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Explanation of change of name at the end of this study.

No.309

THE BOOK OF LIFE

Recently, I was reminded of a dream that a dear brother in the Lord once shared. This brother was asking the Lord about the meaning of the "Book of Life." There are several verses in the book of Revelation concerning our name in the Book of Life, and some carry very severe consequences for not being found in that book. This brother was concerned and wanted to make sure his name was written therein.

This is the dream that the Lord gave him, "I was somewhere and a book was handed to me. I looked at it and it was the "Book of Life." I opened it hoping to find my name therein but I was in awe for there was only one name in the book, "Jesus Christ."

This indeed is the most direct and clearest answer to his question. The Book of Life is Jesus Christ. So for our name to be found in the Book of Life, our name must be Jesus Christ. But my name has been Jackie Caporaso and how can it be Jesus Christ? There is a great difference between believing in Him and being Him. Jesus gave the answer to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again!"

And as Nicodemus, we might ask, "How can this be?" The answer Jesus gave then is the same now. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (Jn.3:6) We have been born of the seed of our earthly fathers and we became flesh. We can see and feel our vessel and know that this is who we are. We are body and soul, flesh and blood. Our soul is our personality and the consciousness of our body of flesh.

THE SUFFERING OF SONS

The life of our body is in the blood, and blood corrupts and leads to death. This earthly life is temporal or temporary. It is when we partake of Him who is the Tree of Life, that we have eternal life. We must eat of His flesh and drink of His blood. When Jesus told this to His disciples, many walked away from Him but the twelve stayed with Him, saying, "Where would we go?"

Our name denotes who we are and the nature of who we are. We are still body and soul howbeit the new creation is being formed in us through our re-birth. The Book of Life is where our new name is found, Christ. When we are complete in Him, we will be fully "spirit, soul and body. Some may think that this comes only by a change of mind, but if it were so, Jesus had no need to suffer the death of the cross.

The death of the cross was necessary to create a new seed which contains a new body. It is His death that opened the way, then through suffering with Him and dying the death of the cross daily, we also follow Him in the new life. As Jesus taught, we must be born again of spirit. We were once born of flesh, now we are born again of spirit as well.

Just as we were made a flesh and blood being by the seed of our earthly fathers, we are made new beings by the seed of our heavenly Father. This constitutes a whole new birth. The seed of the Father was planted in the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. The seed of the Christ creation in us is also planted by the Holy Spirit into a church that has been made virgin.

Jesus was speaking about entering the Kingdom of

God. The kingdom of God is the level of life that we reach when we are able to hear God and obey Him. We begin by obeying His written laws but this does not produce a new being.

To produce this new birth or new being, we must receive the new seed. When we repent, we receive this seed. To repent is to turn away from the sinful man of earth that we have been, and to believe that Jesus Christ saves us from that man. He then quickens our spirits and plants the new seed of His life in us, and begins to lead us until that seed takes root in our spirits.

We know the process. We have been on this road and will continue to be until that holy seed is fully grown and mature within us. As it does, it swallows up the death and we become new creatures in Christ. When this is fully done, our nature will be fully changed and our name will no longer be Adam. Our name will be Christ. Adam has been the pot of earth into which Jesus planted His corn of wheat to bring forth His life in new vessels.

This is worth repeating because it is difficult for the mind to absorb, and our minds need to be renewed. "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Rom. 12:1a) By His Holy Spirit, Jesus has been renewing our minds and revealing Himself to us. He is opening our understanding to the knowledge of who we have become in Him.

Our old identity is fading away and our new name is coming to light. Our new name is written in the Book of Life. We are the new creatures who are the image and likeness of the Son of God. We have been reborn in Him and He in us; we are born of God.

When this is completed, all that has been the Adam creation man will have been cast into the lake of fire. The beast, the devil and the false prophet will all be destroyed forever and ever. The first Adam creation will be no more. When on the cross, Jesus proclaimed, "It is finished," He certainly had all this in mind. The cross of Jesus brought an end to the age of man's dominion in the earth. Through His resurrection, the gathering of all things in Christ had begun.

All that was in Adam, including the beast, the devil, the false prophet, death and Hades and all that is not found in the Book of Life, that is to say, gathered in Christ, will have served their purpose and will no longer be needed. They will be cast into the lake of fire and never surface again.

THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WILL

Paul teaches that God has made known unto us the mystery of His will. "Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself. That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in Him." (Eph.1:9-1)

The mystery of God's will is to bring ALL THINGS into Christ. All things speak of people. Speaking of the firstborn Son, Paul writes, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible or invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created BY HIM AND FOR HIM..." (Col.1:16)

From the beginning of the world, Jesus Christ has been preparing His entire creation, that in the fulness of times, He might gather it all in Himself. He created the entire world and universe for Himself. All things in this visible earthly and in the invisible realm of spirit realm have been working toward His purpose and goal of bringing creation to completion and perfection in Him.

The entire world has been the clay in the Potter's hands to mold it exactly the way He wants it to be. Some of the created things were only temporary. They have been there as tools to work on that which is to be eternal. He has been very careful and extremely particular to discard all that is temporal or temporary and to keep working on that which is eternal.

His chosen elect have been subjected to this molding and breaking until His perfect image appears. This is the mystery of God's will and of His good pleasure which He has purposed in Himself. When we know this, we quit feeling sorry for ourselves and we rejoice greatly.

When we understand the purpose of all the sufferings we cannot help but press in and "...lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees..." (Heb.12:12) Recently someone sent me an article written by Catherine Beckhom, entitled, "The Power of Purpose."

She writes and I quote, "Ephesians 1:11 (Amp) says, "In Him we also were made [God's] heritage (portion) and we obtained an inheritance; for we had been foreordained (chosen and appointed beforehand) in accordance with His <u>purpose</u>, Who works out everything in agreement with the counsel and design of His [own] will."

"Isaiah 46:11 (NKJ) says, "Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have <u>purposed</u> it; I will also do it." Purpose in this scripture is Hebrew yatsar which means to be formed, fashioned, pre-determined, pre-ordained.

If we have been foreordained, chosen and appointed before we were ever sent into this earth according to His purpose, then doesn't it make sense that His purpose would be a guiding force in our lives? Would He abandon His purpose for us that He Himself chose? No, I don't think so. That is why it is so important that we allow His Spirit to work in us to help us discover God's purpose and enable us to walk in that purpose. Along our journey, we may go through things that we cannot see any purpose in it at all, but our Father knows what is needed in order to bring us into the fulfillment of His purpose in our lives and into the fullness of Christ." End of quote.

Jesus endured the cross because He knew His purpose. He knew why He had to suffer through it all and kept His heart and eyes locked on that vision. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb.12:2)

"Purpose" keeps us motivated. As we walk and mature, our vision changes. This is why it is vital to move on and not look behind. The Lord is burning everything behind us as we keep our eyes on our Captain and forge ahead. Writing about the "Day of the Lord" Joel declares, "A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them." (Joel 2:3)

Our God is a consuming fire. He leaves nothing of the old and makes all things new. If we don't grasp the true purpose for our journey, we will grumble and fret and be most miserable. If we have been taught that believing means immediate ease and abundance of wealth, we will be disappointed. We will question God with "Why me?" Or "What have I done to deserve this?" This comes from a lack of understanding and of spiritual immaturity.

The wise man wrote, "Where there is no vision, the people perish..." (Prov.29:18a) The knowledge and understanding of our purpose gives us the strength and motivates us to keep going with joy in each step.

Be not afraid to let the Spirit show you what your true purpose is in Christ. Do not let the traditions of man and the teachings of Babylon keep you from knowing what the Lord is accomplishing in you. We are called to be sons of God. We are heirs of God in Christ. We are heirs of the "double portion." We are called to overcome the last enemy which is death. The entire creation is suffering and groaning to see the manifestation and deliverance of God's sons!

This indeed is our purpose as God's sons; He has revealed it to us by His Holy Spirit. Let us not stay down on the lower levels of the Law of sin and death. That law is given to bring us to Christ. It serves to show us our position in Adam.

We were sinners but "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." (I Jn.3:9) We do not remain "sinners saved by grace," we become new creatures born again of God. We walk according to the law of the Spirit of life in

Christ Jesus. This is the law that is written in our hearts.

THE FIRSTBORN SON

"And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a DOUBLE PORTION of thy spirit be upon me." (II Kgs.2:9)

Elijah and Elisha are a great study for us today because Elisha is a perfect type of those who have their hearts set on following the Lord ALL THE WAY. Elisha was not looking to remain the servant of Elijah; he was looking to have a double portion of his anointing and he was not going to let go until he received it.

This reminds us of Jacob who fought all night with God's angel and would not let him go until he blessed him! It also reminds us of Caleb who stayed close to Joshua when they went up to fight the giants in the promised land. The word "Caleb" means "bull-dog." When a bulldog takes a bite of flesh, his jaw is set in such a way that he cannot let go. We also are as Calebs and we cannot let go of Him until we are complete in Him.

In the Old Testament, God ordained that the firstborn son of a family, receive a double portion of all his father's possessions. The double portion is the glory of a firstborn son. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus became the Firstborn Son among many brethren.

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Rom.8:29)

Jesus is the ONLY begotten Son of God, but when by the Spirit of Holiness that dwelt in Him, the Father raised Him from the dead, He brought forth the Seed that would give birth to many sons in His image. That Holy Seed has been planted and nurtured in those who were called to become His brethren, that is to say, His image in the earth. Jesus explains, "Verily, verily, I say to unto you, Except a corn of wheat

fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." (Jn.12:24) Jesus is the corn of wheat that fell into out ground and died. In that way, He begets much fruit that He calls His brethren

Jesus is "THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN." Jesus who was the ONLY SON, has become the FIRSTBORN SON. He is the One who receives the double portion of all His Father's possessions. Jesus Christ is heir of the Father's name. Jesus Christ is "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace..." that Isaiah announced long ago. (Isa.9:6b)

When Jesus ascended to the Father, He received the glory that He had before He came down in the flesh. He had finished the work that He had been sent to do, and now He would be restored to the place He once had in the Father, plus He now was the firstborn son among many brethren.

"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work that thou givest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." (Jn.17:4-5)

And Jesus did not stop there. In His most ardent prayer, He included those whom the Father gave to Him. His little flock, His called out ones. The entire chapter reveals the work that Jesus through the Spirit has been doing in them.

He was not praying only for His twelve disciples, He was praying for all who belong to the Father and were called to follow Him back to the Father. "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hath given me; for they are thine." (Jn.17:9) Can we fathom such a calling? We are now coming to the full understanding of who we are in Christ and of who Jesus is to us.

Talking about us, Jesus said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." (Jn.17:16-18) Wonderful words of life!

Wonderful truth. Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (Jn.9:4-5)

Indeed while He was in the world, the Word was being heard and taught visibly, but when He left, the Word would be in the hands of man. The world has been in the night, but the new Day (when in His body He appears again in the world) is at hand. The Lord has given us signs and has shown us that the new day has begun to dawn. We are awakening to our true identity in Christ.

FIRSTFRUIT SONS

Jesus, the Lamb of God on the cross, laid down His life for the sins of the whole world. "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (I Jn.2:2)

The atonement of Jesus on the cross was the propitiation or appeasement that satisfied an angry God. That is the meaning of the word. Under the law of Moses, Israel had repeatedly scorned the Lord God so that finally He turned away from them. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross brought peace again between God and His people. The propitiation overcomes the distrust and brings the people back into favor with God. Propitiation is CONCILIATION between God and His people.

His sons are called to be the RECONCILIATION between God and His creation. Jesus Christ Himself brought the CONCILIATION. Jesus Christ in His body of sons is the High Priest of a new priesthood called to apply the conciliation of the blood of the Lamb to all of creation. A priesthood is the bridge or link between man and God. This is the calling of the sons of God.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION." (II Cor.5: 17-18)

"If any man be in Christ" is the key. The ministry of the sons is to bring every man into Christ. This is done in the "fulness of times." "That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one ALL THINGS in Christ..." (Eph.1:10a)

God's covenant with His sons was ratified in Abraham; it was never nullified. This is the covenant of faith which came before the covenant of the law of Moses. This covenant promised the blessing of ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH. God promised Abraham a seed and that seed is Christ.

"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen.22:18) This promise is being fulfilled in Christ, and as the Body of Christ we are the ministers of that promise to ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH.

This is perfectly clear to those with eyes to see and ears to hear what the Spirit is saying unto the Church. Most leaders of the visible church are still teaching doctrines from hell. But for those who have been awakened and have gone through the fire of purification, all these doctrines of fear have been thoroughly consumed by fire. We have no fear to believe the truth as the Spirit reveals it today. He is a living God and speaks daily by His own voice. If we hear His voice, we will be made free from the written, literal doctrines of men.

The firstfruits have part in the first resurrection. In one of his lessons, Paul explains that there are levels of resurrection life. Firstfruits are not only Jesus's brethren, they are the bride who is flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone. This is one of God's great "mysteries" that can only be understood by the Spirit.

When Paul explained this, he said it was a great mystery. "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife; and the two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." (Eph.5:30-32)

Spiritually interpreted, father and mother are who gave us our bodies of flesh and blood. But we are to

leave this behind and become joined unto him and take up our new bodies of flesh and bone; being made one with Him. This is the mystery.

Jesus's brethren have been sanctified, (set apart for His purpose). They are seated with Him in heavenly (spiritual) places. He has become their Captain leading them unto glory and perfection, through sufferings.

"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For BOTH HE THAT SANCTIFIETH AND THEY WHO ARE SANCTIFIED ARE ALL ONE: for which cause he is NOT ASHAMED TO CALL THEM BRETHREN." (Heb.2:10)

Paul writes, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, are the sons of God... And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (Rom.8:14,17) It is as we follow Him through His sufferings that we are glorified with Him. Paul emphasizes all through this chapter that he is addressing those who walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh.

Does this mean that when Jesus was crucified, we were crucified with Him? Amen, we were in Him when He was slain from the foundation of the world. "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Rev.13:8)

But as it is with all that was finished from the foundation, it has to be walked out on the earth. And so, as Jesus, we also suffer rejection from the established system of religion, even though they are our brethren. The Christ that is within us is the same Christ they nailed to the cross then and are nailing to the cross again and again in us. The sufferings of Christ in us continue until the cup is full. Paul understood this and wrote, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ for his body's sake, which is the church." (Col.1: 24)

JOB SUFFERED AS A SON

How do we know that we are sons of God? We may believe that we are because someone prophesied it over us. We may believe it because we do good deeds and obey the law, but the thing that will give us the confidence we need is to know it by the witness in our spirit; we know it because our "Knower" has told us. "

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children (sons) of God." (Rom.8:16) The witness of the Spirit within is our only assurance. And we know we are sons because our heart's desire is to be freed from our sinful nature and be like Him. And we know that we are sons through suffering.

Suffering is God's way to teach us obedience as sons. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" (Heb.12:6-7)

Job is a perfect type of a "son of God." The book of Job gives us an insight into what takes place in the heavenly, invisible realm of spirit. Here we find the "sons of God" presenting themselves before the Lord. Job is the priestly patriarch of his family. He is very wealthy and God calls him perfect and upright; a man that feared God and keeps away from evil. He is called "The greatest of all the men of the east." (Job 1:3b) Job was a son of God in his day.

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them." (Job1:6) From that time forward, Job was in for the acid test of his life. Contrary to what his friends advised him, Job was not tested because he was selfish or somehow had missed the mark, NO! Job was sorely tested because God found no flaw in him. He was perfect for his day.

Job was tested like every son of God has been tested since; he was tested to see if under crushing circumstances he would still praise God. Job was tested to the nth degree to prove that no matter what, he would stand firm in his faith and trust God. "Though he

slay me, yet will I trust him...But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (Job 13:10a, 23:10)

Job was tested to see if Satan could rattle his cage. On the cross, Jesus was tested to the limit. He accepted the cup of a horrible death. On the cross He uttered, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt.26:53)

Abraham was tested to the limit when he took Isaac, his only son to whom the promise of a seed was given, to be offered up as a burnt sacrifice. What agony that must have been, as he held the knife to kill His God-given treasure!

All through the centuries past, God's sons have been tested to the limit; and still are. The fire has been hot and steady but it has done its work and it is still doing so until all the sons reflect the perfect image of Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God.

God spoke to Job and said, "Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare if thou hast understanding. ... Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof; when the morning stars sang together, and ALL THE SONS OF GOD SHOUTED FOR JOY?" (Job 38:4, 6-7)

God finished all things from the beginning, but they have to be fulfilled in us. What He has finished in the Spirit must come to be walked out in the earth. But God has spoken these things from the mouths of all His prophets, "I have declared the former things from the beginning; and they went forth out of my mouth, and I shewed them; and I did them suddenly and they came to pass. Because I knew that thou are obstinate, and thy neck is as iron sinew, and thy brow as brass; I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it to thee..." (Isa.48:3-5a)

When God told Job about "all the sons of God shouting for joy," He was giving him a vision of what was already finished in the spirit. He was en-

couraging Job by showing him the end of his suffering and the glory that was set before him. God knew His servant and how much he could endure, and He wanted to shore him up and renew his faith.

Just as Jesus the Son fulfilled prophecy all the way to the cross, Jesus in His body is continuing to fulfill all that God's Holy prophets spoke since the world began. This is the suffering that we have been called to endure in order to receive the double portion that belongs to the firstborn son.

Each of God's creatures have a part in bringing God's plan into being. Even those who are evil have a part. It was at the last supper that Jesus turned to Judas and said, "*That thou doest, do quickly.*" (Jn.13:27b) Judas was ordained to betray Jesus, so evil has to come against the saints until they overcome it and are made perfect through the fire.

We each experience the portion of evil that we need. Often it comes from the hand of those we love the most. Judas was one of Jesus's disciples. He had walked with Him and been sheltered by Him the entire time. I am sure it was not easy for Jesus to let Judas go ahead and betray Him. And it was not easy for the Lord God to turn His servant Job over to Satan. But it is exactly what He did, and it is the only way to bring the entire earthly creation under the dominion of Christ. Jesus put it in these words: Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.

Although his friends found all kinds of reasons why Job had to suffer, yet the truth is that Job's sufferings were undeserved. He had done nothing to bring such hard times in his life. The story makes it clear. Job had to suffer so that he could come forth as gold. It is one thing to suffer for the evil that we have sown, and another to be chosen to suffer for Christ.

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." (Heb.5:8-9) Obedience to the Spirit is the key to God's purpose in us. Not only are we called to be sons of God in the earth, but we are called to be obedient to every move of the Spirit

within us. We first receive the gift of salvation through the obedience of Jesus Christ the Son but to become mature sons, we too must learn obedience through suffering. As born-again children, we overcome evil by the power of the cross in our daily lives; this is also suffering. But to enter sonship and take our place as mature sons in the "adoption," we learn obedience through suffering because of the good (Christ) that is in us.

"And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." (Gal.4:6-7)

Sonship is the calling that Paul was pressing to attain. Paul suffered much in the flesh and he also says, "Yes doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." (Phil.3:8) This is a powerful statement.

Being "saved" was not enough for Paul. He had been apprehended by Jesus Himself. He knew His calling, and He also knew the demands that were now upon Him to fulfill that calling. As little children our Father raises us with great gentleness, but Sonship is a calling and is perfected through suffering. It was so for Job and also for Paul. It was certainly so for Jesus our Lord, and it is the same for every son as well. This is what the Lord was showing to Job. As sons we can look forward to the day when we will sing His praises and shout with joy unspeakable and full of glory!

Because of His love, Jackie Caporaso



CHANGE OF NAME EXPLANATION: You may have noticed that I inserted my name Angèle where Jackie had been before. The reason is that "Jackie" is a nickname and my legal name is Angèle.

Angèle is the name on my Birth certificate, Social Security, Citizenship papers and so on. Jackie does not appear on any of those documents. Lately, when I went to cash a check in the name of Jackie, the Bank told me that as far as they are concerned, Jackie does not exist because she has no Social Security number! For years this did not matter, but things are changing.

The name "Jackie" was given to me by my mother when it was obvious that my American friend, who later became my husband, had a problem pronouncing "Angèle". Although legally I have always been Angèle, my friends and acquaintances have always known me as "Jackie."

And so I ask my dear brothers and sisters who have supported this ministry, to make future donations in the name of Angèle Caporaso. And so, I thank you and I hope that it will not be an inconvenience.

To all my dear friends and brothers and sisters, I remain, Jackie Caporaso