YOUR PROPHETIC GUIDE TO RELEASING

A GOD-SIZED DREAM

JOSHUA GILES

FOREWORD BY DR. CINDY TRIMM

"For all of those who've been searching for the master key to unlock the greatness that is inside of you, your search is over! In his book *Mantled for Greatness*, Joshua Giles skillfully and prophetically walks you through the process of transformation and transition required to equip you to handle the mantle!"

Isaac Pitre, president of Isaac Pitre Ministries, leader of II Kings Global Network, isaacpitre.org

"As usual, another revelatory book from Prophet Giles that had me reading nonstop and gave me clarity about my own mantle for deliverance. A must-read for all Kingdom people who have been called for specialized ministry in the Body of Christ."

Apostle Alexander Pagani, bestselling author of *The Secrets to Deliverance*

"In his book *Mantled for Greatness*, Joshua Giles brilliantly leads you from the beginning seeds of faith to the manifestation of God's greatness within you. As you read, your ceiling will become your floor. You will be mantled for your God-given assignment and empowered to become a vessel of God's glory. Everything you've walked through has prepared you for such a time as this."

Matt Sorger, prophetic minister, spiritual mentor, transformational health coach

"Mantled for Greatness is a book about the action of faith and the process of moving from *small* to *greatness*. What really spoke to me was how we are the innovative solutions to big problems. Joshua Giles shows us that when we examine and channel our abilities through the Spirit of God, we can multiply in incredible ways. You have the capacity to be great! This book will help you unlock the well of greatness within you. Once unlocked, your greatness can be transferred to another generation!"

Dr. Chuck D. Pierce, president of Glory of Zion International and Kingdom Harvest Alliance

MANTLED FOR GREATNESS

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I would like to take the time to dedicate this book to the amazing members of the organizations that I've had the honor of founding, the Mantle Network and Joshua Giles Ministries. Mantle Network pastors and leaders and JGM partners, you are an extraordinary family of believers and the best tribe I could ask for. I love and honor you. This is your season to walk in the greatness of your mantle and see the promises of God manifested in your life.

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FOREWORD

Greatness is a concept that has captivated and inspired human beings throughout history. We study the lives of individuals because somewhere deep inside, we know the potential for greatness lies within us, too. It is a state of being that we strive to achieve, a pinnacle of achievement that many of us aspire to reach because it is a part of our divine destiny. Scriptures declare, "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." Unfortunately, for many, that's where their greatness will remain—buried within. But what exactly is greatness? Do fame and fortune define it, or is it something more profound?

Joshua Giles explores the concept of greatness from various angles and perspectives. He's a prophetic giant in his own right, and this book unravels the prophetic dimensions of greatness. You will delve into the lives of individuals who have achieved greatness in their respective fields. Take a deep dive to unearth the traits and characteristics commonly associated with greatness, such as perseverance, passion, and a willingness to take risks. Explore the societal factors contributing to creating and recognizing greatness, from cultural norms to economic

systems. Learn about the ways of God, who makes greatness accessible to us all.

Greatness is a spiritual heritage. This brilliant author provides insights and inspiration for anyone striving to achieve greatness in their own life. Whether you are an aspiring entrepreneur, an up-and-coming creative, or someone who wants to impact the world positively, the stories and lessons in these pages will be valuable to you. They show those who influence the corporate trajectories of companies, communities, and countries.

At the heart of this fascination with these influencers lies the concept of mantles—the unseen force behind greatness. In a world increasingly focused on the material and tangible, it is easy to forget the importance of our life's intangible, unseen, and spiritual aspects. The realm of the spirit is a crucial component of our existence, and understanding it can provide us with a more profound sense of purpose, meaning, and fulfillment.

Prophet Giles has taken on the crucial task of exploring this fascinating and often mysterious realm. Drawing on a range of spiritual traditions and teachings, practical and personal anecdotes, testimonies, and stories, he presents a comprehensive guide to the world of the spirit, providing insights and practical advice on how to navigate this realm and harness its power to succeed, progress, and prosper in our modern world as God's representative.

This book is a journey into the human experience of seeking knowledge and understanding about the future. From exploring the nature of the soul to delving into the workings and wonders of God, this book covers a wide range of topics that will inspire and enlighten you. Whether you are a spiritual seeker or simply curious about the nature of God, the prophetic, or the mysterious nature of mantles, this book will be an invaluable resource for those serious about being used by God.

With its clear, accessible, and readable style, this book, a true tour de force, will surely become a classic in the prophetic field.

Whether you are a seasoned student of prophecy, a skeptic, a believer, a student of history, or a curious reader, I invite you to join the myriads of individuals on this journey who have enjoyed preceding installments on this intriguing topic by an author who himself has been recognized as one of the leading contemporary prophets in this generation. This book offers a rich and thought-provoking exploration of one of the most enduring and enigmatic aspects of human experience—the achievement of greatness.

Greatness comes in many forms. It can be found in the bold vision of an entrepreneur who disrupts industries and changes lives. It shines through the perseverance of an athlete who pushes their body and mind beyond perceived limits to achieve remarkable feats. It echoes in the artistic expression of a musician, a preacher, a psalmist, a teacher, an emancipator, or a painter who moves hearts and leaves a lasting imprint on the world. But greatness also manifests in the quiet acts of compassion, volunteerism, and service to humanity, in the teachers who ignite the flames of knowledge in their students, mothers, and fathers, and in the everyday heroes who make a difference in the lives of others.

In a world full of dreams and aspirations, greatness is a beacon that guides us, inspiring us to go beyond our limits and reach for the extraordinary. Greatness is not a destination but a journey—a path paved with dedication, resilience, and an unwavering belief in our potential.

I am honored to have been allowed to write this foreword and highly recommend this book to anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of the spiritual realm. Join the author on this journey as he seeks to give you a greater understanding of the elusive concept of greatness and what it truly means to be great.

As you immerse yourself in the chapters ahead, let these words be a guiding light that illuminates your path toward greatness. Embrace the biblical wisdom shared within these

Foreword

pages, for it can transform your mindset, ignite your passion, and embolden your quest for excellence as you pursue your God-given purpose and life mission.

Dr. N. Cindy Trimm, author, global thought leader, servant of God

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I would like to acknowledge some valuable people who God sent into my life and who have helped to support the prophetic message that fills the pages of this book. To the late Scott Holtz: Your passion, tenacity, and push affected me deeply. The anointing that he carried on the earth is still felt today by those who knew him. Thank you for being my friend and a mighty warrior in the Lord. You are truly missed.

To my literary agent, Jevon Bolden, thank you for taking a chance on me. When others didn't see the writing gift and passion for being a prophetic scribe in me, you did. Partnering with you to release powerful, prophetic content has been an exhilarating journey! To my acquisitions editor and the editorial director of Chosen books, Kim Bangs: You've been such a gift that God has placed in my life to help incubate compelling material that reaches the world with the message of Jesus. You'll never know just how much it means to me to know how you spoke up for my first manuscript when it came across your desk, when many didn't know who I was. I appreciate you!

Lastly, thank you to my parents and my family (they're way too many to name) and especially my brothers. We grew up

Acknowledgments

experiencing the hardships of life not fully understanding that God placed seeds of greatness within us. It's taken me years to realize just how blessed we were, even when it didn't look like it. God used every challenge and struggle to develop His greatness on the inside of us. May you continue to walk in the fullness of who God has called you to be. I love you all.

1

SMALL IS THE NEW BIG

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way.

Psalm 37:23

I dropped my luggage at check-in and ran as fast as I could. I was racing through the quaint, but at the time newly expanded, Raleigh-Durham airport. It felt as if I were running a marathon to catch my flight. With just two suitcases and very little money in my bank account, I was leaving everything that I knew and had become familiar with to chase after a vision that I believe God had placed in my heart. I only really knew a handful of people in the new city I was moving to, and I was going to need faith to traverse this new terrain ahead of me. I had this sense that I was carrying something that was going to make a big impact on the people I was called to minister to.

When I arrived in Minnesota, I quickly made it to the little apartment I had rented. It was completely empty. As I talked on the phone or prayed aloud, I could hear my voice bouncing off the walls, reaching a crescendo that mimicked being in an auditorium. But it was just an empty apartment. I thought, God, how am I going to manage pastoring a new church plant, paying for new facilities, and covering my own personal expenses? I realized that I had stepped into uncharted waters that could only be mastered by faith.

What I've come to learn is that when you have a vision and faith in God, He will always take you beyond your abilities, beyond your understanding, and far beyond the money you have. It's only when you come to the end of yourself that you can fully walk in the manifestation of God's vision for your life. You must become comfortable with being uncomfortable. Any divine assignment, major project, or mission that God gives always come with pressure, difficulty, and uncomfortableness. When you feel those things, it's often an indicator that you're on the right track. In my experience, God uses trials, tests, and pressure to reveal what's really in a person. Sometimes the storm you're in is really a simulation to unlock your greatest potential.

In the book of Ezekiel, the Spirit of God takes Ezekiel into a series of visions or supernatural encounters. In chapter 47, He brings Ezekiel into the inner court or the door of the Temple. Mysteriously, a small trickle of water begins to seep under the threshold of the door from the south side. In this vision, there was an angel or man with Ezekiel, measuring the length and breadth of the Temple:

Going on eastward with a measuring line in his hand, the man measured a thousand cubits, and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water, and it was waist-deep.

Ezekiel 47:3-4 ESV

What started off small soon became a mighty river. In Scripture, this water represents life, renewal, and that which is needed to fuel and sustain life. Water here is also symbolic of the Holy Spirit. The significant part of this passage is that the water started off small. Many people underestimate the small things in their lives, because to some people, small means insignificant. But that's not the case. Whenever God creates something, He always starts it in seed form. He never gives us the finished product first. It's easy to overlook the small seed because it doesn't physically show that it will become a great tree, producing much fruit. Yet God is moving in the small things. In this season, the things that seem insignificant and that don't seem big will have big impact. That's the new strategy from heaven. God is placing impactful things into small packages.

In the interactive vision Ezekiel had, as the angel took him through the Temple, the water started at his ankles. The ankle is the joint that connects the leg and foot. It is the connector that moves the foot. God showed Ezekiel imagery of the stages that every vision or assignment must move through. Your feet are symbolic of the path you take; they represent your direction, purpose, and destiny. When you're moving into uncharted waters, being led by the Holy Spirit, your feet have to be submerged in the water first. Your direction and steps must be completely ordered by Him. This comes through righteousness or living upright before the Lord (see Psalm 37:23).

Next, Ezekiel moved knee-deep. The knees are the largest joints in the body. They either allow a person to stand upright or kneel. Kneeling is an act of submission, worship, and yielding. When you, along with your vision, move into knee-deep waters, it's a sign that you are breaking pride and humbling yourself under the mighty hand of God.

What started off as just a trickle of water began to swell to the point that soon Ezekiel was waist-deep in the river that was now flowing. This means that he was semi-submerged in the water. When you are partially submerged in the glory of the Lord, you can feel the current, but you are still somewhat in control. Eventually, the water got to the point where it was out of Ezekiel's control. It was deep enough to swim in. Ezekiel 47:5 (ESV) says,

Again he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the water had risen. It was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be passed through.

Each time the angel measured, the water grew. I believe firmly that there are angels assigned to help you measure the expanse of your assignment and spiritual territory. Each time you take a step, they measure. And each time they measure, the water level rises, until you are submerged in the glory of God. This great vision shown to Ezekiel started from just a few small drops of water and then exploded into something "mega." This will also be true for you. What starts small in your life will become mega. Mega comes from the Greek word *megas*. It's the word *greater*. It's referenced in John 14:12, when Jesus says of each one who believes in Him, "Greater works than these he will do." I believe that God is mantling individuals to carry "greater."

Small Churches, Small Groups, Family Units

In our small storefront church, we could barely fit sixty chairs in the place we had carved out as the sanctuary. We had done all the work ourselves by taking this little warehouse area and laying carpet, painting walls, and fixing it up as best we could. I remember staying up all night painting walls. I woke up the next morning aching in places I didn't even know I could ache in. In this small building, we had some of the most electrifying services. We saw some of the greatest miracles and conver-

sions. The Shekinah glory of God would be so thick during our services that sometimes we would see smoke or a haze in the sanctuary. The presence of God was tangible. The all-night prayer services were explosive. We would pray with such force that it felt as if the walls were shaking. We would see God answer those prayers, and pure, heartfelt praises to God would erupt. These experiences would sometimes last for hours as we lost track of time because the encounters were just that good. On one occasion, just a handful of us were there praying when I heard God say, I'm sending you to the nations.

I thought to myself, Our church is so small; it's just a few of us. How are we going to go to the nations from a storefront church?

It was at that moment that the Holy Spirit was teaching me about faith. God was teaching me that the impact of your reach is not predicated on the size of your ministry. He was showing me that He would defy the odds and human logic and raise up a global ministry from what some would have considered a hole-in-the-wall building. This is a lesson you must also understand. The size of your building, ministry, and finances is not what's important. The size of your faith is what really matters.

As I prayed that day in my church, the Holy Spirit spoke the name of a specific European country to me. A holy boldness rose up in me as I began to declare the name of this country out loud. God was telling me to speak boldly, in a command tone, that we would go to this country. With authority, I was declaring that any opposition would be removed.

Shortly after this, someone called the church office randomly from this same country, with an invitation to minister there. I answered the phone and spoke with this person, who was a pastor. I was in shock that God had moved so quickly. I asked, "How did you find out about this ministry?"

The pastor replied, "I don't really know. Somehow God led me to you."

Mantled for Greatness

This was the start of ministry in the nations. It all started from a storefront church where God supernaturally opened doors and brought us opportunities for missions and international ministry.

I believe that over the next several years we will see God highlight small ministries, churches, and families that will spark awakenings, stir up revivals, and be the driving force for the move of God in the earth. According to a Lifeway Research study, congregations in the United States are increasingly small. Nearly 70 percent of churches in America are under 100 people.² According to Christianity Today, 90 percent of churches have under 200 people.³ That makes up the great majority of churches in this country. Some people take a negative approach to interpreting this data. They say that the Church is declining. I say that the Church is morphing into a book of Acts model. Thousands came to Christ through the powerful evangelistic efforts of the apostles. The Church wasn't labeled by a building or specific ministry gift back then; its people were called the Church in a particular city—the Church in Thyatira or the Church in Philadelphia. All believers in that city or region made up the Church. Yes, they gathered in the synagogues. However, they also had small gatherings in houses and little communities. They did life together:

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart (Acts 2:46).

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ (Acts 5:42).

... how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house (Acts 20:20).

The expansion of Christianity and the Church happened organically. It wasn't in the big or large happenings. The secret to the expansion was through small house-to-house fellowship. Small house churches, gathering in the marketplace and on street corners, with ordinary people passionate about an extraordinary God. The same kind of expansion will happen in our day through small churches, small groups, and family units. Let's explore each of these areas where we can do life together.

Small Churches

In the coming days, small churches will dominate and help drive the next move of God. Signs, wonders, and miracles will be seen confirming the Gospel that is preached. Emphasis will be placed on community and fellowship.

Because of the difficult years and times of tragedy the world has seen, mental health and wholeness will also be a focus. These thriving, yet intimate churches will be houses of prayer and healing that will help nurse people back to spiritual health.

Large churches will always be there; they are needed and impact culture in a unique way. But the new mega-churches are small churches. People will begin to search out these small gatherings because of their ability to focus on individuals in a personal and loving way. Small ministries have been the bedrock of communities since the inception of my nation and many others, and they will continue to thrive.

Small Groups

These are gatherings of around ten to twelve people, or even fewer. Small groups are a collection of brothers and sisters in Christ coming together to encourage one another in the Word, eat together, fellowship together, and simply do life with one another. One of the major tactics of the enemy is isolation, which is one of the ways Satan tries to take advantage of believers.

When we are isolated for too long, we can become weakened in our faith and opened to unnecessary attacks. Christ's Body is designed for us to be fitly joined together, with many members making up one Body. We were made to draw strength from fellowship and community.

The Holy Spirit showed me that we will see a rise of small groups again. Isaiah 65:8 reveals that new wine is found in the cluster of grapes. New wine is symbolic of the Holy Spirit's outpouring and anointing. His outpouring is found in people coming together with one mind and one spirit, in the unity of the faith. The next awakening will be fueled by small groups that are on fire for God. Evangelism will be a key focus of these groups that reach out into their communities. Some groups will form strategically within churches, while others will form organically from friends who are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Some people have fought the idea of small groups, thinking they are unneeded or outdated. This is the furthest thing from the truth. Do you know who formed the first small group in the New Testament? Jesus! Yes, that's right—Jesus gathered twelve men (see Matthew 10:1–4). Some were fishermen, some businessmen, one was a political zealot, and one was even a tax collector. This was a small group of disciples, who became apostles (sent ones), who turned the world upside down through the message of the Gospel.

Family Units

Families are the core groups that make up the foundation for everything in our world. Most immediate family units are small in comparison to other, larger groups. The average family unit is three or four people in the United States.⁴ Families are God's building blocks for the Church. Before God created and instituted the Church, He created the family unit. Adam and Eve weren't placed in a city; they were placed in a garden. They were fruitful and started a family. This is a prophetic picture

of what the family unit has been designed to do. Families are called to plant, water, and manage gardens spiritually. Parents plant words, love, and care into their children, and by doing so, they reap a harvest. The most valuable and irreplaceable collection of people groups is the family unit. For this reason, we have seen the enemy step up his attacks against families all over the world.

You don't have to look far to see families broken, torn apart, or hurting. But we are about to see that change. A wave of family restoration and revival is coming! I believe we are about to see families coming back together. Many generational wounds will be healed, and fragmented family units will be restored. When the family unit is restored, neighborhoods will be revitalized. When the family unit is restored, crime rates in cities will drop. When the family unit is restored, schools will be overrun with prayer and testimonies of the goodness of God. Family is the one entity that intersects with every single facet of society. When God wants to release a move of His Spirit, I believe He desires to use the vehicle of family because it has the ability to influence every system.

In Scripture, the Lord called Gideon and handpicked him from his father's house. God told him that he would deliver the children of Israel out of the hands of their enemies, the Midianites. Gideon was anointed by God as a mighty warrior and man of valor. In answering the call of God, he makes a reference to his family:

Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

So he said to Him, "O my LORD, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

Judges 6:14–15

Gideon referred to his family as being poor. They didn't have much status in Israel. They didn't have substance or much in terms of material possessions. Because of this, he felt as though he wasn't worthy or possibly wasn't even capable of being a prophetic deliverer for Israel. Yet God used Gideon to become a mighty deliverer and to lead Israel in victory, defeating the Midianites. From this we can learn that it's not about your family's status. Like Gideon, your family may be poor. Your family members may not have gone to the best schools or have the most glamorous jobs. But what you do have is the hand of the Lord on your family. And that's all you need. Out of small family units, God will raise up deliverers, creators, innovators, and revolutionary thinkers to shift the culture and bring Christ's message of hope.

Small Businesses and the Rise of Entrepreneurs

Small is the new big will not just be the mantra for the Church; it will also spread throughout society and into the business world. For many decades, large conglomerates and huge companies have had somewhat of a monopoly on their industries. This is changing now, and you get to be part of it. Small businesses and small business owners will rise and dominate their industries once again. Small businesses are the backbone of any thriving economy in a capitalist society. I believe there is a special anointing coming on business owners to serve others well and experience increase at the same time.

If you're an aspiring entrepreneur or are thinking about starting a business, if God has placed such an idea in you, now just may be the time for you to start it. Start with what you have, and use what's in your wheelhouse. Sometimes we think we must have this genius, grand idea that wows everyone. It's easy to overthink an idea. I've found that the greatest blessings are hidden in the simplest ideas. Sometimes it's the small things that make the biggest impact.

Over the years, I have taught many business seminars and workshops. When I polled the attendees, I found that people have a hard time in the beginning phases of a business. They can often become discouraged when they don't see big sales numbers, or when they have just a few customers. Sometimes people fail to realize that starting a thing is half the battle.

Zechariah 4:10 (NLT) says, "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin." Do not hate or despise the small beginnings in your life. If you have a vision, a dream, a ministry, an assignment, or an initiative, don't overlook it just because it might be small. Small can be mega when God breathes on it. Here are several points to help you realize that although what you have may seem small, you're carrying something mega:

- Small can be a strategy to preserve you over the long haul. Sometimes when something is physically big, there's more of a target placed on it. God will hide mega vision in small packages so you can avoid unnecessary warfare.
- It's not about the size of the crowd; God looks at the size of your faith. God isn't interested in who's following you or who likes what you're doing. He is more interested in knowing that you are following Him against all odds. When you carry mega faith, you can move the most impossible mountains.
- Everything that God created began in seed form. A seed, although small, has the potential to become a great oak tree. It's not just magnificent when it's standing tall as a massive tree. It's glorious and miraculous to know that all of that came from a small seed. When you realize that God gives the greatest visions in seed form (thoughts, ideas, impressions on the heart), you'll value them as treasures and nurture them to see them grow.

Mantled for Greatness

• Just because it looks big doesn't always mean it's growth; when something is infected, it swells also. Healthy growth is seen by its solid foundation and its fruit. Just because something looks big doesn't mean it's healthy. Don't chase after looking big. Pursue being spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically healthy.

MANTLE MOMENT

The mantle the Lord is placing upon your life is like an incubator. It has the ability to take a small dream and develop it into something great. In order to fully access the small seeds God has placed within you to impact the world around you, I want you to do this quick exercise. Write down a few *small dreams* that you've left unattended. Then take a little time to pray concerning these dreams. Afterward, circle one or two to focus on as you read this book. You can refer back to this list as you read and complete the other *Mantle Moment* exercises at the end of each chapter, building on what you have started here.