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UNMASKING THE MAN OF SIN

NO.298

ALL THINGS REVEALED

"Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known." (Lk.12: 1b-2) Jesus gave many important warnings about things that were going to unfold and come to pass after He completed His walk on earth.

Today, global communications open up a wide range of view on the world and we are able to see and hear what is happening near and far as never before. We are indeed witnesses of the fulfillment of the words spoken by our Lord Jesus long ago.

When Jesus walked the earth, He made it clear that He had little tolerance for the scribes and Pharisees. He flatly told them, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."(Jn.8:44)

The scribes and Pharisees were the teachers and rulers of God's people at that time. Among other things, Jesus called them "liars," thus they were ruling God's people with lies. Their appearances were proper and pious but inside, Jesus said, they were motivated by the devil.

Be not deceived, these hypocritical lying spirits did not go away when these Pharisees died, oh no! They multiplied in numbers and in cunningness and are today motivating the religious and secular rulers of our world. Their strong desire (lust) is to rule the world as God. They are the ruthless rulers of the darkness of this world. These spirits crucified our Lord Jesus and are still ruling the hearts of men today. They are the spirits that Christ defeated on the cross and is defeating in us and in the world today. One may think that we are fighting against flesh and blood, but indeed the warfare of the ages is against "...principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph.6:12)

When Jesus said to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, He was urging us to not be found with the same deadly attitude and lust in our hearts. The powers that are ruling the world now are filled with hypocrisy and guile. As it has so eloquently been said, "It is all a swamp that needs to be drained." Underneath the waters are hid all manners of hideous, dangerous schemes based on lies and deceits.

Most rulers are no longer interested in the good of the people; they are only after what they can get for themselves. Hypocrisy and greed are indeed sinking the creatures into a darker hell each day. Yet amid all the terrors and tribulations of our day, Jesus Himself is arising as the bright and morning Star in the hearts of a people. It is this bright Star that is causing the spirits of darkness to come out of their hiding places and expose their wickedness.

Beloved, this is not theory; it is reality. The distress that we are seeing in the world today IS THE

RESULT OF THE COMING OF CHRIST IN HIS BODY. Evil which has been ruling from the hearts of men in power, is now being crushed to powder.

What looks like a disaster to the world, is Christ taking over all principalities and powers. Of course this is playing out in flesh and blood, but the crux of the battle is in spiritual (high) places. Christ is taking His place in His temple (body in earth) and His Word is "...quick and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb.4:12)

Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." (Matt.10: 34) Indeed, this is what is happening today everywhere. His sword, His sharp cutting Word, is cutting away all that is not of God, in us and around us.

This does not contradict what was heard at the birth of Jesus when a multitude of angels rejoiced and lifted up their voices in sweet harmony singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (Lk.2:14 NASB)

Indeed, as the sword divides asunder the false from the true and the holy from the profane, true peace fills the hearts of those who truly seek to know Him who is the Truth.

THE MAN OF SIN REVEALED

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. Who opposeth and exaltedth himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself to be God." (II Thess.2: 3-4)

Some have asked, "What do you see for the year 2018?" My answer is, "I see more and more of Jesus Christ "revealing" Himself in the hearts of His people and driving out the "Man of Sin," who is the nature of the first Adam man. I see Christ as He

topples the works of the Cain man and raises the temple of the true God in the World. The Man of Sin is being exposed and left with no place to hide. The hearts of men are being sorely tested until they know that there is no more room for guile and hypocrisy in the earth.

As it was with the Pharisees of Jesus'day, the Man of Sin has been hiding behind the "good works" and false teachings of the worldly church. It has raised a generation of hypocrites and bigots who continually impose their ways on gullible and innocent people. The same spirit that Jesus strongly rebuked in the scribes and Pharisees has been ruling through the doctrines of man today.

The persecution of Christians is not new. History records the viscious ways that leaders have attacked those who threatened to expose their wickedness. The Huguenots in France were sorely persecuted by the kings who were under the power and influence of the Church. Most Huguenots lost their properties and wealth and were cast in prisons, tortured and killed. Their children were taken away to be raised Catholic. King Louis the 14th, called the Sun King for his popularity, gradually increased the persecution on the Huguenot population and reduced them from 800,000 to 1,000. Many who could not flee to other countries, lost their lives.

This comes from the spirit that sits in the temple of God (man) making itself to be God. Sadly today, that same spirit still shows up in our ranks, and I have had to examine myself as well. It is true that even among those (us) who have left the denominational systems behind, and are moving on with the Lord, there are divisions and strong disagreements about the true meaning of God's Word.

Such divisions cannot be avoided at this time, but we cannot yield ourselves to a spirit that uses God's Word to lord over or beat down those who disagree with us, even if we firmly believe that we have the absolute truth. This is the Pharisee spirit that is at work to undermine and destroy the works of God.

The same "Man of Sin" spirit is on display for us in

another prevalent religion gaining strength in the world today. It holds captive the minds of their converts, and brainwashes them into terrorizing, torturing and killing innocent victims with the reward of a heaven of lustful gratification.

This also issues from the same spirit as the children of hell. "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites (impostors)! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte (follower), and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child (son) of hell than yourselves." (Matt.23:15)

The "Man of Sin" that sits in the temple of God has found his favorite puppets in the rulers of this world. Indeed, the Man of Sin sits in the heart of every man, but it is in the rulers of this world that he is able to deploy the brute force of his wicked power over the populace. Surely the Man of sin is in full display throughout the world today, as men in power are ruining the lives of their citizens, without mercy or shame.

When Jesus addressed the Pharisees, He did not mince words. They were the hypocrites of His day, hiding their "dead men bones" under their religious cloaks. He never had a good word for them, because He knew they were self-righteous bigots. Through fear they controlled, not only the people's minds, but also of their hearts

Jesus called them sons of hell! And He called them IMPOSTORS! "Impostors" is the exact meaning of the word "hypocrites". They presented themselves as holy and pious servants of God and of the people, when indeed they were blind and did not know God.

The Pharisee spirit is that self-righteous, arrogant spirit that hides behind a pious pretense and permeates some of Christendom today. It is the spirit of Nero the despot, who ordered the burning of the city of Rome and then blamed his action on the Christians. He is also one who devised the most atrocious cruelties to torture and kill them.

Jesus rescued the woman caught in adultery from the hands of her accusers. They had gathered together to stone her to death. They were possessed of the same spirit that enforces the letter of the Law to kill without mercy. That spirit issues from the serpent (broods of vipers) and not from Christ. On that day, Jesus gave the woman mercy. Perhaps what He wrote in the sand was, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice."

Is there anyone good in the first Adam creation? The prophet Micah answers this way, "The good man is perished out of the earth; and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net." (Mic.7:2)

Paul declared, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. "They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Rom.3:10-12)

Jesus simply declared, "Why calleth thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God." (Mk.10:18) And again He said, "Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?" (Matt.5:7)

THE CATASTROPHIC MOMENT

It happened in the garden when the Impostor began his sly and malignant work. Adam was not there when the serpent approached the woman. We know that symbolically the woman is the "earth" and the man is the "spirit". The woman is the field that receives the seed and is able to produce the fruit of that seed. It is the "soul" that is able to give birth. Whether we are physically man or woman, we are all "women" or earth. So the serpent being the most cunning of any beast of the field, approached the woman.

At this point it is good to understand that the "beasts of the field" in the language of spirit, speak of the many natures that can manifest within us. Some are docile while others are violent. Some are honest while others are crafty. All these natures are contained within the first Adam seed.

When the Lord speaks to us through dreams, He often uses animals to make us understand what we are dealing with. Cats usually speak of the "independent" nature, dogs are the faithful guardians or the raging possessive personalities. The serpent, is the crooked twister who takes the Word of God and twists it to mean what he desires. He is the most subtle because he uses God's words to deceive. Of course, all dreams must be interpreted by the Spirit and not by the symbols, but this gives us an idea of where to look.

Jesus called the Pharisees, "Ye serpents, ye generations of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? (Matt.23:33) Vipers are highly venomous snakes. Their bites can kill a man within minutes and the teachings of the "impostors" has kept humanity in darkness and death.

So the "Impostor" approached the woman and injected the deadly seeds of lies into her mind and heart. When her husband found out, he stood true to his vow and joined and supported her. "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." (Gen.2: 23-24)

From this time forward, the woman gave birth to two manners of seeds. Her first two sons were Cain and Abel. Cain was a very religious man, but he had the wrong motives; he was proud of his labors and offered their fruits to God. Above all, he really believed that His sacrifice was better than Abel's.

He became a jealous murderer when God received his brother but rejected him. Cain was born of the serpent's seed. "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." (IJn.3: 12)

Jesus faced the Pharisees with the slaying of Abel and others, "That upon you may come all the right-eous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of

Barachias whom you slew between the temple and the altar." (Matt.23:35)

From the serpent in the garden, to Cain who slew Abel, to Esau who wrestled Jacob in the womb and kept him from being firstborn, to Saul who pursued David and ruthlessly sought to kill him, the seed of the serpent (Man of sin) has prospered in the earth.

All the righteous blood shed culminates at the cross of Calvary, when our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ shed His own righteous blood and so opened the way for man to overcome and destroy the seed of the Man of Sin (serpent) from the earth. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (IJn.3:8b)

And yet all this is part of God's perfect plan. To be in the image of the Son of God, one has to taste of both good and evil and has to overcome evil with good. This means that evil must be planted and rooted within each one of us that through the power of God's Spirit, we overcome it fully.

This is what Jesus did on the cross, when He overcame the total forces of evil and death. Through His Holy Spirit, evil must also be totally overcome in each one of us. This is the warfare assigned to the sons of God. For this reason, we are exhorted to beware and NOT rise up with the same evil spirit against those who do not agree with us.

John saw us in this vision, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war... And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and HIS NAME IS CALLED, THE WORD OF GOD. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." (Rev.19:11, 13,14)

The armies which are in heaven are the entire company of sons of God who are in the Spirit. The white horses represent the power of righteousness come in the flesh. The clothing of fine linen white and clean is the new creation man, free from the old carnal, beastly nature. The garments are the new

bodies.

The Leader is The Word of God. As we follow Him, we become God's righteousness in the earth. This is what we have been trained to do. We have already entered into the warfare of the ages which first took place within us and is now taking place in all of creation.

As sons, we are physically scattered all over the globe, but in the Spirit, we are assembled as one with the same Word. We all speak the same language, even though we came from different places. The armies of heaven have formed their ranks in the Spirit and while their forces are not visible to the natural eye; they are even now toppling the kingdoms of this world.

As one new man in Christ, we are the stone that Daniel saw, "Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king, what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation is sure." (Dan.3: 45)

Indeed, we know that historically, this has already taken place. We are now at the place of the last kingdom to be toppled. The Roman Empire which encompasses all of Europe and the United States is now collapsing under that stone which is the Word of God come in the flesh.

Note the elements or natures of these kingdoms that have been or are being toppled: the iron, which also speaks of the power of man's will in battle. The brass which represent the law and the strength of the law over the people. The clay, which is the power of the flesh. The silver and the gold which in this case represents the power of natural wealth.

Indeed, all these kingdoms were strong and mighty powers. They once dominated and held civilizations together. They were empowered by the cunningness of the carnal mind and in time, the stone crushed them to powder and left only traces of their grandeur in the world. Now, the same is repeated in

the last kingdom that still stands in the earth, (Europe and America). All treacherous behaviors and corrupt judgments will be exposed and destroyed until the last vestige of the world's dominions and governments are become dust.

THE PHARISEES AMONG US

In the world of Christendom, there are thousands of ministers who, for the most part, are not in agreement in their interpretation of the Bible. They are at various levels of understanding in the Light of the Word and they can only teach what they see. But even the blind leaders of the blind are filling a necessary place in God's plan.

Jesus made it clear that what He taught was not for everyone. Most of His teachings were for His disciples only. He spoke in simple parables so that the 'educated ones' could not understand. "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." (Matt.13:13)

Jesus did not want them to understand because they would twist it and trample His words. It is still the same today. We may know the written Word of God by heart, but if we cannot understand it by the right Spirit, we are as the Pharisees of Jesus' times. And the Pharisee spirit is alive and well among us today.

The Pharisees of today rule with the literal letter of the Word and with hearts of stone. They flaunt their knowledge of the Scriptures to control their flocks. They come together in groups to make void the Spirit of the Word and thus crucify the Son of God afresh and anew

They have tasted of the "...good word of God, and of the powers of the world to come.." yet they return to their old doctrines and "..crucify to themselves the Son of God, afresh and put him to an open shame." (Heb.6: 5-6) We have all known some of these and may have taken part of such ourselves.

Paul reminds us, ".. our sufficiency is of God; who hath made us ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." (II Cor.3: 5-6)

The epistles or letters of Paul, Peter and John are written to certain ones and not to all. They are addressed to specific groups of saints. This letter of Peter was addressed to those who are called to the new priesthood in Christ. Peter addressed them as well, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, and holy nation, a peculiar people..." (I Pet.2:9a) Anyone else reading these letters has no true understanding of what Peter is talking about.

The letter to the Hebrews is addressed to the "holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling. "Wherefore holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." (Heb.3:1)

AN EXHORTATION IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Hebrews is a book of "better things" where the writer compares the covenant of the Law with the new covenant in Christ, and the new Melchizedek priesthood with the Levitical priesthood of Moses. Years ago, brother Bill Britton wrote an anointed study on the Book of Hebrews.

The letter is written as an exhortation for us to keep our faith and hope high in the vision that is set before us. It teaches us to respect the ways of the Old Covenant but to follow Christ and hold fast to Him. "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence (assurance) and rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." (Heb.3: 6)

Israel was given the vision of a literal land of promise; a land that flowed with milk and honey. But the vision that has been given to us, is of a new creation man in Christ Jesus. This is the land that we have been promised. A body (land) where there is no more death. :And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Thes.5:23)

The generation that followed Moses in the wilderness did not please God. They were a stubborn car-

nal people who never knew God's ways. "Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, **They shall not enter my rest."** (Heb.3: 11)

They could not enter God's rest, but can we? Indeed, I believe that the recent dreams that I had about my husband coming into my house and waiting for me in the bed, has as much to do with entering His rest as with the time of consummation of the yows.

They could not enter into that rest because they failed to know God's ways. It is one thing to know His works and another to know His ways. It is one thing to analyze the Scriptures and be well educated in the Bible, but it is another to hear His voice and know His heart.

The generation that Moses led through the wilderness was following an "external" God. Even though we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, if we remain immature children, we are still under the Law, serving an "external" God. Today, it is no longer Moses leading through the desert; it is the Holy Ghost, leading us into all truths- out of darkness into the Light.

It is when we see the Light of truth that we know our God from within. In Passover and Pentecost we have known His works, but not His ways. When we move on to Tabernacles, the transition begins and the types and shadows become spiritual realities.

Jesus Christ came to earth and began to fulfill all that was written in the Law and the prophets. His "body" follows suit and continues to fulfill that which is left to fulfill of the plan of God. Paul said that he was filling up the cup of Christ sufferings.

When the Law and the prophets are fulfilled, we will be left with God all in all. The plan that God has designed for His creation will be completed in the earth as it was with Him in heaven.

God began His plan by creating the realm of "time" for there is no "time" in eternity. He spoke the Word and created all things that He desired in

creation. He created a man after His likeness and image from the beginning too. All was finished in the Word, but it had to be walked out on the earth. It was done in the spiritual, invisible realm of God but God wanted a tangible, visible creation.

The Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world, but Jesus still had to come from the physical womb of Mary and walk all the way to the cross and resurrection. It had been done, but had to be fulfilled.

God spoke of His plan through the prophets, but every word spoken by the prophets had to come to pass in the earth. When God finished His work in the Logos, He rested. When the work of God is finished in the earth as it is in heaven (spirit) we will enter His rest too. It is then that we will be changed and receive the promise of a new eternal spirit, soul and body.

From the signs of the times and from the Word that the Lord has been speaking, we are arriving at this "finish line." Our personal journeys have been filling up the cup of His sufferings. The events in the world are bringing up the end of the words spoken by all the prophets since time began. This is not our work; it is the work of God's Spirit in the earth. However, our part is of great importance, because it is through faith that it is finished in us. Our part is to believe and endure to the end.

Many believe that indeed Jesus came and died for their sins and that is good. But the "holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling" must continue to believe in the Word that He is revealing as we go.

When we stumble and reject His Living Word, we err in our hearts because we do not know His Ways. We may well know His works and we may have witnessed His power in our own lives, but we must also know His Ways. Today, His voice is being heard in our spirits and not only through the written Word, and above all, we are learning to trust Him who is the Life within us. This we learn as He takes us through the many daily trials of life.

In our spiritual immaturity, we needed to follow teachers and governors, but there needs to come a time when we cut the strings of "mother church" and begin to trust in the life that is arising in us. Often, mother church puts fear in her children because she is afraid to lose them. But this is one of the great overcomings that every son of God will pass. Israel could not enter into His rest because of un-

Israel could not enter into His rest because of unbelief. "Wherefore I (God) was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN MY WAYS. (Heb.3:10)

They had no faith. "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of UNBELIEF, in departing from the living God." (vs.12)

We may remain true to the written Word and yet depart from the LIVING GOD. We cannot stress enough, the need to hear His voice, as we continue in our calling and arrive to the culmination of our journey.

"Wherefore, as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will HEAR HIS VOICE, harden not your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness." (Heb.3: 7-8)

They were in a literal wilderness then, but we are in the wilderness of the world's teachings and doctrines today. They hardened their hearts and rejected the voice of God. It takes a hard heart of stone to reject the truth that the Lord is speaking in our ear today, or we could not reject it.

I remember a dream I had long ago about a man who was a true believer but very rigid in his beliefs. He once told me that the truth he had received from God was the highest that anyone could receive. He was convinced that there could be nothing more after that. This man was very sincere and very conscientious in his walk with the Lord, but he was sorely deceived in that respect.

The Lord gave me this dream, "I was going to visit him where he lived. It was a building made of solid concrete blocks. The stairs up to the door were of stone blocks too. When I went in, the room was narrow but clean to the point of being sterile. The walls were concrete too. There was a large stone sink in the middle of the room with one single light bulb on a string over it for light. I knew this sink was also used as a bed. The entire room had a feel of rigidity, coldness and barrenness." End of dream.

This dear man is a good Christian, but his heart cannot receive the Living Word that the Holy Ghost speaks to him from within. He does not know God's ways and he is not alone. Most of us have been there and may sometimes still be. We embraced our religion with zest and devotion and we stood strong and determined to follow what was good. But in spite of all these good intentions, if we close ourselves to His voice, our hearts will harden and we will remain stagnant.

Yet God promises His people a new heart and times of refreshing too. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." (Eze.36: 26)

I believe this time is now, because it is only when the "heart of stone" that comes from the Pharisee spirit is removed and changed, that the sons will be ready to deliver creation. The heart that has not found repentance and deliverance from the hardness of the Pharisee spirit is not ready or fit to judge and deliver the world.

Jesus Himself suffered being tempted so that He is able to succor those who are tempted. To succor is to 'assist, give help and relieve." It is because He suffered in the flesh and was tempted and tested even as we are that He is able to feel our pain and come to our help. So it is not because of our great knowledge of the Scriptures, but because we have been tempted, tested and have suffered in the flesh, that we are able to come to the rescue of those who are in distress as we have been.

This old hymn of the church was written by one who knew the heart of the Father and the call of the Son. Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying, Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave. Weep o'er the erring one, Lift up the fallen, Tell them of Jesus, the mighty One to save. JESUS IS MERCIFUL, JESUS WILL SAVE.

And the Spirit of the Psalmist proclaims loud and clear, *PRAISE YE THE LORD*, *O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD*, *FOR HE IS GOOD AND HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOREVER!!!* (Ps. 106:1)

And again, FOR THE LORD IS GOOD; HIS MERCY IS EVERLASTING, AND HIS TRUTH ENDURETH TO ALL GENERATIONS. (Ps.100:5)

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you; Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3: 19-21)

From all that is happening in the world today, one would never guess that our times are the precursors of the times of "refreshing." The Word "refreshing" means "Receiving of breath" or "Reviving." Be assured that indeed these times of great tribulations are the forerunners of the times of life out of death. Indeed, resurrection is at hand.

Jesus spoke the words of Isaiah in the temple at Jerusalem, and now He is speaking them from these living temples and giving us "...beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness..." (Isa.61:3b)

His presence is arising in the world today. Times of great repentance and times of refreshing are at the door.

May the Word of the Lord bless you and may our Lord and Father keep you safe from all harm.

Because of His love, Jackie Caporaso