



LETTERS L-35-36

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KEEPERS OF THE SEED THE PERILOUS JOURNEY (PART ONE)

In the beginning, God told Adam to multiply and replenish the earth; for that purpose God gave Adam seeds. He gave seeds for every plants and trees. He gave seeds to the animals, and He gave seeds to Adam to multiply after his kind. The process began when his wife, Eve, gave him his first two sons; there is no doubt that these two were both Adam's offspring, yet they were so different. What had happened in the garden when Eve ate of the forbidden tree, had changed the future of the entire Adamic creation. From that day forward, two kinds of natures multiplied in the earth. The self-righteous and dominant Cain whose heart and mind were at enmity with the submissive Abel, willing to be led as a lamb to the slaughter. And so Abel became the first of many to be slain for being found righteous. Jesus told the Pharisees of His day, *"That the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation. From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias which perished between the altar and the temple; verily I say unto you, it shall be required of this generation."* (Lk.12:50-51). The same spirit that was in Cain was also in the Pharisees, and God had ordained that their kind would be the ones upon whom God's avenging would fall; it was that generation who crucified the Son of God. We hear the voices of all those who were slain for the Word of God, *"And they cried with a loud voice saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?...and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a season, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."* (Rev.6:10-11). It is clear that God will avenge His servants when all who are called to lay their lives down for God's Word, will be rejected and slain; if not literally, then the Word that they carry will be maligned and rejected by all those who should be brethren.

In his letter, John speaks of Cain, *"Not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."* (I Jn.3:12) Cain was of the "evil one," he took on the nature of the serpent that had defiled his parents, and polluted Adam's seed because of their disobedience. The serpent was out to destroy the seed of God from the beginning. But 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) The warfare to keep the seed alive was directed at the woman. From that day forward, the seed that would give birth after God's image in the earth, had begun a journey filled with entrapment, pitfalls and dangers. The man is the bearer of that seed, but it is the woman that receives it and nurtures it to fruition. Every step of the way, the woman had been chosen by God for the qualities and character that He had placed in her. Throughout the entire journey, it is the woman who has to struggle against the forces of evil that gather against her, to prevent her from protecting and perpetuating the life of the seed.

Cain was banished, but God did not forget Adam and Eve; He gave them a third son called Seth. The name Seth means "Appointed," or "Placed," in the sense that Seth was placed as a substitute for Abel, and was appointed to continue the line of the seed of God. And so Seth had a son he called Enos, and from that time, *"... then began men to call upon the name of the Lord."* (Gen.4:26) The seed of God was set on course.

ABRAHAM AND SARAH- As we follow the genealogies recorded in both Matthew and Luke's Gospels, we can trace the journey of the seed from Abraham to the birth of Jesus Christ. The genealogies begin with the

moving saga of Abraham who was called of God to leave his homeland, not knowing where he and his wife and household would end up. They journeyed over three thousand miles, over desert barren land, before they reached Canaan, and went through many trials and perils on the way. Through all that time, Sarah remained barren, which was a concern for Abraham was very rich and badly needed a son to inherit his fortune. Happily, when he was eighty years old and Sarah seventy, the Angel of the Lord visited them to announce that Sarah would conceive and bear a son to Abraham. Sarah laughed; at her age, she would conceive? This must be a joke. So they waited, and waited, and waited, until finally Abraham took matters into his own hands and went into Hagar, their maid-servant, and she conceived and Abraham had a son; Ishmael was born. However this was not God's plan, and twenty years after the Angel's visit, at the age of ninety, Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham. They called him Isaac because she had laughed. This is a well-known story, but the truth is that the seed which was in Abraham had waited all these years to prepare the womb that God had ordained. That seed was the most precious seed, for we read, *"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."* (Gal.3:16) With Isaac began a new lineage, a new line of descendants. It is important to note, that God was very specific about the bride chosen to give birth to the seed. She also had been chosen, according to God's plan and purpose. For God had told the serpent, that the seed that God gave to Abraham was to continue its journey through the line of very specific brides. It was vital not only for the birth of Jesus after the flesh, but also for the birth of the Body of Christ, (the Manchild), after the Spirit. We know the story of how Sarah did not hesitate to cast out Ishmael, the son of the bondwoman, for he could not be heir with her son Isaac.

ISAAC AND REBEKAH- The seed which was given to Abraham had to continue its journey through his son Isaac, for *"...only in Isaac shall thy seed be called."* (Rom.9:7b) Abraham also had his heart set on finding the right bride for Isaac so he sent Eliezer, his faithful servant, to his home country of Haran, a journey of some three thousand miles on camel train, across the hot, sandy desert to find him a bride among his own people. The Lord was in this and Rebekah just happened to be drawing water at the well when Eliezer arrived on the scene. He had many gifts for the young woman, but it still was a serious and very hard decision for her. It meant leaving her family, friends and the life she knew, and go on this long, horrendous journey, to be joined to a man she had never seen and a family she knew nothing about. Yet the day came when Rebekah uttered the famous words, *"I will go."* I have written about Rebekah's journey in the past, and the story always stirs my heart with wonder. This again confirms that the choosing of the right bride for the seed of Abraham is vital to God's plan and purpose for creation.

JACOB, LEAH AND RACHEL- Rebekah gave birth to twin boys they named Esau and Jacob. God told her, *"Two nations are in thy womb; and two manners of people shall be separated from thy bowels..."* (Gen.25:23). God had chosen Jacob to continue the lineage of the seed, and so even from his mother's womb Jacob struggled to obtain the birthright of the first begotten. We know the story, and how Jacob was defeated at the time. But Jacob was never a quitter; he was single-eyed on getting the birthright at the cost of scheming to get to that end. His struggles and conniving reached a peak when the time came for Jacob to go find a bride. He retraced the journey that Eliezer had made to go find Rebekah, but on the way God met him in a dream, and gave him the very same promise that He had given to Abraham, *"...and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."* (Gen.28:14-15) Jacob was the bearer of the Christ seed. At Laban's house, Jacob learned submission and obedience. He labored twenty years under Laban and it was there that he married two sisters, but God gave fertility to Leah only, while the beloved Rachel remained barren, for God had other plans for her. And so Leah gave Jacob ten sons, among whom was Judah, the next in line for the seed. These were the beginning of the nation called after Jacob's new name, Israel, (prince of God).

JUDAH AND TAMAR- Judah was the bearer of the seed. He begat three sons, Er, Onan and Shelah. Judah gave his firstborn son a wife by the name of Tamar, but *“Er was wicked in the eyes of the Lord and God slew him.”* (Gen.38: 7) Then Tamar was given to Onan so that the seed of his brother might be raised up, but Onan was not willing to do this and he spilled his seed on the ground. *“And the thing which he did displeased the Lord; wherefore he slew him also.”* (Vs.10) Then Judah promised his youngest son Shelah to Tamar but because of his young age he asked her to wait. So Tamar went back to her father's house but she never gave up. In the process of time Judah's wife died and Tamar seized her opportunity. On the day that Judah went up to his sheep-shearers, Tamar sat by the side of the road like a harlot. She was wrapped and covered with a veil so that she could not be recognized. When Judah came by and saw her, he approached her. Although she knew that what she was about to do could cost her life, she still made a deal with him. For her favors, he would give her a kid goat from his flock and as a pledge she would hold his signet, bracelets and his staff; (his identities). In the heat of the moment Judah gave her what she asked for.

Later, when Judah sought this harlot to give her the promised kid and retrieve his identities, but she was nowhere to be found. Several months passed until someone told Judah that Tamar, his daughter-in-law was pregnant. *“...Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.”* (Vs.24) It was then that Tamar revealed what she had done. *“When she was brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, “By the man, whose these are, am I with child:” and she said, “Discern I pray thee, whose are these, the signet and bracelets and staff.”* (Vs.25) Then Judah had to acknowledge that indeed the child was his because his sons had failed to give her seed. Tamar was a true bride of God. She wanted that seed more than anything in the world and willingly put her life on the line for it. Tamar gave birth to twins, Zerah and Perez.

SALMON AND RAHAB- It was from the lineage of Perez that Salmon was born. He was one of the two spies that were sent ahead into Jericho. Rehab was the innkeeper located in the wall. She risked her life to save the two spies' lives for she had heard about the God of Israel and she feared Him. Actually, Rehab was there by divine appointment, for God had chosen her to bear the seed and continue its journey. Many sermons have been preached about her but it is in the genealogies that we discover the important role God had given to this courageous woman. And Rahab gave birth to Boaz.

BOAZ AND RUTH- It was during a time of famine in new Bethlehem-Judah that Elimelech and his wife Naomi took their two sons with them to the land of Moab. However, Naomi's husband died and Naomi was left alone with her two sons. So they took wives from the land of Moab. The name of one was Orpah and the other Ruth. They dwelt there for about ten years when it came to pass that both sons also died, leaving no seed to their wives. This also was of God, for the precious seed was not in either of these men. So Naomi was left alone with her two daughters-in-law and decided it was time to return to her homeland. She had heard that the Lord had visited His people and given them bread. She offered to set her two daughters-in-law free to remain in their land, while she returned home to Bethlehem-Judah. Orpah went her way but God had chosen Ruth for His purpose. And so, He gave her a heart to love Naomi and to give her full devotion to her. It was then that Ruth uttered the famous words, *“..Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God...”* (Ruth 1: 16b) Upon their arrival in Bethlehem-Judah, it was the time of barley harvest, so Ruth offered to go to the fields and glean for their sustenance. Naomi told her to go to the field of Boaz, a near kinsman of Ruth's deceased father-in-law, Elimelech. This was important, for Boaz was a bearer of the seed. So Ruth was directed to Boaz's fields and soon, she laid at his feet, which is an act of submission to marriage. Thus it was not long until Boaz fulfilled the demand of their traditions and as a near kinsman to the deceased Elimelech's son Boaz and Ruth were wed. The Lord blessed them and Ruth bore a son that they named Obed and Obed

begat Jesse who was the father of David. And so, through many detours, struggles and hardships, the seed reached another step of its very important journey. At times it came close to becoming extinct, but the Lord always raised the chosen man and woman, motivated by the Spirit to never give up. The serpent never failed to show up, but as God had ordained, each time he did, the woman bruised his head.

DAVID AND BATHSHEBA- *"And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias."* (Matt.1:6) It was Bathsheba's beauty that attracted king David, but it was all part of God's mighty plan for the seed. Bathsheba truly suffered through this ordeal, and the genealogies seem to look upon her with disdain, as they make it a point to not even mention her by name. However, she did her part and gave birth to Solomon. Bathsheba paid a high price to fulfill her role in the continuance of the journey of the seed. As a married woman, she must have been humiliated and afraid when the king called her to himself. Furthermore, David even had her husband killed in order to hide his sin and keep Bathsheba to himself. David had other wives, but it was Bathsheba that God had chosen to give birth to the son who would bear the seed. It is normal to be offended by what David did, it certainly gives us something to think about concerning God's ways, for God had chosen Bathsheba, just as He chose us in our whoredom with the world, as it was ordained in Christ before the foundation of the world.

So Bathsheba gave birth to Solomon, and from Solomon's seed came the line of the kings of Israel. The genealogies tell us that it was at the time of Jechonias that the nation was carried away to the long captivity in Babylon. But being in captivity did not stop the journey of the seed; it would not be deterred or delayed. Even after seventy years, while most of the people had built their own houses, planted their own fields and felt secure and at ease in Babylon, God had His seed man; Zorobabel and a little remnant with him stood ready to come out of captivity and go rebuild Jerusalem. The seed was moving on.

JOSEPH AND MARY- *"Zorobabel begat Abiud and Abiud begat Eliakim...until Matthan begat Jacob and Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ."* (Matt.1:13) The seed of Abraham, through the line of Judah and David had finally come to its final destination. God chose the young virgin Mary to bring forth the life of the seed, and He gave her Joseph, who was a bearer of the seed, to be her husband. However at this point, the seed could no longer be transferred through a man for this child had to be sinless. Therefore, even though Joseph was of the right lineage, he did not cause Mary's pregnancy, but he accepted his role as the father of Jesus for Mary's safety and the family's sake. Mary became with child by means of the Holy Spirit. *"...before they came together, she (Mary), was found with child of the Holy Ghost."* (Matt.1:18b)

For a short while, Joseph went through agony, confusion and humiliation, but the angel of the Lord quickly visited him, *"Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived within her is of the Holy Ghost."* (Matt.1:20) And the angel explained all about the Son that was to be born to Mary. Joseph's acceptance saved the life of Mary and her child, for the law was plain and a woman caught in adultery must be stoned to death. Jesus put on the seed of Abraham after the flesh, *"For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people."* (Heb.2:16-17) The Word became flesh and was tested in all ways even as we are. The seed had made it through a long and perilous journey, and now it was caught up in Jesus Christ. To be continued in part two...

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*