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

POSSESSING OUR PROMISED LAND FROM GLORY TO GLORY

All that the children of Israel went through from the time that Moses led them out of their bondage in Egypt, to the time they arrived at the borders of the land that God had promised them, serves as an example to us, on our journey to the promises given to us, in Christ Jesus. *"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."* (I Cor.10:11) Their experiences were written so that we, who are coming to the end of this present world, would not make the same mistakes they did. An obvious mistake was that they thought they would just walk into the land triumphantly, without first fighting for it; they never thought that it had to be conquered. So when they arrived at the borders and saw that giants were dwelling there, they were afraid and lost their hope and faith. Most Christians simply believe that their land of promise is the paradise they enter after physical death. This indeed is a place where Jesus receives the souls of the departed, but this is not the "land" that is promised in Christ for the ages to come; it is only a temporary place in God's plan. In the age to come, God has purposed, *"A new heaven and a new earth"* as John saw in his vision on Patmos. (Rev.21:1)

The way we picture our land of promise, depends much on what we've been taught, until the Spirit begins to reveal more to us. As we grow in Christ, the images we have of spiritual things change. God has prepared many glorious things for us, but we cannot know them until He reveals them to us. Even the good teachings we have heard or read cannot be understood unless they are revealed to us by the Spirit. None of the princes or rulers of this world are ever able to know God's mysteries, so as long as the carnal mind rules, we are in darkness. *"But God hath revealed them to us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."* (I Cor.2: 10) Jesus has given us teachers and pastors, and they are very important to our growth in Christ, for they are as the cup of water needed to prime the well; it is the living water that rises from within that gives life.

It is by faith that we receive God's revelations by the Spirit, and it establishes our faith to find them confirmed in His written Word. Just as it is with Israel's wilderness journey, all the experiences of the patriarchs of the Bible also serve to confirm the things that the Spirit reveals to us. The Lord God told Moses and Joshua, *"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said to Moses."* (Josh.1:3) Just as Joshua led the people to the borders of the land, by revelation, the Lord leads us to the borders of our land and shows us what it is all about. He first shows us the beautiful fruit of the land, the love, peace, joy, longsuffering, goodness and all that belongs to our soul in Christ. But on the other side of the coin, He reveals the evil giants that have made themselves at home in the hearts of man for eons of time. When all the enemies of our souls are conquered, humanity will find peace, joy and goodness, and death and the grave will be no more. As sin entered all by one man, Adam, so the deliverance of humanity comes to all, by one Man, Christ Jesus.

A window on one of God's great mysteries, was opened to us, when God asked Job, *"Where were you when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"* (Job 38:7) Paul refers to the same when he reveals to the saints that they were indeed chosen and predestinated in Christ

“...before the foundation of the world...” (Eph.1:4-5) In that same chapter, Paul explains that God’s purpose for this is *“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.1:10) God lives in eternity, but for His creation he has made dispensations of time or ages. Paul tells us that God is working all things out in Christ so that, *“ in the **ages to come**, he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”* (Eph.2:7). There were ages before this one, and the end of this age is also the beginning of the next age. Oh how wonderful is our God! He has designed ages, so that He might develop a creation who would eternally partake of the riches of His grace!

When the Word of God became flesh in Jesus the man, the Christ creation of God had begun to appear in the earth. On the day that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, God took His abode in the earth (body), of His beloved Son; and He was well pleased. It was in Jesus that God the Father became visible in the world, *“Have I been so long time with you and yet hast thou not known me Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”* (Jn.14:9) Jesus was the embodiment of the Father, and He is *“...the firstborn among many brethren...”* (Rom.8:29) It was the Father’s Holy Spirit abiding in Jesus, that raised Him from the dead, and it is that very same Spirit in us that is bringing us to immortality. *“But if the Spirit of him that raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken, (give eternal life to), your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”* (Rom.8:11)

When Mary stood by the tomb weeping, Jesus spoke to her and she immediately reached out to Him. But He quickly stopped her, saying, *“Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended...”* (Jn.20:17) Was Jesus pushing her away? Oh no! But Jesus had to fulfill His mission. As we read in Heb.8:3-5, Jesus had to ascend as the High Priest of a new order, and seal the covenant with His blood. So our new High Priest took His blood and offered it on God’s Mercy Seat, and Jesus became the Mediator of a better covenant; a covenant sealed in God’s Mercy with His blood. It was after that was done, that Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days and nights, and prepared them to receive the promise of His Holy Spirit. This same Holy Spirit has been sent into His chosen, called out ones ever since, and has planted within her spiritual, redeemed and cleansed soul, the incorruptible seed, (Word), from which will emerge a new creature in the image of the Son of God.

The union of the soul with the incorruptible Seed produces the son in the image of Jesus Christ. The Spirit takes the soul through the purification, until, as a virgin, there is no trace of any other lover left in her; no attachment to any system of this world. Then she becomes one unit with God’s Spirit, and her life comes fully from the Son of God within, until the day she becomes bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh as a new being in the earth. This is the great mystery of a man with a maid, (Prov.30:18), and of Christ and His bride. This process cannot be by-passed; any other means used to bring forth a son is a thief and a robber. The visible church in the world has produced many sons who have evangelized the world, but because the word they taught was mostly the literal written word, their seed was not the incorruptible seed that could produce the image of the Son of God in the people. Jesus simply said, ***“Ye must be born again.”*** It is through the miracle of “birth” that the sons of God are born. And the son that is born in us, as us, is our promised land! Abba Father!

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*