

## ALIGNING THE BODY

---

The Body of Christ is the church. Christ is the Head and we the church are His body

*Eph 1:22-23*

*22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,  
23 which is His body , the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

*NKJV*

*John 20:3-9*

*3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.*

*4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.*

*5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.*

*6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,*

*7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.*

*8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.*

*9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.*

*NKJV*

The linen cloth was wrapped around the Body of Jesus. The handkerchief was wrapped around His head

The linen cloth was thrown and lying separately from the folded handkerchief. The handkerchief being folded shows us a finished position.

### **Napkin**

**NT:4676** soudarion (soo-dar'-ee-on); of Latin origin; a sudarium (sweat-cloth), i.e. towel (for wiping the perspiration from the face, or binding the face of a corpse):

KJV - handkerchief, napkin.

*(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)*

The folded cloth, which is a sweat towel that was wrapped around the head of Jesus, indicates to us that His work is complete and He is in a place called rest. This is a 7<sup>th</sup> day position. He has dealt with the sweat of the brow and perspiration and finished the work that the Father had sent Him for.

*John 17:4*

*4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*

*NKJV*

Part of the finishing work is preparing a company that would represent Him on the earth.

The linen cloth which was wrapped around the Body of Jesus was lying separately from the folded head cloth. We who are His Body on the earth must align ourselves with the finished work and enter the place called rest that He is in. We are still functioning by the sweat of our brow and not from the finished position.

The Head is looking for a Body

*Matt 8:20*

*20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."*

*NKJV*

Jesus was saying to the potential disciple that He needs a Body to place His headship upon. Foxes go into holes to reproduce and give birth. Birds build nests to lay eggs and produce young. Christ's needs a Body to reproduce Himself in the earth.

God gives grace gifts to bring alignment to the Body so that He can reproduce Himself. These gifts are men whom God has graced to equip the Body and align it with the Head.

*Eph 4:11-16*

*11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,*

*12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,*

*13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

*14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*

*15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ —*

*16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

*NKJV*

The Body is joined to the Head by the neck. The neck contains the voice that brings direction to the Body. The voice of the sent one who is the preacher "kerusso" brings direction and alignment of the Body to the Head. The alignment of the head and the body makes the Body complete and brings dominion to the earth.

Joseph who is a type of Christ in the Old Testament is a representative of the Head. He only revealed Himself to His brothers when all twelve were together.

*Gen 45:3-4*

*3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.*

*4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt."*

*NKJV*

It is only when Benjamin was brought to Joseph that he revealed Himself to his brothers. Benjamin is "son of the right hand" – this is the ascended position of our Lord and it where we are seated in Christ. The body was complete when the head was joined to it.

*Acts 7:55-56*

*55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,*

*56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"*

*NKJV*

Only being full of the Holy Ghost will help you to see and understand this position

*Eph 2:4-6*

*4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,*

*5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

*6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

*NKJV*

The man outside the gate called beautiful was lifted by the right hand by two apostles that came together and was going to the temple the corporate place of worship.

*Acts 3:1*

*Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.*

*NKJV*

They had different personalities and grace giftings but they came together to go to a corporate place. The man was sitting outside the East Gate. This gate was fifty cubits high. It was the highest gate in the temple. Fifty speaks of jubilee and Pentecost. This man was sitting outside this gate. When apostolic companies come together in the corporate temple those who paralyzed and seated outside will become sons of the right hand and leap, jump and praise God in the temple.

*Acts 3:7-8*

*7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.*

*8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them — walking, leaping, and praising God.*

*NKJV*

David became King of Israel when all the elders and the tribes came and aligned themselves with him.

*2 Sam 5:1-3*

*Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh.*

*2 Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, "You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel."*

*3 Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel.*

*NKJV*

Rulership and dominion returned to Israel when the head and the body was aligned.

In order for the body to function as Christ did on the earth it must align itself with the head. The function of sent ones is to bring alignment of the body to the head. Joseph as the head brought direction and structure to the body which was his family. Joseph created structures that brought increase and multiplication to his nation even when he was dead. There are three Joseph's in the New Testament that give us important principles for bringing alignment in the Body of Christ.

JOSEPH THE CARPENTER the father of Jesus – functioned at the birth of Jesus – WOOD (Cedar, Cypress and Olive wood used to build the temple)

JOSEPH OF ARIMITHEA – functioned in the resurrection of Jesus – STONE (Large stone, costly stones and the hewn stone used in the building of the temple)

JOSEPH BARNABAS the Apostle – functioned in the ascension of Jesus – OLD PRIESTLY ORDER (Prophets, Wisemen and Scribes will build the corporate temple)

Wood, stone and the priests are essentials to build the corporate temple.

### 1.) JOSEPH THE CARPENTER (BIRTH OF CHRIST)

Joseph as a carpenter works with **wood**. Wood was one of the key materials in the building of Solomon's temple.

*1 Kings 6:15-23*

*15 And he built the inside walls of the temple with **cedar boards**; from the floor of the temple to the ceiling he paneled the inside with **wood**; and he covered the floor of the temple with **planks** of cypress.*

*16 Then he built the twenty-cubit room at the rear of the temple, from floor to ceiling, with **cedar boards**; he built it inside as the inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place.*

*17 And in front of it the temple sanctuary was forty cubits long.*

*18 The inside of the temple was **cedar**, carved with ornamental buds and open flowers. All was cedar; there was no stone to be seen.*

*23 Inside the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of **olive wood**, each ten cubits high.*

*NKJV*

In the building of the corporate temple craftsmen of Joseph's caliber who can shape wood for the temple is needed.

#### a. Betrothed to Mary

*Matt 1:18*

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.*

*NKJV*

Mary represents the womb that carries the seed who is Christ. Joseph was betrothed to Mary. He had entered into a covenant with Mary to marry her. We as carpenters and craftsmen must have a covenant and not a contract with the womb that God has given us. It is not our seed that is in the womb God has given us but it is the seed conceived by the Holy Spirit.

### **Three parts in the Jewish wedding**

The first step was the arrangement, known as "**shiddukhin**." This was followed by the betrothal, "eyrusin" or "**kidushin**." Then, about a year later, the third part began with the wedding ceremony itself, called, "**nisuin**" or "**huppah**."

By the first century, the custom had developed that, after the arrangements had been initiated, when he reached marriageable age, the young man would travel from his home to the home of the young woman he wanted to marry (or that his father said he wanted to marry) and approach her father to discuss the arrangements prior to betrothal. There he negotiated with her father concerning the Bride Price he would pay to make her his own. This Bride Price, "mohar," far from being a modest token, was often the equivalent of a years wages or more. It was intended to be costly to the young man, a tangible evidence of his love and willingness to sacrifice on the behalf of his chosen. They would also negotiate over the contents of the "ketubah" - a written marriage covenant, which stated, among other things, his promises to her father concerning her and his ability to care for and keep her. It also served the purpose of showing the father of the potential bride how much, or little, the prospective groom understood about the responsibility of taking on a wife.

Once the young girl's father found the Bride Price and covenant acceptable, the prospective groom would be allowed to approach her with his proposal. This "proposal" was in the form of a cup of wine. The young man would pour this cup, take a sip, and then set it before the young woman. To accept the proposal, she would drink it "to the dregs" - taking the bitter with the sweet. In doing so, she was binding herself to him. At this point, the marriage covenant was established and the young man and woman were legally bound to one another in a state called "betrothal". Betrothal was so binding, in fact, that it could only be broken by a religious divorce, a "get", which was available only to the groom during this period of time. From that moment the bride was declared "sanctified," or set apart exclusively for her bridegroom.

*(The Bridegroom of Believers - Marji Hughes)*

Joseph paid the bride price; he had the written covenant and had given the cup. Mary had accepted the dregs and had entered into a binding relationship with Joseph. We need to establish covenantal relationships with the Mary that God has placed in our care if we want to see the seed being born in them.

#### **b. Just Man**

*Matt 1:19*

*19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.*

*NKJV*

Joseph was a righteous man. He wanted to do the right thing. If we want to align the body we need just men and women with high levels of integrity and righteousness.

**c. Immediate obedience to the angelic voice**

*Matt 1:24*

*24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,*

*NKJV*

He heard and obeyed. He did not weigh the consequences and humiliation he understood that obedience to the word from the sent one was more important.

**d. Leaves Galilee (Circle)**

*Luke 2:4*

*4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,*

*NKJV*

Galilee means circle. This is a wandering position. This is a place of vacillation. In order to align the Body with the Head we must leave religious circles. In this position the view does not change. This is the calf of Aaron that has the gold and we are dancing around it thinking we are serving God. This is the idolatry of Egypt that has caused people to make a sound but it is not the sound of victory or defeat because they are not involved in war but in a time of singing.

Joseph the craftsmen knows how to leave the circle for the seed to be born.

**e. Goes to Bethlehem**

*Luke 2:4*

*4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,*

*NKJV*

Bethlehem originally called Ephrath meaning the “house of bread” or fruitful.

Beth – Bayith – Banah – “to build” – ben – “builder of the family name”

Joseph as a craftsmen aligns the body by leaving the circle and shifting into building the family name through sons.

**f. Registered in his Father's house**

*Luke 2:3-5*

*3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.*

*4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,*

*5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.*

*NKJV*

Joseph had to register in his father's house. A decree was issued by Caesar Augustus to register everyone. Cyrus issued a decree for everyone that wanted to go and rebuild the temple. When the exiles came back that had to register themselves.

*Ezra 2:62*

*62 These sought their listing among those who were registered by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled.*

*NKJV*

In the rebuilding of the temple those who were not registered were excluded from the priesthood.

We as the church are registered in heaven but there must be an earthly registration with a spiritual father that is assigned from the heavens.

*Heb 12:23*

*23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

*NKJV*

Joseph wanted to know his brother's registration

*Gen 43:7*

*7 But they said, "The man asked us pointedly about ourselves and our family, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' And we told him according to these words. Could we possibly have known that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"*

*NKJV*

Joseph who is the head wants definition of relationships. He asks about the family, the father and the brothers. We must know who our father is and what tribe we belong to and who our brothers are. There must definition in order for the body to be aligned.

When Joseph registered/enrolled himself in his father's house there was definition of his identity and whom he is connected to. If we want the body that we lead to be aligned to the head we must clearly define these relationships. We must be able to confess that we are begotten sons.

When we register we must register with Mary. The church we lead must know and acknowledge your spiritual father. Don't register individually. Register with the womb God gave us.

**g. Registration delivers the firstborn**

*Luke 2:6-7*

*6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.*

*7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

*NKJV*

The deliverance of the seed is connected to the registration. We can hold back the fruit of the womb because we have not connected to David's house.

We are the church of the firstborn. To be the firstborn is bear responsibility of the birthright. It is not to seek the blessing but to take responsibility. Registration produces a corporate son that understands responsibility and not just being blessed.

Judah received resource from the father when he took responsibility for Benjamin.

*Gen 43:9-13*

*9 I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.*

*10 For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."*

*11 And their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man — a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.*

*12 Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight.*

*13 Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man.*

*NKJV*

Joseph as a craftsmen had structures in place that would bring forth the firstborn from the womb of Mary. Our wombs must produce this firstborn status in the ones we lead. As Joseph's to our households we must see a caliber of people that carry the birthright.

Elisha received the birthright because he registered with Elijah. Our acceleration and growth in ministry is connected to enrollment.

Elisha received the blessing of the firstborn which is a double portion because:

- Ran after Elijah (**Hunger**)

*1 Kings 19:20*

*20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah*

*NKJV*

- Kissed his Father and Mother (**Honour**)

*1 Kings 19:20*

*and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you."*

*NKJV*

- Sowed a sacrificial seed (**Harvest**)

*1 Kings 19:21*

*21 So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate.*

*NKJV*

- Became a servant (**Humbleness – Humus - ground**)

*1 Kings 19:21*

*Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.*

*NKJV*

- Never left Elijah (**Held On - Patience - Waiting**)

*2 Kings 2:2*

*2 Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel."*

*But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel.*

*NKJV*

#### **h. Laid Him in a Manger**

*Luke 2:7*

*7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

*NKJV*

Manger is the feeding trough for animals. When Christ was placed in the manger he was the food. He is the bread of life. When the food is in the manger shepherds are called to look at the food.

*Luke 2:8*

*Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*NKJV*

Many shepherds are watching their flocks but not feeding them

*Luke 2:9*

*9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.*

*NKJV*

The angel is the sent one with a message from God. When angel's are received glory shines all around. They instill a Godly fear. This fear releases the wisdom of God. This is a holy fear that is released.

*Luke 2:10*

*10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.*

*NKJV*

This is the good news that the feet of the sent ones carry

*Rom 10:15*

*5 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

*NKJV*

*Luke 2:12*

*12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."*

*NKJV*

The sign to the shepherds is Jesus is the food for the sheep because he is lying in the manger. When the shepherds look at Christ in the manger they are looking at the food that must be fed to the flocks.

Luke 2:15

15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

NKJV

The visitation of messengers in a city must cause shepherds to communicate with one another. This is the body being aligned. Elders in the city must gather when Samuel comes. Kingship will be released upon sons in the house when elders gather and speak to one another.

The two disciples that spoke who interacted with Jesus the sent one immediately wanted to gather with the eleven

Luke 24:32-33

32 And they said to **one another** , "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,

NKJV

They said "Let us" – this is a corporate statement. This is a shift from independence to relational. Apostles must bring this configuration upon the minds of shepherds in any region.

The four lepers said "one to another"

2 Kings 7:3

Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another , "Why are we sitting here until we die?"

NKJV

There understanding of corporate unity brought deliverance from famine. Four men that were outcasts and not allowed to enter the city were used to deliver the city because they spoke to one another.

We can speak to one another because we hate our brother

Gen 37:19

19 Then they said to one another , "Look, this dreamer is coming!"

NKJV

We can say "let us" because we want to kill our brothers

Gen 37:20

20 Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

NKJV

*Gen 37:21-22*

*21 But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him."*

*22 And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him" — that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.*

*NKJV*

It is "Reuben" whose name means "to see a son" that can save brothers from being killed. They understand their firstborn status and responsibility to protect their brother. The birthright responsibility is to deliver and bring back to the father.

*Luke 2:15*

*which the Lord has made known to us."*

*NKJV*

The shepherds did not say the angel said they said the Lord made known to us. There must be shift from listening to the angel and listening to the Lord of the angel. We must acknowledge the voice of God in the one sent by God.

**i. Protects the seed from Herod**

*Matt 2:13*

*Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."*

*NKJV*

The leaven of Herod is a controlling structure.

*Mark 8:15*

*15 Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod ."*

*NKJV*

Leaven will pollute the seed. Joseph's know how to protect their structures from the spirit of control.

**j. Departs when the seed reaches the temple**

*Luke 2:45-50*

*45 So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him.*

*46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.*

*47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.*

*48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."*

*49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"*

*50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.*

*NKJV*

Joseph is not spoken of after this incident. He realized that there is a higher purpose for the child in the temple. We shape stones and wood for the temple. When the vessels we lead are shaped and are about the Father's business we must trust the Holy Spirit to lead them.

Jesus said it was necessary for Him to depart so that His disciples would be led by the Holy Spirit.

*John 16:7*

*7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*

*NKJV*

As craftsman whatever we build must be handed over to Christ. We must loose control so that He can take control.

## 2.) JOSEPH OF ARIMETHEA (RESURRECTION)

Joseph of Arimathea prepared the Body for Resurrection. Jesus is the Resurrection and the life. We therefore as craftsmen must prepare the body to function in resurrection power. Joseph had a tomb and laid a stone over the tomb. This is a grace to build structures that would cause the body to rise in power. There is a Joseph and Mary at the birth of Jesus and there is a Joseph and Mary at burial and resurrection of Jesus. This grace prepares the Body to function as third day believers.

### Characteristics Of Joseph Of Arimathea

*Mark 15:43-47*

*43 Joseph of Arimathea, a **prominent council** member, who was himself waiting for the **kingdom** of God, coming and taking **courage**, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.*

*44 Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time.*

*45 So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph .*

*46 Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.*

*47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.*

*Luke 23:50-54*

*Now behold, there was a man named Joseph , a council member, a **good** and **just** man.*

*51 He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God.*

*52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.*

*53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before.*

*John 19:38-42*

*After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus.*

39 And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

40 Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.

42 So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.

NKJV

### **1.) Disciple of Jesus**

This man followed the teachings and believed the things that Jesus taught. He did not give in to the belief system of the religious order.

### **2.) Understood the Kingdom Message**

He was waiting for the kingdom of God. He was waiting for God's governance to return to Israel. Knowing the history and accomplishments of Israel he understood the dynamics of Israel's ability to rule but now they were dominated by a Roman Empire and lost their kingdom mandate.

### **3.) Rich man**

Wealth was essential for this preparation of the body. Globally to reach and prepare the Body for its resurrection power money is needed. Apostolic companies that understand and have a burden to prepare the body know how to live on the minimum expenses to maximize their wealth so that the Body can be Prepared. Jesus understood the importance of being prepared. The Passover had to be prepared so that a New Covenant can be released through the Prepared Table.

### **4.) Prominent Council Member**

Joseph was influential. His influence allowed him to ask for the Body of Jesus. He was respected as a teacher and scribe. He had decision making capabilities.

### **5.) He had courage**

He was bold to ask for the Body of Christ from the ruling authorities. It is essential that we understand that it will take boldness for us to stand against ruling authorities that would expose the nakedness of the Body of Christ.

### **6.) Good and just man**

These are character qualities that give prominence and favour. These are the qualities of Cornelius who had favour in his community. There has to be high integrity levels for this company to prepare the Body of Christ for resurrection life.

### **7.) He was from Arimathea**

This was Ramah in the Old Testament which is the birth and burial place of Samuel the prophet. Samuel fulfilled the Passover in his own life and Jesus is our Passover Lamb. Samuel had high levels of integrity and a grace that brought protection upon Israel for 40 years. Samuel asked for David and anointed David who operated with great rulership and dominion. Joseph had this legacy in his loins that brought him to ask to for the Body of Christ

There is a demand in this 11<sup>th</sup> hour season to prepare the body to operate in resurrection power. There is a Joseph and Mary company that is preparing the body to operate in the glory that is meant for it.

### How did Joseph prepare the Body?

#### a. Discerned the Time

##### Evening – 6pm

*Matt 27:57-61*

Now when **evening** had come, there came a **rich** man from Arimathea, named Joseph , who himself had also become a **disciple** of Jesus.

58 This man went to Pilate and **asked** for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

Joseph discerned the hour of the day. Many have not understood the “kairos” of God. This is imperative to understanding how to prepare the Body

#### b. He fulfilled the law.

*Deut 21:22-23*

"If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,

**23 his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day**, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

NKJV

*Gal 3:13-14*

13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

NKJV

According to the law Joseph understood that if the Body of Jesus stayed on the cross overnight the land would be cursed. We need to learn how to take the Body down from nakedness and exposure so that the land is not defiled. Our lands which are homes, jobs, careers, businesses can remain defiled if we continue to allow the Body of Christ to hang for all to see its nakedness.

#### c. He asked for the Body

*Matt 27:58*

58 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

NKJV

## Ask

NT:154 aiteo (ah-tee'-o); of uncertain derivation; to ask (in genitive case):

KJV - ask, beg, call for, crave, desire, require. Compare NT:4441.

*(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)*

There must be a desire for the Body of Christ. Many people steal the body. When you ask and desire the body we need to know which body. We can ask for the thief's body. We must ask for the crucified body. We have to ask for brothers who are doing the will of the Father. We have to ask for those whose minds have been pierced with thorns, whose hands are His hands, whose feet are the feet of sent ones whose legs have not been broken, whose back has seen the burden of the Lord and whose side is pierced which accurate covenantal relationships.

Joseph wanted the whole body to be together. He asked about the younger brother. He asked about the brother from another mother. He understood the importance of the body being together.

*Gen 42:20*

*20 And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.*

*NKJV*

In order for Joseph to come back from the dead the body must come together.

Joseph never stopped seeking for his brothers

*Gen 37:15-16*

*15 Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"*

*16 So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks."*

*NKJV*

David went to his brothers

*1 Sam 17:20-22*

*20 So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle.*

*21 For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army.*

*22 And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers.*

*NKJV*

### **d. He took the Body down**

*Matt 27:59*

*59 When Joseph had taken the body,*

*NKJV*

Mark 15:46

46 Then he bought fine linen, took Him down

NKJV

### **Took Down**

NT:2507 kathaireo (kath-ahee-reh'-o); from NT:2596 and NT:138 (including its alternate); to lower (or with violence) demolish (literally or figuratively):

KJV - cast (pull, put, take) down, destroy.

*(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)*

This hour is demanding that the Body of Christ be taken down from nakedness and exposure for all to see. There is falseness that must be exposed. There is a violence that would be required in the spirit to deal with false systems that is leaving the Body of Christ exposed. In order to prepare the Body of Christ it must be taken down from exposure to the world. There are vain imaginations that must be cast down from the minds of those that are in the Body for them to understand their full purpose on the earth.

### **e. Wrapped in linen**

Matt 27:59

59 When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

NKJV

Linen is a symbol of righteousness and purity. This is the virgin birth that Mary gave to Jesus. The Body must be wrapped in this cloth to prepare it for Resurrection Life. We have to have His righteousness for the Body of Christ to be revealed. This was the linen of the priesthood and now there is a Royal Priesthood who are clothed with the linen of righteousness

This linen is grave clothes. What Christ wore in death we wear as the bride. His grave clothes became our wedding dress. Grave clothes merely preserve for life.

### **f. Fragranced the Body with myrrh and aloes**

John 19:39-40

39 And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

40 Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

NKJV

These spices gave the body an aroma. Our death is like an aroma to the Lord. Nicodemus and Joseph who were both scribes are representation of a grace that is preparing the Body with these spices so that the Body of Christ becomes a fragrance to the Father.

Myrrh was one of the main ingredients to fragrance the body and has the following properties:

MYRRH

A bitter gum resin from a shrubby tree native to Arabia and East Africa.

- a. Antiseptic (kill germs)
- b. Stimulant (tonic)
- c. Preservative (used in embalming)
- d. Analgesic (pain relief)
- e. Astringent (contracts body tissues thereby diminishing bleeding)

**g. Laid in his new tomb**

*Matt 27:60*

*60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.*

*NKJV*

There will be the need to use expensive resources to ensure that the Body of Christ is protected and preserved for Resurrection Life. Joseph had a tomb prepared for His death. Our death is wrapped up in Christ's death and therefore we are made alive with Him. The rock is Jesus and His Body the Church is in Him.

There is a:

New Wineskin

New Wine

New Covenant

New Commandment

New Day

New Season

New Man/Creation

New Heaven and New earth

New Jerusalem

New Song

We also need a new tomb to preserve the Body of Christ to come into its full glory. The tomb is the structure that would prepare the Body for its glory. The Body of Christ needs New structures of governance to bring it into its dominion mandate. We need New Structures to house Third Day believers who come to life with resurrection power.

**h. He departed**

*Matt 27:60*

*60 and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and **departed**.*

*NKJV*

After we have done all we must not stand and control and watch we must depart and allow God to do the rest. When we have developed structures, clothed the Body, fragrancd the Body, asked for the Body, taken the Body, we must decrease so that he can increase through His Body. Control structures limit the Body from functioning in Resurrection Life. As Joseph's we must depart from what we have done and trust the Holy Spirit to do the rest.

### 3.) JOSEPH BARNABAS (ASCENSION)

Joseph was named Barnabas by the disciples.

*Acts 4:36*

*36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,  
NKJV*

His name is Joseph Barnabas meaning “to add comfort” – Barnabas is about empowering the Body to function from the ascended position. When Christ ascended He gave us the Holy Spirit. Barnabas adds the comfort of the Holy Spirit to the lives of those he comes into contact with.

“The combined name, Joseph Barnabas, speaks to us of the productive, empowering and comforting nature of the Holy Spirit”

*(Pg 232, The New Testament Principle of Kingdom Stewardship – Dr Stephen Everett)*

The following is seen in Barnabas' life:

#### a. Discerned the new priestly order

*Acts 4:37*

*37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

*NKJV*

Barnabas being a Levite was of the upper class in their culture. However when he discerned the new priestly order of Apostles he sold his land and laid it at the apostle's feet. This action was a sacrificial seed for entrance into the ministry. He went beyond the law to enter into grace.

#### b. Grace to add

*Acts 11:24*

*24 For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.*

*NKJV*

Barnabas had faith and was full of the Holy Spirit. This grace brought addition to the church. We must see the Lord add daily to the church as we build apostolic culture.

#### c. Seeks out those from the House of Saul

*Acts 11:25*

*25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul.*

*NKJV*

Saul comes from the tribe of Benjamin which means the “son of the right hand”

When Stephen was martyred he stated:

*Acts 7:55-56*

*55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,*

*56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"*

Paul a son of the right hand was witnessing Stephen's death

*Acts 7:58*

*58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.*

*NKJV*

Other's reservations about Paul did not hinder Barnabas from seeing Christ in him.

*Acts 9:26-27*

*And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.*

*27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.*

*NKJV*

The grace of Barnabas is to seek out Paul's within the house of Saul.

**d. Apostolic social responsibility**

*Acts 11:29-30*

*29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.*

*30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.*

*NKJV*

Barnabas was entrusted to bring aid to those affected by the famine. This is the practical aspect of affecting communities through social responsibility.

**e. Unaffected by the acceleration of Paul**

*Acts 13:46*

*46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.*

*NKJV*

There was a shift from Barnabas and Paul to Paul and Barnabas. The grace of Barnabas is to celebrate and enjoy the growth of their brothers.

Once Paul had accelerated Barnabas departs from the scene. When Paul was now about the Father's business and grown spiritually Barnabas allows the Holy Spirit to lead and direct Paul.