



MEAT IN DUE SEASON STUDY/LETTER NO.21

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HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS

The first chapter of Genesis clearly states, “ *So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him...* ” (Gen.1:27) However, from Adam to Cain and to the humans who are living today, it is difficult, if not impossible, to equate man’s character with the God of love and justice that Jesus reveals to us. Howbeit, if we take the time to look by the eye of the Spirit, we will find that within man, there is another image, there is a being that calls us to be better. There is one who needs to love and to be loved, and in hard times, that hidden desires to rise up and help his fellowman. That part of man has been hidden down deep, covered by a shroud of thick darkness, until he or she hears the voice of the Shepherd, and little by little is lifted up into a new Day of light and recognition, or as Peter puts it, “*...until the day dawn, and the day star arises in your hearts.*” (II Pet.1:19b). The rising of the fulness of Jesus Christ, the Sun of righteousness in our hearts is when we will see Him as He is, and be fully in His image. It is as we hear His voice and follow Him by faith that this phenomenon has been happening and continues to happen in us and to us.

The Christ who is “*...the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*” (Col.1:27), is being unveiled within a company of people today. Indeed this mystery has been part of the Gentiles, a people who were never part of the chosen as was Israel of old, a people who were outside of God’s covenant, but a people who, nevertheless, were predestinated to glory. “*And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory. Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles. As he saith also in Osee, (Hosea), I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children, (seed or sons), of the living God.*” (Rom.9:23-26)

From the time that Abel offered his lamb sacrifice to God, until Jesus Christ, God’s crucified Lamb, God has been hiding His magnificent Christ man in the stable of humanity. He was the Rock that followed them in the wilderness, and brought them through their otherwise impossible journey. He was the fourth man who walked with Daniel’s companions, in the fiery furnace, and who brought them out without harm or the least smell of smoke upon them. He is also the One who was nailed to the cross for the sins of the world. And He is the One whose Spirit within, has brought us all to this day. He is also bringing us out of this death, into full resurrection life. Indeed, the ways of God are not our ways, for He has ordained that all the glory of His image and likeness be revealed through the fire.

Long, long ago in the land of Uz, God called on Satan to test the mettle of His servant Job, whom He called, “*...perfect and upright, and one that feared God and eschewed evil.*” Job is a perfect type of God’s servants, as they are tested and tried to become sons. For Job, the testing was extremely severe as, in a short period of time, he suffered the loss of all his possessions, his children, the respect of his friends and his wife, and at the end, his physical health, strength, and dignity. During that time, Job did

not whine or complain, neither did he blame God for the desperate condition that became his lot in life. Instead, Job set his heart to seek God and to know Him in a more intimate way. So he uttered, *“And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh, shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”* (Job 19:26-27). Throughout the writings, Job is heard saying that He could not find God in all that was happening, yet he knew that God was in charge of his situation, and that it was for his good. *“He hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see Him. But He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”* (Job 12: 9b-10) Some of us know the feeling, and it is certain that in his spirit, Job was coming face to face with the greatest truth of the ages; the truth that Paul wrote about, and that at the end of this age, some will actually experience. It was by the same Spirit that the Psalmist declared, *“As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.”* (Ps.17:15) The truth is that through this death experience, we will break the bonds of this death, and rise in resurrection life, and in the image and likeness of God! This is the true rapture.

The truth is that all along, God has been forming His man in the image and likeness of His son, and that we are the clay from which that man is arising. It was Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, who began to set the new church in order, and to herald that truth to the Gentiles who were called to continue the work. After Jesus Christ ascended above all heavens, He ordained apostles and prophets who took up the work of spreading the Word and to call out others after them. *“He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastor and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”* (Eph.4:10-13)

The one that Paul calls the “prince of the power of the air,” has been the fierce enemy of the Word. He has worked furiously to either shut the mouths of God’s true ministers, or twist their message. Paul explains that Christ *“...that made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”* (II Cor.3:6). The prince of the power of the air is very adept in quoting the literal letter of the Word, and to bring many unaware Christians, under his power. It is obvious that this foe has had the upper hand with many well-known and respected ministers in the churches. As a result, the true ministers of Jesus, have been labeled “dangerous and deceived.” They have been rejected and have felt the wrath of so-called men or women of God, spewing out their viscous contempt and malice, killing the true witnesses of God’s Word in the streets of their Babylonian churches and assemblies.

But this relentless and fierce opposition has served to bring to light the power of Christ in the witnesses who have gone before, and in us *“Who have been saved, and called with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”* (II Tim.1:9). Our God has been using the devil’s own powers to strengthen our resistance to the world, the flesh and the devil, and to test the measure of our faith in Christ. As we hold on to the truth and the vision that the heroes of the faith have passed down to us, we overcome the hurdles in the way, and we continue to build and to be built into the true temple of God in the earth. We know some of these by name, but there have been many, and still are those whose name is not known, who have worked “underground,” with no fame, no glory in this world. Nevertheless, such ones have kept the vision alive; they have been, and are as the wings of a great eagle, feeding and giving strength to the woman, (souls of the virgin church), who gave birth to her manchild, (living word of God), and

is fleeing into the wilderness. Her wilderness is a place where there are no fellowships built by man's hands, no niceties to pamper the flesh, a place where the voice of the serpent spews out his lying and deceiving propaganda continually. It is a place where the woman, (redeemed soul), is led of the Spirit, to be tested, after she gives birth to the new Manchild. Moses had to flee to his wilderness after he killed the Egyptian and before he led the Israelites out of bondage. Elijah fled in the mountain cave where the ravens fed him, after he confronted Jezebel and her prophets of Baal. It was after Jesus was baptized, and His Father called Him His beloved Son, that the Spirit led Him to the wilderness to be tested by the cunning power of the devil, while He was cut off from all sustenance. So the woman who has brought forth the Manchild, is led to a wilderness of aloneness, where she is tested, strengthened and fed by the saints who have gone before her, and who hover over the woman, as a great eagle.

OUR SOUL IS ESCAPED AS A BIRD! *“Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we are escaped, our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”* (Ps.124:7-8) A few nights ago, the Spirit woke me up with these glorious words and I was filled with praise for my Father as I realized afresh and anew that it was my soul who had been captured by the serpent, and it was my soul that needed a Savior and a new husband. The husband that Paul calls our “Old Man,” has lured us with temporal pleasures, and has kept us in darkness concerning the realm of God's Spirit. We have been cloaked in the painful garment of this death, from whence our souls are yearning for the liberty that is ours in Christ. From the time that we turn our lives over to Jesus, the warfare between the New and the Old man in us, has been ongoing. Because of the power of the flesh over us, we need to remind ourselves that the Old man has been crucified with Christ; he is finished. To illustrate the warfare that had begun within me, the Lord once gave me this powerful dream, *“I was running away with all my might from a huge serpent that was after me. His body was not made of scales as usual, it was a body of pink flesh. It was terrifying, but as I kept running, I looked behind me and saw that a clear glass, invisible panel, had been erected in front of the snake, and though it was trying to push through it, it could not. It had been stopped, in its track.”* End of dream.

At the time, I did not fully fathom the scope of that serpent of flesh, but as I look back now, I know by experience that the flesh is a most powerful, deadly force that can wrap itself around us, paralyze us and crush us in its grip. The Lord showed me that the lies of the serpent are as a venomous snake, that kills us by injecting its deadly poison, but the flesh is as the power of a boa constrictor, that kills its prey by suffocation. The glass panel in the dream represents “FAITH,” for indeed it is by the power of faith that *“our old man is crucified with Christ...and that he who is dead is freed from sin.”* (Excerpts from Rom.6).

In the wilderness, Israel once encountered venomous serpents; many were bitten and died. Moses appealed to the Lord who directed him to make a “brazen serpent,” a serpent made of brass, and set it upon a pole. When the people beheld the brazen serpent they were healed from their mortal bites. This is symbolic of the Lord Jesus, who took upon Himself the nature of the serpent, and nailed it to the cross. Paul exhorts, *“For in that he, (Christ), died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, (the flesh), but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Rom.6:10-11) It is in the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, that the serpent of lies and of flesh dies, and we arise in Christ's life. These are words we all know well, yet it is through the experiences that the Spirit takes us through, that we know how real this really is.

Today, the Spirit speaks loudly in our souls, “The Old man is dead! Reckon him Dead!” The Lord continually works to raise our faith that we might know that, in Christ, the flesh has no power over us. He reminds us that indeed, He put the Old man to death and our souls are now free to marry the Man

from heaven. If we were still married to the Old, we could not marry Christ. If we are still married to Old Adam, we can in no way become the bride of Christ. “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. (Rom.7:2) *“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring fruit unto God.”* (Rom.7:4) And so the Old Adam that held our soul prisoner is dead, and our soul is free, as a bird, to turn fully to her first love and to marry her new Husband Christ. And here is what must be clear, “The work of crucifying the Old man is done by Jesus Christ, not by our will power or mental knowledge, or any such thing.

Our part is to “Reckon it done.” In other words, it is to appropriate it and fully believe that in Adam, we are dead. By faith, we “Reckon it Dead!” Do not give it life. When our flesh demands that we do things that the Spirit within us hates, we deny the flesh. We take hold of the cross and move on with the Spirit. This is what we have been practicing all these many years on this journey. When Paul cried out, “O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?(Rom.7:24), he was speaking of the Old man that kept demanding gratifications for this outer body. Paul knew the answer and he said, “I thank my God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.” (Vs.25)

From the time of His resurrection and ascension, Jesus has been calling, one by one, those who were in the grave, that is to say, in the sleep of death. One by one, He has been calling those would be first to hear His voice and enter into new life. It was when we first heard Jesus calling us, that we awoke and rejoiced as we received our Savior. On that day, we shouted with the Psalmist, “Our soul is escaped, as a bird, out of the net of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.” Oh the glory and the depth and this glorious deliverance!

Jesus called us, and by His voice He has led us through the experiences needed to stand in full faith in this *“Great and terrible day of the Lord.”* More than ever, we need to feed our souls with words of faith and encouragement. We need to keep our eyes and hearts on things above and not on what is going on in the earth. Our souls are free from the darkness of this world, yet the carnal man lusts for the glory of restoring the old world. There is not a man on this planet who knows how, or who is capable to restore peace to the world. God has sent great men to lead this country, yet not one of them was able to stop the stone cut out of the mountain, from crashing down upon the works of man. There is a verse that says it right, *“Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of host!”* The best work we can do for God and man now is to truly reckon ourselves *“Crucified with Christ...”*, and live by the power of the Son of God within.

It is only by faith that His called out ones are echoing the truth of the great transformation, that Paul and all of God’s apostles and prophets began to unfold. Is the caterpillar able to see the beautiful butterfly that is contained within its fuzzy body? And is it aware of what is happening to its members, while confined in the darkness and aloneness of the chrysalis? Is it yearning to be changed into that colorful butterfly, while its body parts undergo a remarkable transformation? By the same token, is the desire to break free from the body of this death, and awaken in the excellent image and likeness of our resurrected Lord, burning with intensity within us? For just as all the elements to transform the caterpillar into a butterfly are contained in the fuzzy body, so all the elements of the image and likeness of the Son of God are contained and hidden within the bodies of this death.

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*