



LETTER No. L-7

March 2021

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## **RISE ABOVE THE FLOOD**

**Please Read Revelation chapter 12:1-9**

Today, these words of admonition and encouragement are addressed to the one called “the woman-the church-the body.” She is that Golden Candlestick with the resurrected Lord in the midst. “*And he is the head of the BODY, the CHURCH: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead...*” (Col.1:18) And Paul’s declaration, “*Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his BODY’S sake, WHICH IS THE CHURCH.*” (Col.1:24). It is clear that the church is the body and we know that the church is also called the bride or the woman. The woman is the visible part of the new creation man, and the Son is the life therein. “*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ.*” (I Cor.12:12) The body of Christ is not divided into two companies; the body of Christ is one body. The many-membered sons and the woman are the same body. They are one, united in marriage by the Holy Spirit. Together, they become bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. Thus, by union they will be clad with the new body of glory, that will be visible in the earth. Jesus said, “*When you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.*” Jesus was the visible representation of the Father who was the life within. He was the visible image of His Father within. The woman-the church-the body, is the visible image of the Son within. This is a mystery that can only be comprehended by the Spirit. When God created the man in His own image, “*...male and female created he them.*” (Gen.1:27) Later He separated the male and female for procreative purpose. But in the new Christ-man, He brings them back together as one.

Where is the woman who has been giving birth to this new creation in Christ? She is the one in the wilderness, fleeing from the flood of the dragon’s mouth. She is as we are, scattered, without the support or structure of any organization of man, isolated with truth that few are able to believe. She is in the wilderness following the cloud by day and the fire by night. And there is a flood in this deserted place, a flood of lies that sound like truth, a flood out of the mouth of the fiery red (enraged) dragon, the serpent of old. The one who has usurped the name of Christ and has established religions in his own image. It is time for the woman-the church-the body, to rise above the flood that this dragon is spewing out of his mouth. He was out to devour the Manchild that she had delivered, but he failed to do so, and now he has unleashed his fury against the woman and he will stop at nothing to carry her away, destroy her and annihilate her from the face of the earth. The flood that spews out of his mouth is cunningly calculated and formulated to attract and stir the human soul. It stirs the soul to seemingly honorable pursuits such as heroism, patriotism and human kindness, but hidden within these words are deceitful lies connived by the mind of the serpent. The flood teems with soft and smooth words to the ear, words that entice and ensnare the mind with the deadly poison of hatred, animosity and in the end, violence and death. This flood is out to jolt the woman off of her foundation in Christ, and to carry her swiftly and completely away from the truth, and from what God is doing at this time. To understand this, and appropriate it correctly, we need to be reminded that the book of Revelation is a book of symbols. It

can only be interpreted symbolically, by the Spirit. Any mixture of literal and spiritual interpretation of this book of prophecy, will lead us into a ditch.

So what is God's Spirit saying to the woman today? The woman whose Manchild is the living Word, the Truth held under the authority of the Father? What is He saying to this woman who trudges through the wilderness of this world, but is not seen or known of the world? The "ekklesia," the "called-out one" who has been separated unto Him and is being sorely tested and tried? The Spirit says to this beloved woman, Flee from the great red dragon who is spewing a flood of enticing lies out of his mouth, to trip you and cause you to drown in the morass of lies that are propagated all over the news and the Internet. There is soon coming a time ordained of God, when this new Man will appear in the power of God's glory, to take over the rule of the nations. A time when this many-membered Christ will be given the rod of iron (God's law), to govern and bring God's order to the world. A time ordained when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ. At this time, the Spirit of God is sounding the alarm in God's Holy mountain, My Beloved, RISE ABOVE THE FLOOD. Rise upon the wings of the great eagle, and flee to the place prepared for you, the place within you, where you will be fed words of life. Run away from the lies of the world.

Note that this dragon is the same serpent of old who was once in "heaven." Heaven speaks of the place of authority that he held over individual and collective minds. Heaven speaks of the minds and the affections that rule each one individually, and as societies, clubs, churches and nations. The minds of man and of nations have been the serpent's meat. But when Jesus shed His blood on the cross, that time was about to come to an end. *"There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great red dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."* (Rev.12:7-9) Verse 10 tells us that this was the time when God opened the door to salvation, to strength, to His kingdom and to the power of his Christ in the earth. This was the beginning of the end for the *"accuser of the brethren, which accused them before our God day and night."* (Vs.10) In the meantime, this serpent of old, now comes in the power of the great red dragon who is after the woman ordained to crush his head and bruise his heel. Long ago, God told the serpent, *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."* (Gen.3:15) Is it any wonder that we are feeling his wrath today?

Today, we who have ears to hear are relieved to hear the voice of God's Spirit speaking to encourage us, *"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."* (Isa.60:1). Now is a time of gross darkness in the world, yet there is a people who are called to rise above it. This is a work impossible to man, yet God's glory is risen upon His called out ones, His church, making the task possible. And so it has been determined and ordained of God from the beginning. As we awaken each day and hear the news, we know that this world has come to an impasse, an insurmountable deadlock, a predicament with no way out but its own destruction. No matter who takes over the reins of government, the barrage is too strong and one step forward only leads to two steps back. The words of the Psalmist ring in our ears, *"I will lift up my eyes to the hills (around Jerusalem, to sacred Mount Zion and Mount Moriah). From whence shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth."* (Ps.121:1-2 Ampl.) This translation clearly shows that the hills in this Psalm speak of the two Mounts in Jerusalem. For us, they represent the Law and the Spirit. This is how the Lord, at this time, has chosen to manifest Himself in the earth. Our help is not in any man; our help is truly in the Lord. No matter who is at the head of government; our God is in control.

Jesus came to earth during turbulent times as the nation of Israel was in bondage, under the boot of the Roman Empire. Those who recognized that Jesus came from God, were hoping that He had come to take over the government and restore them to freedom. They wanted Him to fight and defeat Rome, but Jesus came to earth with a mission from His Father. And strangely enough, Jesus never came against Rome, Jesus came against the scribes and religious leaders of His people. Jesus never lost sight of where He belonged. He never became involved in human affairs, whether economic or political; Jesus insisted, "...my kingdom is not of this world..." (Jn.18:36) He said, "*Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's...*" (Mk.12:17) Jesus explained that if His kingdom had been of this world, his servants would have fought for it. Jesus did not meddle with the kingdoms of this world, although He knew that they were out to kill Him. Jesus had a huge crowd of followers. He was loved and revered by multitudes, but He kept Himself separate from the politics of this world. Are we to follow His example? Or have the tides of time shifted away from this? Many of the Christian voices that we hear through the social media, YouTube and the Internet today, seem to incite the people to pray for that purpose and rally to do just that.

Jesus' disciples and close followers would have loved to hear Jesus lead them to try to take over the government of their day. Their hope was in Jesus, and they believed that He was going to topple the powers that be, and make Himself king of Israel. They were ready to raise up banners with the name Jesus as their hero. Jesus understood their hearts, for the powers of that day were just as evil and dangerous as the powers of our day. Because of the people's fervor, Jesus was indeed a threat to the powers that be. He escaped them for a time ordained of God, but then, suddenly, He surrendered. It seems that He was defeated, when indeed He was doing His Father's will. This greatly disappointed the disciples, and for a time, even Peter denied Him. Does this sound like a familiar tale of what happened in our world? Jesus was not an ordinary man, He was not influenced by any of His followers' desires or by what they thought should be done. Jesus knew that it was not a matter of binding the enemies' power, or dethroning them from their high places of authority; what was needed could only be done by the Father's wisdom and power. So Jesus yielded to the Father, and obeyed only His will and purpose.

Since that time, we have witnessed very little change in the methods and tactics used by the ruling powers of this world. If anything, they have become even more irresponsible and conniving in their ways. Throughout great civilizations, men have sought to fix the problems of governing nations. As we read the history of Israel, we note that for each king who endeavored to please God, there was a king who ruled out of his evil heart. Even if the best man were in charge of the world, it could only be temporary, the truth is that the solution to man's problems cannot be wrought by any man. But our Father's plan has been in place from the foundation of the world, and when men can go no farther, God's plan is in place to make all things new. Our God did not equip any man to know how to rule the world; that place has always been reserved for His Son.

It was never the Father's plan and purpose to save only Israel and perhaps a few nations. As it is written, all the kingdoms, or nations, (populations), of the world, will become the kingdoms of our God and of His Christ. Jesus Christ is not only the Savior of the church or of those who believe; He is without fail, the Savior of the world and of the entire creation. "*And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the saviour of the world.*" (I Jn.4:14) And again, "*...Now we believe, not because of thy saying; for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.*" (Jn.4:42) This is not hearsay, it is the testimony of those who heard Him and touched Him. And it is the same testimony of those who are hearing Him by the Spirit today.

The world loves the pleasures of sin. It delights in self-gratification and self-edification; the world has been receiving the wages of sin which is death. As Jesus prophesied about the days of the end of this age, plagues, natural catastrophes and disasters are on the increase. Would God put an end to these things if man quit sinning? Yes, and God will do just that. But mankind cannot quit sinning of its own volition; only God's plan will bring complete healing, peace and eternal life to humanity. Could the fury of the red dragon that now rises from the hearts of man, be part of God's plan to deliver humanity? Could God who so loves the world be not willing that any perish? Could His love be showing up in the form of wrath, for the deliverance of all? "...*And I have created the waster to destroy.*" (Isa.54:16b) "*And I will prepare destroyers against thee, every one with his weapons...*" (Jer.22:7) God's wrath is not set against humanity; God's wrath is set to deliver humanity from serving the serpent. Our God is a jealous God, He will not tolerate any of the gods that man has set up to rule over the world, be allowed to continue to destroy His creation. Our God sent His Son to redeem the world, and to save the world from the many gods that have led it to the grave. "*Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed; neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.*" (Isa.43:10-11)

At this time of perils, it is good to keep our eyes and hearts on the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We cannot allow ourselves to be carried away by the flood of deceptive information, preposterous lies from the mouths of "fortune tellers" who have set themselves as God's prophets. As His church, we have been given the wings of a great eagle, the Spirit's sharp vision to discern from above and to soar over the deadly obstacles of this wilderness. We have heard, nurtured and given birth to the Word of life, (Manchild). The dragon's weapon is a flood out of the many voices of strongly opinionated people who make themselves rich by deceiving multitudes who are craving to hear what the future holds for them in this world. The truth is, God is not only changing all things that man has established in this world; He is destroying them and making all things new. "*And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*" (Rev.21:5)

The Word that God gave to His prophet long ago, is again being heard today, "*See, I have this day set thee, (the Word), over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.*" (Jer.1:10) As all words spoken by the prophets long ago, this Word is continuing to be fulfilled today. From the head of the image, (great Babylonian Empire), to the toes of the image, (the great nations of our day), the stone cut out of the mountain, (the Word made flesh), has been accelerating its destructive course to shatter the glory that man has raised up for himself in the earth. While this is taking place in the world, the deliverers are prepared and waiting in the wings. When the "Destroyer" has finished its work, at God's ordained time, the sons will rebuild and plant and make all things new. Just as the truth made them free, so they will make creation free from the lie that has kept it in sin, suffering and death. May God hasten that Day!

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*