

Heaven's Deposit

Bible Glossary: People & Places

Eldad and Medad

Sermon Reference

Mentioned in the context of the distributed anointing in Numbers 11, Eldad and Medad were two men who, though not present at the tent of meeting, received the spirit of prophecy and began to prophesy in the camp.

Background Context

Eldad is referenced in Numbers 11 as one of the seventy elders whom God chose to share the burden of leadership with Moses over the Israelites in the wilderness. The context of his story is set during a period when the Israelites were journeying from Egypt towards the Promised Land after their deliverance. At this time, Moses felt overwhelmed by the difficult task of leading such a vast multitude alone. God instructed Moses to gather seventy elders and bestowed upon them the Spirit that had been on Moses, enabling them to prophesy and thus share the leadership responsibilities.

Medad, whose name signifies 'God loves,' or 'the beloved of God,' appears briefly but significantly in Numbers 11 during the narrative where God and Moses share the Spirit among the seventy elders of Israel to assist in leading the people. While most elders gathered at the tent of meeting and received the Spirit's anointing, Medad and Eldad did not attend but still began prophesying within the camp. This irregularity became the cause of concern for Joshua, Moses' assistant, who urged Moses to restrain them. Moses' response was profound and revealing, expressing a desire that all the Lord's people were prophets and that God would put His Spirit upon them all.

Their story reflects God's willingness to empower individuals irrespective of their positions or official appointments when it comes to fulfilling His purposes. While Eldad's prophetic activities are not extensively detailed beyond this narrative, his example is indicative of the broader movement whereby the Spirit empowered many beyond the traditional confines of leadership.

This event symbolizes the democratization of the Spirit's work, breaking the monopoly of divine empowerment solely to select leaders and paving the way for the prophetic inclusivity that will become prominent in later biblical history. It also set a precedent for understanding God's Spirit as distributable and accessible to all believers, not restricted

by geography, status, or religious function. For believers today, Eldad stands as a testimony to God's unexpected and gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Importance in the Bible

Eldad and Medad's story is critical for its theological and historical implications. It marks one of the earliest scriptural affirmations that the Holy Spirit's empowerment can extend beyond formal religious authority, suggesting a future where 'all the Lord's people are prophets.' This event anticipates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in Acts 2, where the Spirit was given to all believers, thus empowering the church worldwide. Their experience challenges believers to embrace the Spirit's work wherever and in whomever it manifests, emphasizing the Spirit's inclusive and democratizing power. Furthermore, the story of Eldad and Medad aligns with the sermon's theme of distributed anointing, encouraging believers today to recognize that God calls and fills many vessels to impact the world, regardless of their backgrounds or positions.

Azusa Street Revival

Sermon Reference

Mentioned as the centennial celebration that gave rise to the Empowered21 movement, emphasizing the historic revival's impact on the spread of the Spirit-empowered movement worldwide.

Background Context

The Azusa Street Revival began in 1906 in Los Angeles, California, under the leadership of William J. Seymour, an African-American preacher. It is widely regarded as the seminal event of the modern Pentecostal movement. The revival was characterized by ecstatic spiritual experiences, including speaking in tongues, prophecy, healings, and interracial worship gatherings, which were revolutionary for the early 20th-century America in terms of racial and social integration.

The revival emerged from Seymour's strong conviction about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the necessity of spiritual gifts as described in the New Testament, particularly referencing the events of Pentecost in Acts 2. Starting in a small mission on Azusa Street, the movement rapidly grew, drawing people from various racial and denominational backgrounds, transforming the landscape of global Christianity.

Azusa Street not only fueled a renewal within existing Christian denominations but also led to the establishment of numerous Pentecostal denominations and independent churches worldwide. Its influence significantly accelerated the global spread of Pentecostalism and Charismatic Christianity, which today accounts for hundreds of millions of believers globally.

The revival's legacy is profound. It affirmed the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in empowering believers for service and evangelism, encouraged interracial fellowship, and created an expansive vision for Spirit-empowered world evangelization. The centennial celebration of Azusa Street, mentioned in the sermon, speaks to its enduring significance

in invigorating the church's mission and unity, forming the foundation for initiatives like Empowered21 that seek to continue this Spirit-led advancement.

David Yonggi Cho

Sermon Reference

Referenced as a leading figure in the Asian Spirit-empowered movement and as an example of focused anointing that has impacted millions, illustrating how his ministry model serves as a benchmark for others in the church today.

Background Context

David Yonggi Cho (1936–2021) was a South Korean Christian minister who founded the Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, South Korea, which grew to become one of the largest congregations in the world. His pioneering approach to ministry incorporated cell group organization and emphasized the baptism and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Cho's leadership was marked by a commitment to evangelism, prayer, and the manifestation of spiritual gifts within the community of believers. Starting his ministry in the 1950s, Cho's church development coincided with Korea's rapid societal changes and post-war rebuilding efforts. His vision for the church was expansive, aiming to reach urban populations and mobilize laypeople through cell groups that promoted spiritual growth, fellowship, and evangelistic outreach. His teachings strongly emphasized reliance on the Holy Spirit's power, seen as essential for both personal sanctification and effective ministry.

Cho's impact transcended Korea as he inspired the global charismatic and Pentecostal church movements, sharing his philosophy of distributed anointing and the importance of the Spirit-led life. His ministry exemplified growth through Spirit-empowered leadership and was a model for many churches worldwide seeking to balance large-scale organization with intimate community care and spiritual vitality. Throughout his lifetime, Cho was known for his practical theology, blending faith and daily life, helping believers engage culturally while faithfully living out the gospel. His life's work epitomized the fulfillment of the biblical mandate to be Spirit-empowered witnesses 'to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8). He remains an iconic figure in Christianity, especially in Asia, symbolizing a new era of mass Spirit-empowered ministry.

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