



Angèle Caporaso
10552 SE 151st Street
Summerfield FL. 34491
Ph.352-288-5257 Email jackiecaporaso@gmail.com

OF MAN AND BEASTS

Recently, a sister in the Lord called me and reminded me of a publication I wrote many years ago. As we talked, she expressed how that each day, the Lord leads her to convey His love even to the unlovely. She explained that when Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves, He was not telling us to show love only to the people next door; He was including all who come daily into our lives and beyond. Personally, I have not always found this easy to do, and moreover, I have often found that the “unlovely” was often in myself. However, Jesus knew the hearts of man, and He saw, not only the evil, but He also saw Himself, Christ.

Jesus explains, *“For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger and ye took me not in. Naked and ye clothed me not, sick and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger; or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not unto me.”* (Matt.25:42-45)

As Christians we have the tendency to be very biased, to shut out anyone who does not believe as we do, or does not follow the same leader. But Jesus looked beyond the outer man, and saw Christ Himself, in prison, within a stranger. Does it mean that Christ dwells in everyone? There are various schools of thought on that subject, but it seems Jesus was saying that we should see Christ in every man. As a matter of fact, to truly love our neighbors, we need to see Christ in them. We usually look for Christ in those who act pious, and talk Bible talk like we do; but when we come face to face with a stranger, we are often greeted by the “strongman of that house.” *“How can one enter a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man?”* (Matt.12:29) The nature of Christ is usually hid under the flesh man, so that when we knock at the door of a man’s soul, we are greeted by any one of the old Adam’s nature, may it be an imitation of Christ or a growling rottweiler.

Christ is a mystery that is beyond man’s natural understanding, so that few are able to recognize Him. We may even think that Christ is Jesus’s last name. Indeed Jesus is “the Christ” as Peter avowed several times, *“And we believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* (Jn.6:69). Jesus Christ is the Son, the image and likeness of His Father, the Word made flesh, the firstborn among many brethren. As He shared the last supper with His disciples, Jesus compared the Bread that He gave each one, to His body that is broken for them. Speaking of Himself as the Bread of life, He gave thanks and *“...He brake it, (the bread), and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”* (I Cor.11:24) The words that Jesus speaks are spirit and life. He was explaining that His body is the whole loaf that would be broken in pieces and sent to each one who would partake of it. Through His death and resurrection, His body is becoming the new life of each one who partakes of it. Jesus said, *“Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, ye have no life in you.”* (Jn.6:53) This is not just a rite of the church; it is spirit and life.

The Book of Revelation is the unveiling of the resurrected and glorified Jesus Christ as He appears in the midst of His body, His church. This is clearly understood, as John who was in the Spirit, heard a great voice as of a trumpet behind him. The trumpet depicts a crystal clear, sharp and resonant voice. Then, John saw Jesus, clad in His splendid, priestly garments, standing in the midst of the Golden Candlestick, which represents His Church. Indeed, this is where our resurrected Lord stands now, in the midst of each of His called out people, His church. It is from the midst of His people that He sounds His sharp, crystal clear Word as a trumpet, heard by each member with ears to hear and standing ready to show forth His glory to the world. The resurrected Jesus is the life and light of the world, through His church. When Light is turned on, everything that has been hiding in darkness is uncovered. When Jesus Christ, who is the Light, speaks through His true church, all things that are hid in darkness, come into view. Good or evil, all things are revealed when the Light shines.

The book of Revelation is a book written in symbols. Through symbols, we are given the understanding of things that can only be known by the Spirit. Among these symbols, we find “beasts,” and we are introduced to two manners of beasts. There is a beast like a lion and a beast with the face of a man in Rev.4:7, and there is the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit, in Rev.11:7. The same word “beast” in these verses, have very different meanings. The first comes from the Greek word “Zoon”, meaning a living thing, or one who has life. The other comes from the Greek word “Therion”, meaning a dangerous, venomous animal. Both are symbolic of a nature found in the heart of man.

Scripture teaches us that the nature of a man’s heart is often represented through the nature of earthly animals. Jesus Christ is many times called a Lamb, and once called a Lion in the Revelation. Animals also play a large role in dreams. I remember when my mother passed away, Michael and I went to Belgium to settle her estate. In Belgium, I was assigned an attorney for the case. Before I met the man, the Lord gave me this dream. *I entered a large office where an opulent and intimidating desk occupied the middle of the room. We took our place on the two chairs in front of the desk and waited to see the lawyer. Soon, he appeared on the stuffed, leather chair behind the desk, only it was not a man, it was a large serpent, sitting down as if it was a man, in the chair; its head turned, his sharp beady eyes toward us. He kept swaying back and forth, from side to side as he sat there. Then he opened his mouth wide to begin speaking. His mouth was filled with molars, many teeth, all molars.* End of dream. The next day, when we met this attorney, he sat behind an opulent desk in a large room, and he had a habit of swaying from side to side as he sat in his big leather chair.

Weeks later, after Michael and I did a lot of the “leg work” required by Belgian law, to prove that I was my mother’s only living child, (my brother had passed away), this very shrewd lawyer had managed by unscrupulous means, to take a big bite out of my mother’s savings for himself. However, the Lord who gave me the revealing dream, also gave us the means to defeat his devious dealings. We all have examples of how God warns us through symbolic dreams, where animals play a star role, and reveal the nature that may be at work in a person or in ourselves. I remember years ago, when we were joined to group of like-minded Christians, I dreamed of a huge rattle snake, all coiled up with his rattles standing straight up and beginning to shake.

In the dream, I was told that this was the “serpent of old.” Suddenly as swift as lightning, the serpent bit me. This dream was the Lord warning me that the man in charge of the group, felt threatened by my dreams, and was about to strike with the same deadly venom as the serpent of old. And so he began to discredit the prophetic word ministry which the Lord spoke through my dreams. He labeled me “deceived,” and because he had much power in the group, I was soon shunned by the same people who had once loved me. My husband and I left the group.

The nature of the serpent in the garden, is the very nature of the Pharisees whom Jesus called, *"Serpents and generation of vipers."* And again, *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do..."* (Jn.8:44a) Jesus minced no words with them. He knew that the core of the serpent's nature is found in the strong craving to rule as God. Jesus said that they laid heavy burdens on the people. Indeed, they demanded offerings and sacrifices in the name of God, when indeed they were scheming to enrich themselves. John saw the Great Harlot Babylon, *"...drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus..."* (Rev.17:6a) Many thieves, under the guise of religion, have sapped the life's savings out of their followers, and never have brought them to the knowledge of Christ.

When the serpent, the most cunning and subtle of all the beasts of the field, stole man's dominion, man lost his power over the beasts, and the serpent's sly and deceiving nature found its way into man's mind. Man's mind became carnal, (of the flesh, sensual), and at enmity against God. *"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law, (Word) of God, neither indeed can be."* (Rom.8:7) Scientists call a part of man's brain, the "reptilian brain." It is the part involved with hunger, thirst, sexuality and territoriality as well as things we do without thinking. The serpent nature opens the way to all the beastly natures available, and soon, they enter in and express their vile natures through human beings.

In the beginning God gave Adam dominion over the earth, so man was in charge of God's earthly creation. He had dominion over all the beasts of the field, the fish of the sea and the birds of the air; he gave them all names. The name usually depicts the nature. Once we had a shaggy dog that we named "Teddy" because he reminded us of a teddy bear. We usually name our pets after their temperaments or looks. Adam was quick to recognize the nature of the animals and gave them names that best suited their inborn natures. There were wild beasts in the earth and there were tamed ones. God gave Adam discernment to identify the nature of all of them.

But the nature of the Adam man had dominion over all of them; he was the dominant beast, for God Himself visited him in the breeze of the day. *"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden, in the cool, (breeze), of the day."* (Gen.3:8a) Adam had dominion over the earth, but God is the One who commanded Adam, by the Spirit, (breeze), each day. *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying..."* (Gen.2:16a) These were the arrangements that Adam had with God. The Lord God was in charge of Adam, and Adam was in charge of everything in the earth. This was the way, until Eve sold out the dominion to the serpent, and the serpent became the dominant beast of the earth.

Among these animals, we find the lamb who is defenseless, meek, and peaceful. The lamb is the lowly nature that submits to God as a sacrifice, and is hated and pursued unto death by the serpent. The lamb is the one who follows the voice of the shepherd wherever he goes, even to the death of the cross. The life of the sheep or lamb is in the hands of the shepherd. The defenseless lamb is the only sacrifice acceptable to God. This is the nature that was in Abel who offered himself as a slain lamb to God, and it is the nature of Jesus, who offered Himself to God as the pure Lamb, and perfect sacrifice slain for the sins of the world. The sacrifice of Abel spoke of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who put on Himself the defenseless Lamb nature, and was slain by His own brethren.

Jesus told the Pharisees, *"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them ye shall scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from*

city to city. That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zecharias son of Barachias whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.” (Matt.23:34-35) These were all lambs, who were slain by the serpent in their day. Make no mistake, this slaughter has not stopped. Those in power are still slaying those who dare stand for the truth that reveals their wickedness. This is found in every branch of society today. They don’t literally slay them, but they stop their words from exposing the evil of their deeds. They kill the word of truth.

Men of power have raised their own kingdoms to rule the earth. They have made themselves gods to the people. They are serpents in disguise, and dominate through their underhanded natures. Mystery Babylon the Great, rules multitudes through the fraudulent spirit of that serpent. Earthly governments are established by men in power, and are fashioned by that same spirit. The government of our country was to be established under the rule of God, but even the esteemed men who founded it came short of God’s righteousness. And so what began as a haven where people were free to worship God in Spirit and in truth, soon became a fight for dominion. The true kingdom of God is indeed soon to come on earth, but it must first be established in the hearts of the lambs who have suffered, and died as offerings to God. Their death was not always a literal death, but was executed by the shutting down of their liberty to express the truth that was their lives. These are the kings and priests who will appear to rule with Christ when “*...the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*” (Rev.11:15) When the slain saints cried unto God from under the altar, asking when will He avenge them and raise them up, He answered that “*...they should rest yet for a season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*” (Rev.6:11b)

The old adage that says, “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely” certainly rings true in view of what we see in the world today. Governments reflect the beastly natures that motivates the hearts of godless men and women. The beast natures are the powers on which the governments that control the multitudes of nations, societies, clubs, associations, assemblies and the like are founded. As beasts, their strength is in the “pack.” Their goal is to unite the nations of the world under their banner.

Nations themselves adopt beasts as their symbols. There is the Russian Bear; the tiger, who can eat sixty pounds of meat at one sitting, is the symbol of several Asian nations, such as Bangladesh and Viet Nam. There is the Chinese Dragon, while Greece has adopted the dolphin, and the U.S.A chose the Bald Eagle. But the sons of God are led by the Lamb that was slain, while the Lion of the tribe of Judah is the one with the power to open the book and loose the seven seals. The sons of God are as the eagles, solitary and separate, soaring high in heavenly places above all of the world’s systems, awaiting the time when the Lord, and His Christ, Jesus Christ in His body, will take back the dominion, and reign forever in God’s entire creation.

Our earnest prayer is, “*Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven...*” Blessed be the name of the Lord, forever and ever, Amen.

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*