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NO. 204

WHAT HOUSE WILL YOU BUILD FOR ME?

GARMENTS FOR THE SOUL

“And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.” (Gen.2: 8) Shortly after that, we read that *“The Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”* (Vs.18) Note that this was not a “Helpmate” like a servant, it was a “Help meet for him,” one comparable to him. Then we read how the Lord took a rib from the man and made it into a woman.

It was then that Adam looked at her and said, *“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called “Woman,” (Ishshah) because she was taken out of Man. (Ish)”* (Vs.23) And then we read, *“And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”* (Vs.25)

This was the way it was in the age of “innocence,” but it was not to stay that way so before they even had a child together, Eve had an evil visitor. When she yielded herself and her husband to the serpent, things took a sharp turn and the first thing they noticed was their nakedness. All of a sudden, they hid themselves from God because they saw that they were naked.

Now they wanted to hide but had nothing to cover themselves. Among the trees they found the fig tree with its large leaves and used that. The fig tree speaks of the Law and the leaves of that tree speaks

of the works of the Law (works of righteousness).

Then God dealt with their nakedness. In His mercy He covered them with coats of skin. Now although they still had a soul that could seek God, they were lowered into the realm of beasts. Now that they had been defiled, they were separated from God and no longer radiated His glory.

One may ask why Adam did not make an effort to save his wife at the time. Adam could not because as her husband, he had to cling to her. It would be later that Christ, through the death of the cross, would save His bride, the woman (soul).

So Adam and Eve and all their seed thereafter were clothed in corruptible garments. It is only in Christ that these garments are replaced by the eternal garments of glory, or bodies of resurrection. The word resurrection denotes that one has gone through death and come back to life. To obtain a body of resurrection, one must pass from death to life and only by the Spirit of holiness can this be done..

Isaiah declared, *“Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”* (Isa.59: 1-2) Indeed the iniquities that were found in Adam and Eve separated them from ever hearing the voice of God through the Spirit as they had at first. Jesus

said, "...It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Matt.4:4) When they stopped hearing His voice, they died. It is when we hear the voice of the Son of God from our own bodily grave that we are quickened to life again. The power of resurrection works in us as we hear His voice. There is no other way.

When God spoke to Adam and Eve in the garden, it was in the "cool of the day." This does not mean that it was in the morning as it may seem. The cool of the day is best translated, "*The voice or the wind of the breeze.*" Adam and Eve were hearing God from the Spirit. When they sinned, they could no longer hear Him.

IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH

"If we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is free from sin." (Rom.6: 5-7 KJV)

The death of Jesus was different from any death that had ever taken place on earth. Within Jesus dwelt the Presence of the Father by the Spirit. It was the Spirit of holiness that raised Jesus from the dead. Without the Spirit, Jesus would have had to be saved as men do.

Speaking about Jesus, Paul wrote, "...concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." (Rom.1: 3-4)

To be planted in the same death as Jesus means to die with the Holy Spirit within us. This is the power of resurrection within us. "*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you. He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*"(Rom.8: 11) This is why the Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance. "*That we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His*

*glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **who is the guarantee** (earnest) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."* (Eph.1: 12-14)

We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and this guarantees that when we lose this tabernacle of flesh and blood, we receive the tabernacle of flesh and bones that Jesus purchased for us through His death and resurrection. With this Holy Spirit of promise we know that our souls will never be naked for they are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

EAT MY FLESH

It was after Jesus had fed the five thousand with the five barley loaves that He spoke about the "bread from heaven." Those who heard Him on that day could not really understand what He was talking about, and how many among us can catch a glimpse of what He really meant?

First Jesus had fed the five thousand, then on the same day He explained about the manna that Moses fed the people in the wilderness. When Jesus gave the barley loaves to the five thousand, it was the life of their earthly bodies of flesh that He fed. When Jesus explained about Moses and the manna in the wilderness, He was showing them that the manna was food to sustain the life of their earthly bodies.

But when He told them that they must eat His flesh, He was trying to bring them up higher by showing them that there is another life to feed and another body that needs bread for life. He was teaching them, as well as us, that what He had to give was much more profitable than what we so faithfully labor for each day.

He declared, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*" (Jn.6: 32-33) It was in this same teaching that Jesus told his bewildered disci-

ples, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.”* (Vs.53)

Paul writes, *“All flesh is not the same, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts...There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies...”*(Vs.39a-40a)

Paul was explaining that just as we know there is human flesh and the flesh of fish and birds, there are also bodies that are made of eternal flesh and not of earthly minerals. We know that the body of resurrection that Jesus displayed for forty days and nights was not made of earthly substance.

What Jesus was offering to His disciples on that day, was not the earthly body that was formed in Mary' womb, it was His body of resurrection. He was explaining that there is another body that needs food each day, just as the natural body needs food to survive. As Moses fed them with manna to survive in the wilderness, Jesus was presenting Himself as the source of life for this new body.

When God spoke the creatures of the earth into being, He said, *“...Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its own kind.”* And it was so.” (Gen.1: 24) This is a law established by God and it can never be crossed or changed: flesh begets after its own kind.

The flesh body of the first Adam can only beget more same flesh bodies. The seed or sperm of the first Adam can only beget more after his own body of mortal flesh. But, by the power of the God who created all beings, Jesus came with a new seed and He planted this seed in the earth of a man. He became that Man, the Son of Man.

This is why He said, *“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man you have no life in you.”* He was not speaking of Himself as He stood in flesh and blood in front of them, He was speaking of the One who was to be the firstborn of the new creation of God in Christ.

Jesus as Son of Man and High Priest, ascended to the Father and presented His blood to Him. The Fa-

ther received this new creation Man within Himself. Then the Father sent the Spirit of this new Man to us.

Beloved, the Holy Spirit within you and me is not only the Spirit of God; it is the Spirit of the Son of Man and Son of God. It is this Spirit who is able to communicate with us and bring up spiritual truths in such a way that we understand them with our conscious minds. He is the only One who is able to open the Father's realm to us here on earth. He establishes the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

The Spirit of the Son of God and Son of Man holds the seed of this new creation of God in Christ, and He comes to us as the Bread from heaven. When we hear the voice of the Spirit from within, we are receiving from the One who is the Bread from heaven and His resurrected body is being formed in us.

Just as we feed our natural bodies with daily bread, it is necessary that we feed our new bodies with the daily bread that His Spirit feeds us from within. The blood of this body is the new life that we receive when we partake of Him by the Spirit. May the spirit of revelation awaken our understanding to the truth of this word and give us a hunger for the true bread of life.

DEAD TO SIN

Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God provided the perfect sacrifice for sins. He is not a sacrifice that needs to be repeated every year as the priests of Israel, the Levites had to do to atone for the sins of the people. The atonement that Jesus our High Priest, provides for us on His cross needs not be repeated. It stands good forever and for all.

“Paul writes, *“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Rom.6: 11)

To reckon is to take into account, to calculate and consider. This means that each time sin rises up in our hearts and thoughts, we are to consider that we are dead to sin so that we do not respond or yield ourselves to it. Each time we are tempted, we turn

to Him who is our life and we resist the temptation. Dead people do not sin for they do not give life to sinful actions.

This is what Paul is teaching as he continues, *“Therefore do not let sin reign (rule) in your mortal body, that you should obey its lusts.”* (Vs.12) Sin has “lusts” or strong cravings and appetites. Sin is addictive, the more we yield to it, the stronger it begins to rule our lives. Paul continues by saying that our weapon against the sin that always wants to take over in our mortal bodies, is not “the Law.” For the law can only reveal sin but has no power to help us overcome it. Now we rely on the grace of God that is ours through His Spirit.

It means that as we live this life, we reckon ourselves dead by the power of the cross, and daily we are cleansed from the iniquity that resides in our mortal flesh. It means that through His Holy Spirit, we can once again hear the voice of God, and it reaches our conscious mind so that we are able to understand Him. Then we can know Him, walk with Him and obey Him. Our old Adam man is dead and we become a creature in tune with God; we are born from above.

OUR DEEPEST YEARNING

“For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.” (II Cor.5: 2-4)

Adam and Eve found that they were naked because they had lost God's covering for their soul. Prior to their fall, they were clothed with the Spirit, but through disobedience, they lost their spirit garment and found themselves unclothed. Their first instinct was to cover themselves with fig leaves but God's mercy covered them with bodies of flesh and blood.

The fig leaves speak of the works of righteousness that they began to do in order to cover their sinful soul. But God gave them “coats of skin” and

clothed them. This showing that it would be through the pouring of blood that their souls would be saved. Indeed we have become quite adept in hiding our true selves under these tents of skin.

Death has been a fearful thing because our souls know that when we lose this garment of skin, we are naked and forever separated from God. But knowing that when this body is dissolved, we slip into another body, there is no more fear. *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”* (Heb.2: 14-15)

Through His death, Jesus destroyed the power of death that the devil had over us, therefore we never need to fear death. We may grieve because for a time we leave our loved ones and all we are accustomed to, but we should not fear, for our Comforter is the Holy Spirit. He is the down payment, the guarantee that we have the same body that Jesus displayed after His resurrection.

This is indeed what we groan and yearn for. This is why Michael was so very happy when I saw him after he had left his earthly body in the grave; he was clothed with a new body. He looked just like he did only so much nicer. This is why Dorothy's husband spoke to her from beyond and told her that she would be there shortly as well, only she would not go through the grave. Truly, by the power of God's Spirit, mortality is being swallowed up of life.

When Jesus cried, *“It is finished!”* He triumphantly declared to all that He had accomplished what God had sent Him to do. He had traded His mortal body for a body from heaven. He had done this, not only for Himself but as the Firstborn among many brethren, He had done it for all who would follow Him so that when they were revealed, others would follow as well.

Paul declares, *“He who has prepared us for this very thing is God!”* When we repented and were

baptized, He was preparing us. When we received the baptism in the Holy Ghost; He was preparing us. When He speaks to us and leads us into all truths; He is preparing us. We are constantly being prepared for this.

OUR TWO TABERNACLES

The two compartments of the Tabernacle of Moses depict the two bodies or houses of our soul. The Holy Place was serviced by Aaron and his four sons, this being a type of the five ministries that Jesus gave to His church to bring them into *"...the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."* (Eph.4: 13)

The Holy Place speaks of our earthly journey in Christ in these bodies. Beyond the veil we become as He is and are clothed with our bodies from above. Only the High Priest could enter into the Holy of Holies. When He rent the veil of His flesh, He opened the way for us to enter in. It is in our High Priest Jesus that we enter behind the veil, first in Spirit, then in our redeemed and cleansed soul, finally to receive our new bodies.

"But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing." (Heb.9: 7-8)

Jesus took His own blood all the way into the Holy of Holies. He offered it to the Father, for Himself and for all the people's sins committed in ignorance. When we get this far in our walk, there are still sins that we commit because we do not know that they are sins. All that is not of faith is sin. We thank our God for His Spirit who daily reveals our sins so that we can embrace the cross and reckon our sin nature dead with Him.

These sins are cleansed by the blood that He offers as we enter the Holy of Holies in Him. We are covered by the blood of the Lamb, all the way. *"Now*

this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man." (Heb.8: 1-2)

Now we no longer deal with types and shadows, we dwell in the reality. The tabernacle is no longer a building made of boards and curtains; the true tabernacle is the body that God has purposed and designed for Himself in us. As long as we are still in our earthly tabernacle or body, we cannot physically enter into God's presence.

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, but when we are clad with our tabernacle from heaven, we will know Him as He is and we will enter into His very presence. This, beloved, is why we are groaning from deep within, to be clothed with our tabernacle from above.

OUR HEART AS DAVID'S HEART

It was God who had chosen King Saul to rule over His people. Saul was from a wealthy family and he stood head and shoulders taller than all other men. He was handsome with great physical strength and agility. He was the best that could be found in Israel at the time and God anointed him to be king.

At first, Saul showed himself to be a modest man and a great leader, but he lacked a very important thing...his heart was not for God. As time went by, he began to feel the power of his position and because his heart was not right, he did not hesitate to boldly decide to disobey God. For this, God rejected him and one day, Samuel the prophet came to him and said, *"The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people..."*(I Sam.13: 14a)

The man that God had chosen was David the son of Jesse. When God chose David, he had not yet been born and when he was but a youth, God sent Samuel to Jesse's house to find him.

David had absolutely no training as a leader let

alone as a king, but he had a shepherd's heart. He had fought the lion and the bear with his bare hands to protect his father's sheep. In the meantime, King Saul was suffering from bouts of anger, frustration and depression, so David was brought into the court to play his harp and soothe the king. However Saul had enough sensitivity to recognize that David was the one who had been chosen to one day replace him. He felt threatened and in one of his fits of rage tried to kill the young man. David had to flee for his life. For fourteen years David ran from Saul, hiding in caves and forests as a wild man.

Looking at the situation, it seems that God had chosen the wrong man, but indeed this was all His plan for David. God was training him to be king and this was what He had ordained for him. God did not choose David after he tested him. God chose David from the foundation of the world and then He trained him and tested him.

When we see ourselves in David, we understand that all that has taken place in our lives has been ordained for us from the foundation of the world. What has been unfolding in our lives is God's training for us to be kings and priests. While we are hiding in "caves" and "forests," we may long for the beautiful choirs, the nice music, warm fellowship and recognition that we left behind in the churches, but when we know who we are in Christ, we rejoice that He is training us to rule and reign with Him.

When Solomon dedicated the magnificent temple at Jerusalem, he said, *"But the Lord said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart.'"* (II Chron. 6: 8) What we need to see here is that it was David's heart that won him the prize. God's desire is and has always been to dwell among His people and be known of them.

When He gave Moses the pattern for the first tabernacle, He said, *"And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them."* (Ex.25: 8) David had the heart to build God a dwelling place. This is the heart after God's own heart. This is what took priority in David's heart and it is what God looks for in His people.

"Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies all around, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, 'See now, I dwell in a house of cedar; but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.'" (II Sam.7: 1-2)

David's heart was tender for the Lord and He wanted to do the right thing for Him. He inquired of Nathan the prophet who saw nothing wrong with that, but when Nathan inquired of God he heard this, *"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.'"* (Vs.5-6)

Although Solomon was chosen to build the first magnificent temple of the Lord, David never gave up his dream of building God a house; he made all the preparations and gathered all the materials.

All this happened for our learning at the end of this age. We have a greater than Solomon building God's house, He is Jesus the Christ, of the seed of David and He is the chosen One who, by His Spirit, is building the true temple of God not made with hands.

TEMPORARY TENTS

Although this tabernacle is not made of tent curtains of fabric nevertheless, it is made of temporary materials called "human bodies." Paul said, *"For we know that if our earthly house, THIS TENT, is destroyed..."* (II Cor.5: 1a) Just as the tent of David housed the Ark of the Covenant, so the tents with David's heart (a heart after God) house the presence of God by the Spirit.

The new heart that God is giving us is as the heart of David. It is a heart that desires above all things to see God rule and reign from within the heart of His people. It is the heart that desires to express the Father to the world. Because it is our heart's great desire to build a dwelling place for God, we often direct our resources to erect church buildings and

places to congregate and to call "God's house." The many cathedrals and churches in the world attest to that.

It is as we awaken in the Spirit that we realize that the true house of God is being built by His Spirit within. His house is the very spirit, soul and body that we wear as the "tent of David," and where we fight our battles with the enemies of our soul. But when we are complete in Him, He will arise from within and we will be seen by all as His magnificent eternal house not build with hands. God does not change. His heart's desire is still to be seen and known by His creation.

David was passionate about bringing up the Ark of God to Jerusalem and building a temple for His glory. The first time that David set out to bring up the Ark, it was a disaster. They were all very excited about what they were doing and forgot to inquire at how God wanted it done. So they set the Ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab where it had been kept all these years and they played music before the Ark on all kinds of instruments as they went.

But when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah, one of David's beloved men, put out his hand to the Ark and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. *"The anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error and he died by the Ark of God."* (II Sam.6: 7)

After God slew his beloved Uzzah, David was shaken to the core and greatly afraid of the Lord. He would not move the Ark and it remained in the house of Obed-Edom for three months. But when David saw that the Lord blessed Obed-Edom because of the Ark, he set out to move it, however, this time he did it according to the ways of the Lord. During all of David's reign, the Ark of God dwelt in the tent that David erected for Him. That tent is referred to as the "tabernacle of David."

The fear of the Lord that was in David should also be in us. We may not have caused physical death to anyone but we may have caused spiritual death thinking that we were doing God's work. This happens when we share a revelation or word with those

who are not ready for it. When they come against God's word, what we meant for life, produces spiritual death in them. When ministering the word, it is good to back away from those who simply cannot receive it or who want to debate it. It is best to just confirm what God speaks to them.

There came a day when the apostles of Jesus met in Jerusalem to try to resolve a conflict concerning circumcision. It was during that meeting that James, quoted the prophet Amos, *"After this, I will return, and will build again the **tabernacle of David** which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up that the residue of men might seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles upon whom My name is called, says the Lord who doeth all these things."* (Acts 15: 16-17 KJV)

We know that the Tabernacle in the wilderness and the tent that David erected for the Ark of God were only a type of His true temple. When Amos spoke of rebuilding the Tabernacle of David that had fallen down, he was referring to the body that Mary gave to our Lord Jesus, of the Seed of David, when He walked this earth.

The tent, or tabernacle of David refers to Jesus the Christ, the Seed of David born in the flesh. Within Jesus, the Son of God, dwelt the true Ark of the Covenant- the Presence of God. This is the Tabernacle that James was speaking about when he quoted the prophet Amos. This is the Tabernacle that had fallen, on the cross but that He is rebuilding in us as His body.

As the tent tabernacle preceded the temple building, so these tents, indwelt by the Holy Spirit precede the eternal bodies of glory in Christ. By the Spirit, the Lord has returned and He is preparing each one to be a part of this magnificent dwelling place of God.

We know that in resurrection, Jesus was given a much more glorious tabernacle or body, and that it is this body that we will possess on that day. However, while the temple is in the works, while the materials for the building are being gathered, chiseled and polished, the tabernacle of David is raised

up in us. While we have not yet received our new bodies, here on earth, it is in this very tent that He has placed His Ark and we are as He is in the world “the tabernacle of David.” *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.”* (II Cor. 4:7)

The temple refers to the complete church arrayed in glorious bodies. The tabernacle of David is the sinless body of the seed of David that Jesus had while on earth and that we have as His Holy Spirit quickens us within.

“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remain in Him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.” (I Jn.3: 7-9)

Jesus never sinned because He was fully born of God. As we follow the Holy Spirit daily we embrace the cross and we reckon our old sinful nature dead with Christ. As we walk in Him we are being born of God and we cannot sin. When we are in Christ, we cannot sin. If we sin we are not in Him. Now we still go in and out, but Jesus said that the day is coming when we will be as pillars and go no more out. *“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.”* (Rev.3: 12a)

According to John there are two kinds of seeds in the world. *“In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest...”* (Vs.10a) On the cross, Jesus became sin as the first Adam. The first Adam represents the works of the devil. The works of the devil gender death. In Adam, we have become the devil's masterpiece.

But on the cross, Jesus took that sinful nature all the way to death and by the Spirit of holiness that dwelt in Him, He arose from the dead and became the “second Man.” In His death, Jesus did not become the possession of the devil. In His death, Jesus

broke through the powers that death and hell held over man and he triumphed over them. By the power of the Spirit of holiness, He arose and received His body of resurrection, for Himself and for all who would follow Him in the new creation.

“The first man was of the earth, made of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. And as the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.” (I Cor.15: 47-49)

While we are here on earth, our tents all look alike. However when our tent is filled with the Ark of the Covenant, the very Spirit of the resurrected Christ, we are as He is in the world. We are the tabernacle of David. We are counted after His seed and we are His children. This is all in preparation for the erecting of His true temple.

Beloved, the temple to be revealed is not built by men in the Jerusalem of dust and stone over in the Middle East. The true temple that is about to be revealed is built by God. It is the Body of Christ after the image of the Son of God. We are that city and that temple. This is the city that Abraham was looking for, *“For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”* (Heb.11: 10)

May God open our spiritual eyes that we may clearly see the glory that is unfolding IN us and before us this day.

Because of His love, Jackie Caporaso