

## “A VICTORIOUS LIFE BEFORE GOD”

Have you ever felt inadequate as a believer? Have you ever imagined living a 'victorious' life before God - but have mourned because you have not attained it? How does one live such a life?

To start, let's look at the kings of Israel and see how they failed to live a victorious life before God.

First there was **King Saul**: he did not have a heart to fully obey the LORD's commands, nor did he have wisdom to make simple distinctions, such as who his friends and his enemies were. **King Saul did not live a victorious life before God.**

“The LORD ... sent you on a mission, saying ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out. Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD? ... As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught the edge of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him ‘The LORD has torn the kingdom from you today ...’”

(1 Samuel 15)



“...an evil spirit from God came forcefully upon Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand and he hurled it, saying to himself ‘I’ll pin David to the wall.’ But David eluded him twice. Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with David...” (1 Samuel 18)

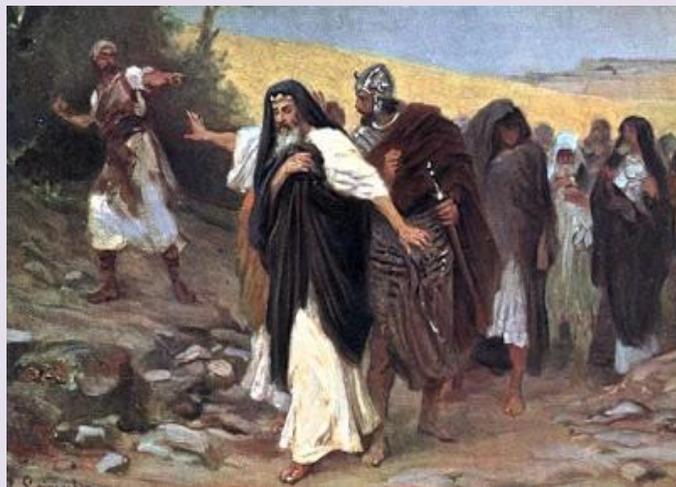
<sup>1</sup> Source of Images: Samuel’s rebuke (remnantculture.com) Saul’s spear (bibleartists.wordpress.com)

After Saul there was **King David**: he had a heart to fully obey the LORD's commands. However, in his life he made astoundingly foolish decisions. The list of the examples of the poor judgment of King David are almost endless: he committed adultery with the married woman Bathsheba; after he found out Bathsheba was pregnant he gave an order to the head of the army to put her husband Uriah the Hittite at undue risk of harm so that he would die in battle with the Ammonites; he counted the fighting men demonstrating he believed the army belonged to him not to the LORD and brought a plague on Israel that killed 70,000 people; and he did not punish his son Amnon when he raped his sister Tamar. The last example of the denial of justice due to King David's favoritism for his son Amnon in turn led to Absalom's rebellion, a war within Israel, and many pains and evils for Israel that have persisted down to this very day. **David did not live a victorious life before God.**



Scripture says: "In the spring, at the time when kings went off to war...David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around the roof of his palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful." He was told "Isn't this Bathsheba...the wife of Uriah the Hittite?...David sent messengers to get her. She came up to him and he slept with her...The woman conceived and sent word to David 'I am pregnant'" David told the commander of the army: "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is the fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die." (2 Samuel 11)

"My son who is of my own flesh is trying to take my life...leave him alone, let him curse...So David and his men continued down the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt." (2 Samuel 16)



2

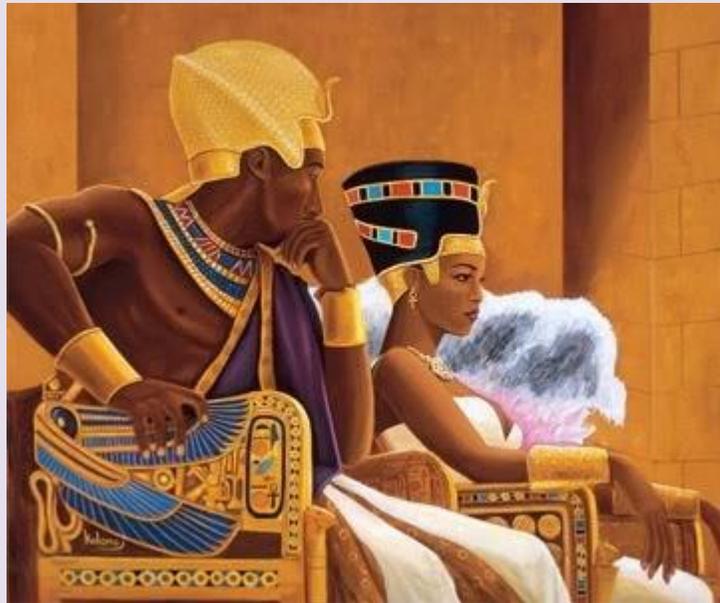
<sup>2</sup> Source of images: David leering at Bathsheba (unknown) David being cursed by Shimei (revgregsmith.blogspot.com)

After David there was **King Solomon**. He saw the mayhem arising from David's unwise choices and he prayed earnestly to God for wisdom to rule God's people. He was granted his request and promised riches and honor besides. However, Solomon did not have a heart to obey God's commands as his father David did. He married pagan women and burned incense to their gods. Like the two kings of Israel before him, **King Solomon did not live a victorious life before God.**



Solomon showed his wisdom by discerning which prostitute was the real mother of the living baby: **“Bring me a sword...Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other. The woman whose son it was said to the king ‘Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill him!’ But the other said ‘...cut him in two!’ Then the king gave his ruling: ‘Give the living baby to the first woman...she is the mother’”** (2 Kings 3)

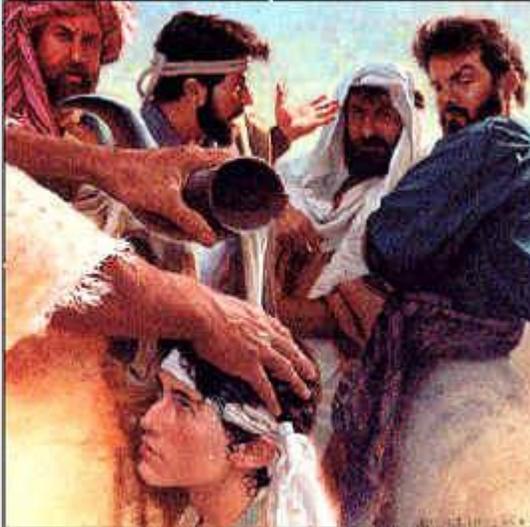
Solomon showed he did not have a heart after God:  
**“Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh King of Egypt and married his daughter.”** (1 Kings 3:1) **“As Solomon grew old his wives turned his heart after other gods...He followed Ashtoreh...the detestable god of the Sidonians and Molech ...The LORD became angry with Solomon because his heart turned away from him”** (1 Kings 11)



3

<sup>3</sup> Source of images: (Two prostitutes) saltandlight.org (Daughter of Pharaoh) michaeljacksonhoaxforum.com

**All of these kings were the 'LORDS's anointed'** - meaning **the spirit of God was upon them**. Saul prophesied. David was a prophet and writer of Scripture. God appeared to Solomon not once but twice! They were evidently spiritual men – just not successful in living a victorious life before God.



4

“But the LORD said to Samuel ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height... for the LORD does not look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart...So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power”

(1 Samuel 16)

What does this teach us about living a victorious life before God? If it was not possible for King Saul, for King David, or for King Solomon – is it possible for anyone to attain?

### **GOD’S KINGDOM – NOT MAN’S KINGDOM**

In order to please God we must first die to the vain glorious hope of all personal achievement. If our eyes are upon personal achievement, even personal spiritual achievement, we will definitely not please God. We need to see our life with the spiritual eyes of God, not as the world sees life.

When we asked Jesus to forgive our sins we became his child and part of his family. In his family all the children are of equal worth to God and equal standing before God. Jesus Christ is the head of the family but he calls us ‘brothers’, indicating that in many respects (not relating to his divine nature) we are equal to him. We have the righteousness of Christ, we are seating with Christ in the heavenly realms at the right hand of God, and we share with him every blessing in the spiritual realms. There is no longer any ethnic distinction among us, no longer any gender distinction among us, no longer any preference among us by birth. Since we have all received this great salvation and inheritance in equal measure, there is no point in competing with one another for position or place in the body. Our life consists of rejoicing in our Savior and loving and serving one another.

---

<sup>4</sup> Source of image: gci.org

Furthermore, the family of God has been joined together in such a way that we are visible and distinct but we also vitally depend upon one another. Paul compared the community of believers to a physical body. Yes, an eye is distinct from a hand but they are also joined together and share the same life-giving blood that flows throughout the whole body. We need each other. No member is more worthy than any other member. No member could live without being in community with other members. **“The eye cannot say to the hand: ‘I do not need you’. And the head cannot say to the feet ‘I do not need you’.”** (1 Cor. 12:21) {Think of that next time you wipe a tear away from your eye with a finger, or next time you have a headache and run for a Tylenol!}

Keeping the image in our mind of believers being parts of a living body, the body of Christ: **what does it mean to ‘live a victorious life before God’?** Specifically, what are the characteristics we ought to look for of a Christian community that is healthy and operating according to God’s will?

Here are some of the essential features of such a community we ought to recognize:

- **Jesus Christ is preeminent**: our Priest, our King, our Savior, our God, our Sacrifice
- Christians are **united**: there is no loyalty to any denomination, or division of the body
- Christians are **equal**: there is no clergy / laity distinction – all are ministers with gifts
- Christians are **servants**: ministering to every need within the body as if it were their own
- Christians are **humble**: each one says in his heart ‘I am the greatest sinner’
- Christians are **meek**: hungry to know the will of God and eager to do it
- Christians are **bonded**: knitted together in intimate relationships
- Christians are **loving**: giving graciously to whosoever has need
- Christians are **responsible**: working so as not to be a burden to others

The Kings of Israel failed horribly to please God because their lives contradicted in almost every way the criteria we just listed of lives that please God. In fact, they failed to meet any of the criteria:

- Kings determined the laws of the land, and by doing so often set aside the Law of God
- Kings begat wars and striving within God’s people for succession and influence
- Kings by their nature were exalted over the people, thus creating perpetual inequality
- Kings did not serve, they ruled. God’s people became the servants of the King, not of God
- Kings rarely sought counsel from God’s prophets or teachers – they bowed to no one
- Kings became isolated and disconnected from their people to the point they resented them.
- Kings were focussed on keeping power and fighting rivals. They acquired, they did not give.
- Kings become richer and more privileged – placing taxes on others, who become poorer.

We can now see **how impossible it is to please God when one puts oneself in the place of a ruler among God’s people, or when one serves under such a ruler.** The Kingdom of God is completely opposite to the kingdoms of this world. When Israel asked for a King ‘like the nations’ the prophet

Samuel could only say: “**And you will realise what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the LORD when you asked for a king**” (1 Samuel 12:17). If you are part of a community that calls itself Christian that does not operate according to the ways of the LORD – why are you there?

### ILLUSTRATION OF THE INDIAN TEEPEE

The native Indians of the plains of North America have a tent called a 'teepee'. It is a movable structure made of poles and animal skins. A teepee is set up in a circle and all the poles of the teepee tilt inward so that they rest on each other at the apex of the tent. None of the poles of the teepee stands alone - each pole is resting on another pole. All the poles interlock at the apex and form a solid structure that holds up the tent.



Think of each pole as a Christian and the teepee as the Christian community. At the base **the poles are set in the ground in a circle** - this speaks of equality in the body of Christ - there is no corner, no one is more important than anyone else. **No pole is able to stand by itself** - every pole needs all the other poles to stand. This speaks of the inadequacy of a Christian trying to live the Christian life outside of community. Finally, **all the poles 'tilt in'**: when Christians bow to God and submit themselves to love and serve one another - what a strong building we are!

The Kings of the Jews stood alone. They had the Spirit of God but none of them was adequate by themselves to live a victorious life before God. God has not called us to be kings or to stand alone, but to be servants living in community with other servants. **When we have forgotten about personal achievement and are swallowed up in the life of the body – then we are pleasing God!**

---

<sup>5</sup> Source of image: turbosquid.com

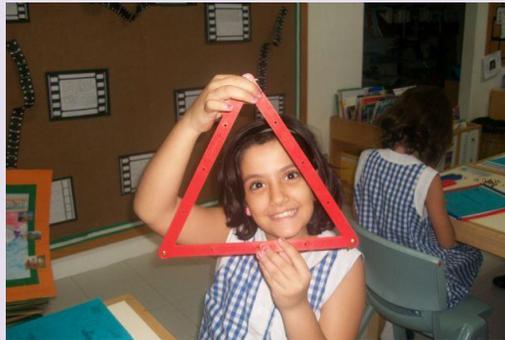
The wise among you will see that the shape of a teepee is a triangle that is rotated 360 degrees at the midpoint of the base. The triangle is the shape of God - reflecting the trinity: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. **The church is meant to be the reflection of God: the witness or the testimony of the truth of God in the world.** Just as there is equality within the trinity, so must there be equality among believers saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.

For those readers who wish to look further into the spiritual significance of the geometric shape of the cone, we offer the following analysis using spiritual numbers. What we find is all the conclusions of Scripture regarding living the overcoming life before God as described in this paper are also contained in the geometry of the cone. If you have a mind for wisdom, please read on.

## SPIRITUAL GEOMETRY OF A TEEPEE (A CONE)

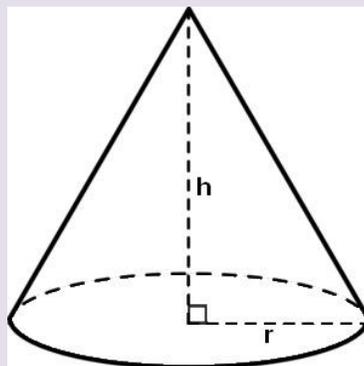
### Introduction – The Equilateral Cone

An equilateral cone is based on the equilateral triangle [three equal sides of length 1]:



6

An equilateral cone is an equilateral triangle that is rotated 360 degrees about the midpoint of the base:



<sup>6</sup> Source of image: (girl with red triangle) patina.ac.th (image of a cone) squidoo.com

**Part One – The Surface Area of the Equilateral Cone**

The equilateral cone has the following dimensions:

Length from Base to Apex =	1
Diameter of the Base =	1
Surface of Cone =	2.35619
Surface of Base =	0.78540
Total Surface of All Sides =	3.14159 ( <b><u>exactly equal to <math>\pi</math></u></b> )

What is the spiritual interpretation of this geometry?

If we multiply all the dimensions by 10 they are:

Length from Base to Apex =	<b><u>10</u></b>	
Diameter of the Base =	<b><u>10</u></b>	
Surface of Cone =	23.5619	[rounded = <b><u>24</u></b> ]
Surface of Base =	7.8540	[rounded = <b><u>8</u></b> ]
Total Surface of All Sides =	31.4159	[rounded = <b><u>31</u></b> ]

Here are the spiritual meanings of the dimensions of the surface area:

**10** has the spiritual meaning "**Testimony**"

**8** has the spiritual meaning "**Believer**"

**24** has the spiritual meaning "**Priest**"

**31** has the spiritual meaning "**Family**"

Putting these meanings together, the spiritual meaning of a cone based on the rotation of an equilateral triangle is:

**"Testimony: The Family of Believer Priests"**

How appropriate that the surface of the cone, which is what the world sees, has the spiritual meaning of testimony to the world!

In spiritual numbers, 'testimony' refers specifically to the witness of the congregation of the faithful. Yes, spiritual numbers confirms that the equilateral cone, or the teepee, pictures the victorious life of the people of God.

### **Part Two – The Volume of the Equilateral Cone**

The volume of the equilateral cone with sides of length 1 and base of diameter 1 is:

Volume	=	0.226725		
Volume	=	2.26725	(multiply by 10)	[rounded = <b>2</b> ]
Volume	=	22.6725	(multiply by 100)	[rounded = <b>23</b> ]
1/Volume	=	4.410635		[rounded = <b>4</b> ]
1/Volume	=	44.10635	(multiply by 10)	[rounded = <b>44</b> ]
1/Volume	=	441.0635	(multiply by 100)	[rounded = <b>441</b> ]

Here is where the spiritual interpretation requires insight. **In geometries, whenever points, lines or surfaces enclose other points, lines or surfaces they dominate them.** In spiritual terms, they overcome their power or their influence. Note: For more examples of using this technique to spiritually interpret geometries we recommend a visit to page 6.0 GEOMETRY on [www.biblenumbersforlife.com](http://www.biblenumbersforlife.com).

The spiritual numbers related to the volume of the cone relate to undesirable things for a community of believers:

The spiritual number 2 means "**Division**"

The spiritual number 23 means "**Death**"

The number 4 means "**Measure**" or "**Message**" or "**World**"

The spiritual number 44 means "**Blood Thirsty Murderers**"

The spiritual number 441 means "**Lawlessness Exalted**"<sup>7</sup>

However, **since the surface of the cone contains within it the volume of the cone, all these negative things will not happen to the body of believers when it operates the way God meant us to operate.** When the body of Christ operates according to God's will, according to the divine

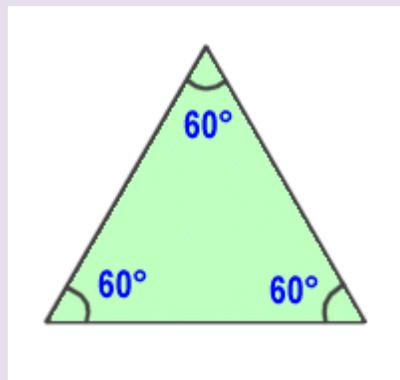
<sup>7</sup> 441 = 21 squared. The spiritual number 21 means "Lawlessness". Whenever a number is squared it is 'exalted' or lifted up as something worthy (which under the circumstances, considering what 21 means, is highly wicked indeed).

principles set forth in Scripture for the family of faith, or in geometric terms when we arrange our relationships and spiritual orientation like a teepee, we overcome! We live the victorious life before God!

- We have **unity**: therefore we overcome "**Division**"
- We have **life**: therefore we overcome "**Death**"
- We are **meek and lowly**: we overcome the "**World**" (whose "**Message**" is: **live for yourself**)
- We have **victory**: our enemies cannot defeat us, even the "**Blood Thirsty Murderers**"
- We have **decency and order**: "**Lawlessness**" will not be "**Exalted**" in our tent!

### **Part Three – The Angles of the Equilateral Cone**

Being based on the equilateral triangle, the angles of the equilateral cone are simple: 60 degrees at the top (in any and every direction) and 60 degrees at any point all around the base.



8

The sum of the three interior angles of the equilateral triangle is 180 degrees (which is also true for the sum of the interior angles of any triangle).

Here are the spiritual meanings of the numbers of the angles:

- The spiritual meaning of the number **6** is "**Man**"
- The spiritual meaning of the number **60** is "**Earthly King**"
- The spiritual meaning of the number **18** is "**Bondage**"
- The spiritual meaning of the number **180** is "**Sin Brings A Curse**"

The way of the world is to set a man as king over the people. When this happens, as we see in the accounts of the first three kings of Israel in Scripture, the people enter into bondage to the earthly king. Ultimately, no good comes out of it because God cannot bless what is sin. Why is it sin? It is sin because He is the LORD - the king over God's people – not a man!

<sup>8</sup> Source of image: ducksters.com

Since the angles of the equilateral triangle are all contained within the lines of the equilateral triangle, the equilateral triangle [*which represents the Trinity*] and by extension the equilateral cone [*which represents the family of God operating in the will of God*] overcome these evils.

Thus, the family of God operating in the will of God will not appoint a man to be ruler over itself (be it a 'priest' or a 'pope' or a 'chief minister'). Therefore, the people of God will not fall into bondage to that human ruler. Finally the people of God will not fall under the judgement and condemnation of God. God's kingdom will stand – while the kingdoms of this world will fall. Hallelujah!

## IN CONCLUSION

Listen to the words of Jesus:

“You are **the light of the world** [the righteous community of believers]

A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Neither do people **light a lamp** and put it under a bowl.

Instead they put it on a stand and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, **let your light shine before men**, that they may see your good deeds

And **praise your father in heaven**” (Matt. 5:14-16)

And, what would be the shape of a lamp flame? The answer: conical.



9

---

<sup>9</sup> Source of image: flickr.com