

FOREWORD BY DUTCH SHEETS

CHUCK D. PIERCE
& ALEMU BEEFTU

THE
King's
SIGNET
RING

UNDERSTANDING THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF GOD'S COVENANT WITH YOU



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FOREWORD

I became keenly aware of wearing King Jesus' signet ring in 1976. I was in prayer regarding an upcoming mission to Guatemala when I heard the Lord say, *While you're there, I want you to be Me to the people.* I know that wasn't grammatically sound, but God was using this unique phraseology to get my attention. He had it! And the revelation of what He was communicating quickly followed: *You must represent Me. Be My hands, feet and voice; what You know I would do in a given situation, do it.* The concept of authority, of being "sent," of praying and speaking "in Christ's name," became much clearer that night.

The word *represent* means "to present again." A representative receives the plans and desires of another, then passes them on. Thus, they present again. The Lord was saying to me, "Present My heart and will to the people in Guatemala. Be Me to them." I went to Guatemala wearing His signet ring. Yet, if it's possible to be emboldened and intimidated at the same time, I was. I possessed new confidence, knowing I was

sent by Christ and authorized to represent Him. But I wasn't so sure about "what you know I would do, do it."

Once in Guatemala, I traveled with a team to a remote village with no electrical power, plumbing or phones. This was truly in the middle of nowhere. We were on a humanitarian mission, building one-room huts for people displaced by the 1976 earthquake. At night, we would set up a generator in the middle of the village and preach the good news of Christ to them.

On the last night, I was asked to speak. Just before the service, I was told of a child who lived in the backyard of her parents' makeshift lean-to tied to a tree like a dog chained to a doghouse.

"She is insane," the parents had explained. "We can't control her. She hurts herself and others, and runs away if we turn her loose. There's nothing we can do, so we just keep her tied up." They were hours by car from any professional help, with no vehicles to take them there.

Just after I began speaking, the Holy Spirit said to me, *In your message, tell them you are going to pray for the little girl across the village tied to the tree in the name of the Savior you are preaching about. Tell them that through Christ's authority, you are going to break the evil powers controlling her, and that when she is normal, they will know what you are saying about Him is true.*

My heart skipped a beat. *I pray for headaches, not insanity*, I thought. As I stood considering this, the Lord spoke again, *Remember what I said to you before the trip: represent Me. This is not about your power or ability. It's about Mine. Do what you know I would do. Do it in My name—wear My ring!*

I told the people what I was about to do, then prayed. I pointed across the village and commanded the evil spirits to

let the girl go; I commanded her mind to function normally. She was set free, and the entire village came to Christ. The King's signet ring sets captives free, mends broken hearts, heals the sick and delivers from oppression! And heaven has a ring sized to fit you!

Understanding authority is the key to spiritual success. Jesus said He did nothing through His own authority while on earth (John 5:30). He always and only represented His Father. Then He went a step further. Christ's understanding of what it meant to move in the Father's delegated authority was profound. He actually considered His actions to be those of the Father who had sent and authorized Him. "It is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work," Christ said (John 14:10).

Several years ago, I was preparing a teaching on the subject of authority. If you have read any of my books, you know I love to study words, weighing their origins, etymology and different nuances of meaning. It was a given, therefore, that I would look up the definitions of *authority* in my English dictionary, then in my Hebrew and Greek lexicons. Better than a day at the beach!

Some treasure hunters dig in the dirt, pan streams or dive in deep water; still others peruse antique stores, flea markets or garage sales. Hey, don't knock it—a New York family bought a Chinese bowl for three dollars in a garage sale and sold it a few years later for \$2.23 million at Sotheby's. Different strokes, as they say. The truly elite pursuer of hidden treasures, however, scours dictionaries!

As I lovingly searched in my original *Webster's Dictionary*, which is heavy enough to use for a workout, I grew more and more puzzled. I couldn't find the authority. My eyes traveled up and down the page multiple times. How could I keep overlooking this word? It had to be there. Finally, as I broadened

my search, it popped into my realm of vision as a derivative of the word *author*.

“Yes!” I screamed. “Word nugget!”

My wife could hear my excitement from the next room. “Are you reading the dictionary again?” she asked with concern in her voice. (She worries about me sometimes. Some people just don’t get it.)

Authority flows from the concept of authorship. The person who creates something has authority over it, unless, of course, they sell it or give it away. The same is true with writing. Authors have authority over what they write. God has authority over all the earth because He created it. End of discussion, case closed. And He wants to share that authority with you.

The King wants you to wear His signet ring. He desperately needs and wants you to represent Him. There are certain principles and understandings you will need, however, in order for Him to fully do so. He has chosen to share them with you in this wonderful book, written by two giants of the Christian faith. I know of no two people who operate at higher levels of Kingdom authority than Chuck Pierce and Alemu Beeftu. As you read and embrace the truths in this book, you will find and wear the ring. And you, too, will hear Christ say, “Be Me to the people.”

Dutch Sheets, internationally recognized author, teacher and conference speaker and the author of *Intercessory Prayer*

INTRODUCTION

The Ring of Access

CHUCK D. PIERCE

One of my favorite trilogies is *The Lord of the Rings* by J. R. R. Tolkien. In the world that he created, all civilization rested upon the fate of one ring. A group of hobbits from the Shire set out on a journey to destroy the powerful ring. This ring that had been thought to be lost for centuries was found, and the main character, Frodo, embarks on an epic quest to destroy this ring.

In ancient times, rings were crafted and filled with power, signifying the ruling of others. In *The Lord of the Rings*, one ring had been created to rule the lesser rings of rule. This ring had the power to conquer all of the lands of the fantasy world called Middle Earth, and it would be used to bring all of the subjects into enslavement. The heroic journey of this troop depicts the power of a ring that is capable of ruling. The most obvious power of the ring was invisibility for the

one who wears it. I know of no series of books that better reveals the true power of a ring.

Personally, I like rings. Anyone who knows me knows that I like a little “bling”! In *The King’s Signet Ring*, however, we want you to understand the difference between decorative jewelry and wearing your authority. This book is about the power of the ring—*the signet*. A signet is the seal used officially to give personal authority to a document in lieu of a signature.

A signet ring was worn by a king or a high-level authority and extended the right for an individual to act on their behalf. The ring and seal of the ring are a symbol of covenant. A signet ring is a symbol of identity. A signet ring is a symbol of authority. A signet ring gives you access. The ring may be transferred from one generation to another. When two people enter into the covenant of marriage, most times they pledge their life by the exchange of a ring.

The ring may represent an era. Each pope still wears a signet, called the Fisherman’s Ring, which is carved with a figure of Saint Peter encircled with the pope’s name. After a pope’s death, the ring is destroyed, and a new one is made for the next pope.¹

You Are a Signet Ring!

I believe the Father actually intended His signet to go from one generation to another until His Son returns for the final ingathering of those who have followed Him through time.

Anne Tate, a key apostolic leader in the present-day watchman movement, shared this story:

I lost my natural family through several crises. I lost my daughter. I had a son die at forty. And then my husband,

who worked for state agencies, died from a heart attack. I knew that I had influence and an anointing I needed to impart to another generation, but I had to watch carefully for the son and daughter that the Lord would align with me for the mantle I had been given by the Lord. The Lord brought Aaron and Tiffany Smith into my life as His restorative plan for my latter years.

During one of my trips to Israel, I purchased a ring with a gold coin encased in the setting. On Aaron's birthday I gave him a mantle, representing my spiritual authority, and the ring as a signet to carry forth my call and destiny in the future. I knew that the Smiths' three precious children would also receive this inheritance.

After the ring was given, Aaron came to me three days later to explain that he had lost the ring. We looked everywhere. He was devastated. I finally looked at him and said, "Son, it is not the object that is important but the spiritual significance of the impartation for your future that the Spirit of the Lord desires to rest upon you."²

You, too, are a signet ring. Dr. Alemu Beeftu will explain this more fully in the following chapters. God is seeking "seekers" from one generation to another generation. When these generational seekers align, the signet and mantle of the promise are extended. We find this in Genesis 22, when Abraham brought Isaac to Mount Moriah. Abraham was willing to give his only son (his entire future) to the Lord. The Lord intervened, however, and provided a sacrifice that was worthy to save Isaac and extend the future and lineage of Abraham. Once that happened, God then reiterated His covenant promise to Abraham but also extended it to Isaac.

You represent the King's authority on the earth. When we "put on" Yeshua, we are the Father's signet ring in the

earth. Here are some Scriptures that I am praying for each of us (1 Corinthians 15:53; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 6:11, 13 AMP). Let me write them as a declaration for you:

For this perishable [part of us] must put on the imperishable [nature], and this mortal [part of us that is capable of dying] must put on immortality [which is freedom from death].

He has also put His seal on us [that is, He has appropriated us and certified us as His] and has given us the [Holy] Spirit in our hearts as a pledge [like a security deposit to guarantee the fulfillment of His promise of eternal life].

Put on the full armor of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes *and* the strategies *and* the deceits of the devil . . . Therefore, put on the complete armor of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist *and* stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious].

And I invite you to pray them out loud as a declaration over yourself.

Receive Your New Mantle and Ring

I serve as an apostolic leader of an international ministry. This ministry touches God's Kingdom people throughout the world. Approximately 180 nations sign in with us during the month to hear the Father's marching orders from heaven.

We are known as a prophetic portal that conveys the heart and mind of God to people around the globe. We also have a Spirit-filled service that is striving to be the Tabernacle of David restored in this generation. David's Tabernacle had singers, dancers, musicians and prophetic revelation on a daily basis. This was prophesied by the prophet Amos in chapter 9 of his book. This was reiterated by the early apostolic leaders of the Church in Acts 15.

We believe in God's order. He has first principles throughout the Word. First, His Spirit brooded to bring order to the earth. As civilization developed and covenant was established with Abraham and extended to his descendants, the tribes from each leading child developed. The twelve tribes eventually comprised the whole nation of Israel, His firstborn nation. The Lord then had an order for authority in war: Judah (praise), the fourth son's tribe, was to go first. Judah was the apostolic, prophetic troop who knew how to use sound to defeat the enemies in their inheritance. David was from this tribe. Yeshua was from this tribe. By the Spirit, the redemptive qualities of this tribe have been extended to each of us.

A Signet Assignment

Recently I gave an assignment to the Judah team in this ministry to develop two musicals representing the key times we are living in. I asked them to use the book of Esther for Purim and the book of Ruth for Pentecost. The musicals were amazing. The messages from each musical were more revelational and capturing than most that I have ever seen. Our recent production from Glory of Zion International at the Global Spheres Center on the life of Esther was called

Born for a Time Like This! Justin Rana, one of our Judah team leaders, wrote,

One of the things that stood out to me in the preparation was the realization that in some way, we are all Esthers. In fact, some of the crew and staff kept having disagreements about how we were presenting Esther because you could not really tell which person Esther was in the production at times . . . but that was the point! Esther wasn't only a person in history, but a full-blown example of the character of integrity for today, which she displayed, and how we should each demonstrate our call. The most incredible impacting aspect of her life was her dying to self and in turn receiving the favor of the King. I wanted to be like her each day in my own life.³

Esther is a wonderful book, representing the times we live in today. Esther is a book of hostility—and a book of divine connection. Esther is a book of preparation that leads to submission. Esther is a book of boldness that reveals many points that help each of us in developing our destiny today. Esther is a book of war that leads to possessing the gates of your enemy. The key to understanding the turn of events in this book has to do with Esther boldly entering into the “inner court” of the king, and gaining favor in the inner court before him. When asked by the king about her desire, she extended an invitation to the king to attend a celebration and to bring the enemy of her people's future to this incredible feast. Once she left the inner court, she had no fear to confront her enemy.

As many of you know, in the story, her enemy was exposed at the celebration. Instead of the enemy's plan to destroy

the Jews in Shushan, Haman was hung on his own gallows. This reveals to each of us the power of faith. But when Esther asked to overthrow the decree that Haman convinced the king to sign for the destruction of all the Jews in that region, the king said to her, “I cannot reverse what my signet ring has sealed and ordained” (see Esther 8:8). But he instructed her that she *could* rally the Jews and go to war against this signet authority and they would be able to overthrow what had been decreed. She was eventually able to take out all ten of the sons that Haman had placed in leadership in the province. She was given the house of her enemy, Haman, a hater of the covenant seed—a modern-day antichrist, the Beast of his time. *But notice she had to go to war to overturn the decree of her enemy in the earth.* That is the power of a signet. Someone who is wearing a greater call for justice from heaven must overturn that decree. This is important as we continue into the political strife of nations in the days ahead.

Who Is in Control?

Do you know that we constantly utter the phrase “God is in control”? Many times we say this as a mantra—but have we relinquished control as Esther did? “God is in control” should not be a theoretical statement. It should be a statement of action, of opening your hands and letting go of every situation so God *can* direct your steps. We cannot *hope* that God is in control. We must unequivocally decree to our atmosphere, “God, we relinquish control to You. We remove ourselves. Guide us by Your hand.” Only then can the King give us His signet—His signature of authority to rule and reign in every circumstance.

Imagine trying to overturn a situation in the heavens with your own signature. What power or authority would that hold? If we, as humans, proceed with ourselves as the controlling entity of our lives, then our own signet is all we have access to. If we turn over control to God Himself, however, we have access to the ultimate authority and can rule and reign with Him.

In 2020 the United States, like the rest of the world, was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. One article noted, “On top of the millions of lives that hang in the balance, Cambridge University puts at \$82 trillion across five years the cost to the global economy of the current pandemic.”⁴ We are seeing a manifestation of governmental involvement around the world designed to “limit the human and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic” in today’s times.⁵ I believe many people have relinquished control to the wrong authority. We are here to stand against everything on earth that is against the will of God, who rules from the throne room.

While we must respect and honor those in authority on earth, we should never view government as the ultimate signet authority. God, our Creator, has the ultimate signet ring. Who do we place our faith in during times of crisis? Have we declared that God almighty has ultimate control of our lives and only *He* can sign off on what happens to us? Regardless of what is happening in and around you, God must still rule and reign in your life so He can make the decree that will *favor* us into your next place. Be like Esther—let go!

Change and Wear Your New Identity

Ruth is one of my favorite books. There is not a book that better reveals restoration, redemption and the unlocking of

our future. Ruth had made covenant with her mother-in-law, Naomi, and they returned to the land where Naomi had an inheritance, Bethlehem. Ruth was faithful in her covenant with Naomi. She worked daily to glean the fields. This caused her to be noticed by the richest man in the region, Boaz.

There came a time when Naomi said, “Ruth, we must make a shift. You must move from gleaning into favor for our harvest of the future” (paraphrased). Ruth was still wearing the widow’s garment from when she lost her husband in Moab. In order to secure her future, the widowhood garment that was covering her had to come off. One of my favorite passages is Ruth 3:1–5 in the Amplified Bible:

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to Ruth, “My daughter, shall I not look for security and a home for you, so that it may be well with you? Now Boaz, with whose maids you were [working], is he not our relative? See now, he is winnowing barley at the threshing floor tonight. So wash and anoint yourself [with olive oil], then put on your [best] clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; but stay out of the man’s sight until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, notice the place where he is lying, and go and uncover his feet and lie down. Then he will tell you what to do.” Ruth answered her, “I will do everything that you say.”

Justin Rana also served as director for the musical production of *Ruth*. I have loved giving my signet ring to this next generation and watching what they can produce. One of my joys is when they begin to understand the lessons of

God through His characters that display faith. Justin said this about the book of Ruth and the musical:

Another great example of relinquishing control to God is Ruth. In the recent Glory of Zion International production of *Threshed: A Shavuot Musical*, we portrayed the journey of Ruth and Naomi. This is one of the most significant stories in the Bible because without the absolute obedience and dying to self of Ruth and Naomi, the bloodline of Yeshua could not have been established in the timing God intended. I believe many times we just think, *Well, God is God, and He can do whatever He wants*. But we must remember, God gave us dominion over the earth. We must give up control to Him in order for His plans and purposes to be established fully. Therefore, had Ruth not stayed with Naomi and accompanied her to Bethlehem, she never would have come into contact with Boaz, and the bloodline would have been thwarted. The action of us letting go allows God to take the wheel. Even through what was probably a horrific experience for Ruth, being a foreigner, a Moabite, in the midst of a new land, she pressed on and made sure she did what needed to be done. Even more interesting is the fact that Ruth submitted to her authority (Naomi) when she was told to go lie at Boaz's feet. This seemed like it was a line Ruth was not willing to cross . . . she couldn't relinquish *that* much control . . . but she did it anyway! Ruth listened to a higher authority than herself, and ended up being part of establishing a bloodline that would affect the world until the end of time. Pause and think about that.

I wonder how many times we ignore the prompting of the Holy Spirit and instead take our own path on any given day. How many times do our brain and our logic override the Spirit within us? Suppose there was a prompt-

ing within a scientist that could have cured a disease, but they chose to ignore it because it didn't line up with their logic and they would have been ridiculed by their peers? Do you know that many people were prompted by an "internal feeling" (which we know as the Holy Spirit) not to board the flights on the morning of 9/11/2001? Many people actually listened and their lives continued on. So it was with Esther, Ruth, Naomi and several others in the Bible. We see a consistent theme of letting go and letting God. Let go!⁶

When Ruth changed her garment, favor was fully extended to her. Then she entered into covenant with Boaz, and of course, the future of the Messiah coming to earth through man was unlocked. Your redemption was unlocked. The signet ring and favor go together. We wear this favor.

An Example of Wearing Favor

Joseph is another incredible example of faith in wearing favor and having a signet ring given to him. Joseph was given the double-portion inheritance from his father, Jacob. All the other sons knew that Joseph had been favored. His brothers removed this garment from him when they sold him into Egypt. Joseph gives an excellent example of walking in blessing. He went through many difficult times in his life. He was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused and thrown into prison. Blessing doesn't mean life is always easy. But Deuteronomy 28:7 promises that if you walk in God's blessing, your enemies

Blessing doesn't mean that you'll never have a battle, but God will enable you to win.

will come at you from one direction but flee before you in seven directions. Blessing doesn't mean that you will never have a battle, but God will enable you to win.

Joseph had some tough battles to fight. He faced many challenges that could have brought discouragement and defeat, but incredibly, wherever Joseph landed—he prospered. When Joseph was sold as a slave in Egypt,

the LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered . . . When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar [his Egyptian master] put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

Genesis 39:2–4, emphasis added

When Joseph was falsely accused and thrown into prison,

the LORD was with him . . . So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

vv. 21–23

Like cream rising to the top, Joseph was able to rise to the top wherever he was. He eventually became one of the most powerful men in Egypt and was able to rescue his family from destruction. That's the power of blessing. God wants every believer to experience a blessed life. He wants you to rise to the top. He wants you always to be at the right place at the right time so you don't miss any windows of opportunity.

We wear the favor of God. . . . This is not a time for patching an old garment, but finding and wearing your new garment for your future (see Matthew 9).

This is a time to remove any old garment of death that represents your last season. Remember Lazarus. Jesus called him out of the tomb and removed all of his grave clothes (see John 11).

This is a time to receive new authority, as well as reconcile any relationships (both good and bad) that would keep you from moving into what is ahead. And then follow hard to develop your new identity. Remember Elijah and Elisha. That was another garment issue (see 1 Kings 19:19–21).

This is also a time to receive the outfit that represents your new position and assignment. Remember Joseph. He lost garment after garment, but finally ended up changing his clothes and ruling Egypt (see Genesis 41:13–14).

This is a time to remove and put on. Let the Lord dress you for the future. One of my favorite passages is Zechariah 3. The Lord reminded Satan that He knew all about the past of His people. But He said, “This is My time to reclothe them and move them forward.”⁷

Divine appointments and supernatural connections are open doors to your future. That’s the kind of life pictured in Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 8:28. A blessed lifestyle is promised to every believer who meets God and walks humbly and obediently in His ways

You Have Unprecedented Access

Go boldly into His throne room. He is waiting. Be like Esther and ask for favor. Be like Joseph and wear a new mantle of

favor wherever you are located. Favor, even in confinement, will open a new door of entry.

Ask the Lord to re-form the foundation for your standing. You may have to make a shift because the foundation you stood on in the past season is too shaky for you to stand on in the next season. Allow the Lord to solidify your stance so you walk in the fullness of what He will cause to blossom.

Do not let *joy robbers* stop you from experiencing God's best. The Spirit of God will see to it that you celebrate. If you feel like your celebration is dwindling, just ask Him to release an anointing of *gladness*. This will sanctify you and cause you to press past that old season. Stop and hear the trees clap their hands.⁸ When you hear the wind blowing in the mulberry trees,⁹ you will receive a new strategy to come from behind and overtake the enemy that has blockaded your path. Watch where the winds blow. Catch the wind. You can catch up quickly. Move into that new place of victory. You will surprise the enemy. The Lord is saying, "I will give you cautions well in advance so you can shift the direction of your path."

Ask for your root system to be reformed and that the roots of righteousness deep in you would be watered and begin to flourish. Ask the Lord to bring you past milk. Begin to digest the *protein* the Lord is giving you at this time. Declare that you will step through the gate of life into a new type of nourishment. Go out of your old place with joy, delight and happiness.

Ask for a realignment of your heart desires with His heart desires. Then ask the Lord to allow you to hear the stillness of the heavens. In the midst of your chaos, ask Him to let you hear the stillness of His shadow. Ask Him to let you hear sounds you have not heard. Tell Him

you are listening and let Him circulate the atmosphere of heaven around you. Ask Him to bring and activate your atmospheric change. Let the cares of the day slip away so you hear the will of heaven. Don't go out in your own strength. Wait for the pulsating heart of God to propel forth the blood in your heart. Do not contend over how others are moving forward. Rid yourself of anxiety, and stop questioning how you will ever get everything done so you can advance into your best in days ahead.¹⁰

Ask the Lord what “one thing” you need to do to unlock your next phase. Jesus had to be baptized by John. Let your right standing come forth. The Lord is longing to crown you with righteousness. Don't allow the accuser's condemning voice to stop you from wearing that crown. Dominion comes when we wear the crown (see Psalm 9). We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, but you must wear the crown of that righteousness. Our righteousness must become experiential. Stand in your righteousness. Set your face to obey and to do what will keep you in right standing so that the enemy can't accuse you later of not doing something you should have done.

Yeshua Came to Become Your Door of Access

As you read this book, I am asking the Lord to give you *access*. In the New Covenant dispensation, the enemy is blocked from entering the throne room. But you have access! The access will release power that will cause the enemy to flee. This is an era of firsts, new beginnings and Kingdom demonstration. First Corinthians 2:6–9 talks about God's secret plan and wisdom that did not originate from this present age, but before the

ages, to bring us into glory. No matter how established you are, there will be new beginnings in your life, ministry and spheres of authority. We, the Body of Christ, must *manifest who we are and whom we represent*. The Lord is forming a new order in the earth realm from His Council Room.

This book will help you to

- gain access to a new move of the Spirit of God in your life.
- gain access to all the riches of your garden. That was the first premise of boundaries. Within our new boundaries are the manifestations of glory and the communion of our future.
- gain access to the Kingdom of God. We will understand the Kingdom of God within us and demonstrate Kingdom power within our sphere.
- gain access to the blessings of Abraham's covenant and align with Israel—God's First Nation.
- gain access to mysteries held in His Word. There must be a revival of the Word of God in the Body of Christ. (The Father gave Torah to Israel, and then the Son demonstrated His heart and mind to us.)
- gain access to a new timing, linked with harvest.
- gain access to the Ark and understand the procession of glory in our region.
- gain access to understanding the government of God in heaven and earth. This will mobilize an army for war.
- gain access to new sound that will produce movement. Judah goes first. We are poised to gain access to new songs that will break old cycles.

- gain access to the understanding of God’s order in our land.

Part I of *The King’s Signet Ring* will provide an overview of the history and significance of signet rings, different types of biblical covenants and other symbols of kingly authority besides the signet ring or seal: the kingly garment, crown, anointing, scepter and throne. The signet ring is a signature of secured or approved authority. Yet this authority depends upon the user’s character. The proper use of the signet ring is for noble purposes by a king or his officials, as we have seen so far in the lives of Esther and Joseph.

We will examine more examples of how the seal of authority was used with the right motives in part II, “Signet Rings in Ancient Israel.” The story of King Ahab and Jezebel is one notable example of a king’s signature being used for evil purposes, however, by the king or his official—a complete misrepresentation of the signet ring. By contrast, the Bible mentions people who were treated as, and used as, signet rings of the Lord. One such person was Zerubbabel (see Haggai 2:23). Others were not specifically called signet rings of the Lord, but they were used by God in unique, powerful ways, like Zerubbabel.

In part III, we turn our attention to the signet ring in the New Covenant. First, we look at the link between the first man (Adam) and the second man (Jesus), then discuss Jesus as the signet ring of the Father and our High Priest. We will also highlight the sources of Jesus’ authority: His Sonship, submission and service, the Spirit of God and sacrifice. The final chapter will unpack the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. You will learn how the Father wants to bring you, His signet ring, back to your original relationship with Him.

He wants to restore your position and full authority in His Kingdom of glory.



Amber Pierce, my daughter-in-law, called me with a dream about access that is very significant. Amber lived through a traumatic childhood. As she says, however, the Lord was always there for her. She shares the full story about her family in the book that she and Daniel wrote last year, *Joy in the War*. The chapter “Moving through Trauma to Joy and Wholeness” captures the key points in her life. About her dream, she said,

I was in a car with my mom and dad (both are now deceased). Daniel (my husband) and I were in the back seat, and my mom was driving. We were going through terrible traffic, across bridges and even through water. I was very concerned about my mother driving. My mother had multiple sclerosis and was very unstable while I was growing up. We ended up at my grandmother’s house, where I stayed much of the time. Andrea Waitley, who disciplined me, was at my grandmother’s house. Chuck Pierce, my father-in-law, was there, and I also told him about my situation.

When I turned to Andrea, I said, “I really don’t want to ride anywhere in the future with my mother. I trust my dad or Daniel to drive.” Andrea and I were sharing a room that I always slept in at my grandmother’s home. This room had twin beds. I missed Daniel being there, but I knew the Lord had put Andrea in this setting with me. Andrea was put there to help me find the Lord. She represented a turn from my past to where I am today. When we went to turn down our beds to sleep, my bed

was full of valuable, valuable rings. They were very elaborate rings, all with precious jewels in them. I knew that many members of the church were present in this dream. I kept asking them, “*Have you lost any rings?*” Then I kept saying, “*These rings are available.*”¹¹

All dreams have some revelation in them. In this dream, you see the Lord revealing to Amber the tumultuous past she had to maneuver through. But the dream also shows there is stability and a place of refuge in the midst of your trials. Additionally, the dream reveals that the Lord has put people in our path to help us through our troubles. These people give us wisdom to disciple or teach us how to choose the more excellent way. Amber is now a very vibrant member and minister in the Body of Christ.

In the dream, all the rings in her bed reveal our future. Ephesians 2:6–8 in the Amplified Bible says,

And He raised us up together with Him [when we believed], and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, [because we are] in Christ Jesus, [and He did this] so that in the ages to come He might [clearly] show the immeasurable and unsurpassed riches of His grace in [His] kindness toward us in Christ Jesus [by providing for our redemption]. For it is by grace [God’s remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God.

Reggie Crawford, a friend of ours, was also in her dream. Amber kept saying, “Reggie, come and get your ring!” Amber

was actually extending a call to all of those in the Body of Christ to see what He has for them for the future. In Ephesians 3:8, 10 (AMP) we find

this grace [which was undeserved] was graciously given, to proclaim to the Gentiles the good news of the incomprehensible riches of Christ [that spiritual wealth which no one can fully understand]. . . . So now through the church the multifaceted wisdom of God [in all its countless aspects] might now be made known [revealing the mystery] to the [angelic] rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

His manifold wisdom is multifaceted and many colored. By putting on His manifold wisdom, we wear our signet ring and mantle into the future. This is like the coat that Joseph wore, signifying his inheritance. I want you each to know that you are to “wear” the signet that God has made you to be. No power or principality will be able to resist you. You are His workmanship. You are a handiwork and a masterpiece. He is the Author and Finisher of your faith. Wear your signet for the whole world to see.

As Amber said to Reggie, “Come and get your ring!” He is waiting on you.

PART I

SIGNET RINGS
Defined

1

The History and Significance of Signet Rings

ALEMU BEEFTU

Like clay is molded by a signet ring, the earth's hills and valleys then stand out like the colors of a garment.

Job 38:14 ISV

Signet rings have been used for centuries. A signet ring is a timeless piece of history and is considered an heirloom. One journalist wrote, “The millennia-old symbols of family and personal identity are experiencing a popular resurgence. But how should you wear yours?”¹ That question, the tagline of a Bloomberg.com article, took me on a journey to discover the importance and relevance of signet

rings in the Kingdom of God. In my studies, I quickly learned that before we can hope to answer the how of wearing a signet ring, we must first establish a common understanding of what a signet ring is and the lessons it holds for us today.

Often considered a gentleman's ring, signet rings have been used throughout history as a symbol of family heritage. Typically, a signet ring is designed with a family crest or another symbol representing an individual or family and is worn on the pinkie finger.² In the ancient world, signet rings, also known as *seals* or *signets*, were used universally. Authentic ancient documents contained a seal. Engraving was a common occupation in ancient days, and one of the greatest parts of the jewelry trade was to design custom-made signet rings with special symbols and emblems, created from gold and set with precious stones. Thus, seals and signet rings have been important throughout history.

In some ancient kingdoms, a king who wanted to mark or secure a document with his seal used his signet ring. He pressed it into softened wax and allowed it to harden into an unbroken seal that had the ring's mark. The signet ring represented the king's honor, authority and personal guarantee, which was something highly valued. In the Old Testament, these rings were used as a personal signature or as an emblem of authority. They were a portable instrument used like a signature today, but much more important. They were an emblem of authority that could seal or stamp a document, the door of a house or a tomb. Authentic ancient documents contained a seal. Engraving was a common occupation in ancient days, and one of the greatest parts of the trade was a custom-designed and finely crafted signet ring.

Signet rings are uncommon today and rarely used for their originally intended purpose as a seal. Today signet rings are

worn in some spiritual organizations by bishops, priests and other clergy. Perhaps you have even seen them in your diocese, church or denomination.

What Do Signet Rings Signify?

Signet rings, historically, were worn for a variety of reasons and purposes. Some of these reasons include signifying beauty, wealth, identity, authority, seal or signature, promise (engagement ring), covenant (wedding ring), power, victory (championship ring) and affiliation (class ring). The basis for the recent popularity of signet rings is the combination of fashion and the prestige that the signet ring symbolizes.

Let's take a deeper look into the symbolism of signet rings.

Signet Rings as a Sign of Beauty

Because of their value, women of rank were adorned with rings and necklaces of gold. Since the time of Jacob, Israelite women wore gold rings on their fingers, ears or noses. Abraham's servant gave a nose ring to Rebekah (see Genesis 24:47). This practice became part of the Jewish culture and a sign of pride. "Zion's women are so haughty, and walk with outstretched necks, flirting with their eyes, prancing along as they walk, and making tinkling noises with their ankle bracelets . . . signet rings, nose rings" (Isaiah 3:16, 21 ISV). In those days, such rings were worn on hands, arms, ears and noses. The rings signified that women had a special beauty and grace. The Lord promised to beautify Israel as His Bride by lavishing upon her jewels: "I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his

head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Isaiah 61:10).

Signet Rings as a Sign of Wealth

By wearing signet rings, rich men distinguished themselves from others and showed their social position as wealthy individuals. We see rings such as these referenced throughout the Bible. In ancient Israel, gold rings were presented to the Lord as special gift offerings: “So we have brought as an offering to the LORD what each man obtained—articles of gold, armlets, bracelets, signet rings, earrings, necklaces—to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD” (Numbers 31:50).³ When the Israelites brought offerings of a quantity of signet rings with other gold articles to Moses and the high priest Eleazar, they were accepted as special gifts to the Lord. We also see many instances where wealthy individuals made signet rings for their sons. In Luke’s Parable of the Prodigal Son, the father, a man of considerable means, bestowed a ring upon the lost son who returned home (see chapter 8). Later in the New Testament, James challenged believers for showing favoritism because of gold rings and fine clothes among believers (see James 2:2).

Signet Rings as a Sign of Identity

In modern cultures, everybody carries some kind of identification: a driver’s license, passport or another type of picture ID. Thousands of years ago, however, personalized identification took the form of a ring. In the Old Testament, this was illustrated for the first time when Judah propositioned his daughter-in-law, Tamar, who was disguised as a prostitute: “What pledge do you want me to give you?” he asked,

to which she replied, “Your signet ring, cord, and the staff in your hand” (Genesis 38:18 ISV). Three months later, when Tamar discovered she was pregnant, “she sent this message to her father-in-law: ‘I am pregnant by the man to whom these things belong. Furthermore,’ she added, ‘tell me to whom this signet ring, cord, and staff belongs’” (v. 25 ISV). When Judah saw the signet ring, he knew he had done wrong. The matter was settled because the signet ring proved his identity. There was no mistaking the identity it represented (see chapter 4 for more on the story of Judah and Tamar).

When Judah saw the signet ring, he knew he had done wrong. The matter was settled because the signet ring proved his identity.

Signet Rings as a Sign of Authentication

Kings had signet rings throughout history as a personal signature or seal. Signet rings were used to a great extent for sealing decrees or important documents as security, so they would not be opened, and they showed ownership by kings and officials (see Esther 3:12; 8:8, 10). Furthermore, signet rings sealed a written letter or official document as proof of the owner’s original signature, or the document’s originator. As such, signet rings are a form of a seal to show

- the source, authenticity and accuracy of the document
- the dependability of the message
- the authority of the sender
- the security of letter or document
- protection for the original message.

Usually, a ring engraved with some device is used for just such a purpose.

These types of signet rings used as seals are mentioned throughout the Old Testament as well as in ancient history (see Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, 1 Kings and many other places in Scripture). In addition, according to *Easton's Bible Dictionary*, historic evidence, as well as archaeological remains, of such practices are found in many places. Here is one example:

The use of a signet-ring by the monarch has recently received a remarkable illustration by the discovery of an impression of such a signet on fine clay at Koyunjik, the site of the ancient Nineveh. This seal appears to have been impressed from the bezel of a metallic finger-ring. It is an oval, 2 inches in length by 1 inch wide, and bears the image, name, and titles of the Egyptian king, Sabaco.⁴

Easton continued, “The actual signet rings of two Egyptian kings, Cheops and Horus, have been discovered.”⁵

Any letter, document, decree or item deemed important enough would be sent out with the official stamp by the king's signet ring. That is what gave authority to the written official documents or decrees. Without it, they would just be paper. But since the king's signet ring was worn only by the king or his trusted official, everyone in the kingdom knew that anything with a seal of the signet ring on it was important and authentic. Whenever the king's subjects received documents that carried the seal of the king's signet ring, they were expected to obey, without question or delay.

Signet Rings of Ministry Commitment

Signet rings were used as a sign of commitment to a person or to the Lord, in addition to a variety of things. Personally, I wear rings for both reasons. I wear one on my left ring finger as a physical sign of the commitment I have made to my wife for the rest of my life. I also started wearing another ring on my right ring finger as a reminder of my commitment to the Lord's will and service.

In August 1978, when I left Ethiopia for further study abroad, Fellowship Church, my home church, gave me a ring with a bee on it. The bee symbolizes community, brightness and personal power. The bee is about discovering your new destination. The day I received that ring, I made a public vow to wear a ring on my right ring finger as a constant reminder of my call. Rings with Christian emblems are common and often worn among many denominations. Some church officials wear rings as a sign of their commitment to the church they serve.

Signet Rings as a Sign of Faith

Signet rings are a display of a covenant to certain belief systems. As believers in the Bible, covenants made with our heavenly Father in the Bible are first and foremost in our lives. By accepting Jesus

Christ as his or her Savior and Lord who was crucified on the cross, each believer becomes a symbolic signet ring who carries His image and His glory.

That is what the Lord has been doing for His Church, as

By accepting Jesus Christ as his or her Savior and Lord who was crucified on the cross, each believer becomes a symbolic signet ring who carries His image and His glory.

well. Because of His amazing and eternal love, He has been beautifying her for the final wedding of the Lamb (see Revelation 19:6–10). The apostle Paul wrote: “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5:25–27).

Why Are Signet Rings Relevant for Current Times?

The world, in general, is in disarray, from top global leaders to the grassroots people making decisions on a local level. Disorder continues into families, extended families and churches. Covenants are broken, overlooked, not implemented or canceled, causing a host of problems.

We, as believers in Jesus Christ, must look for solutions to reestablish order in our world. In studying Scripture, we see that biblical covenants were established to bring people together. The concept is not only a nice idea but a proven ideology that actually works when put into practice. A covenant represents ideas and a manner of thinking characteristic of a group, social class or individual. These same methods also work in businesses. We have forgotten the basics of establishing a strong covenant. A biblical covenant is how God has chosen to communicate, redeem and guarantee eternal life through Jesus. These truths, revealed in the Bible, are the basis of Christianity. The Bible is a covenant document.

My challenge for you is to read about the power of covenants—start to implement them. In the next chapter, we will take a closer look at the topic of covenants.

SIGNET RING DECREES

In Jesus' name, I decree that

- *I accept You, Jesus, as my Lord and Savior.*
 - *I now receive the ring You have waiting for me.*
 - *I am Your signet ring.*
 - *I carry Your image and Your glory.*
 - *I'm beautiful and priceless in Your sight.*
-