

“A Mighty Throng of Women: A Second Look at Male Headship”

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□ **Ministry with the Messiah**

- Psalm 68:11/Isaiah 61:1—the same verb (*bara* “proclaim the glad tidings”)
- *What the women do in Psalm 68:11 is what the Messiah does in Isaiah 61:1.*
 - Luke 8:1-3—“After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who . . . were helping to support them out of their own means.”
 - Matthew 27:55 NASB—“Many women . . . followed Jesus from Galilee while ministering to Him.”
 - Mark 15:41 NASB—“When He was in Galilee, they used to follow Him and minister to Him; and there were many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.”
- Gilbert Bilezikian, *Beyond Sex Roles: What the Bible Says about a Woman’s Place in Church and Family*.
 - “The Gospels show that whenever possible—while remaining mindful of the cultural constraints of the day—Christ gave women special opportunities to fill a primary role in the main events of his redemptive ministry such as his birth, miracles, outreach missions, death and resurrection.” (71)
 - “This list of exceptional roles played by women in the crucial events of the life of Christ suggests that he made deliberate choices concerning the place of women in the economy of redemption. The message conveyed by those decisions is not to be found in mere chronological primacy . . . but rather in the fact that Jesus himself gave women a foundational and prominently constitutional role in the history of redemption. Any subsequent reduction of the conspicuous involvement of women in the community of redemption could be perpetrated only in violation of the will of its divine founder.” (76)

□ **Ministry with the Holy Spirit**

- What shall we do with the male headship/hierarchy theory? Is there a Bible principle (or hermeneutic) that would guide us as third millenniumals to a strong, biblical response to its teaching?
- *A previous divine principle can be expanded or even superseded by a subsequent divine practice.*
 - Exhibit #1—
 - Exodus 21:23-24
 - Matthew 5:38, 39
 - Matthew 26:67, 68
 - Clearly a previous divine principle—*lex talionis*—was expanded or even superseded by a subsequent divine practice (the non-retaliatory response of Jesus to His enemies).
 - Exhibit #2—
 - Deuteronomy 23:3
 - Matthew 1:5,6
 - Mercy overruled justice—and the divine principle of Dt 23:3 was superseded by the divine practice of drawing Ruth into Jesus’ family tree.
 - Exhibit #3—
 - Exodus 12:21,22,24
 - John 1:29
 - *A previous divine principle* [celebrate the Passover forever] *can be expanded or even superseded by a subsequent divine practice* [the divine Lamb of God came and died our eternal sacrifice of deliverance].

- Exhibit #4—
 - Acts 15
 - Peter: “How can we demand that the previous divine principle and command (which differentiated Jews and Gentiles on the basis of circumcision) still be in force when the Holy Spirit was poured out on them just like He was poured out on us?”
 - Peter is arguing that a previous divine principle/command has been superseded by a subsequent divine practice, namely the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on uncircumcised Gentiles.
 - Could that be true of the ecclesiastical male headship teaching, too?
- Acts 2:16-18/Joel 2:28-32
 - Could it be that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in these endtimes is just as much a sign today that the previous divine principle of spiritual authority residing in male headship has been superseded by the subsequent divine practice of the Holy Spirit’s gifting of both genders?
 - Do we not see in women and men today the compelling evidence that the same cluster of Holy Spirit gifts is being poured out upon both men and women as elders and as pastors?
 - Joel 2 and Acts 2 are a divine prophecy that the day is coming—indeed is surely almost here—when the previous divine principle of ecclesiastical male headship will be superseded by the mighty and subsequent divine practice of the Holy Spirit’s gifting of the second most authoritative gift in the church (see 1 Corinthians 12:28) upon both genders.

*“The Lord announces the word,
and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng.”
Psalm 68:11 NIV*

"A MIGHTY THROG OF WOMEN"

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Place this card in the offering plate or hand it in at the Welcome Center as you leave.

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS:

- I will pray for the promise of the Holy Spirit in Joel 2/Acts 2 for my own life.
- I will affirm the women I know in their divine calling to minister for Christ.
- I will intercede on behalf of our church leaders as they seek to follow God's Word and His will for women in ministry.

I'M INTERESTED IN:

- Beginning a relationship with Jesus
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