



The Kentucky Keystone



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Volume 27 Number 7

Published Monthly by the Grand Chapter of Kentucky, Royal Arch Masons

March 2016



*ME Companion Stewart F. Strickland
Grand High Priest Message*

Dear Companions of the Royal Arch Chapters of Kentucky:

March marks the mid-way point of the Capitular year. Time is swiftly moving by and there remains much to do. Continue the course that you are on. Things are looking good from many vantage points and I appreciate all of your efforts in making Masonry stronger and better in Kentucky.

My duties as Grand High Priest will now take on the added responsibilities of representing the Grand Chapter at various Sister Grand Jurisdictions and Appendant Grand Bodies. These things I do with the utmost pride in Capitular Masonry. I was forced to curtail my February travel schedule somewhat because of weather and because of the health of my mother. I had to travel to Georgia a couple of times to tend to some of her needs.

But I have a great core of officers who have been there ready to take up any slack. I have laid out another ambitious month of travel for March and hope to get to see many of you around the state.

We are in the midst of evaluations. Do the best that you can and try to make a good showing for the evaluations. Try to have a good attendance, open and close in form, do degree work if you can and try to not use the ritual books. Remember to use the Leader handbooks, have regular educational lessons and support R.A.R.A. by collecting money at each meeting.

Those are just some of the few, simple things we can do at each meeting to make our Chapters stronger.

Fraternal greetings to each of you and I continue to wish each of you the best.

Fraternally,

Stewart F. Strickland

Grand High Priest, 2015-2016

March Education Talk

Zerubbabel: The Signet of the Lord

In the Royal Arch Degree, much is made of the Signet Ring of the Master of the Third Veil. It is said to be the Signet of Zerubbabel, or that of Truth. What is the significance of this part of our ritual? I hope to shed further light on this in this month's educational talk.

In [Haggai 2:23](#), you should notice some familiar words. The Prophet of God said, "On that day," declares the LORD Almighty, "I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel," declares the LORD, "and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you."

The signet ring that we pass on is only a symbol for Zerubbabel, whom God said, was His signet. What did God mean when He said Zerubbabel was His signet?



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Ancient kings used signets to designate authority, honor, or ownership. A signet contained an emblem unique to the king. Official documents were sealed with a dollop of soft wax impressed with the king's signet, often kept on a ring on his finger.

Such a seal certified the document as genuine, much like a notary public's stamp today. In [1 Kings 21:8](#), the evil Queen Jezebel took King Ahab's signet and "wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal." The ring's stamp gave her letters the king's authority. In [Daniel 6:17](#), a signet ring was used to seal a stone covering a lions' den: "A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel." A royal signet ring is also featured in [Genesis 41:41-43](#) and [Esther 8:8](#).

It is also important to understand who Zerubbabel was. He was the governor of the rebuilt Jerusalem and was himself of royal blood, being a descendant of David and the grandson of Judah's King Jehoiachin. Years earlier, Jehoiachin had lost his throne when he was deported to Babylon. In fact, God pictured Jehoiachin as a signet ring being removed from God's finger ([Jeremiah 22:24](#)). Now, God called Zerubbabel the "signet ring," but this time it would not be removed.

In Haggai's prophecy, God was giving Zerubbabel encouragement and hope. The governor was "chosen" for a unique and noble purpose. As God's signet ring, Zerubbabel was given a place of honor and authority. God was reinstating the Davidic lineage and renewing His covenant that He had made with David, and through David, with Judah. Judah still had a future as they looked forward to the coming Son of David, the Messiah, who would one day "overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms" ([Haggai 2:22](#)). As God's Signet, Zerubbabel was God's seal, pledge, and guarantee of His promise of restoration.

Zerubbabel was also called "my servant." That title was often a Messianic reference in the Old Testament ([2 Samuel 3:18](#); [1 Kings 11:34](#); [Isaiah 42:1-9](#); [49:1-13](#); [50:4-11](#); [52:13-53:12](#); [Ezekiel 34:23-24](#); [37:24-25](#)). The triad of servant, son, and signet ring created a special combination of encouragement given to only a select few in the Scriptures. Zerubbabel was an important leader involved in the reconstruction of the Jewish temple. As God's "signet ring," Zerubbabel became a picture of the

people in the Promised Land, construct an even grander temple ([Zechariah 6:12-13](#)), and lead the righteous in never-ending worship.

Where does the idea of "truth" enter? Zerubbabel was a champion of truth. Zerubbabel was a friend of Darius Hystaspis, and successfully competed before him in a contest whose object was to determine what was the strongest thing in the world - wine, kings, women, or truth. Zerubbabel demonstrated that truth was the mightiest of all, and by doing so was called the king's "cousin," given the title "Prince of Truth," and was granted permission to go up to Jerusalem and to build the temple. Zerubbabel was made a governor of Jerusalem, and performed also the duties of the Tirshatha, a high official who was the Persian equivalent of a tax collector.

(Reading and discussing this in open Chapter counts as an educational meeting on your annual inspection. Please record such in your minutes.)

Grand High Priest Itinerary March 2016

Upcoming Itineraries (Tentative and Subject to Change)

- 1-Richmond Chapter
- 3-Taylor Chapter
- 5-1st Grand Veil Meeting, Madisonville
- 8-Cynthiana Chapter
- 11-12-East Central Regional Conf.,
Bay City, MI
- 14-Mayfield York Rite
- 15-Plain City Lodge
- 17-West Ky Scottish Rite
- 21-Grand Chapter Tennessee
- 22-Paducah York Rite
- 24-Temple Chapter, Newport
- 25-Covington Chapter (5:30)



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Carl A. Jones
Most Illustrious Grand Master

Companions:

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Matthew 28:6

Remember March 27 is **Easter**

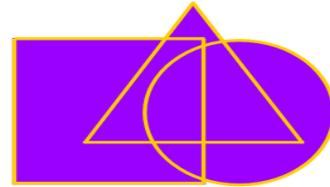
Congratulation to the following for their work in the Ritualist Program:

Glasgow York Rite Festival February 6, 2016

Select Ritualist

James V. Jones
Matthew Lewis

Fraternally thine,
Carl A. Jones
MIGM



All Council Day
Morehead Council #45 and
Highland York Rite College #134

May 14, 2016

On May 14, 2016 Morehead Council #45 and Highland York Rite College #134 will be hosting an “All Council Day”. Morehead Council #45 will confer Royal Master’s degree beginning at 9:00 AM (Eastern Time) followed by the Select Master’s degree.

There will be a break for lunch and after lunch the Highland York Rite College will confer the Super Excellent Master’s degree.

If your Council has candidates ready for these degrees they will need to be there before 9:00 to get registered. Without the Royal and Select Master degrees, neither the Master Mason degree nor the Royal Arch degree is complete. These two degrees account for the concealment and preservation of the treasures revealed in the Royal Arch.

The Super Excellent Master is an honorary degree, qualifications for which are fulfilled by virtue of being in good standing in a Council. This degree is the most dramatic and spectacular of all Masonic systems.