leadership originated in heaven-

The Lord God who directs and controls all history ordained Leadership. As is evidenced in the Word of God, he placed an angelic being, which possessed outstanding musical ability over the celestial choir in heaven (Ezekiel 28:13). This director was Lucifer; he was also one of the highest orders of angelic beings. He was the Anointed Cherub that covereth (Ezekiel 28:14).

Michael, the Archangel was called a Chief Prince. He was placed over the affairs of the Nation of Israel (Daniel 10:14). He and his angels fought against the dragon and prevailed (Revelation 12:7-9). Why did Michael prevail over the enemies of God? His success was directly related to his adherence to the commandments of God. Leaders must submit themselves to the word of God. In His word, you will find the design for true leadership.

Reign of the Kings of Israel-

The Nation of Israel desired Saul, the Benjamite, to be their King. After being anointed by Samuel the Judge, the Spirit of God came upon Saul and he prophesied. (I Samuel: 10:1, 6-10). Although he had been anointed to do this work, he did not follow the commandments of God. When the Philistines gathered themselves against Israel, the men of war hid themselves in caves, rocks, and in high places (I Samuel: 13: 1-6). Saul took it upon himself to offer burnt offerings, and a peace offering before the Lord. The Lord God did not establish Saul; he was told another captain had been chosen to replace him (I Samuel: 13: 9-14).

When Jeroboam the son of Nebat was appointed by God to reign over the Northern Kingdom of Israel, he feared the people would return to King

Rehoboam. He took counsel, and made two calves of gold. He prevented the people from going to Jerusalem to worship the Lord God. He took counsel, and made two calves of gold for them to worship. The priestly lineage, the Levites, was replaced with the lowest of the people. Jeroboam offered sacrifices upon the altar that was in Bethel. He followed his own heart, and turned away from the Lord (I Kings 12:25-33).

Reign of the Kings of Judah-

Following the pattern of the Kings of Israel, the kings of Judah used idolatrous devises to turn the hearts of the people away from God. Hezekiah, King of Judah, did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. He removed the high places, images and groves. He trusted in the Lord God with all of his heart. He did not depart from serving the true and living God. Hezekiah kept the commandments which the Lord God commanded Moses (II Kings: 18:1-7).

Prior to the reign of King Josiah, Manasseh the son of Hezekiah reigned in Judah. He did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord. He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah destroyed. He reared up altars for Baal, and worshipped all the host of heaven. He built altars in the house of the Lord, and he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the Lord (II Kings 21: 1:3). Manasseh observed times, and enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards (II Kings 21: 1:10). The Lord God pronounced judgment upon Judah and Jerusalem.

When Josiah, King of Judah reigned, he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. While the temple was being repaired, Hilkiah the High Priest discovered the book of the law. The reading and observance of the law had been neglected for decades. When King Josiah heard the words of the book of the law, he rent his clothes. He sent Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, and Achbor, to Huldah the prophetess to inquire of the Lord. The Lord God said his anger was kindled against Judah and Jerusalem. As for Josiah, his heart was tender before the Lord. He humbled himself and wept before his God. He was told his eyes would not behold the evil that would overtake Judah and Jerusalem (II Kings 22:1-11; 19).

Josiah gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. All the men of Judah including the priest, and all of the inhabitants both great and small went with him to the house of the Lord. And Josiah read in their ears all the words of

the book of the covenant, which was found in the house of the Lord. Josiah and the people made a covenant with the Lord. This was one of the greatest reformation periods recorded in the history of Israel and Judah. Josiah was the only king that turned to God with all of his heart, and with all of his soul, and with all of his might (II Kings 23: 1-25).

The scriptures contain many examples of successful leaders. Their unique abilities and qualities did not assure their success. Their obedience to the word of God is what made them outstanding leaders.

Leaving his homeland, Abraham obeyed God and traveled to another land. When he arrived in Canaan, the Lord told Abraham, he would make him fruitful, nations and kings would come from him. The Lord God's redemptive plan was to bring his people back into a covenant relationship with himself. Through the seed of Abraham, salvation would come to the entire world (Genesis 15:6; 17:5; Romans 4:1-3; St. Matthew 1: 1-25).

Enduring manifold persecutions for the gospels sake is what the Apostle Paul preached. Paul knew he was called of God to bring life to those he ministered to. He was commissioned to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to obey the gospel that was delivered unto him (I Corinthians 9:14). Paul also speaks of the distresses leaders face when they are persecuted for the gospels sake. Holding fast to God's word is the key to their success. (II Corinthians 4: 1-9).

Assurance in God is what made Joshua the son of Nun, a successful leader. He was called of God to lead the Nation of Israel into the land of Canaan. The Lord God commanded him to obey the law of God. He was told not to turn to the right or to the left. Joshua would be held accountable for deviating off the path God had chosen for him. Because of Joshua's obedience to God, the Nation of Israel prospered. (Joshua 1:1-9).

Dedicated unto God, Deborah the Prophetess and Judge of Israel believed the report of the Lord. When the Nation of Israel was delivered into the hands of Jabin King of Canaan, the word of the Lord came to Deborah the Judge. The God of Israel gave Deborah and Barak, the commander of the

army of Israel, a strategic military plan. Jabin and his host were utterly destroyed (Judges 4: 1-27-4).

Equipped by God, Moses led the Nation of Israel out of Egypt. He stayed in constant prayer so that he would receive guidance. He received the construction design for the tabernacle and its contents. He was also given civil and judicial laws to govern the Nation of Israel (Exodus 24: 1-18; 26: 1-37).

Reassured by God, Noah the preacher of righteousness heralded the word of God. Every imagination of the thoughts of the heart of mankind was evil. While in the midst of a perverse generation, Noah held to his integrity. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Noah walked with God. (Genesis 6: 1-9).

Submissive unto the will of God, Joseph was a man of integrity and humility. Through persecution and imprisonment he waited on God for his deliverance. Like the Apostle Paul, Joseph knew God had designed his suffering. The Lord sent him before his brethren to preserve them posterity in the earth. (Genesis 45: 7-8).

When a leader has been given a charge, he / she must submit their will to the Almighty God. You must be an ensample to the flock of God. If you follow your own mind you will forfeit the blessings and the promises of God. And those who follow you will be partakers of the same.

In the book of Jeremiah, the Lord God told Judah, I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding (Jeremiah 3:15).

God has commissioned the Leaders within True Holiness Assemblies of Truth International. We have been called to go into all the world and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, to teach nations to observe the commandments of the Lord. We are a royal priesthood, a holy nation. We are a Nation of Leaders that have been called and designed by God