

SPRING 2024



Fatherhood APOSTOLIC SUMMIT CONVERGENCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST - SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2024

SPEAKERS: DR. H.B. SEYMOUR, DR. J.B. SEYMOUR

“THE OLD TESTAMENT ORIGINS & THE NEW TESTAMENT CONTINUANCE OF AN APOSTLE”

Before launching into the main topic of this Spring 2024 Fatherhood / Apostolic Summit Convergence, Apostle Seymour took the opportunity to describe and review the events surrounding the creation of **STRATEIA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY**, the Apostolic ministry school that Apostle Seymour founded and established in January of 1989. While seeking God in Raleigh, NC, Apostle Seymour felt God’s strong directive to start a school focused for 5-fold men of God / ministers / leadership, as well as open to any and all interested people who felt called of God or who had a heart for ministry. Apostle Seymour knew that he must have a name for the school – the perfect, Divinely-chosen name that would reflect the Apostolic Commission and Ministry. In prayer, Apostle Seymour said to God, “I cannot start a school of ministry without a name!” It was then that God instantly spoke the word “**Strateia**” into Apostle Seymour’s spirit. God had Apostle Seymour to consult the Scriptures and Strong’s Concordance, and found the word “**Strateia**”. It is a Greek word that means briefly, “**The Apostolic Career**”, “**The Apostolate**”, and “**The Office & The Work Of An Apostle**”. One place that this word “**Strateia**” can be found is in 2 Corinthians 10:4:

“(For the weapons of our **WARFARE** are not carnal,
but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)”

Also in 1 Timothy 1:18:

“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies
which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good **WARFARE**;
(CONTINUED ON P.2)



Bringing Forth & Re-Establishing...

- The Apostolic Message, Movement, & Ministry
- God's Fatherhood & Family In All Dimensions



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And in 2 Timothy 2:4:

“No man that **WARRETH** entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

The word “**WARFARE**” is **STRATEIA**, which means:

- **Military Service**
- **The Apostolic Career (As One Of Hardship & Danger)**
- **Warfare**

It comes from a root word, **STRATEUOMAI**, meaning:

- **To Serve In A Military Campaign**
- **TO EXECUTE THE APOSTOLATE, WITH ITS ARDUOUS DUTIES & FUNCTIONS**
- **TO CONTEND WITH CARNAL INCLINATIONS**

Some English definitions of the word **APOSTLESHIP** include:

- **The Office, Dignity, & Mission Of An Apostle**
- **The Office, Duties, Or Period Of Activity Of An Apostle**
- **The Office, Authority, Or Responsibilities Of An Apostle**

And further Greek roots show the heavenly warfare aspect that is central and parallel to the role of an Apostle:

- **An Army, As Encamped**
- **THE ANGELS, THE CELESTIAL LUMINARIES**

STRATEIA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY began its first semester in January of 1989. Apostle Seymour ran 2 semesters each year. He wrote all the curriculum, the weekly exams, compiled the first 4 courses into manuals, and graduated each semester in formal ceremonies wearing caps and gowns. Men of God and people from all across the region and from various churches enrolled and attended the classes. **Strateia School Of Ministry** continued unbroken through 7 semesters, until October of 1992, when outreaches began in Greenville, SC, and further ministry transitions began to take place. While ministering weekly in Greenville, SC, and then throughout all the years spent in Atlanta, GA, while simultaneously continuing the Church in Raleigh, NC, the messages and series’ all consistently intensified into the equivalent of **Strateia** courses. The Apostolic Message, Movement, and Ministry then took even deeper root, and **Strateia** eventually re-emerged in the form of the Fatherhood / Apostolic Summit Convergences, held three times annually, here at The Father’s House International! 51 Summit Convergences have been held, launched in Summer 2007, and continuing until the most recent in this past Spring 2024. Each Convergence has been an exhaustive compilation of what could be compared to university-level, in-depth courses that would prepare a person for a degree in their field. Each Convergence has delivered critical, essential Apostolic building blocks. Each Convergence is a full compendium book unto itself. And each Convergence has qualified as the equivalent of its own semester of **STRATEIA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY!**

The establishment and continuation of this Apostolic School of Ministry is no surprise. It was an expected task for foundational fathers / men of God in the Old Testament and throughout Judaism that they establish a **Bet Ha-Midrash**, or a “House Of Learning”, very akin to a college or an academy. The archetypical House of Father Noah & Son Shem, (*which would later continue on as the House of Shem / Eber*), ... (CONTINUED ON P.3)

...to Prophet Samuel's School in Ramah (*1 Samuel 19:19-24*), to Father Prophet Elijah & Son Prophet Elisha's School of the Prophets (*2 Kings 6:1*), to the Rabbinic-led academies of Judaism, all of these are examples of a Bet Ha-Midrash. They preserved God's laws, commandments, teachings, and ways, and raised up the next generation of men of God. **Strateia School Of Ministry**, and each of Apostle Seymour's Fatherhood / Apostolic Summit Convergences, all follow this pattern, and more than fulfill the requirements! For intensive, thoroughly equipping, soul-rectifying, heart-cleansing Apostolic ministry and life training, one will find no better modern-day "academy" than today's **STRATEIA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY**: each "Trimester" of Fatherhood / Apostolic Summit Convergences, here at The Father's House International!

The **Spring 2024 Summit Convergence** dealt with the topic, **"The Old Testament Origins & The New Testament Continuance Of An Apostle"**. Although Apostles are only specifically so called in the New Testament, as the first and most preeminent office of the Five-Fold Ministry, **their template, role, calling, anointing, and commission is readily seen / foreshadowed in what we would consider "high-ranking" Old Testament men of God.** God the Father has always had great continuity in His Eternal Commission, of which the end goal is Him truly becoming **"FATHER"** in the lives of all those who were chosen in Him before the foundation of the world. This was, of course, made possible for sinful humanity to acquire through the work, ministry, death, and Resurrection of God the Son Jesus, Who purchased that right back for us and paved the way to bring us back into full relationship with God the Father. Every step of the way is activated by the work and operation of God the Holy Ghost (Who is the Spirit of God the Father). And **apostles / spiritual fathers / full-fledged men of God** are the arches, the leaders, the vessels whom God has used all along to help relay God's commandments, desires, and guidance to mankind; who father, raise, teach, constitute, and train mankind into true, maturing / matured sons and daughters to God the Father. **All that God the Father has established, He did not establish beginning in *only* the New Testament. GOD DOES NOT HAVE JUST WHAT SOME PEOPLE MIGHT THINK OF AS A "PROGRESSIVE" COMMISSION. THE TRUTH IS THAT GOD HAS AN ETERNAL COMMISSION.** Everything was established firstly in Eternity, which then unfolded *from within Himself*, and through His planned and chosen channels. All of God's Creation, Ordinances, Decrees, Plans, Structure, Order, and so forth, were first exemplified and set forth through Old Testament men of God and the precedents they set. **These men of God were the forerunners and the first examples of "Apostles"**. Some in varying degrees had more apostolic traits than others did, but those who were set as outstanding, foundational, essential leaders who truly carried God's Voice and Plan, and who impacted, governed, and led the people into higher dimensions of righteousness, purity, and relationship with God, **truly were clothed with an apostolic mantle.** Throughout the Old Testament, several terms are used for men of God ***that express parallel elements of a New Testament Apostle.*** Terms such as "King" (*when referring to a Melchizedek-type spiritual leader, not just a political leader in the sphere of worldly kingdoms*), "Priest" (*in some cases*), "Prophet" (*in some cases*), "Man of God", "My Servant", "My Messenger", "Son of man", and various others, are some examples. In the New Testament, the Five-Fold Ministry has been officially named (*1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11,12; elsewhere*), so the distinguishing title **Apostle** is set forth. But the usage of "Bishop", "Overseer", and "Elder" also occurs in conjunction with Apostolic / Fathering assignments, conveying theocratic strength behind the terminology.

You cannot have God's True, Complete Church without having Apostles and Apostolic Structure and Order in place. **AN APOSTLE IS THE FIVE-FOLD MAN WHOM GOD ORDAINS TO BRING UP & SET UP THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION, STRUCTURE, & ORDER.** (*Eph 2:20; 1 Cor 3:10*) An Apostle is to govern and oversee the other Five-Fold Ministry and the Church. ...

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He is to build, transform, and mature the people, and show them their function & work in the ministry. Other Five-Fold men of God are to be joined to, yoked with, and raised under their Apostle. Thus they become equipped to be able to continue what an Apostle has already set up. One classic study of this pattern is seen in the New Testament, with the dynamics of the proven team of the Apostle Paul, Prophet Silas, Physician Luke, and Spiritual Son Timothy. They walked together through many years of **Strateia** – “**the Apostolic Career, as one of hardship and danger**”! Church history records how each of these men were matured up into God **BY, WITH, and UNDER** the Apostle Paul. These tested, faithful spiritual sons eventually took the helm of different of the New Testament churches, and continued their entire lives “**Executing the Apostolate / Apostolic Ministry**”. God’s eternal template of Father/Son ministry *never changes and never ends*. In truth, God’s Church cannot be built, cannot endure, cannot remain without it. For all Five-Fold men of God, and of course for the people of God, **being set with & under an Apostle is completely essential. The Church of God must have true Apostolic ministry in place in order for it to truly prosper, thrive, and accomplish her mission!**

There were several prototypical Old Testament specially called men of God who obviously stood in an Apostolic capacity. First Man Adam and the other 9 named Righteous Rulers from before the Great Flood all operated in a Melchizedek King-Priest parallel capacity. They were kings of their generations, governing the people of God in holiness and rightstanding. God unequivocally declared Father Abraham to be a “Prophet” in the Old Testament, and this is the first appearance of the word in the Bible:

“Now therefore restore the man his wife, **FOR HE IS A PROPHET...**” (Gen. 20:7)

This Old Testament usage of the word “PROPHET” encapsulates much more than the typical New Testament word for “PROPHET”. Overall, the outstanding Old Testament Prophets carried much more weight than the “inspired speakers” found in the New Testament. The key men of God of Judaism all had an Apostle-type calling upon them: Father Abraham, Father Isaac, Father Jacob, Man of God Moses, Son/Successor man of God Joshua, Prophet/Judge Samuel, to name some of the key figures. When the establishment of a human kingship came along in Israel, both the separated roles of King and Priest typified elements of Apostleship. And there were plenteous other named Prophets of the Old Testament, such as Prophet Jeremiah, Prophet Ezekiel, and others, some of them embodying Fatherhood more prominently than others. (*Apostle Seymour will be identifying and examining many of these men of God in the upcoming Convergences.*)

God’s Plan and Pattern for the Church and for the other Five-Fold Ministry has always been delegated to, and unfolds through, the human vessel of an Apostle. An Apostle is the ministry architect, or “**Architekton**” (*Greek*), that builds and constitutes the other Five-Fold men of God and the rest of the overall ministry. An Apostle is called and equipped as a **Planter** and a **Founder**:

“**I HAVE PLANTED**, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.” (1 Cor. 3:6)

Even this bespeaks God the Father’s Eternal Commission given to First man Adam:

“And the LORD God took the man, & put him into **THE GARDEN OF EDEN**
TO DRESS IT & TO KEEP IT...” (Gen. 2:15)

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It is also a parallel of **God's Eternal Commission** that was assigned to Prophet Jeremiah:

“See, I have this day set thee over the nations & over the kingdoms, to root out,
& to pull down, & to destroy, & to throw down, **TO BUILD, & TO PLANT.**”

(Jeremiah 1:10)

The task of setting a work in the earth / implanting / planting is reflective of a main part of an Apostle's commission - instilling true Apostolic Doctrine into the earth, into men of God, and into people of God. Any ministry today that brings forth less than the Apostolic Message, Movement, and Ministry, is literally *only bringing forth a fraction / a small percentage of what ministry is supposed to be, and how it is supposed to be set up and operate!* The spiritual caliber and consecration / maturity of the people in each ministry will show forth what level of church they are.

American society and culture has nosedived and plummeted so far in the last decade that the changes are stunningly unthinkable. There has been a strengthening, a hastening, an accelerating, of occultic and demonic influence reaching into every area of life that has never been seen before in our generations. There is a satanic hostility prevailing in our nation towards God, Christianity, the Bible, men of God, the true Church, and Biblical morality. It is seen in the outright anti-Christ policies of political parties, particularly the leftist side, which has embraced and espoused *completely unimaginable* despicable mindsets and practices. This is causing widespread spiritual rot, decay, and destruction. It is undermining, eroding, and undoing CENTURIES of godliness that had been ingrained in America and her people. As a result, many of the children of this generation are growing up completely foreign to the Bible, to righteousness, and to any level of truth! **Hardly anyone knows or regards what a true man of God is, what a true Church is, or what true Christianity is. Hardly anyone could even recognize one, if they could even find one.** And even worse, *hardly anyone today is even looking, because they don't even see the need for one.* There are some ministers scattered around who may have a heart for God, or what they understand of Him. But their ministries are so disjointed, so father-fractured, frequently very watered down, and are only delivering a fraction of what God really needs to be able to pour forth through them. **The biggest missing link is the absence of true Apostles and Apostolic Ministry!** If men of God and people could grasp hold of this dire need in their lives and allow themselves to be transformed by a true Apostle and Apostolic Ministry, it would provide the foundation from which the true Church could be restored, re-set, and re-energized:

**“AND ARE BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND
PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE;**

**“IN WHOM ALL THE BUILDING FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER GROWETH
UNTO AN HOLY TEMPLE IN THE LORD.”**

(Ephesians 2:20, 21)

The time for this is way past due. It is necessary at all times – during times of peace, times of morality, times of righteousness, but the need is even more glaringly noticeable during times of unrest, times of conflict, times of backsliding, times of rebellion, and times of destruction. And it seems that the farther that the church and society get swallowed up into the moral morass, *the less prone they are to recognize their situation, and to even have any impetus to return to any form of rightstanding with God.* ...

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It is as though a stupor and a spell, a mass anesthetizing into amnesia, has overtaken mankind – as though we have once again become those people who walk in darkness and dwell in the land of the shadow of death (*Isaiah 9:2*), who have not seen the “great light” that God has been shining through His Eternal Commission / His Apostolic Church.

We are in a desperate state in America. New lows are achieved daily. Our entire society and its future are rapidly sinking like the Titanic. If a SPIRITUAL, APOSTOLIC RENOVATION AND RENEWAL, not just a temporary, short-lived revival, doesn't take place *immediately*, we are going to experience colossal disaster as we have never known or imagined before.

During the Spring Convergence, Apostle Seymour briefly introduced the topic of a few different levels of Baptisms that God has ordained and describes throughout the Bible. This is not talking about just a water baptism, which is an outward declaration / act / expression of an inward spiritual transformation, that of being baptized into God the Son Jesus Christ in His Life, death, burial, and Resurrection (or in other words, into the genuine “born again” experience). Every single Baptism is extremely important for every Christian. One very important and authentic Baptism that has all but been forgotten and forsaken is that of **being baptized into your spiritual father**; or, as the Apostle Paul taught of their fathers before them, “...how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; **AND WERE ALL BAPTIZED UNTO MOSES IN THE CLOUD AND IN THE SEA;**” (*1 Cor. 10:1,2*) This is a spiritual operation, a deep “*abar*”-ing, that God accomplishes in your life and spirit *only through* the work and ministry of a true Apostle. And being baptized into an Apostle / Apostolic spiritual father is a needed step towards the greatest Baptism of all, that of **BAPTISM INTO THE NAME OF THE FATHER:**

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST:**”

(Matthew 28:19)

This is a detailed topic for another Summit Convergence, but one of the tasks that has been entrusted to a true Apostle is that of bringing the people of God into such a level of devotion, maturity, and obedience to God the Father, that they actually are **BAPTIZED INTO THE NAME OF GOD THE FATHER.**

One final teaching that Apostle Seymour brought forth at the Spring Convergence was that of the mystery and “unbroken chain” of **SEMICHA**. This is a Hebrew word and concept deriving from the idea of *leaning upon; laying hands upon; leaning upon your staff; transferral of Divine authority from spiritual father to spiritual successor/son; being surrounded, supported, and upheld by those whom an apostle has raised up and trained up to partake of the ministry*. One of the most definitive examples of **SEMICHA** was when Man of God Moses “laid his hands upon” his Successor/Son Joshua, and imparted the leadership and mantle of the ministry to him. **SEMICHA** became the basis for Rabbinical ordination, and henceforth for Christian ordination as well. It was the pattern followed by the New Testament Apostles and Elders, as they ordained and set forth worthy, trusted spiritual sons into their place to carry out the apostolate to whatever degree they were called. The Jewish people have preserved the records of **SEMICHA** for centuries, and follow a system that they consider to be traceable all the way back to, or almost all the way back to, their first-regarded transmission of authority, from Man of God Moses to Successor/Son Joshua. ...

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The Jewish spiritual tradition has always kept very meticulous records and genealogies, showing the great importance ascribed to what Apostle Seymour has always called **THE CHAIN OF FATHERS**. The Jewish religion believes in and lives by the understanding that **Divinely imparted spiritual authority, coming from God, to a man through a man through a man, down through ages and ages, is the “license” that qualifies anyone to be a man of God!** **SEMICHA** is what the Pharisees were referring to when they asked God the Son Jesus by whose authority He preached the Gospel and did His miraculous works. (*Matt 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8*). They were demanding Him to prove His **SEMICHA**, because they were too hard-hearted and spiritually blind to recognize the obvious **SEMICHA** of God the Father upon Him. The principle of true, God-ordained **SEMICHA** was inherited and passed down in the New Testament Church. **SEMICHA**, or at least the echoes of it, continues in some form or fashion through many denominations of the Christian church today. **SEMICHA** goes to show again that **ALL SPIRITUAL / MINISTRY CALLING AND AUTHORITY UNFOLDS FROM, OR COMES OUT FROM, SOMEONE ELSE...**

And it confirms and illustrates the enduring ministry principle that **SOMEONE ELSE IS ALWAYS OVER YOU!**

So just as the Jewish people kept (and keep) detailed genealogies of their assigned / approved ministry heritages, and searched to find everyone’s name on the roll, so we must look to see if our name is on **THE REGISTER OF THE APOSTOLIC SEMICHA!**

“These sought their **REGISTER** among those that were reckoned by genealogy, **but they were not found**: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.” (*Ezra 2:62*)

“And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles, & the rulers, & the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. **And I found a REGISTER of the genealogy of them** which came up at the first, **& found written therein,**” (*Nehemiah 7:5*)

“And of the priests...these sought their **REGISTER** among those that were reckoned by genealogy, **but it was not found**: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.” (*Nehemiah 7:63,64*)

The **SUMMER 2024 FATHERHOOD / APOSTOLIC SUMMIT CONVERGENCE** is just around the bend, coming up on **Thursday, June 20 – Sunday, June 23, 2024**. Make your plans to be with us! Just as a person will see continued progress and results in their *physical* body if they faithfully work out at the gym, so we do see continual progress and results in our *spiritual* well-being and stature if we will obediently and faithfully come together in the Apostolic assembling He has provided for us! God has much He desires to pour into us for our maturing and transformation, for the furtherance of His Kingdom on earth, and for fathering and assistance in every area of people’s personal lives and families! **For these and multiple other reasons, it is essential for us to come together and be present at this next installment of “STRATEIA SCHOOL OF MINISTRY”... THE SUMMER 2024 FATHERHOOD / APOSTOLIC SUMMIT CONVERGENCE!**

SPRING 2024 SUMMIT CONVERGENCE SCHEDULE

<u>Thursday, March 21st</u>	7:30 PM	Convergence Meeting
<u>Friday, March 22nd</u>	11:00 AM 1:30 PM After lunch	Convergence Meeting Lunch (<i>provided</i>) Free Time
	7:30 PM	Convergence Meeting
<u>Saturday, March 23rd</u>	11:00 AM 1:30 PM After lunch	Convergence Meeting Lunch (<i>provided</i>) Free Time
<u>Sunday, March 24th</u>	11:00 AM 4-5 PM	Sunday Convergence Meeting Sunday Dinner/Fellowship

- **LUNCHES** are provided both **FRIDAY** and **SATURDAY AFTERNOON**, after the Convergence meetings. Your hotels should offer a continental breakfast, and there are many local restaurants from which to choose for any other meal choices.
- Dress generally ranges from casual to dress-casual; of course you are welcome to dress more formally if you like. Please bring appropriate hiking attire and shoes if you wanted to walk over the property or participate in any of our outdoor activities.

WE THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS, FOR YOUR GENEROUS OFFERINGS WHICH HELP OFFSET THE SUBSTANTIAL COST FOR THESE SUMMIT CONVERGENCES, AS WE DO NOT CHARGE A REGISTRATION OR MEAL FEE.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR OFFERINGS!

LODGING/ACCOMMODATIONS

Make Reservations ASAP To Secure Lodging! (indicates hotel with a block for Summit)**

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The Seneca, SC hotels are about 25-30 minutes away from The Father's House International; the Toccoa, GA hotels are about 10-15 minutes away in the other direction. Hotels are accessible to shopping, restaurants, and so forth. **The Best Western Inn & Suites** in Seneca, SC is the hotel most frequently reserved by our guests. of rooms for our Convergence at a discounted rate. You must mention **THE FATHER'S HOUSE INTERNATIONAL**, to receive this special rate. **The Country Hearth Inn** in Toccoa, GA is close by, adequate, and is a more budget-conscious option. In our opinion, it is the best hotel option in Toccoa. **Another choice is to book a Vrbo or an AirBnB, which are plentiful in our area, and many are beautiful!**

(YOU MUST MENTION THAT YOU ARE WITH THE FATHER'S HOUSE INTERNATIONAL, OR THEY WILL NOT KNOW TO GIVE YOU THE SPECIAL RATE!!!**)**

