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THE MYSTERY OF THE WOMAN

THE DREAM- From time to time, the Spirit of God gives us glimpses into the age to come. But these glimpses are like clouds that quickly come and go. Recently, I had a dream that I pondered for a few days, until I knew that it concerned a teaching that I had been earnestly praying about. In the dream, *"I had been paid to uncover some hidden truth about a woman, (unknown in the dream). This truth was hidden in a library in Paris France. So I went to Paris and to this huge library building with marble pillars, tapestries, and book shelves filled with books from floor to ceiling. This library exists only in the dream, and it was where I had to go to find what I was paid to uncover about this mysterious woman. Inside, I asked a clerk for help in finding what I needed. She said, I am very busy at the moment, but if you will wait, I will get to you. So I sat down on a stool available, and I waited. A couple of men approached me and it seems I knew one of them from a TV news program, but they went away quickly. Finally the clerk came to me, and I explained to her that I was paid to find this, so she understood that I was commissioned to do this and therefore it was not just for self-knowledge. She went to a shelf and found a large volume, with a hard maroon, embossed cover. She opened it to a certain page, and pointed out where I should read; it was my answer."* End of dream.

Many dreams are given to reveal things that are hidden in our subconscious, our inner soul. They help us cope with the effect such things have over our lives. Often the Spirit reveals the direction He is leading us. There are multitudes of dreams that have no meaning at all, but many dreams are answers to prayers. Dreams always apply first to us personally, and sometimes they also apply prophetically to the entire Body of Christ as they reveal what God is about to do among His people, or in the world. Dreams must be interpreted by the Spirit and not literally. It is one thing to understand the message of a dream, but another to know how it will come to pass in our lives. Dreams are tailor-made for the understanding of the dreamer and are better understood as they come to pass.

In my dreams, the city of Paris usually represents the "City of Lights." History records that in the seventeenth century, Paris was actually dubbed City of Lights when King Louis XIV decreed that every main street should be illuminated by lanterns, and people should set oil lamps in every window. Later, all of Paris's nearly 300 sites, 37 major bridges, all avenues and streets were fully illuminated as soon as the sun went down. So in my dreams, Paris usually represents a place of spiritual enlightenment. For several days the dream remained vivid in my mind, but what was it that the Lord wanted me to know, and who was the "woman" that I needed to know more about?

I had been paid to find this, which showed that I had the means to find the answer which could only come by revelation or enlightenment of the Spirit. Paul prayed for the elect, that *"The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory might give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened..."* (Eph. 1:17-18a). It is the Spirit of revelation that opens our understanding of dreams, and the spirit of wisdom that shows us where the dream applies in our lives. The dream assured me that I would find the answer. Could this be an answer to a question that had been troubling me? Indeed, I had been praying and asking for greater clarity about the bride and the sons of God company or companies. Knowing that this subject has been the talk of different brethren lately, I have been seeking more light about it. In the dream, the two men that came and left while I was waiting, represent the

thoughts that just come to my mind and quickly disappear. As it were, I did not have to wait long; the mystery of the woman was soon to be known.

THE MYSTERY OF THE BOOK- Paris denotes spiritual enlightenment, but what do the library, the librarian and the book represent? And who is the "woman" that I need to learn more about? It was a few days later, when I phoned Esther, a dear sister in the Lord and our conversation was quickly centered on the bride and the sons of God company. As it unfolded, I realized that the Paris library was none other than my phone call to Esther. She was the librarian of my dream who knew where to find the book with the information I needed. This subject had been my ardent prayer for an answer; many of my respected brethren believe that there are two separate companies of people, one of the sons of God, and one of the bride. I believed that the bride and the sons are one and the same company of people. Spiritually speaking, there is no doubt that sons have to be formed in the woman, only a woman, can give birth to sons. Through the power of God's Holy Spirit, the bride, the church is made pregnant and gives birth to the sons. To my understanding, the bride becomes the visible part of the sons, and the sons are the life within the bride. This way, they remain one company. When I heard about the two companies, I began to pray for more light. This dream led me to Esther.

As my friend kept talking, I listened carefully and I realized that she had my answer. The truth I needed had been written in her heart, and she was ready to point it out to me. Paul explained that we are epistles, or letters or even books, written for all men to read, *"Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle, (letter), of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."* (II Cor. 3:3) First, I explained my understanding to her, but as she talked, I could hear the anointing rising in her words. It all made sense, and then suddenly, I saw it as it witnessed to my spirit, actually, we both saw the clear picture. Indeed, the woman is the virgin bride who is betrothed, (not yet married), to God's Holy Spirit, and impregnated with the incorruptible seed of His Word. She is the one who gives birth to the sons and who nurture the sons to maturity when, by the Spirit of adoption, they are turned over fully to the Father. More about that as we continue.

THE BRIDE, THE CHURCH, NEW JERUSALEM, THE MOTHER OF US ALL (Gal.4:26)- In his latest posthumous study, Brother Eby explains the Jerusalem from above, the church. As it often happens, the Spirit is speaking the same Word to many of us, confirming that this is truly the burden of the Spirit for today. We, who have journeyed in this Word, have found ourselves out of the church systems, and into gatherings of saints that we know to be the true church, the bride, the woman, new Jerusalem from above. It is this virgin, separated church that truly gave birth to the son in us. When the angel showed John the bride, he showed him New Jerusalem the heavenly or spiritual city, who is the mother of us all; individually she is the soul that meets Christ within us, but she is also the city, the true congregation of saints in the Spirit. It is in this bride, in this city that the Christ within each one of us began to be formed, through the constant nurturing of the ministries that Jesus gave for His church. For a time, our hungry souls were fed by the faithful teaching of the Word, and training of the gift ministries that Jesus gave to men after He ascended. Paul explains, *"But to every one of us, is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men...And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors 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, (mature), man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."* (Eph.4:7-8,11-13) These ministries do not teach according to the doctrines of man, neither are they under the authority of man. These ministries are gifts and they do not charge for their services; they are anointed by the Spirit, and are directed only by the Spirit. There are many apostles and prophets who have never been known as such, yet have planted the seed of life within this bride. The sons grow within the woman, until they reach a level of maturity and go to the Father. It is as sons, under our

Father's discipline that we leave all learned doctrines behind and go on to perfection. As mature sons we learn our Father's ways and learn obedience to His perfect will and get tested through suffering. ***"Jesus, though He were a Son, yet learned obedience through the things which He suffered."*** (Heb.5:8)

THE ADOPTION OF SONS- At the time called the "adoption," we are placed under the Father's discipline and training. Paul writes, *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry 'Abba Father.'" (Rom.8:14-15)* The translation of the word "adoption" is somewhat confusing because the word translated "adoption" actually means "placement." By the spirit of adoption, our Father begins to set each one of His son, in the place assigned for them to function through the ages to come. Each son has a specific calling that is perfected through suffering. As mature sons, the Spirit of adoption leads us by the anointing of the witness within. John writes to those he calls "little children" because they have known the Father, *"But the anointing that ye have received of him, abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, ye shall abide in him."* (I Jn.2:27) These have known the Father's ways and have entered into His courts. When we have come to perfect obedience to the will of our Father, we enter another dimension of understanding, another level of spiritual growth in Christ. At that time, we are not only born again of the water and of the Spirit, but we are fully born of God. *"Whosoever is born of God doth not sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."* (I Jn 3:9) This is the seal of a mature son of God. Can we not see how the Lord is working to bring us from babes in Christ, to the time of maturity? Are we able to grasp the reality of what He is doing to change us from glory to glory? He is working in our souls, and transforming our minds to make us perfect, new creatures, spirit, soul and body. The manifested sons who will deliver creation have to first be delivered themselves, until all come to the image of the Son of God. Only the Spirit can reveal these things to us for *"...they are spiritually discerned."* (I Cor.2:14)

By the Spirit of adoption, we surrender all to our Father, Abba! And it is the Spirit of adoption working in our souls that brings us to the redemption of our bodies. *"...but we ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves, waiting for the ADOPTION, to wit, THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODIES."* (Rom.8:23) When we fully function in our place as sons, the redemption and manifestation of body will have come, and we will stand as new complete creatures, spirit, soul and body. This is the Day we are now entering. *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of Jesus Christ."* (I Thess.5:23) The word "coming" here means "appearing." When the full Christ appears from within us, we will also appear as He is. *"Beloved, Now are we the sons of God. and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear: we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."* (I Jn. 3:2)

The two companies (bride and sons), are two dimensions in Christ. On our journey to becoming as He is, our inner man, (mind and soul), walked through several levels of growth and transformation, just as we did when we moved from Passover to Pentecost. We are all going in the same direction, to the same goal, but our understanding varies. Some have been so comfortable under the mother's nurturing that they just cannot move on, they are not ready to enter the bridal chambers and become one new man with their heavenly bridegroom. And so Esther and I agreed that among the called out saints, there are two dimensions of thoughts, two ways of moving on in the Spirit, two companies; one as the woman, the other as the sons.

THE WIFE OF THE LAMB- *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, write, Blessed are they which are called into the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true*

sayings of God." (Rev.19:7-9) Note that the wife of the Lamb has **made herself ready**, but the bride is the one that Christ has prepared to present to Himself. The Greek word for bride means "a young married woman, a veiled woman." The bride has been betrothed to Christ and in Hebrew traditions, the betrothal was a binding contract even though it did not include the consummation, which came later. The marriage supper of the Lamb speaks of the consummation, the final union of man and wife. The Greek word for "wife" actually means "enticing, alluring." The wife who has made herself ready presents herself as an alluring woman, ready for total surrender. She is responding to her bridegroom who has wooed her and has stirred up her heart, her first love, her ardent desire for the One who is the truth and the Word of God. She no longer craves the admiration, the prestige and the wealth that Babylon and the world has to offer. She is simply and deeply in love, and her passion is to give Him the son and heir He so desires. As the Spirit showed me in a dream, the Father's approval of His son's wife, hinges on the sincerity of her love for Him. To make herself ready, the wife had to fall in love with her bridegroom and be fully in harmony with his perfect will. As the Lamb's wife, she will take on the nature of the One who is ready to lay His life down, the nature who gives His life for the saving of the world.

THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH- As Esther and I continued our long conversation, the Spirit brought us to the story of the ten virgins of Matthew 25. The scene takes place at midnight, the world is in pitch darkness. This is the long awaited time when the bridegroom appears to take his virgin bride into his chambers. The time of her betrothal has been fulfilled and the consummation of the marriage is at hand. Ten is the number of testing, so these ten virgins had been tested many times, but there was one final crucial test to pass, "Were they all ready for this marriage? But the bridegroom was delaying his coming and they all fell asleep. Have we not been waiting for our bridegroom to appear at any time and bring us fully unto Himself?"

The story says that five were wise, and five were foolish and, *"They that were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them; But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."* (Matt.25:3) They all had oil in their lamps. They all had spiritual vision and could see in the Spirit; they had spent hours reading, listening, learning and pondering the Word of God. They believed the promises and had done all things right; they were virgins separated unto Christ. They ALL dozed off and they ALL heard the cry, *"Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go out and meet him. Then all the virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out."* (Matt.25:3-4, 6b-8) For half of them, something had gone wrong; they could not go in with Him because something was missing. They were all dedicated to Him and even separated unto Him, but not all were filled with the intense and ardent desire to leave all behind and give themselves completely to their bridegroom. They were not prepared to surrender to Him only, and to give him the son, the heir that He so greatly desired. Half of them were still attracted to the "good old days" the world could still offer. Half were not filled with that ardent first love that could only come from a closer walk with Him each day. Half had the picture in their mind, but their hearts and affections were still mixed; they were not "single eyed." Oh yes, they desired Him, but they also desired what the world could offer; their inner vessel, their heart and soul were not filled with the oil of joy for their bridegroom. These foolish virgins had oil in their lamps but not in their vessels, and they could not borrow any. It had to be purchased by a daily walk with His Spirit. The oil in the vessel is the love for the truth, it is the desire to become the likeness and image of the Son of God.

The woman of my dream is the virgin church, the wife of the Lamb, the one who crushes the head of the serpent by the power of the Son who arises within her. She is the one who has become a company of sons. May all who have ears to hear, and hearts to understand, find themselves caught up into this Christ company of sons, and may the glory of our God put an end to the groaning of creation, forever and ever, Amen!

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*