

THE RADICAL GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

*A Vision of Victory for the Church of the 21st
Century*

Orlando Mostert

Chapter 8: The Kingdom Growth Strategies

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KINGDOM VISION

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KINGDOM VISION

I present to you a whole new vision of the times in which we live. All your prophecy books and televangelists tell you that the rapture is any moment, the Antichrist will take over the world, the Kingdom of God will only come one day in the future.

Here is the alternative Kingdom Vision:

- Jesus is now Lord; He is now ruling in the heavenlies.
- We are in the Kingdom Age which means we have all power now over the power of Satan and our job now is to disciple the nations.
- The world system is now under judgment and will collapse; “Babylon” is falling.
- The Kingdom of God is spreading in power and glory until it will fill the earth.

World systems are collapsing ... but the Kingdom of God is rising. Nations will be disciplined into the Kingdom of God, there are already more than 700 million charismatic evangelicals worldwide. Soon the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Get ready for a greater outpouring of God's presence and power in his church:

The Kingdom Vision ... a vision of victory for the church of the 21 Century.

Orlando Mostert

June 2012

Chapter 8: The Kingdom Growth Strategies

INTRODUCTION

Most evangelical prophecy books and sermons miss entirely how the Kingdom of God comes and how it grows and how it comes to fill the earth with God's glory. As we have already seen in our seven Principles of the Kingdom the common expectation among prophecy writers is that the Kingdom of God is still to come at some future date which I have already proven by scripture to be wrong...the Kingdom of God was launched on earth by the victory of Jesus Christ on the cross, His triumph over death and His outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

The second misconception is that the Kingdom comes with an invading army out of heaven with Jesus riding on a white horse and legions of angels following Him to make war on the Antichrist and the world of sinners. Literally this vision is of the Lord bringing in the Kingdom through war, violence and force. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Jewish zealots wanted this kind of Messiah to defeat Rome and re-establish the throne of David and similarly today's prophecy teachers are looking for this kind of restoration of the Kingdom of God.

We are going to look at what Jesus taught us as to how the Kingdom of God enters the world and how it grows to fill the earth. This is important for you to understand as it will give you the divine strategy for discipling the nations as well as how to establishing your portion of God's Kingdom.

Before Jesus ascended to heaven He revealed Himself to His disciples in Galilee and made this wonderful declaration (Matth.24:18-20):

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo I am with you always even to the end of the age."

This declaration by our resurrected Lord reveals three important truths about the Kingdom of God that the majority of evangelical prophecy preachers do not actually believe:

1) Jesus is now Lord and rules both in heaven and on the earth. All power in heaven and earth has been given unto Him and therefore He dictates all things in heaven and earth according to His plans and purposes. That means that He is now King in heaven and He is now King on earth.

And because of this truth it leads logically to His instruction to the disciples...

2) Go and disciple the nations. Preach the wonderful good news of the Gospel to all nations, baptize them and bring them into the Kingdom.

Which can be done because...

3) The Lord promises to be with us always in this great work. Jesus promised His disciples that He would in fact return after His ascension into heaven and be with them always to carry on this Great Commission until the end of the age. He would not leave us alone.

This means that wherever Jesus has been made Lord...the Kingdom of God has come. It means that we carry the full authority and power of our Lord to do this work. But instead of Him being limited by an earthly body to one location, He can by His Spirit be everywhere with us to do the great work of establishing His Kingdom on earth. Which is why He told His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit which would endue them with power from on high!

But surely these truths are believed by all Bible believing preachers? Actually no. Thomas would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until he could touch the risen Lord. And in similar manner the vast majority of evangelical preachers do not believe that the Lord has returned until they can see Him in the sky; they do not believe that Jesus is Lord now on the earth until they see Him sitting on a throne in Jerusalem and they do not

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believe the church can disciple the nations because the Antichrist will rule the world and only through Jesus sitting in Jerusalem in a future Millennium Kingdom will the nations be disciplined into the Kingdom of God..

This defeatist teaching that has infiltrated the church comes from the Dispensationalists. I am going to give you a graphic description by one of their chief advocates Mike Bickle taken from his website of when Jesus will be crowned Lord and how Jesus will bring in His Kingdom on earth. What he describes is not unique; it can be found in the “Left Behind” series of fiction novels or the preaching of John Hagee or any of the other televangelists or prophecy books coming out of America. Here is what they believe about how and when Jesus will establish His Kingdom on the earth:

“The Second Coming (of Jesus) is in the context of the battle of Jerusalem and involves the nations gathering to fight Jesus on earth – not in the sky... Jesus is actually on the earth marching up to Jerusalem from Egypt and then from the south through Jordan. He is killing His enemies... Jesus does not come, wave His hand and it is over. He actually kills millions of people. The time it takes to actually kill them takes time. He marches up through the land. It is a thirty-day process where He marches from Egypt... when Jesus kills people their blood will splash on His garments. That point is made a number of times in scripture. He will appear in the sky with all of His angels and then will strike the evil nations in a progressive battle causing blood to flow far and wide... there are a couple of billion of them... it will take time before they are all executed... The Second Coming procession involves a three stage process... Stage one: Jesus procession across the sky (with the army of heaven) to Rapture the Church. Stage two: Jesus’ procession from Egypt through Jordan (slaughtering billions for 30 days on His way!) Stage three: Jesus procession into Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives followed by His coronation.”

Let me say this clearly: This is unscriptural rubbish... it is the same kind of militant Zionism that the Zealots in Jesus’ day wanted the Messiah to do... slaughter Romans and proclaim the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel. This is false doctrines that have infiltrated the church in order to sidetrack the church from its Great Commission;

seeking to deny that Jesus is now Lord, that the Kingdom of God has come and that the job of the church is to disciple the nations by the Word of God and the power of His Spirit. Instead it is a call to war and bloodshed as the means by which the Lord is going to bring in His Kingdom on the earth. Which is why John Hagee, Benny Hinn and others who preach this message are so eager for America to bomb and slaughter Iranians and Arabs.

Can you imagine our Lord Jesus and the armies of heaven marching from Egypt for 30 days waging warfare on billions of people slaughtering by the millions to get to Jerusalem in order to be crowned King? Actually a couple of angels could probably do the job in a day if not sooner. But do you really believe in your spirit that this is how the Lord is going to bring nations into the Kingdom? Of course not, but this kind of nonsense appeals to carnal minds and lazy Christians who do not understand spiritual warfare.

Now let’s look at the scriptures and see what Jesus taught about how we spread the Kingdom of God on the earth. But before we do let’s make the following declarations about the reality of His Kingdom:

- 1) Wherever Jesus has been made Lord, there the Kingdom of God has come. When we accept Jesus as Lord of our lives then His Kingdom has come and we have been translated into His Kingdom. When Jesus has been made Lord over our families, then the Kingdom of God has been extended over our family. When Jesus has been made Lord of our business then our business has been transferred into the Kingdom of God and on and on... everything must be brought under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, things both in heaven and things on the earth.
- 2) Jesus is the Prince of Peace: that means that wherever He has been made Lord there is peace; inside the borders of His Kingdom there is peace, outside there is turmoil and conflict.
- 3) The church is the Lord’s warriors to extend His Kingdom through the proclamation of the Good News, the Gospel of the Kingdom. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal and do not involve violence and bloodshed. We are

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empowered by His Word, His authority and the anointing of His Spirit to do the work of the Kingdom. When the Bible speaks of warfare this refers to spiritual warfare in the heavenlies between the armies of heaven and Satan and his rebels...it does not refer to Jesus with sword in hand dripping in blood as He slashes and kills millions on His way to His coronation in Jerusalem.

- 4) The church will accomplish the work of extending the Kingdom of God throughout the earth and the Gates of Hell will not prevail against us. Nor will any weapon formed by the enemy against us prosper, but instead, through time and history we will succeed to accomplish His will on the earth from generation to generation until the glory of the Lord covers the earth as the waters cover the sea and the kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ.

How do those four statements witness in your spirit? What is the Holy Spirit witness in your spirit: The Kingdom of God is established in the earth through the slaughter of billions of people by Jesus Christ or the Kingdom of God is established in all the earth through the preaching of the Gospel by the church?

Now let's see what Jesus had to teach us about how we bring in the Kingdom and how we grow the Kingdom of God on earth.

I am going to give you the four strategies which the Lord explained to us as to how to establish His Kingdom and how that Kingdom will grow till it fills the earth. They are these:

- 1) The mustard seed strategy – planting the Kingdom
- 2) The leaven strategy - growing the Kingdom
- 3) The Kadosh strategy – separating the Kingdom from the world.
- 4) The salt of the earth strategy – destroying the world system.

Each one leads to the next in a logical progression but with each there are dangers and obstacles for it to succeed to the next step. Let me explain.

A. The Mustard Seed Strategy.

In Matth. 13:31-32 Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; which indeed is the least of all seeds, but when it is grown it is the greatest among herbs and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."

Jesus explained that the seed is the Word of God. And like a small mustard seed the Word of God seems small and insignificant but when it falls in the good ground it takes root and grows. He explains that the good ground are those who receive the Word by faith and act on His Word. And this has been the Lord's strategy through all the ages...He uses the weak, the insignificant, the rejected to bring forth His works in the world.

He spoke to a childless old man, Abraham and said you are going to be the father of multitudes. He told Gideon to destroy the enemies of Israel with only 300 men. He raised up a young shepherd boy to be the king of Israel. The angels proclaimed the birth of the Messiah to shepherds in the field not to the court of kings. The Lord chose simple unlettered working people to be His disciples and carry the gospel into the world and not the learned Rabbi's of the time. The God of heaven rose from the dead and appeared first to two insignificant women, not the great and powerful of Jerusalem.

This has been the strategy of the Lord throughout history...a simple spoken word to simple people who believed that word and acted on it in faith. This is God's "under the radar strategy". The great and the mighty of the world have no understanding of what is going on behind the scenes. While they hold world summits to plan the future and while newsrooms report the wars and the business of the day...the Lord's mustard seeds are spreading. In China a room full of Christians are studying the Word and must soon split and they become two house churches and they soon split and become four

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house churches. In Korea all night prayer meetings are going on battling in spiritual warfare and this year will send out 15,000 missionaries into the world. In Brazil a house church leader decides to go full time in ministry and starts a neighborhood church in the slums. This year they will send 42,000 missionaries into the world. All over the world, simple people believing a simple message of the gospel of the Kingdom are transformed by that powerful Word of God and in turn they go forth and proclaim that Word to others who in turn are transformed to reach out to others...

Bloggers on the internet are busy warning about the coming world takeover of the Illuminati or the Bilderbergers or the Jews or the Chinese or the American New World Order but all the while the mustard seeds are spreading and multiplying quietly in the background and the world is oblivious to the biggest unspoken, unreported world takeover conspiracy of all time...the growing and spreading Kingdom of God that is permeating into all nations and all cultures and all languages. Which brings up the leaven strategy...

B. The Leaven Strategy.

After Jesus describes the Kingdom of Heaven like a mustard seed He says this:

Matth. 13:33: *"The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till the whole was leavened."*

Here is what is happening: As the seeds spread they are like leaven, they grow so pervasive that they begin to influence all those around them. Like leaven spreading through dough the preaching of the Word of God into a nation and into a society begins to make a visible difference everywhere.

The Israelites taken in captivity in Babylon, but certain of their young men found favour with the rulers because of their wisdom and knowledge and were given high positions of authority in the land. But their refusal to bow to the pagan gods of Babylon resulted in a mighty witness of the Lord to the rulers of Babylon.

The spread of Christianity throughout the Roman empire had a major effect on the world of that day. The Christians refused to participate in Roman games, orgies, temple prostitutes or Roman armies. The result was the withering of pagan temples and games, the withering of Roman armies and pagan culture. After the fall of Rome, Christian missionaries came out of Ireland and went out to the barbarian tribes of Vikings and Germans. The Romans could never conquer these ferocious people with the sword. But the Word of God and the Sword of the Spirit did conquer them.

The Reformation brought about the printing of the Word of God into the common language of people everywhere and resulted in a massive increase of learning and revelation and preaching of the gospel. This resulted in the destruction of the feudalistic power of the corrupt kings and corrupt Roman Catholic Church. The liberation of nations followed as the gospel freed men to study and explore which resulted in the scientific revolution which led to the Industrial Revolution. And the world has never been the same.

From there the evangelical reformers of England in the early 19th century leavened the nation and the world even further. They abolished slavery and the rest of the world had to follow. They reformed the archaic feudal laws and gave men and woman rights. They built industrial enterprises that were the first to limit working hours, child labour, company housing for the workers and pensions for the aged retiring workers. The rest of Europe saw that it could be done and clamoured for similar workers rights. They also got children out of factories and provided schooling for their children. Governments had to follow their lead and start providing universal schooling and pensions.

The pervasive influence of Godly men and women who lived the Word of God changed the world and changed society. The world desperately tries to emulate what the church does but can never keep up.

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C. The Kadosh Strategy.

The Leaven Strategy can only go so far until we start running into problems. It is this: You can influence the world with your Christian testimony but at some point in time you realize they are not going to change their ways and it is time for separation from the world. The Israelites in Babylon were sent there by the Lord, they had a great influence on the rulers of Babylon, but the time came for them to get out of Babylon and get back to God's agenda, building the Temple in Jerusalem, rebuilding the city and possessing their own land. This is the Kadosh Strategy...Holiness Unto the Lord!

You will understand this better when you realize what "holiness unto the Lord" means. The word "holy" in Hebrew is "kadosh" which means "separated". To be "holy" means to be separated for God's use. When you are saved, God declares you to be "Holy", separated from the world and it's agenda and now your life is spent serving the Lord and His agenda. But it is not just people who are called "Holy". There are objects also called "Holy". In the Tabernacle of Israel all the implements of the Tabernacle like the "shew-bread" and the incense etc. were considered "Holy". Not for secular or private use but to be used in the service of the Lord.

But here is the wonderful thing about the Kingdom Age. It is described Zachariah 14:20: *"In that day (the Kingdom Age) shall there be upon the bells of the horses Holiness Unto the Lord and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the Lord of hosts."*

So what Zachariah is saying that the day is coming when the most common household items will be separated for the use of the Lord just as if it was an implement in the Temple of God. Horses, pots etc. all are now "kadosh" in that day. This is the "Kadosh strategy". We go into the world to preach the gospel of the kingdom using the seed and leaven strategy, but we start claiming the people of the world and the things of the world for the use of the Lord and His Kingdom purposes. The Israelites for

a time had to serve Pharaoh and build his useless monuments...but the time came to get out of Egypt, take great wealth with them and use their freedom and wealth to build the Tabernacle of the Lord and conquer the Promised Land. The same for the Israelites in Babylon. For a time they had to serve the king of Babylon and serve his purposes...but the time came to get out of Babylon and build the Tabernacle of God and possess the land.

Now look at that wonderful scripture in Revelations 21-22 that describes how we are going to heal the nations. And remember from our previous writing that this is not some big city coming out of the sky at the end of the Millennium! This is exactly what John says it is, the Bride of Christ (21:9) which is the church doing what the Lord called us to do now in the Kingdom Age which we are now living: Manifest the presence and the power of God on earth in order to heal the nations. Read what he says:

21:24-27 "the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it...and they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it and there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defiles neither works abomination or makes a lie."

Then in Rev.22:1-2 John sees a river of life flowing from the city with the tree of life growing from the waters which is for "the healing of the nations" but outside the city John says (22:15) are *"dogs and sorcerers and whoremongers and murderers and idolaters and whoever loves and makes a lie."*

John sees a vision of the church as a community of believers, a city, a New Jerusalem. He sees the believers as "kings" and "priests" (Rev.1:6 "for he has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father..."). There is no temple in this city because the saints are both the tabernacle of God where God now dwells as well as the priests ministering to the people and nations. But the saints are also described as kings who go out among the nations and bring back "glory and honor" from the nations into the city or community. The result is that the unsaved and the sinners are outside but inside are all the things that are "holy" (or in Hebrew

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“kadosh”). Which brings up the prophecy of Zachariah and the meaning of ‘kadosh’.

What does that mean for us as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Zach.14 and Rev. 21 and 22 as the New Jerusalem the city of God, the temple of God, the Body of Christ? It means that we are going to form “ekklesias” composed of priests and kings. Our kings are each believer who the Lord has called to conquer territory for the Kingdom of God here on earth. Here are some of the kings and what they will bring in to the kingdom:

- There will be teachers who will bring in best teaching practices for our children’s education.
- There will be farmers who will bring in food production into the Kingdom.
- There will be doctors who will bring in healing and medicines into the Kingdom.
- There will be technologists and scientists who bring in new discoveries in energy production, material sciences, nano-technology and many other wonderful new technologies into the Kingdom.
- There will be IT specialist that will create new social networks for the people of God around the world to connect with each other.
- There will be economists that will design a new Kingdom system of economics with new community money and international trade systems among God’s various “ekklesias” all over the world.
- There will be bankers who will provide us with a sound banking system that brings the savings of God’s people to real productive investments that all of God’s people can share in.
- There will be construction engineers that will design and build for us the most modern and comfortable living communities that we can raise our families in.

In this model of the church of tomorrow every one is a king and everyone is a priest. Everyone has something to bring into the New Jerusalem and what they bring is “kadosh” Holy unto the Lord; that is it is only to be used for the Lord and His Kingdom. Their gifts and labor are not going to be wasted on a world system that corrupts and wastes the lives and work of the people. Even the person

who manufactures a pot will be doing it as “Holiness unto the Lord” because the pot belongs to the Lord and is to be used for His purpose.

That is the Kingdom “Kadosh” strategy. It is what we used to call in the days of Apartheid here in South Africa, “Separate Development”. But this time our separate development strategy is not based on racial preferences because the Lord wants all races and nations to participate in His kingdom. Instead our separate development strategy is based on Rev. 21 and 22: We work with and commune with our fellow believers and outside the community are the unbelievers. This will result in the Salt Strategy going into effect...

The Kingdom Salt Strategy

In Matthew 5:13 Jesus in his sermon on the mount made one of His most quoted statements, “Ye are the salt of the earth” and He goes on to amplify that statement by saying “You are the light of the world...” I don’t know about you but every sermon I have ever heard on that statement goes something like this: salt is a flavor for food, salt heals wounds, salt preserves meat etc etc. The idea basically is that we are the flavor to the world’s banquet always there to help them in their time of distress. But is that what the Lord was really saying?

The problem of our wrong interpretation stems from our misunderstanding the phrase “salt of the earth”. For listeners in 1st Century Roman empire it had a very dramatic impact which has been lost to us over the centuries. The phrase comes from both Old Testament scripture and Roman history and those hearing Jesus’ words that day who knew their scripture and their recent Roman history knew that Jesus was using fighting words. The Romans let the whole world know what they do to their enemies when they utterly destroyed Carthage, their early mortal enemy for the control of the Mediterranean region. They not only destroyed the city of Carthage but they sowed salt into the ground so that nothing can grow there again and Carthage could never be rebuilt.

In Judges 9:45 we read, “*And Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city and slew the*

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people that were therein and beat down the city and sowed it with salt.” Like Rome and Carthage, Abimelech was conducting total warfare. That is what it means to be the “salt of the earth”. Jesus did not say you are the salt of the food or that you were the salt that comes out of the earth; salt in that time in Israel came out of the Dead Sea salt pans. Jesus was referring to total commitment to the Kingdom of God and getting onto God’s agenda. He knew this already at age 12 when He told His mother. “I must be about my father’s business.”

He expands this with we are the light of the world and a city on a hill. You can have light or darkness but you can’t have both. When you shine the light of the Kingdom the enemy cannot spread His darkness. When you build the city on the hill for all to see, the enemy’s city depopulates. There are too many Christians who are advancing the world’s agenda and building the world’s cities and not The City of God.

The Salt Strategy means this: When we have implemented the Kadosh Strategy and declared ourselves and our possessions and families and businesses to be used exclusively for the Lord and His Kingdom, then we are not available to the world and their agenda.

This will have enormous implications. When we now longer make ourselves available as their tax slaves, their debt slaves, their consumer product slaves...then the whole corporate/banking/government edifice starts crumbling. Suppose we lower our whole cost of living by our Covenant Communities. Suppose we take the same approach that the Amish take, we build our homes as a community enterprise without debt, we lower our consumer purchases to just necessities, we grow our own food and make many of our own products, we pay ourselves minimum salaries and therefore lower our tax liabilities: What do you think happens to the world system?

This practically is what it means to be the “salt of the earth”. We prosper, the Kingdom of God

grows, but we have take away all the nutrients by which the world system grows...it just implodes from lack of participation!

The Church Strategy so far...

Up to now we have only really implemented the first two strategies as a church worldwide. Historically the “Seed Strategy” has been the most widely used by the church. We have used this to send out missionaries all over the world to plant churches. Churches have grown and multiplied and set up new branches. This church planting strategy has been very successful so far. In fact so successful that traditional missionary sending countries like England and America are now having missionaries sent from the Third World nations back to them to evangelize.

Then came the charismatic movement of the 60’s to 80’s and the Lord began to expand the vision of the church enormously. Young people began to get involved in missions through groups like YWAM. Business men started organizing themselves as witnesses in the market place through groups like the FGBMFI. Others like PTL, CBN and TBN starting moving mightily in the realm of Christian media. This was the great move of the “leaven strategy”, the influence of Christian educators, businessmen, sports people, media, politics were making great inroads to all the world for the Lord.

But here is my fervent belief...we are reaching the end of the effectiveness of the “leaven strategy” the “influence the world strategy”. I believed the world systems are collapsing and the strategy for our time must now shift to “kadosh” and “salt of the earth”. Or as Rev.18 says, “Come out of Babylon...” The world system can no longer contain us or our vision for the Kingdom of God. It is time to move out of the world system and set up our own Kingdom Systems that are built on Biblical foundations.

Here is what I believe is going to be the Lord’s

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strategy for our times. When the church gets the vision of “ekklesia” and Covenant Communities and we start building our own Kingdom based communities and economies it means the following: We are not available to be their workers or their consumers. When we have our own banking system, our savings cannot be used for their corrupt financial Ponzi schemes. That is God’s “salt strategy”. Everything that we bring into the Kingdom for God’s use is something the world can no longer use for their purposes. And with more than 700 million evangelical charismatics in the world how long do you think it takes before we have our international world trade system? When the evangelical Christians of the world withdraw their support and participation in the world system, that system collapses under the sheer weight of the corruption and greed of the sinners. That is God’s salt of the earth strategy!

However there is a far larger group of wonderful Kingdom visionaries who have different view of strategy. They believe in salt as a preservative, we must infiltrate and take over the world “Seven Mountains”...I disagree but you make up your mind as to where the Lord is leading you.

Problems with the Influence the World Strategy...

One of the major movements in the church that is getting a lot of attention is variously called “Christian Dominionism” or “Seven Mountains” strategy. The basic idea is that the Lord wants us to take the “high places” of the earth such as government, the economy, the media, education etc. for His Kingdom. There are many variations of this type of approach. What they all basically come down to is the “salt as flavor” approach. We must infiltrate the world’s systems and change them from the inside and win them for the Kingdom...a sort of reverse takeover. Now frankly I think that would be really great if it could actually be done...but I don’t think it can be done.

In America there has been a great move in this direction on a number of fronts. For instance, evangelical Christians have taken it upon themselves to infiltrate the Republican Party and get Christians

into government to change government policy to reflect Christian values. Others are forming their own Christian political parties with a hope to win power and change the nation. Is this the direction the Lord wants us to take? The question is...which is the correct salt strategy?

Infiltrate Babylon? or Come out of Babylon? Preserve Babylon? or Collapse Babylon?

Snares on the Seven Mountains

One of the more popular books in the evangelical community is The Seven Mountain Prophecy that very nicely puts together what is a common preaching theme these days: We must go into the world of media, business, finance, politics, sports, entertainment etc. and possess them for Jesus and “win them for Jesus”. A very exhilarating idea! Especially since if you are going to have any possibility of doing this you will need to rise to the top.

And to rise to the top of these various “mountains” you will need to be blessed for success and prosperity. So now you have any number of celebrity Christian business people, sports stars, entertainment personalities, politicians, giving “endorsements” for Jesus. But who is influencing who? This is a valid question. Here are the basic problems that make the “possess the mountains of the world for Jesus” a failure that it has already shown itself to be:

Three Problems

To possess their world of politics, media, business, entertainment etc “for Jesus” you are facing three critical problems:

1. You have to join their organization and enter into a covenant relationship with them meaning you have to play by their rules. Their rules are legal but invariably Biblically unethical and contrary to the mind of Christ.
2. The higher you climb up their organizational mountain you will inevitably reach the point where you will be required to do something

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which is technically legal but Biblically unethical and un-Christ-like.

3. Their organizational “mountains” might look sturdy, profitable and secure but in actual fact we are in the time of “Babylon Falling” and all their worldly systems are in the process of crashing. You are wasting your time trying to win “the Titanic for Jesus”, your job is to save the passengers and get them onto a different boat with a different captain.

Where I agree with my Seven Mountain brethren is that the Lord has called the church to more than just getting people saved and into heaven. We are also called to pull down the strongholds of Satan that bind people. Jesus came to destroy the works of Satan and that ministry is passed on to His church. But how we do this must be based on God’s Biblical strategy which I believe is based on the following:

- We are called to come out of Babylon not build Babylon, participate with Babylon or join forces with Babylon. Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. This is a great scriptural principle which many ignore to the cost of their finances and their personal integrity. Proverbs warns in numerous passages to avoid having anything to do with fools.
- The mountain of the Lord will rise over all the other mountains of the earth and they will flow to it (Micah 4:1-6). That means we do not flow to their mountains, they flow to ours that we build for the Lord.
- Worldly power systems are built on sand and bonded by greed. They all eventually fall apart from their own internal contradictions, infighting and illusions. There is nothing wrong with working within these organizations for an honest day’s pay for an honest day’s work. But we are not going to “convert” worldly organizations into Godly organizations.
- We are going to have to do the hard work of starting our own organizations through Godly covenants with fellow believers purposely dedicated to furthering the principles of God’s Kingdom.

How do you win “Hollywood for Jesus” when

success in that environment requires constant self-promotion, glamour and superficial beauty? How do you rise to the top of a Fortune 500 company and not at some point compromise your Biblically ethical behavior because your dedication to the constant expansion of the company and its profit must at all times be paramount. How do you run a successful political party without having to vilify and denigrate your opponents? Ever hear a “born again” politician praise and commend his opponents? Ever hear of a company helping a struggling competitor with no strings attached? I can go on and on and even cite some obvious examples.

Problems with the Influence Strategy

I have a real question about the influence strategy. Who is influencing who? Here is a warning from James 4:4:

“...know ye not that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whosoever will be a friend of the world is an enemy of God.”

1 John 2:15 also warns:

“Love not the world neither the things that are in the world; if any man love the world the love of the father is not in him.”

How tragic have been the lives of so many dear children of God who have lost their first love for Christ and become enamored with the glitz and glamour of the world. They rise up the corporate ladder, they build financial empires and their hearts become cold towards the Lord. The corporate infighting, the backstabbing, the cut corners, the lies and deceit...don’t kid yourself, I know how the corporate world works and how modern politics work.

But Who is Influencing Who?

Be a sports star for Jesus! Be a media star for Jesus! Be corporate CEO for Jesus! Lets take the media for Jesus! Lets take government for Jesus! It all sounds so thrilling, but look closer at the lives of those thrown into the world system, look at their family lives, their marriages, their children, their finances, their prayer life...and I will be honest with you, we are suffering as a people of God. This

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world system is corrosive on your spirit. And so I ask you again to make an honest assessment...**who is influencing who?** Are we changing the world by joining them in their agenda or are they changing us?

I am not here to tell individual Christians what the plan of God is for their lives...each one must be obedient to where the Lord has called them to

serve. I do however want to advise the broad body of Christ that before we all get involved with other people's agendas that we be certain...are we first seeking the Kingdom of God and His glory or are we attracted by the world and its glamour?

It's time to exit the world Babylon System...it is time to build the Kingdom of God!
