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KEEPERS OF THE SEED-THE PERILOUS JOURNEY-(PART TWO)

Because Abraham did not hesitate to offer Isaac, his only heir and only son in God's eyes, as a living sacrifice, God gave him a solemn promise that He sealed with an oath; this promise can never be altered or dissolved. "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen.22:18) And so God gave Abraham a seed; the Christ seed. Addressing the saints and faithful brethren, Paul revealed that the Christ seed is "The mystery that has been hid among the Gentiles from ages and generations." (Col.1:26-27) When it reached Heli, the father of Joseph, the accepted father of Jesus, the Christ seed had traveled through its amazing journey from Abraham and its initial mission was accomplished. The Christ seed went back to the Father and Mary, the young virgin chosen by God Himself, was impregnated with a pure, holy, new dimension of that seed; she gave birth to her sinless baby son and called Him Jesus. In Jesus, the Christ was made flesh; Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Now a whole new seed was in the making, and the quest for the right bride had changed course. The journey of the new seed began and the search for the right bride was ongoing, howbeit this would not be a flesh and blood bride, this was a spiritual treasure hunt. "Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterwards that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth earthy, the second man is the Lord from heaven." (I Cor.15:46-47) The first journey of the seed through a flesh and blood line was necessary for we read, "But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." (Gal.4:4) "For verily he, (Jesus), took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham." (Heb.2:16) And so the seed of Abraham which traveled through the generations from Abraham to Christ had reached its destination in the person of Jesus the Christ. "And we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Jn.6:69)

Jesus grew up as an ordinary boy, raised by His father and mother in this world. It was when He was baptized by John, in the Jordan river, that the heavenly Father acknowledged His Son and sent His Spirit to dwell within Him. "And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lightening upon him. And lo a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt.3:16-17)

Jesus did many astonishing things while He walked the earth, and He was surrounded by many followers, including women who tenderly loved Him; yet Jesus never took a natural bride, for the Father had laid out His plan from the foundation of the world. And so, just as Abraham laid Isaac down to be sacrificed as a lamb to obtain the promise of blessing all the nations, (peoples) of the world, so Father God had ordained that His only Son become a sacrificial Lamb for the saving of all the nations or peoples of the world. It was through death and resurrection that not only the sins of the world were atoned, but also a new seed was given; a seed that would reproduce after the very same new creature that Jesus became after He was resurrected and ascended to present His blood to the Father. This was the brand new seed, a seed that would give birth to the image and likeness of the Son of God in a many-membered body of immortal, eternal beings. "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the

preeminence." (Col.1:17-18) Jesus in flesh and blood, finished the work that the Father assigned to Him, and He prayed, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest 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) The Lord Jesus returned to His former glory; He was again one with the One of whom He said, "When you've seen me, you've seen the Father." Jesus will no longer appear as a singular Man in the world. Instead, Jesus returned to us in the form of His Holy Spirit, preparing His bride for Himself. Jesus, as He was in flesh and blood could not impart His seed to His bride; this can only be done through the impartation of His Spirit. Before His departure, He told His disciples, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; it is expedient, (necessary) for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter, (Holy Spirit) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him to you." (Jn.16:7) For Jesus, the choice was simple; He could continue to minister visibly in the world, or He could return to the Father and the world would not see Him again; He chose the latter and said, "Yet a little while and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me, because I live, ye shall live also." (Jn.14:19). We will not see Jesus in the world again; He has finished that work; we can only find Him in Spirit from within. Jesus is imparting His Word, (seed of life), in the soil of our earthly souls. He is giving new life to a body of people who will forever be in His own eternal image and likeness. Through them, He will minister life to the world, and do the greater works that He told us we would do. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." (Jn.14:12) Jesus is not coming back to do the greater works, He will do them through His people.

And so the journey of the seed was not yet over when Jesus was born of Mary. Since His death and resurrection, by His Spirit, the Lord has been calling His bride and preparing her to receive his new seed (Word of life). According to the Father's plan, she was chosen in Christ, from the foundation of the world. She was cast into the world and fell into its darkness. She became a slave to the ways and religions of the world, and looked and acted just like the world. But when she heard the voice of her Shepherd, something in her awakened and she perked up and took hold of His life-giving, incorruptible Word. That same Word is the new seed that was the Sower sowed into many hearts, which has produced on many levels. But the true bride, could not get enough of hearing His voice, she knew that voice from long ago, and another she would not follow. She went through many teachers, many preachers, but always looked for something more. She was looking for that "city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." (Heb.11:10) As she listened to His voice, she was drawn to Him and found that she was awakening to that first love that she once knew and cherished. She answered the call and followed Him daily, turning away from the familiar earthly lovers, and seeking Him whom her soul loveth. "Have ye seen Him whom my soul loveth?" (Song of Songs 3:3) While she felt that she was not worthy of Him, she could not be denied; she knew she was His and would not let Him go until He blessed her. She is not looking for the loaves and the fishes, the natural possessions of this world, but she desires the treasures that are contained in Him. And He knows her well. He knows that she has had many lovers in this world but that does not deter Him or stop Him. Patiently, by His Spirit, He wooes her back unto Himself. He took her sins with Him in the death of the cross, and He began to cleanse her soul from all the blemishes, spots and wrinkles of the flesh. He made her His pure virgin bride, that she might give life to the Son after His likeness and image. She has been in travail to bring forth, but soon the mystery that once was "Christ in you, the hope of glory," will be His glory revealed from you to the world. We are richly blessed!

A Thought to Ponder- A question I read in a book which caused me to stop and take notice: "What are we seeking? Union or personal perfection?"

Because He is love. Jackie Caporaso