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ESAU SUBDUED

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout the characters of the Bible is concealed the moving and ardent love story of Christ and His bride. To the casual reader, the Old Testament is at best a history book depicting entangled and violent accounts of bloody battles, defeats and victories. But when the truth that hid therein is revealed to us by the Spirit, we find that it gives us strength to overcome the challenges of our daily lives.

Peter wrote his second epistle to *“Stir up our pure minds...”* (II Pet.3:1) and so it is that the poignant love stories of the Book are written to stir up our pure minds and engage our attention to know more of Christ and of who we are in Him. Thus, by the Spirit we find ourselves in these characters and we understand better how our God is leading us into our full potential in Christ.

When the wise man wrote, *“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but it is the honour of kings to search out the matter.”* (Prov.25:2) he may have been thinking of the many ways that our God has hid the entire love story of Christ and His bride among the pages of the Book. The beautiful love story of Isaac and Rebekah and the birth of her twin boys certainly apply to the plan of God in our lives today.

REBEKAH

Most of us know the story of Abraham sending Eliezer, his trusted servant, to his own country of Mesopotamia to find a wife for his son Isaac. Eliezer was looking for one who was not from the

country of the Canaanites, and one who would be willing to joyfully draw from the well and water not only her father's flock but his camels also.

And so at evening time, Rebekah appeared. She was ready to water her father's flock but also quick to draw water for all his camels as well! She right away won his approval. He knew that he had found the one who would be his master's son's bride. What a beautiful type of God's Holy Spirit, sent to find a Bride for God's Son.

Indeed, the Bride of the Lamb is not found among the Canaanites; she is not of the world and its worldly religions. She is willing to draw from the wells of living waters to give life to her Father's flock and also to refresh the sons who bear the burdens of His Word (camels) through the wilderness of this world.

I once wrote about the camel's train going to fetch Rebekah for Isaac. Others have written about it, and someone wrote a song filled with joy and energy that makes our spirits soar! *“Oh! Get ready, evening shadows fall. Don't you hear the Eliezer call? There's going to be a wedding, our joy will soon begin, in the evening when the camel train comes in!”*

REBEKAH'S TWINS

Eliezer, the trusted servant (type of Holy Spirit) escorted the beautiful and willing Rebekah to the tents of Isaac (type of the Son). And so they were married and their lives became as one. Next, we find dear

Rebekah, very pregnant and considerably large and highly uncomfortable. She did not need an ultrasound to find out why she was so overly burdened; God told her, *“..Two nations are in thy womb, and two manners of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.”* (Gen.25: 23)

The life of Jacob is being re-lived in some way, by everyone who hears the call and has a clear understanding of the goal which is in Christ. All that they have been submitted to, struggled with and tested for, has been to bring the Jacob in them to an absolute change of nature, so that all their dreams and revelations may be realized. Thus they will arise as sons of God ready to take their place of dominion over the creation that He so loves.

What was taking place in Rebekah's womb was a raging battle between one who is driven by his potential to become “Prince of God,” and whose treasure is the inheritance of the firstborn. And the other who is physically stronger and stubbornly determined to keep him from fulfilling his calling. This is why, when Esau came out of the womb, Jacob had defiantly taken hold of his heel.

Esau is the perfect type of the self-centered man of the flesh who forcefully usurps the place that rightfully belongs to the Christ creation man. Spiritually speaking, after the woman Eve (womb) chose the way of the serpent, she could only give birth to a “double minded man” creation, as seen in her first twins, Cain and Abel.

From the time of Abel on, both seeds have entered creation and the same pattern of the man of flesh overtaking the man of spirit has been repeated in the world. Abel suffered death, and our Lord Jesus was crucified by the Pharisees to whom Jesus said *“You are of your father, the devil!”* (Jn.8:44a)

Rebekah is a type of the woman, bride, who also gives birth to two manners of people. Esau depicts the man, as Cain, who wants to be heir of God by offering his self-righteous works, and Jacob is a type of the man who is called to press toward the

mark of the high calling of God in Christ. The struggle between the two began in the womb and has been ongoing ever since.

The battle has been taking place within each one as the Esau in us desires the glory of attaining a place in God with our good works, while Jacob is striving to move by the Spirit. It is taking place in the church among Christians, and it is taking place in the world around us as well. The struggle has become a full-blown warfare unto the death as the Esau man rises up with rage against the seed of Christ.

JACOB'S DREAM

Most theologians and preachers have painted a dire portrait of Jacob, because his name means “supplanter,” and some of his ways are dubious. But Jacob had a heart for God and God said, *“...Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.”* (Rom.9:13)

Jacob's heart was pure before God. What he desired more than anything was the birthright of the first-born son and for this he was willing to fight, scheme and even cheat. The desire was pure, the method...not so much.

And so it was that when Jacob saw the opportunity to take the birthright from Esau, he did not hesitate. He bought it for a mess of pottage. As soon as Esau gulped down his soup, he felt his strength coming back and he was furious. He was so enraged that now he was obsessed with the need of getting back the birthright. Jacob's life was in great danger.

It was not with a mess of pottage but with the blood of Jesus, that the Jacob in us obtained the birthright from the usurper Esau. From that time on, the battle has been raging as the man of flesh has fought to subdue and to slay the man of spirit within us.

It was Rebekah, Jacob's mother, who made a way of escape for him, and it is Mother Church, who first makes a way for us. Jacob was sent to Laban. The name Laban means “white.” He represents the brethren believers who are still laboring under the system of Babylon. We must spend a season in that order for this is the way that leads to the true bride (within).

On the first leg of his journey, *“He (Jacob) lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night because the sun was set; and he took the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.”* (Gen.28: 11) Before going any further, Jacob needed this experience.

“And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places wither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.” (Gen. 28: 12-15)

“And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not.”(Vs.16) It was with this dream that God anointed Jacob for his calling...and he knew it not! From that day forward, every step that Jacob took would bring him closer to his return to father's house holding onto the birthright! Jacob called this place, *“The house of God and the gate of heaven.”*

Men had tried to reach such a place. Nimrod had built a tower that would reach into heaven, but God had confounded the works. Nevertheless, the Tower of Babel (Babylon) has grown into the confused works of men, striving to reach God by their own efforts. It has been the leading cause of confusion, unrest, hostility, violence and warfare throughout the world. High spirited men, animated by their zeal, will fight to the death to prove that their ways are right and rule over others.

When our Lord Jesus met up with such men (Pharisees), He chose to lay His life down and let them crucify Him. He taught us to do the same. Howbeit,

when our Lord laid His life down, He believed that He would pick it up again. Jesus knew that when His corn of wheat fell into the ground and died, many more would be raised in the same image. This was the faith of Jesus Christ. It was the faith of Abraham and it is the faith of the Son of God in us, that we live by.

When Jacob saw God, he was afraid. Indeed, it is a fearful thing to hear from God and to know that we are chosen for a purpose. But this is the way that the Lord calls all of His sons. He prepares them for the journey. He places the Word within them even when they are not fully aware of all it entails. It came to Jacob in a dream. It is while we are still asleep spiritually that God calls us and prepares us. It is even before we are born of a woman that we were chosen in Christ.

Job said, *“For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not, in a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction...”*(Job. 33: 14-16)

Jacob remembered his dream, but many times, God speaks to us and we do not recall it. Yet, His work has been done within us. He has opened our spiritual ears (understanding) and sealed our instruction.

When Jacob saw the ladder and the angels ascending and descending, and when he saw and heard the Lord speak to him, he was given access to the mystery within him. We, who have heard the call, have had a “Jacob” experience.

Indeed it was when God uncovered the mystery of Christ within that we experienced the ladder reaching up to heaven, and the angels descending and ascending. Christ is our ladder. He is the line of communication between us and the Lord.

Paul calls it *“The mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: (set apart ones). To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of*

this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory..” (Col. 1: 26-27) Christ is the anointed One who connects us to the realm of spirit. It was when we experienced what we call “the baptism in the Holy Ghost,” that our Bible became a new book. Something had happened to us and now we were able to understand the mysteries of the realm of God's Spirit. To me, this is truly the evidence of the baptism in the Spirit. Some believe that the gift of tongues is the evidence, but to me, the sure evidence is the understanding of God's Word by the Spirit. This is our true, new language.

This is actually what happened at Pentecost. People from divers places were gathered together, yet when Peter began to teach in his language, they each could understand him in their own language. And so it is that the Holy Spirit opens the way for us to understand His language of Spirit, even though we are yet wired to a natural mind. This is a work of the Holy Spirit, we could not understand the things of God by any other means.

Paul taught, *“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.” (I Cor.14: 14)* There are divers kinds of tongues called manifestations of the Spirit. With these we are able to pray or prophesy and by-pass the natural mind. They are all gifts of the Spirit but the true evidence is God's language of the Spirit and the understanding of that spiritual language.

ON THE ROAD WITH JACOB

It is true that Jacob was fleeing from his twin brother Esau. But more than that was at play, for in all of this, God had a purpose. Jacob had been chosen from the foundation of the world to procreate and become the father of God's chosen nation. Regardless of his present character and situation, Jacob's steps were ordered by the Lord. And now he was sent away from his house, to be tried and tested, and to acquire the new name (nature) that would make him his father's heir.

All who have been called and chosen, have also been equipped from the foundation of the world, *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predesti-*

nate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn (heir) among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.” (Rom.8: 29-30)

We are fully equipped, but we need to be trained and tested with our equipment. Jacob saw the ladder and the angels...and the Lord at the top...What he saw was the glory that is now being revealed to the saints, “Christ in us”. He is our equipment.

It is in the midst of enemy territory that we learn to use our tools. It is here that we exercise our spiritual muscles and that little by little, we overcome all things...the world, the flesh, the devil and finally, death and the grave. This is what our Lord Jesus did. *“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” (Rev.21: 7)*

Jacob had to go to a place where he could grow and be made ready for his ultimate encounter with the Angel of the Lord who holds the name (nature) that would make him heir of God.

Esau was enraged, furious, he was stronger than Jacob and he would have killed him just as Cain killed Abel, had he stayed home. This is the pattern. There is something or Someone in us, that infuriates and provokes the enemy. Saul was enraged against David and chased him all over the countryside. He would have killed him, if God had permitted.

Jezebel was enraged with Elijah and the prophets of God and they fled and hid in caves to save their lives. When we begin to move in the will of God, it always irritates someone. Our response is to flee from their wrath and follow the Spirit.

Finally, Jacob reached a well where three flocks of sheep were lying waiting to be watered. Jacob approached the men and inquired about his uncle Laban. They knew him and yes he is well.

It was high day and now they waited for all the sheep to be gathered so they could roll the stone from the well's mouth and water them all. *“And*

while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them. And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of Laban, his mother's brother...that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice and wept.” (Gen.29: 9-10)

The moment that Jacob saw Rachel, he was greatly moved for he knew that she was the one that God had reserved for him. However, he had no idea of the price he would have to pay for her.

Rachel is a type of the last day Bride of Christ. The church who is called to give birth to the sons of God in the earth. Rachel gave birth to Joseph, the One who lays down his life for the brethren and for the world. She also gave birth to Benjamin, the son of the right hand. He is the type of Christ in His body and the one who overcomes the last enemy, even death. So it is no wonder that Jacob yearned for Rachel above all others.

We know the story... how that Laban welcomed Jacob and put him to work. Laban was thrilled that a husband had come for his daughters. Jacob had no idea he would have to take Leah first when his heart was only yearning for Rachel. This is such a revelation of the way our God's plan works.

Leah gave birth to ten sons of Jacob. She is a type of the church under Law. She is the one with the “weak eyes” as her name suggests (dim spiritual vision). She must come first. Israel of the Old Testament had to come, before the church that Jesus built. And when Jesus built His church, she also came under Law until she became mature enough to give birth to her Manchild. This is God's pattern, and it cannot be broken.

OUR SCHOOLMASTER

“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” (Gal.3: 24) Keeping in mind that Christ is in us, we find that now, we must get in Him. Indeed, salvation is the free gift of God, not of works lest we should

boast. With God's free gift, we receive the perpetual sacrifice for our sins. But to come to the place where we sin no more, and become “sons of God,” there is a walk to be walked and a prize to be obtained.

With our first experience in Christ, God's Spirit begins the work of bringing us unto subjection to the will of the Father. The Law is God's perfect instrument. This is what the story of Jacob teaches us. He had to marry Leah, a type of the church under Law. Leah was very prolific and effective. She gave Jacob, his first ten sons. Under law, we learn obedience to the Word of God, until we are fully born of the Spirit and born of God.

I have written in the past about the meaning of each son according to the meaning of their name. Each one representing a time when the Lord brings us through experiences to teach us His ways and mature us as we go. The prophecies that Jacob uttered over his sons while on his death bed are also very significant and a study on their own.

But now we find Jacob having worked twenty years for Laban and having acquired much wealth of cattle along with a great family. However, none from his beloved Rachel. And so it is that on our journey into Christ, we bring much fruit unto Law (obedience) but the fruit that will feed the world is yet to be reaped.

At this time, we see the many works that the church under Law has produced over the centuries, but we cannot yet behold the fruit of life that will cover the earth with the glory of God as the waters cover the seas. The Leah church has produced much while the Rachel church has been waiting in the wings.

Rachel's sons must be conceived. Leah cannot produce God's new life in the earth. She is the wrong container for the new wine.

GOD REMEMBERS RACHEL

The time came for Rachel to bear her sons. Joseph was first. In Hebrew the name means “May Jehovah add or give increase.” Rachel wanted to give more

sons to Jacob. This part of the story is very significant for “we upon whom the end of the age has come.”

Indeed, Joseph is a very important type for us who have heard the call and have walked the walk. Joseph is the one who received God's mighty Word concerning His plan in the world and the revelation of His Christ. Joseph is a prophetic “dreamer.”

A dreamer such as Joseph is one who can see God's plan and believe what he sees. When God showed Joseph that “*His sheaf would arise and his brethren 's sheaves would bow down before it..*” he right away believed and told his brethren the dream. All who are called of God as firstfruits are dreamers of the same kind. They may or may not have actual dream in their sleep, but all have seen the plan of God by faith and believe.

Just as Joseph was one of the last sons of Jacob, so the fulfillment of the type has been reserved for the end of the age. I have declared this before, and I declare again in total confidence, that “spiritual” Joseph has been alive among us for many years already.

Joseph is the Word of God that has declared the rise of the Body of Christ in the earth. Just as the sheaf that Joseph saw arising in the field, so the Body of sons has been arising through their Word among the brethren who cannot receive Him.

How wonderful and how exhilarating it is to realize, where we, as the church that Jesus has been building, stand today! We, as Joseph have been hid in darkness, but the time when we will be faced by the brethren who stayed in Babylon's system is at hand. They will not recognize us as the sons of God until God reveals us.

If there is any famine of food in this world, it is caused by the famine of the true Word of God. One may believe that because there are many preachers, there is an abundance of God's Word, but this also is deception. God's Word is only in “Joseph- in Egypt.” It is hid in the darkness but it is vibrant and life to those who have ears attuned to Him.

This all seems impossible to those of “little faith.” But we, who are in Christ live by the faith of the Son of God. “*...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me.*” (Gal.2: 20b)

What is the “faith of the Son of God?” It is the faith to believe that it is through the death of the old Adam, that resurrection into eternal life takes place. Jesus was in agony in Gethsemane. His agony was manifold I am sure, for Jesus had to rise in the faith and believe that verily, when He laid His life down on the cross, His Father would raise Him up in three days and He would not see corruption.

This is mighty faith indeed! And it is the faith that resides within us in Christ. It is the faith of the Son of God. Yes, we believe for healing and for God to answer our petitions, but the faith that will carry us through is the same faith that Jesus had when He laid His life down.

It is the same faith that Abraham had when he stood ready to thrust the knife in his beloved son Isaac. “*By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac; and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him as a figure.*” (Heb.11: 17-19)

Indeed, Jesus knew that in Him was the precious seed that would produce a new creation of people after His image. So, in His last hours in the flesh, Jesus agonized and held on to His faith concerning that Seed. This is all part of the “Joseph” Word that we have been hearing and preaching these many years.

AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA

The prophets Isaiah and Habakkuk both declared, “*For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*” (Hab.2: 14) Over the centuries, we have seen this phenomena among His people, as the Lord has revealed Himself and His plan by waves upon waves of His glory.

God's word has taken more significance for us because we are now living in its fulfillment. So it is by the Spirit that the knowledge of His glory is being revealed in us and to us. The "waves" of God's knowledge began with Martin Luther and his revelation of the "Just shall live by faith." This humble monk then split from the powerful Roman Catholic Church and became the apostle of the Protestant reformation in the world. In the 1700s, the sparks of that fire jumped into England and set such men as George Whitefield and the Wesley Brothers ablaze. What was called "The Great Awakening" then crossed the ocean and came to the colonies that had been forming on this continent.

It was in the 1960s, following the Azusa Street revival, that the fourth wave of this Great Awakening came on the back of such as Kenneth Hagin, Kathryn Kulhman, Oral Roberts and others who brought the Pentecostal Movement in plain view. In the 70s, the Charismatic and discipleship waves came in like a flood.

It was also in the 60s that another wave, came into the earth. The Lord hid this wave under the shadow of the great Charismatic move of the times. It was led by men whose names did not make the list of recognized religions, (Bill Britton, Sam Fife among others) can be counted as apostles of the most powerful wave since the first apostles.

This move never became popular or flourished in the world as others did; it was not meant to. In fact, it accomplished exactly what it was supposed to achieve. It was what I call "The Joseph Wave." Its goal at the time was to call out the people with ears to hear directly from God and hearts to understand what they were hearing, and follow their calling.

This "move" followed exactly the pattern that God had purposed for them. They trained the saints of this "Joseph" company with the ability to hear from God. They raised them and disciplined them, and when it was done, they kicked them out of their fold because they could not receive their Word. A typical "Joseph" story!

Yet this was all in God's mighty plan. Today, the

Joseph Company is alive and well. It is physically scattered and hid in the "Egypt" of the world. But it is this Company that holds within them, the Word of Life, for they are the ones who love the truth and who love God so that they are willing to lay down their lives for all.

This is how the waters of God's knowledge and glory have been covering the earth of His "called out" people, and it will yet cover all of the earth that is so in need to know the true God.

JACOB AND ESAU

Jacob, Rachel and all their children were traveling back home to father's house. After much struggle, Jacob had made peace with Laban and now "*..the angels of God met him.*" (Gen.32: 1) Jacob recognized God's host (army) "*and he called the name of that place Mahanaim.*" (Vs.2) It was time to face Esau again.

It was also time for Rachel, heavy with child, to give birth to their second son. But first Jacob has to meet up with Esau and for this, Jacob needed one more thing from God. What does this mean to us? It was God who separated us from Esau and taught us in this school of life. And now we come to the time when we are ready to take hold of the last thing we need to return to Father's house.

When we are born into the household of God, both the Esau and Jacob natures appear in our lives. We know that Jacob is the one God loves. He is the true heir but Esau is the strongest. He wrestled the birthright from Jacob while still in mother's womb. This is why we see Jacob still holding onto Esau's heel at the time of their birth. Esau is not only a man of flesh, he is the one who desires to be the heir of God...only by his own strength.

Just as Cain wanted so badly to be accepted of God but offered the wrong sacrifices, Esau is the religious, pious man of flesh who wants to serve God and be accepted for his self-righeous works. Both natures have to be subdued by the Spirit. Jacob who wants the birthright by his scheming devises and Esau who wants it by his own might must be sub-

dued. When we begin to understand God's thoughts and ways, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways saith the Lord."* (Isa.55: 8) we are able to see that God is not out to destroy Esau, He is out to bring him into subjection of the Spirit. Both Esau and Jacob have to be dealt a blow that would change them altogether.

Before Jacob faced Esau again, a radical change took place. *"And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day."* (Gen. 32: 24) Jacob had been in agony over his coming encounter with Esau. Fear was gripping his heart when he found himself challenged by another "Man" within him. This was the Man Christ rising in him to do a mighty work.

Jacob had to fight and not let go of this "Man" until he received the needed blessing. He fought until dawn and prevailed. This is how our inner man of the Spirit has been fighting and is prevailing. As we hold onto the Christ Man within, our old nature is indeed being changed. At the same time, when Jacob met up with his twin brother, he found that there was no more fight in Esau. God had gone before Jacob and the work had been done. And now Jacob was ready for his son Benjamin to be born.

As the Jacob-Christ nature increases in us, the Esau nature decreases. Esau, the man who desired to serve God his own way, has been replaced by the one who fought for life and prevailed. Jacob could never walk in his own strength. He was a prince who walked with a limp.

BENJAMIN APPEARS

It was after Jacob's struggle and victory that Rachel gave birth to her second son. They had just left Bethel where God first met with Jacob in a dream, and now they were close to Ephrath (fruitfulness) when Rachel went into hard labor. This is the place of "firstfruits." For us this is the time when the Word of God's power (son of the right hand) appears. It is the time when all that we have been hoping for, begins to unfold.

When this son was born, Rachel died. The woman

that brings forth this Word can no longer be seen. From this time forward, it is the Son who shines as the Sun of righteousness.

When the brethren met up with Joseph in Egypt, they could not be given grain until they first brought Benjamin. A son speaks of a Word. Benjamin is the final, everlasting Gospel. Nothing can take place until that Word is heard and received. The Father has held back this Word until the time that all are ready to receive Him. Benjamin is the mighty Word that is held in the bosom of the company of God's sons.

Benjamin is given five times the amount of food that the brethren received. This Word is a mighty Word with five times more grace and truth than the previous Gospel. It is the Word of creation's deliverance. The Father would not release this Word until all were ready.

Indeed, all of this could not take place, except through the ultimate sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. It is Jesus that began this work of grace and it is Jesus that has been behind the scene, accomplishing it all within us.

It is Jesus who is full of *"grace and truth"* (Jn.1: 14b) *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."* (Vs.17) Not truth only but also the grace to bring us through without slaying us. For no man can see God and live.

Benjamin is a beautiful story in type for us. Many have written about it. As the Spirit leads, we will continue to hear more about it. The Benjamin Word is powerful today because it is coming to pass in our very lives. This Word has been in hiding, but soon it will be performed fully in us. This son is the Son of the Right Hand, even Christ in His body. He is the One that all of creation is awaiting with baited breath.

Lord Jesus, may it be done according to thy Word.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*