

## How Elohim Works Through Structures of Authority Part I: Discerning Adonai's Guidance<sup>i</sup>

How can we get right advice, counsel or guidance? In ministry, we often discover that people have a new set of problems because they often go to their *friends* for answers. The L-rd is often "blamed" for a lot of problems because people say "we prayed about it." However, putting our prayers above *Adonai's* Word is a form of idolatry and is ultimately utterly prideful and selfish. If *Adonai's* Word in principle or in a specific way already states something about a situation, then do not expect *new* answers in prayer or otherwise. The *Almighty* does not operate in a system of *situational ethics* as we often do in this world we live in. *Adonai's* Word is absolute, eternal, and unchanging. In fact, *Yeshua* is *Adonai's* Word made flesh! (John 1:14)

### Two Examples: What would you say to

1. A 21 year old believing girl who is self-supporting meets a believing boy, falls in love and is asked by him to get married but her parents which are not Believers say No!
2. A 21 year old believing boy is accepted to Bible College but his unsaved father tells him that he will pay for a secular university but not for Bible College.

### The Example in the Chart: How can *Adonai* provide guidance to a young man considering marriage?

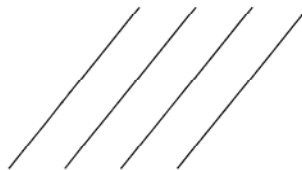
The Scriptural Structures of Authority are:

1. Family: Mom & Dad, i.e., Parents
2. Church/Synagogue
3. Government
4. Employers

### DISCERNING GOD'S GUIDANCE



SCRIPTURAL STRUCTURES OF AUTHORITY



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Answers Behind Text Box

### Some Highlights:

- Satan always brings his best before *Adonai* brings His best.
- Prayer is not twisting *Elohim's* arm to do what we want, but rather discerning His will and obeying it. ("Everything that *ADONAI* has spoken, we will do and we will obey." (Exodus 24:7)
- If *Adonai's* Word gives you something in principle, then asking for "fleeces" or circumstantial evidence is dangerous! Satan proved in Job 1 that he can work out split second circumstances to get us curse *Elohim* and do wrong!
- Amazing examples over the years: "you would laugh if you would hear what young ladies have told me about how they weren't sure this was the one and asked *Adonai* for a sign and the sign came." But it wasn't the right sign because *Elohim's* Word had already



spoken to that point. For example, if the parents were not in favor of that marriage. Therefore to go against the parents is not to honor them when *Adonai* has already said “‘*Honor your father and mother*’ - *this is the first commandment that embodies a promise - so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the Land.*” (Eph 6:2-3)

- A young man brought a girl to a rabbi and asked: ‘Would you like to know how *Elohim* brought us together?’ The rabbi responded, ‘if you want to tell me.’ And indeed they were the most incredible set of circumstances. They were supernatural and anyone would acknowledge that had to be something beyond normal for that to take place. When he was all done the young man asked the rabbi, ‘Now, wouldn’t you say that *Elohim* has brought us together?’ The wise rabbi answered: ‘No.’ ‘Why would you say such a thing,’ asked the surprised young man. The wise teacher said, ‘Let me ask you two questions, do you love this girl?’ He had to say yes (after all, she was standing right in front of him.) ‘The next question I ask you will tell me if you understand what love is about,’ said the rabbi. ‘Have you taken steps to help her restore her first marriage?’ He said ‘Oh No! She had married a terrible fellow.’ ‘How do you know,’ said the rabbi, ‘have you met him?’ ‘No, I know from what she has told me,’ answered the your man. The wise teacher answered and said, “There is a verse in Proverbs that says ‘*The simple believeth every word...*’” *Adonai* has given Marilyn and I a special love for those who have gone through the terrible pain of a broken marriage, yet we must say to you out there that *Adonai* is in the business of restoring and rebuilding marriages, even those *impossible* and *irreconcilable* ones. When you apply His principles it brings even greater and deeper love than otherwise could ever be experienced, because *genuine love* surpasses human understanding. Human love depends on the one being loved for its continuance. But not genuine love, *Elohim* loved us but we hated Him. Marriage must be built on genuine love.
- Another fellow came to a rabbi and said, ‘I have tried everything to get my marriage back together, I even volunteered to sell my motorcycle.’ Before we laugh, the truth is that most men have a ‘motorcycle.’ Some hobby that they especially delight in, but their wives do not like it. It takes time and energy and money that she doesn’t participate in and benefit from. The wise rabbi said ‘Has *Elohim* ever prompted you to sell it to help the marriage?’ He said, ‘Yes, but I never got around to it.’ ‘Do you know what you were telling your wife in so many words, *you are harder on me than Elohim is. Adonai* has never made me do this, but you don’t like it so I’ll do it for you,’ said the wise rabbi. The teacher continued, ‘in fact, she will probably say to you, I don’t think you should sell it.’ Now don’t say to her, ‘Ok, I’ll keep it then,’ because you just blew it. She does not want that kind of martyrdom hanging over her head. She only wants to know that you do what you do because *Adonai* is telling you to do it, not just to get her back...’ If you have had a marriage partner leave, then your first goal is not to get them back. This is a goal, but not the first one. The first goal is to make your ways please *Adonai*, because “*When a man’s ways please ADONAI, he makes even the man’s enemies be at peace with him.*” (Prov. 16:7) Our goal then is to learn how to please *Elohim* so He can and will make our enemies, not His enemies, the ones we made ourselves, be at peace with us.
- For every situation in life, Scripture has the same or similar situation, but worse (in the extreme case.) Why? It is given in the extreme so we can see how it works out in the extreme, and gain godly wisdom. We can therefore, trust *Adonai*’s Word for daily decisions and guidance.
- An example of such a situation is the question: ‘How can I respect trust my unsaved parents, they might even be *devil possessed*.’ David said: “*I will not touch Adonai’s anointed,*” and yet David’s father in law, King Saul was without doubt evil and *devil possessed*. Yet the Bible shows us how David, the man after *Adonai*’s own heart, lived a long life and was able to observe how *Elohim* worked situations out by getting himself under the Almighty’s ordained authority.

We need to understand exactly how *Elohim* does work through those He has placed over us.

## The Biblical Principle of Authority

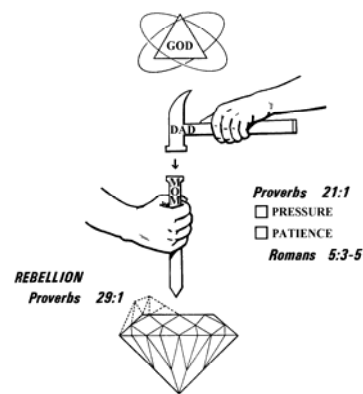
*Authority* is the power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior or the freedom granted by one in authority. *Power* is the ability to act or produce an effect or the capacity for being acted upon or undergoing an effect. Power is also legal or official authority, capacity, or right; the possession of control, authority, or influence over others. The Scriptural principle of authority is closely related to trust (faith) and is exemplified by the centurion in Luke 7:1-10:

<sup>1</sup>When Yeshua had finished speaking to the people, he went back to K'far-Nachum. <sup>2</sup>A Roman army officer there had a servant he regarded highly, who was sick to the point of death. <sup>3</sup>Hearing about Yeshua, the officer sent some Jewish elders to him with the request that he come and heal his servant. <sup>4</sup>They came to Yeshua and pleaded earnestly with him, "He really deserves to have you do this, <sup>5</sup>for he loves our people - in fact, he built the synagogue for us!" <sup>6</sup>So Yeshua went with them. He had not gone far from the house, when the officer sent friends who said to him, "Sir, don't trouble yourself. I'm not worthy to have you come under my roof - <sup>7</sup>this is why I didn't presume to approach you myself. Instead, just give a command (but just say the word, and my servant shall be healed, KJV) and let my servant recover. <sup>8</sup>For I too am a man set under authority. I have soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes; and to another, 'Come!' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." <sup>9</sup>Yeshua was astonished at him when he heard this; and he turned and said to the crowd following him, "I tell you, not even in Isra'el have I found such trust!" <sup>10</sup>When the messengers got back to the officer's house, they found the servant in good health. (Luke 7:1-10)

## How Adonai Works Through A Structure of Authority

{Draw the diagram. Adonai on top and us individually as a diamond in the rough. He wants to chip away at the rough edges so we will be able to be a perfectly cut and polished gem—a diamond or a jewel for Him. When that happens then, we are able to reflect the character of Yeshua (*HaTorah* embodied in man) no matter what circumstances we go through. And that is *Elohim's* real goal, to reflect the *Messiah* as *Y'shua* is in us, the hope of glory.}

How does *Adonai* chip away the rough edges? He uses those very individuals He places over our lives to chip away our roughness. The first ones would be father and mother. He is going to use them as a chisel to smooth the rough edges. In that sense we can picture the mother as a chisel and the father as a hammer. Please, this is not a diagram to explain the relationship between husband and wife. This is a diagram explaining the Structure of Authority. The relationship between husband and wife, which mirrors the relationship between *Adonai* and *Yeshua* is very important and much more detailed and the subject of a different Shabbat teaching. This diagram is precisely the way a teenager views his parents ganging up on him. But what he doesn't realize is that in Proverbs 21:1 Scripture states: "*The king's heart (which is the one in authority) is in ADONAI's hand is like streams of water - he directs it wherever he pleases.*" What causes a meandering stream to change? Two things: pressure and time, i.e., patience. So as a stream changes, in that same way *Adonai* can change the heart of those in authority over us. *Adonai* says: "if you have patience, I'll put the pressure on and I'll change the heart of those in authority over you." But what do we say, "*Adonai*, how would it be if I put the pressure on the situation and You have the patience?" *Elohim* doesn't need patience, we do! Scripture states in Romans 5:3-5: "...tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of *Adonai* has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us..." (NASB). *Adonai* is concerned that we allow Him to chip away at the rough edges. In fact, He is even



more concerned about the product than He is the process. So if we throw out one set of instruments He chose for us, He'll bring in another set. It never ceases to amaze me about young people out there in the world that express how sick and tired they are about their parents. When asked what they plan to do about it, some often say, "*I am going into the service, I think the marines!*" Scripture states in Proverbs 29:1 "*A man who hardens his neck after much reproof Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.*" If you keep rejecting the working of the L-rd in your life then there is going to be a damage. Now you can still get a diamond out of such a one, but it's not going to be as glorious as the original. This is what happened to our forefathers in Scripture. *Sh'lomo* built this beautiful temple (yet our bodies are the temple of the Ruach *Elohim*.) When our Jewish people they began to sin against Him, He destroyed that temple. Then they repented and began to rebuild the temple. But in Haggai the older men wept because it wasn't as glorious as the first temple. But *Adonai* sent the prophet saying "*don't discourage the builders because if you'll obey Me, I will make the glory of this latter temple greater than the glory of the former temple before it was destroyed.*" This is where *Mercy rejoices over Justice*. And *Adonai* is saying the same thing to every single one of us here today. If there's been damage, if there has been discipline because of past rebellion, now matter how small that diamond may be, if you would bring that brokenness before the Him saying "*L-rd from this day forward I am going to obey you.*" Then *Adonai* will chip away the rough edges, even today, and He'll perfect that diamond. Not only that, *Adonai* will make that diamond more glorious than anything you've ever experienced before. And that is what *Adonai* loves to do, but for His own name sake.

One day a messianic rabbi was speaking to a High School girl when she said: "I am praying for my parents to become believers." But he replied, "your parents will probably never believe!" She said, "why would you say such a thing?" "Because of you, what you've done," he replied. "What have I done," said the puzzled girl. The teacher replied, "because you have gotten out of your parent's authority and you've gone direct with *Elohim*. Every time you want to do something, you don't ask your parents what their counsel would be. But you simply say this is what *Adonai* is telling you to do. And it is one thing for your parents to humble themselves under a Holy *Elohim*, and quite another thing for them to humble themselves under a rebellious self-righteous daughter. Don't expect them to do that. If you want to bring your parents to salvation, then you get back under your parent's authority. And you let *Adonai* direct you through them in matters that they are responsible for. This doesn't mean you do not fellowship with the L-rd or study His Word, and discuss with them matters, but you see what *Adonai* will do in directing you in the wisdom that He gives your parents". Even though this was against her desires, nevertheless she did exactly as he said. One day they met the rabbi in the grocery store and the mother said, "you know rabbi, my husband and I have become interested in studying Torah lately." "Oh, that is wonderful" said the rabbi. "Don't you want to know why we have become interested in Torah," said the mother. The wise rabbi said "yes, I'd like to know why." The mother continued, "our daughter came back from speaking with you, and while she was the most rebellious of our three daughters, she mumbled something about structures of authority and getting under our authority. And then she said that *Adonai* was going to be directing her through us, and that frightened my husband and I. So we decided if *Elohim* was going to be directing her through us, we'd better find out more about Him. So ever since then, my husband and get the Torah out after dinner and we study Torah." It wasn't two months later than both father and mother received Messiah Y'shua into their lives, simply because that daughter got under her parent's authority.

I just want to say that the same result that the girl had is the very result that *Adonai* says will take place in a wife's life in 1 Peter 3. Scripture states that if she would do this same thing with her husband, even if he is not a believer, if she has the right attitudes and can see him in the light that *Elohim* sees him, there will be a whole new response—she can win him even without a word. {We have in our day more confusion over this than any other principle in Scripture.}

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<sup>i</sup> Based loosely on IBLP's Basic Seminar: "Resolving Basic Youth Conflicts," Oakbrook, IL, USA 1990