

# Kingdom Chronicle

## Stripped of Everything

BY JEM HEALING  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

Imagine for a moment everything you have is stripped away, right down the very last thread, there's nothing left but you. That actually happened to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. If this happened to you, who would you be? Let's explore this further — the Word of God versus Religion. Religion is not the gospel nor is it the truth of God's Word. That was shocking to me when I first came to the realization I wasn't taught the truth of the Word. We get so attached to things, physically, mentally and emotionally. Things that will rot, rust and pass away. Even heaven and earth will pass away someday. There's only one sure thing that will last forever and that is the Word of God.



Wouldn't it seem important then that we seek diligently to know the Word and put our faith and hope in something that will last forever? Even though Jesus was stripped of everything, in the natural, during his human walk here on earth, He knew the Word, the never ending truth. Therefore, He was able to go through with the plan God sent Him to accomplish. God has a plan for us too. Jesus knew God intimately through relationship. Jesus left heaven to come and give us eternal life by paying the price for the sins of all mankind. Absolutely nothing was pure and righteous enough to remove sin that separated us from God except for the Son Of God. In Him and Him alone, is eternal life!

1 John 5:11 says, "and this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." Religion says, clean up first and then maybe God will

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## The Republican Caucus: How much your vote really matters!

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

In the last few years, voices have become louder demanding change within the Grand Old Party (GOP), also known as the Republican Party. People are demanding "better" candidates, new policies, less or more compromises, more local power etc. Yet, few people are aware of how these issues are determined within their party. To spill the beans: Your involvement plays a pivotal role, and the opportunity is right around the corner!

Republicans in Colorado are currently gearing up for a crucial phase in the election process – the Primary and the Republican Caucus. These events are a deciding factor in determining the party's nominee for various political offices, including the presidency, and you can (need to) be a part of it.

### The Presidential Primary

The Presidential Primary in Colorado will take place on March 5<sup>th</sup> (Super Tuesday) and will decide over which candidate will represent the Republican Party during the presidential election this coming November. Colorado has a closed primary, meaning, only voters registered with a given party as well as independents can vote in that party's primary. States with closed primaries include party affiliation in voter registration so that the state has an official record of what party each voter is registered as. Independents will receive a separate ballot for each party but can only submit one.

### The Republican Caucus

The Republican Caucus, on the other hand, is a unique and grassroots-driven process that allows registered party members to express their preferences for candidates running for office and ultimately influence the party's platform. In Colorado, the caucus holds a special significance as it sets the stage for the broader political discourse in the state. Republicans from across Colorado will gather in their respective precincts to actively participate in discussions, submit and vote on resolutions, and select delegates who will represent their interests at subsequent levels of the party hierarchy.

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accept you. No matter how much you try first to stop sin in your life, habits, and addictions, you can't for long. Without Jesus we are slaves to sin and powerless against these things. Religion sets perimeters enforced by rules and traditions, trying to earn God's love and forgiveness. The outward appearance of righteousness but no true inward change. The Word says in Romans 10:9-13 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes onto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. The Word continues to say you won't be put to shame by the sins you once committed, there is no difference between race and nationality, it's the same Lord over all who call upon Him and whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. This is completely different from what religion says. Who are you going to believe?

The Word says God thought of you before He laid the foundations of the earth. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. God loved you so much that He gave His only Son as a sacrifice to set you free from slavery of the enemy, the author of sin and death. He loved you way before you even existed! There's nothing left to do but believe and receive. We can have the same sure confidence that Jesus had, right now, by believing and knowing the Word of God. Then if everything is stripped away in the natural, we still have everything and the only thing that really matters. We came with nothing, and we will leave this earth with nothing. I encourage everyone to get into the Word and let God show you the real truth through the Holy Spirit so you won't be deceived by the counterfeit of religion—the enemy's playground.

When you were born you didn't know of religions or the truth of God. In my case I was being shaped since birth into the Old Order Amish religion my parents believed was right. Everyone of us were raised by someone, somewhere, in some way and it influenced what we believed to be truth. There's only one way to know truth and that is to know God and what He says. Religion creates rebellion by placing laws and rules over hearts, minds and bodies for control, leading to oppression and separation from God. Religion focuses on traditions for righteousness, using only snippets of truth, twisting it to fit their rules. There's no lasting change, just a people trying harder, placing heavy burdens on one another, never being quite enough, feeling broken and dead inside while

looking perfect on the outside. Law actually strengthens sin but we have victory through Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:56-57)

By faith not works, we have a sure promise. (Romans 4:16-24) By faith not works, we are a new creation in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17) By faith not works, we are the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Jesus is the same forever. (Hebrews 13:8) Jesus won't change His mind about you or remove His love if you fail. He died once for all. You are covered in His promises forever, but you actually have to do something—believe and receive.

The only thing that separates people from the Good News of the Word of God is disbelief. You are responsible for what you choose to believe. Sin is atoned for, forever, once for all. (Romans 6:10) He is faithful, by whom you were called. (1 Corinthians 1:9) The word of God teaches that we are called to come to the table to eat, drink and partake of Jesus Christ and enjoy what has already been done for us by and through Him. He is living water, new life, eternal life, righteousness, power and authority over the enemy. By faith in Him everything He is becomes available to believers. (Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 3:10, 1 John 4:17) For there is no partiality in God. (Romans 2: 11)

Miracles signs and wonders will follow Holy Spirit-filled believers, that the world may believe in Jesus. (Acts 2:43, Romans 15:19-21, John 14:12) We can't witness and do the things of God without the Holy Spirit, The Spirit of Truth, living in us. Is there any wonder there's so many broken people in churches today? There is no witness present because they don't know the Word of God or The Holy Spirit. John 16:13-14 Says when the Spirit of Truth comes, He will reveal all truth to you. Revelation comes by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:3) You are called, loved, justified through Christ. (1 John 3:1, Colossians 3:12) Change comes by God's love. (Romans 5:8, 1 John 2) True and lasting change from the inside out comes by the word of God least anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-10) All glory to God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

We have to come to the end of ourselves, repenting, stripped of everything, inviting Jesus to come into our lives. God does not need permission from religious people of cults to bless us according to His plans

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## The Republican Caucus: How much your vote really matters!

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

### Delegate Selection: A Crucial Step Towards Nomination

A key outcome of the Republican Caucus is the selection of delegates and alternate delegates, who will represent Colorado Republicans at county, congressional district, and state assemblies. These delegates hold the power to influence the party's direction and contribute to the crucial decision-making process in selecting the Republican nominee for various offices, including the presidency.

The assembly process begins at the county level, where delegates elected at the caucus come together to discuss and endorse candidates. The momentum gained at this stage can significantly impact the overall narrative of the election season, making the Colorado Republican Assembly a crucial juncture in the road to the nomination. Consequently, when a county cannot fill its allocated delegate spots, it automatically hands over part of its voting power and influence at the state level to other counties and the party's establishment.

The Teller County Republican Caucus takes place on March 7, 2024, at 7 p.m. with credentialing starting at 6.30 p.m., the subsequent Teller County Republican Assembly is scheduled for March 16, 2024, at 8 a.m. with credentialing starting at 7 a.m. In order to participate, voters must register as Republicans by February 14, 2024.

In conclusion, the Colorado Republican Caucus is a critical step in the political journey that sets the tone for the party's activities leading up to the elections. The caucus serves as a reminder of the significance of individual voices in shaping the future of the Republican Party in Colorado and ultimately the nation as a whole. Change starts locally. Be a part of it.



### Pray For

A fair and smooth City Council election.

The residents of Woodland Park to get out and vote on March 5<sup>th</sup> (Super Tuesday).

Prosperity for Woodland Park and its communities.

## Interview With Eric Lockman: City Council Candidate

BY KYLE GONZALEZ  
*Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief*

There's a City Council election taking place in Woodland Park. The Kingdom Chronicle is seeking interviews with the candidates in order to educate our readers on the candidates running and their platforms. The following is the results of our interview with Eric Lockman. If you would like to support Eric Lockman he's seeking help from door knockers. Contact us for more information on how to help, or reach out to his campaign directly at <https://www.ericlockman4council.com/>. His first Meet and Greet will be February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Eric Lockman has always had an urge to run for political office. In 2023, when he and his family began celebrating the Fall Feasts, he celebrated Rosh Hashanah and moved forward with God into this dream. He is running for City Council with God to continue his life of service. He looks forward to serving his community by helping to make the place he and his family live better. When asked why he chose to run for City Council over School Board, he shared that it was where he had peace to run.

Eric will be a different political candidate, because he has no aspirations to climb the political ladder. He's not even looking at a second term, as of now. Instead he plans to run as a Christian Conservative candidate who is willing to reach across the aisle to make the city of Woodland Park better.

Eric plans to address the housing concerns in the city, which he sees as an ongoing issue that will be handled over time. He knows that there will be legislating of the STR (Short Term Rental) that will need to be done. Having a healthy respect for property rights, Eric plans to honor the STR outcome while trying to stay true his

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### Pray Against

Unlawful interference with democratic processes.

Divisiveness and animosity in our community.

## Interview With Eric Lockman: City Council Candidate

BY KYLE GONZALEZ

*Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief*

convictions on property rights. Lastly, Eric continues to reiterate the point that this is something that will be handled over time with the whole City Council. This means that he is open to hearing from all Council members and coming up with a solution that is best for the entire City of Woodland Park.

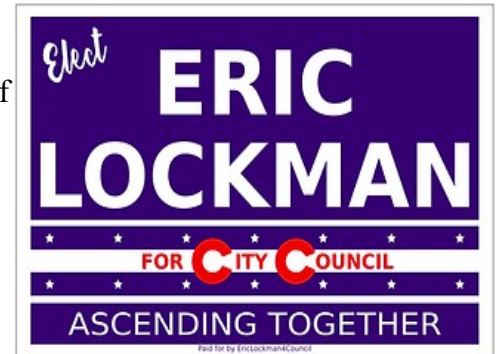
When asked about his heart on running for City Council, Eric shared that he plans to hear his fellow Council members on issues and work to keep Woodland Park the beautiful mountain city it is. The issues are not going to be solved by not working together, and coming to a place of compromise between differing viewpoints on how to solve the issues of the City. Therefore, Eric's heart is to help keep Woodland Park the idyllic, scenic stop on the way through the mountains.

Tourism is another key issue that Eric plans to tackle with the help of his fellow Council members. However, the issue of tourism can't be addressed without addressing the elephant in the room: Charis Bible College. When asked about how he would plan to work with Charis, Eric stated that his position is, "It's easier to catch flies with honey than it is with vinegar. So, how do we treat Charis as an asset rather than fight them at every step? That means that Charis, also, has a responsibility on their side as well." He stated that he doesn't believe Charis is disingenuous, so the question will be how to work together to solve issues surrounding Charis with Woodland Park.

Some key takeaways about Eric Lockman would be that he's a Christian Conservative, family man with no staunch positions on issues. This allows him to hear both sides to every issue, and work together with his fellow Council members to come to the best solution to any issues. His kids are home-schooled, and have been taught to have an appreciation for their country and the history of how it was founded. He would like to see more park and recreation

programs for the aging population of Woodland Park, to provide social and physical activities. He and his family love to travel and explore the outdoors. He

worked on his grandparents' farm in rural Wisconsin when he was younger. He learned a great work ethic from his father. As an engineer, he is looking to improve efficiencies with the conservative view of limited government. He sees the value of having generations of local residents' input in helping to make Woodland Park the best it can be, and respects the city's current, excellent staff. Lastly, Eric looks forward to working with his fellow City Council members to keep Woodland Park the beautiful city that brought us all here to begin with.



## Raise Your Voice! Upcoming Community Dates:

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI

*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

- ◆ 02/15/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave.
- ◆ 02/20/2024, 5:30 p.m.: Chambers Business After Hours (for members) hosted by Park State Bank & Trust.
- ◆ 03/05/2024: Presidential Primary.
- ◆ 03/05/2024, 5 p.m.: Chamber of Commerce Candidate's Forum for City Council and Mayor Candidates at City Hall.
- ◆ 03/07/2024, 7 p.m.: Teller County Republican Caucus at varying locations. (See the chart on Page 5 to determine your Precinct Number and corresponding location)
- ◆ 03/07/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave.

- ◆ 03/11-03/15/2024: Ballots mailed for April 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council and Mayor election.
- ◆ 03/13/2024, 6 p.m.: Community Engagement Forum with the Woodland Park Police Department at the police station.
- ◆ 03/13/2024, 6 p.m.: Regular School Board Meeting at the District Office, large conference room.
- ◆ 03/16/2024, 8 a.m.: Teller County Republican Assembly (credentialing starting at 7 a.m.).
- ◆ 03/19/2024: Teller County Commissioner Candidacy Nomination Papers due.
- ◆ 03/19/2024: Chambers Business After Hours (for members) hosted by Keller Williams.
- ◆ 03/20/2024: Victory Life City Council Candidate's Forum.



**Stripped of Everything**

BY JEM HEALING  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

and promises. He only needs us to believe by faith, and trust to in Him. God gave us the gift of free will. It's up to us to decide who we will serve.

Only the Word of God remains forever. I hope the these scriptures will help set you free today as you place your faith in God. His perfect love casts out all fear. It can be very scary to go against the religious cults you may have been raised in, but God is faithful every step of the way as you trust His promises. Find a spirit-filled, truth teaching church to attend. Take action. God is for you, not against you. God made a blood covenant with His Son and, like all the past covenants, God has never broken His promises. Thank you for reading.

**Kindness**

BY JON WILLIAMS  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

I had the joyous experience of being cut off in traffic yesterday. After slowing down to accommodate for the vehicle's speed change, I couldn't help but notice that the car turned into my favorite Bible college. I had seen the move so many times already that I wasn't surprised. However, this time, I began to think of this minor inconvenience in the light of how God would judge the situation. Often, it is the minor ways we think and act toward other people where character is truly revealed. Am I paying attention to the little things in public and how people perceive them? Does it matter?

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## TELLER COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CAUCUS LOCATIONS

### March 7, 2024

### 7:00 PM

PRECINCT NO.	LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY	Room
1	Woodland Park High School	151 Panther Way	Woodland Park	106
2	Woodland Park High School	151 Panther Way	Woodland Park	107
3	Woodland Park High School	151 Panther Way	Woodland Park	110
4	Teller County Public Works	308 Weaverville Rd	Divide	
5	Four Mile Fire Protection	8437 County Rd 11	Florissant	
6	Cripple Creek Parks & Rec	128 E. Bennett	Cripple Creek	
7	Florissant Grange	2009 County Rd 31	Florissant	
8	Woodland Park High School	151 Panther Way	Woodland Park	202
9	Woodland Park High School	151 Panther Way	Woodland Park	203
10	Woodland Park High School	151 Panther Way	Woodland Park	204
11	Divide Fire Protection District	103 County Rd 51	Divide	
12	Florissant Grange	2009 County Rd 31	Florissant	
13	Cripple Creek Parks & Rec	128 E. Bennett	Cripple Creek	
14	Woodland Park High School	151 Panther Way	Woodland Park	110

## Kindness

BY JON WILLIAMS  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

When talking about how to treat others we often come to the familiar scriptures of Jesus saying how we should love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Then we continue with the second part where Jesus says to love your neighbor as yourself. Loving God is something we, as Christians, seem to understand and we relish in the thought of expanding in our relationship with Him. But the thought of loving thy neighbor? And to what degree did He say? - As myself? - I must admit that is a lofty goal when dealing with some people.

Some might ask, as did the disciples, who is my neighbor? Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan; which basically answered: EVERYONE - especially the people you don't like. So, we do not seem to have an out, of any sort, from Jesus. I believe the Scripture is clear, it's for all human beings, especially and including: the people that you don't know.

As the car cut in front of me, I had to apply my brakes to accommodate the shortened distance the car provided. I was fearful for a split second that I'd be rear-ended after the sudden change of speed and the adrenaline kicked in causing my heart to race. Things worked out that time, and both of us made our turn to join the line of cars entering the college. I blew it off for the most part, but how does the community take it? Well, that isn't the "we're number one" finger they are waving with.

I present a challenge for each of us that we should treat every person with kindness in order to show love to

our fellow stranger. Being a large school in a small town, the locals find themselves in many interactions with the student body. These should be times of politeness, if not more. There is no person human being in our lives that we will encounter that should not be worthy of the love of God and His kindness. We should be able to show kindness to every human being that we meet, which brings us into agreement with the commands of our beloved Jesus Christ. It does take effort to humble ourselves and be able to show kindness to someone in need or someone who has given us the opportunity to be offended.

2 Corinthians 8:9 says, "...yet for your sakes He became poor..." Jesus became flesh and blood for you and me. He gave up eternal comfort and glory to come redeem us. He gave that we could receive. We should be like him. Out of the abundance that He gave us, we should find it in our heart to give. 1 Corinthians 10:24 says, "Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being." We should seek the good of our neighbor in the small things, and crush the "me first" thoughts.

My conclusion is that it takes a bit of effort to be kind to the strangers that we interact with daily. It may take a bit of time or a few well-chosen words, but don't you think that God would want us to treat everyone well? I know the local people of Woodland Park would appreciate it.

## Here Are Some Local, Christian-Owned Businesses We'd Like To Highlight:



[Yourmoneymakeover.com](http://Yourmoneymakeover.com)



## Freedom Church Upcoming Events

BY KYLE GONZALEZ  
Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief

◆ 03/31/2024 Easter Service at Freedom Church will be on **Sunday** at 5 p.m. in the Auditorium at Charis Bible College.

◆ 03/10/2024 Freedom Church Ladies' Night at 5 p.m. in the Java Haus coffee shop in Woodland Park.

◆ 03/16/2024 Next Steps for Freedom Church at 12 p.m. in the Conference Room at Java Haus.

◆ 05/31/2024-06/01/2024 The first ever Freedom Church conference: "Uprising Men's Conference" will be held in the Auditorium at Charis Bible College.

Go online to register today at [www.uprising2024.com](http://www.uprising2024.com)!

## Here Are Some Local, Christian-Owned Businesses We'd Like To Highlight:

QUALITY  
CO.

MADE WITH INTEGRITY



[Qualityclothing.co](http://Qualityclothing.co)



Your Success is Our Success  
[Quarataconsulting.com](http://Quarataconsulting.com)



[Faithchai.com](http://Faithchai.com)



Systema Martial Arts  
(813)-857-7738  
[Tampasystema@icloud.com](mailto:Tampasystema@icloud.com)

## The Bride of Christ

BY AMANDA LOCKMAN  
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

7 "Let's be glad and rejoice, and let's give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and **his bride has prepared herself.** 8 She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear. For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people."- Revelation 19:7-8 (NLT)

The NKJV says, "And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright..."

So, how do we begin to prepare ourselves? I believe He is calling us up higher right now into a place of separation with Him where we will go through a purification process. I believe this all starts with us looking into the mirror of the word. Let's go to Proverbs 31 starting in verse 10.

As I was reading through this chapter one day, I saw a picture. It was a wedding scene. I saw Jesus radiant and excited to see His bride standing at the front of the church. When the bride walked in, she was anything but radiant. She was in dirty, old clothes and messy hair. She would take a few steps, then drop to her knees and crawl and beg for something before getting up to take a few more steps, then back to the floor again. I think this was a picture of the bride or the church today, and it is a complete contrast to the Proverbs 31 woman/church.

I am going to write this passage as a prophetic word over us, and I'm going to quote it from the Passion Translation because it is so clearly worded.

### The Radiant Bride:

*10 Who could ever find a church like this one? We are a church of strength and mighty valor!* Other translations use the word "virtuous," and it is translated as "mighty, wealthy, excellent, morally righteous, full of substance, integrity, abilities, and strength; mighty like an army." It is often used in connection with military prowess. We are a mighty, warring church. Now this does not mean that we are out warring against people because we know that we do not war against flesh and blood but principalities, powers, the rulers of darkness, and the spiritual hosts of wickedness. However, this does mean that we are not afraid to go head to head with the enemy as David did with Goliath.

*We are a church full of wealth and wisdom. The price paid for us was greater than many jewels. 11 Our husband, Jesus, has entrusted his heart to us, for we bring him the rich spoils of victory. 12 All throughout our*

*life, we bring him what is good and not evil. 13 We search out continually to possess that which is pure and righteous. We delight in the work of our hands. 14 We give out revelation-truth to feed others. We are like a trading ship bringing divine supplies from the merchant. We are the connection between heaven and earth. We are citizens of heaven and earth, and we have full access right now to everything we need to accomplish what He's called us to do on earth as it is in heaven. 15 Even in the night season, we arise and set food on the table for hungry ones in our house and for others. This is not just food. This is in times of darkness and uncertainty in this world; we have life-giving nourishing words for those in our house and for others. 16 We set our heart upon a field and take it as our own. We labor there to plant the living vines. 17 We wrap ourselves in strength, might, and power in all our works. 18 We taste and experience a better substance, and our shining light will not be extinguished, no matter how dark the night. We are not moved, intimidated, fearful, or persuaded but the evil circumstances of this world because we experience a better substance even in the midst of darkness! Christ is the Light of men, and the darkness cannot overcome us! 19 We stretch out our hands to help the needy and we lay hold of the wheels of government. Church, why have we given ungodly men and women the place of authority over us? To write laws and use our money to do ungodly things? The wheels of government are ours and we are laying hold of them. After all, we are the ecclesia, the governing body. It is time for us to govern in the government mountain, the entertainment mountain, the family mountain, the media mountain, the education mountain, the business mountain, as well as the religion mountain. 20 We are known by our extravagant generosity to the poor, for we always reach out our hands to those in need. 21 We are not afraid of tribulation, for all our household is covered in the dual garments of righteousness and grace. 22 Our clothing is beautifully knit together — a purple gown of exquisite linen. 23 Our husband, Jesus, is famous and admired by all, sitting as the venerable judge of his people. Our lives, the things people see in and through us, should be making him famous and admired by all. 24 Even our works of righteousness, we do for the benefit of our enemies. 25 Bold power and glorious majesty are wrapped around us as we laugh with joy over the latter days. 26 Our teachings are filled with wisdom*

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## The Bride of Christ

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*and kindness as loving instruction pours from our lips. 27 We watch over the ways of our household and meet every need they have. 28 Our sons and daughters arise in one accord to extol our virtues, and Jesus arises to speak of us in glowing terms. 29 “There are many valiant and noble ones, but we have ascended above them all!” 30 Charm can be misleading, and beauty is vain and so quickly fades, but this virtuous church lives in the wonder, awe, and fear of the Lord.*

I love that these 3 things are listed together. Usually when I hear people explain the fear of the Lord, it is more like the wonder or awe of the Lord. This is the definition of the word wonder: a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable. It is a beautiful thing to live in the wonder and awe of the Lord. These are the moments where you are completely overwhelmed with His goodness and majesty. When you can't stop thanking Him for who He is and He takes your breath away with His presence. The fear of the Lord is different though. This is like in the book of Job when God begins to walk Job through the vastness of creation and the power and might of Behemoth and Leviathan who were controlled by no man but whom God spoke into existence. Job's reaction was instant humility. He took a position of surrender and submission apologizing and admitting he spoke of things he knew nothing about. Listen to his words in chapter 42:1-6 AMP, “*1 Then Job answered the Lord and said, 2 “I know that You can do all things, And that no thought or purpose of Yours can be restrained. 3 [You said to me] ‘Who is this that darkens and obscures counsel [by words] without knowledge?’ Therefore [I now see] I have [rashly] uttered that which I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 ‘Hear, please, and I will speak; I will ask You, and You instruct [and answer] me.’ 5 I had heard of You [only] by the hearing of the ear, But now my [spiritual] eye sees You. 6 Therefore I retract [my words and hate myself. And I repent in dust and ashes.*” Or when Gideon realized that he was talking to an angel of the Lord (not even God himself) he fell down and cried out thinking he was going to die and then quickly built an altar and made a sacrifice to the Lord. The fear of the Lord is not a pleasant encounter. It is an encounter or revelation or understanding that requires a response of repentance and

surrender or sacrifice (self-sacrifice, laying down selfish motives, sinful ways and habits, etc...) That is why Proverbs 8:13 says that to fear the Lord is to hate evil. To be in the presence of a perfect and just God, we are propelled to hate and want to lay down sin and everything that isn't pleasing to him. Or how about when the Israelites were brought up out of Egypt and heard the Lord speaking from the mountain. They cried out in fear and asked that He never speak to them again or they will die. It is an understanding that evil, sin, wickedness cannot stand and live in the presence of a perfect God. It is an encounter that exposes the darkness and propels you to turn away from and hate evil.

*We will be praised throughout eternity. 31 So go ahead and give us the credit that is due, for we have become a radiant church, and all our loving works of righteousness deserve to be admired at the gateways of every city!*

In conclusion, the vision of the Bride of Christ as portrayed in Revelation 19:7-8 beckons us to a place of preparation and purification. While we may not yet fully embody the radiant bride described in Proverbs 31, there is a divine invitation for us to ascend higher, to separate ourselves unto Him, and undergo a transformational process.

As we delve into the mirror of His Word, we are confronted with the image of a powerful and virtuous church. This portrayal challenges us to embrace our identity as a mighty, warring body, not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of darkness. Our preparation involves embodying strength, wisdom, and generosity, actively engaging in righteous deeds, and standing as beacons of light in a world shrouded in darkness. Central to our preparation is the dual recognition of the wonder and awe, alongside the fear of the Lord. This profound reverence propels us to humility, repentance, and a continual turning away from evil. It is an encounter that compels us to surrender self and embrace sacrificial living.

Ultimately, as we align ourselves with the purposes of God, we anticipate being praised throughout eternity. The radiant church described in Proverbs 31 is not a distant ideal but a present and achievable reality as we walk in obedience and faithfulness. May our lives, marked by loving acts of righteousness, serve as a testament to His glory and be admired at the gateways of every city.

## Proud To Be An American

BY AARON HELSTROM  
Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

Since the beginning of the republic, millions of service members have raised their hands and sworn to “uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States from all enemies foreign and domestic” not because they were forced, but because of a Love of Country and a Sense of Duty to preserve for future generations our God Given “inalienable rights of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

Quote from President Reagan:

*We're at war with the most dangerous enemy that has ever faced mankind in his long climb from the swamp to the stars, and it's been said if we lose that war, and in so doing lose this way of freedom of ours,*

In all my years of service in the United States Marine Corps I never thought I would live to see the day that I would be attacked for my belief in God and love of Country.

I have served 22 years in the USMC and had the privilege and honor to fight alongside some of our bravest and brightest through three wars. Like many who have borne the burden of battle, my family and I have endured the hardships of war and long deployments just like many brave Americans who have done the same. This is because we love our Country and express a belief in God. We are being called Christian Nationalists, as if a love of Country and in Christ is all of a sudden un-American. *We hold these Truths to be self evident that All men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.*

What happened to the American Ideals we fought to preserve such as a Right of Conscience?

Like so many before me, I served to preserve our American way of life for future generations. So that our God-given, inalienable rights would be protected from tyranny. Yet today our very faith and belief in Christ is being attacked and in an attempt to shut us up. The label of Christian Nationalist is trying to be cast on us as a means to shame us for what and who we believe in. If there is no creator God then there is no grounds for the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, because they both hinge on there being a creator and not a man or government.

John Locke said, *“Without morals a Republic cannot subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian Religion... are undermining the solid foundation of Morals - the best security for the*

*duration of Free governments.”*

**Christian:** One who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

**Nationalist:** A member of a political party or group advocating national independence or strong national government.

**Nationalism:** Loyalty and devotion to a nation.



We are a Christian nation founded on Christian principles and when we allow other antithetical agendas and ideologies to attack those very principles on which America was founded; *“history will record with the greatest astonishment that those who had the most to lose did the least to prevent its happening. Well I think it's time we ask ourselves if we still know the freedoms that were intended for us by the Founding Fathers. “We don't know how lucky we are.” If we lose freedom here, there's no place to escape to.”* – President Ronald Reagan

These baseless attacks of character assassination on Veterans and like-minded American Patriots, and those families whose members have already paid the ultimate price with their shed blood, is reprehensible. If we don't stand together united then divided we will fall.

*First they came for the socialist, and I did not speak out - because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionsist, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionsist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak for me.* – Martin Niemoller

## The Lion: A Devotional

BY GABRIELLA BUCCI

*Kingdom Chronicle Contributor*

What kind of Job do you have? Maybe you are a full time parent or are a full time student. Whatever that looks like, we all have somewhat busy schedules with many responsibilities and titles. You may be a parent, student, co-worker, daughter/son, business owner, or pastor. These are all attributes of our lives, but it's not who you are, not the core of your being. One of the 'titles' you could say that I used to have was a dancer. Before I moved to Colorado, I danced ballet for thirteen years, and it was my life. My hours mirrored a part time job. Now I do work a part time job, but it is not as difficult as my life was at the time because I identified with my ability to dance.

For twelve years I had fun with dancing, but after time it became work. I was miserable, lonely, and would dread rehearsal, even in a Christian environment. It was only in the last year I danced that I loved it, I truly enjoyed it, because I knew its purpose. I knew my purpose with it so, therefore, I began to use my ability as worship for the Lord, even if was on a stage. This is the same way with a job, a business or parenting. What we do can be great, but it's not who we are. We need to know who we are and what position we hold in the Kingdom of God if we are going to truly enjoy what we are doing. We can't successfully do anything until we know who we are in Christ, and this is why Identity is so important. Identity comes before action, before title or responsibility. Identity doesn't have anything to do with what you do. It is objectively who we are without looking at what we do. Our actions don't compare to the glory of God since we can never attain to who we are by our actions.

Look in the Old Testament and you will see this everywhere. In Exodus 28, the children of Israel are given rules for the High Priest. At this time, the presence of God dwelt in the temple. In the center of the temple was the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest could go once a year to make sacrifices for the sins of himself and the people. A large, thick, veil separated it from the rest of the temple. Exodus 28:34-35 "A gold bell and a pomegranate, a gold bell and a pomegranate, round about on the skirts of the robe. Aaron shall wear the robe when he ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes [alone] into the Holy of Holies before the Lord and when he comes out, lest he die there."

Aaron was the High Priest at the time and had to wear a robe with bells on it as well as a rope around his

ankle. If he messed up this ritual God would have to strike him dead since he would have committed sin, and sin cannot exist in the presence of God. If this happened the others could pull him out with the rope. We see here the stark difference between how holy God is and our sin. Thus, our actions are never enough for God to make us righteous on our own. If you were to put your identity in all you DO then you'd be just like Aaron the High Priest! There would be no security or guarantee you wouldn't mess up. If Aaron in his flesh, could have gotten struck by God due to sinning in his presence, what makes us think our actions are so important to who we are in today's culture? I find this very eye-opening. Think of the ritual as your job, or in my example earlier, dancing; if we still lived in the Old Covenant then one mess up would mean game over for you and I. An identity in works is very shaky, there is no security, and you will always be miserable. Clearly we do not operate in this anymore, look at Hebrews 10:19-20, "Therefore, brethren, since we have full freedom and confidence to enter into the [Holy of] Holies [by the power and virtue] in the blood of Jesus, By this fresh (new) and living way which He initiated and dedicated and opened for us through the separating curtain (veil of the Holy of Holies), that is, through His flesh," We can now run with full force and confidence into the Holy of Holies, where the presence of God dwells because of the blood of Jesus. That veil that separated the Holy of Holies was torn showing that God's presence does not dwell there any longer. The people of the Old Testament were limited, and would do almost anything for the presence of God. God's people craved it, even though most times they didn't know that's what they craved.

You see in Ezra chapter 1, that the people being held captive in Babylon were called by the king to go back to their land, Jerusalem, and rebuild the temple. Why? For the presence of God. Ezra led over 42,000 people 900 miles on average to Jerusalem. To give you perspective, they had to journey almost a month just to get to Jerusalem. Then they had to rebuild it, all for the presence of God. We now have full access to the presence of God and can run into his throne room without any restriction. Now that we don't have to live like the people of the Old Covenant did, our position in his kingdom changes. If your identity isn't your works, then who ARE you?

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## The Lion: A Devotional

BY GABRIELLA BUCCI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Contributor*

You may or may not know it, but: you are who Jesus is. Straight to the point, if you look at Jesus, you are looking at your inheritance. As Jesus is, so are you NOW (1st John 4:17).

In Exodus 3, God is talking to Moses through the burning bush. He gives Moses this elaborate plan to free the children of Israel, every little detail. Moses freaks out and questions God saying, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt”. He doesn’t know his identity. God’s immediate response astounds me. Months later it still blows me away. Exodus 3:12 says, “God said, I will surely be with you; and this shall be the sign to you that I have sent you...”. Even in the Old Testament, before the perfect sacrifice Jesus made, God told Moses who he was, was God. I will be with you, that’s our identity now. We have it even better because we ARE the Holy of Holies. This is because you are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16), you are the Grace Covenant’s Holy of Holies.

Romas 8:29, “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” We’ve been predestined to be conformed to look like Christ. You are already spiritually the same as Jesus, so of course you’ve been made to look like him. That spiritual reality is meant to become part of every area of your life. We were created to be molded to look like Christ, after all, as He is so are you right now. Andrew Wommack said once, “The pressures of this world are going to melt you regardless, it’s your choice who you’re going to be conformed to.” God designed you to be ‘melted’ into the mold of Christ, “– Conformed to the image of his son..”. When we know that “as Jesus is so are we” and begin to walk molded like Christ, we become bold. Proverbs 28:1, “The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion”. Under pressure or not, you have the Holy of Holies in you. When we are unaware of it, there is chaos. The natural man still experiences chaos even when no one is against them or no pressure is on them. Even when life is good there can still be chaos when we don’t know that we are righteous. This is why no amount of works can change you. However, when you do know, a boldness rises. You have the Lion of Judah in you, regardless if you know it, but when you do: you walk like it. The Lion of Judah is a picture of all that encompasses God, the parts we can

comprehend and can’t comprehend. It is a picture of His authority, His Holiness, His love, and His humility. The same lion that reigns above every power of darkness, humbled himself as a lamb on the cross. You can walk into the room knowing that you have the Lion of Judah within you, the King of Kings. It’s not arrogance, because we know that the same Lion also humbled himself as a Lamb, however, you are not dictated by what goes on around you. The Lion, or fullness of God, in you makes you realize you have nothing to fear regardless of if you are actively being attacked in any way. The righteous that know who they are, walk with boldness that enables you to walk with the manifested presence of God in your daily life. This is how we can enjoy the most mundane tasks, like cleaning or your job you might not like, but also walk in what God has called you to do.



Picture from: <https://www.wisdomonline.org/blog/lion-of-judah/>

This is how I was able to truly enjoy dancing, and do it unto the Lord. When you walk with this knowledge, it enables you to love your job; to love being a pastor, business owner, parent or whatever it is that you do. You know your source, where you come from, and can truly confess Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” This becomes our everyday lives. You are His inheritance, His heir, so you were made to live like it. All that we are and all that we do go back to the accomplished work of Jesus on the cross. Our ability to do anything for Him came from the inheritance He GIFTED you and I. So then, through His grace, we can begin to walk in His will and purpose for our lives. This is where we can truly let God take control. I pray blessings over you as you go to work or school this week, where you can truly walk molded like Christ.