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

THE SON IS CAUGHT UP...THE WOMAN FLEES...

INTRODUCTION- Bible scholars and truth seekers through the centuries, have looked into the meaning of the visions that John received while in exile on the Isle of Patmos. In the past several years, the word concerning the woman who gives birth to the Manchild has been coming into focus. *"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered."* (Rev.12:1-2) Then, we get the picture of the great red dragon, ready to devour her child as soon as it was born. But this child has a great purpose and is quickly saved from the grasp of the dragon, *"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."* (Vs.5) We know that this woman is not speaking of Mary, the mother of Jesus, because the book of Revelation was written after Jesus was born, crucified and resurrected. Therefore, all visions written therein pertain to things which came to pass after His resurrection, and are still coming to pass in our day. The woman represents the virgin church, the called-out people that Jesus built by His Spirit, and who has been faithful to nurture the Word of life in her spiritual womb until this day. The Manchild is the new creation in Christ formed in her, the one who is called "the Overcomer," the son who inherits all things. Indeed, her child is the Christ in His many-membered body of saints. Those who receive the promises given to Abraham, to bless all the nations of the earth.

I was blessed when I read a recent issue of Preston Eby where he speaks of the "Day Star," as the Lord Jesus Christ's first appearance in the world of darkness. Jesus is the precursor of the rising Sun, the Son of righteousness, which is the appearing of Christ in His complete body of sons. He came first, alone to atone for sins, but now He comes in His body, to deliver and heal the creation. *"So also the Christ, once having been offered to bear the sins of many, a second time, apart from a sin-offering, shall appear to those waiting for him-- to salvation."* (Heb.9:28 Young Literal Translation).

The second appearing of Christ has already taken place in the firstfruits, but it is yet to arise in the darkness of this world. The Bible speaks of this appearing as the rule and reign of Christ for a thousand years. This is what the world is groaning and travailing for. Many studies have been written on this subject. One that I read most recently was well researched and clearly detailed by Eric Ellis in 2021; it is called, "The Birth Pangs." He also touches the subject in his newest study called, "The Song of the 144,000," where he equates the time we are in now, with the millennial reign of Christ. I wrote this introduction because recently, the Spirit gave me a dream that further opened to me, the reality of this Manchild already ruling in us and soon to be revealed to all.

IN TRANSIT- I remember well the many times I rode the Metro, (subway), in Paris where I grew up. I knew the names of all the stations that were on the "lines" that I traveled to go to school every day, and all the stations where the train stopped on the lines I had to take to go visit my father and step-mother. So when I saw a certain station, I knew I would get off at the next, and I stood ready facing the automatic door. This is how we stand in the Spirit today. We have been traveling through all the stations

on the way, we have passed the many trials and changes that were necessary to bring us to our destination, and now we are looking for the "Door" to open; our destination is the "city" that God built. the one Abraham was looking for, whose builder and maker is God. She is the New Jerusalem from above, the one where no lie or anything that defiles can enter. That city that He has built in us, and that He will reveal to the world. As time moves on, we, who have been given a vision of God's plan, who have believed the words of God's mighty prophets and have followed His Holy Spirit, look at the changes that have taken place in us, and the destruction taking place around us, and we have to ask the question, "How long O God?" We know that things are set in God's perfect timetable, yet our anticipation is great because the earth is reeling, and we can see the needs everywhere. The Holy Spirit who, little by little, has been revealing all truths to us, who tirelessly teaches us and brings all things to our remembrance, is stirring us from within, and comforting us with the knowledge that indeed all of creation is coming to the end of this present age of suffering.

This past January, I added more suffering to my life, when because of my carelessness, I fell and found myself with five broken ribs. I had no choice of what to do; I was transported to the hospital, and while the doctors dealt with my physical problem, I had to deal with my spiritual understanding of what was happening. For a short time, I found myself immobilized, with much time to ponder the words that the Spirit of God had been speaking to my heart these last few months. Again, I was faced with the question, "Are you ready to go or will you be able to suffer through this one?" And my answer was, "Father you know the vision that you have set in my heart, and the Word that I love to write, nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done."

THE DREAM- After a short stay in the hospital, I was able to come home under my daughter's loving care. Then I had this dream, *"I had found the most beautiful and exquisite diamond ring among my things. The brilliant stone was cradled in a square setting of white gold, majestic and somewhat masculine. It fit me just right. It seems that I had kept it for a while, but the day now came when my husband and I were going to get dressed and go to church. This was not an ordinary church, it was a magnificent, solid and exceedingly large building, with a very high dome ceiling. I had a bird's eye view of the inside, and it somewhat reminded me of the inside of Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, only much grander scale and much brighter. I looked forward to going, wearing and showing my diamond ring. I was dressed and ready, but then my husband stood close to me and began looking intensely at my face. He kept studying something on my cheek, and I figured it might have been a little puffy as sometimes it gets with allergies. But after a while he said he thought it might be a tiny virus; it could barely be seen, but I knew I could not go to church with any blemish at all, even if it was barely visible."* End of dream.

I knew this dream was very significant, and at first I thought it was only a personal word. However a few days later the Spirit opened the understanding to me, and I realized that this was meant for all of us today. God's word never condemns; He reveals our inner condition, and how He is working to cleanse and purify us. This dream also serves to further explain the male and female identities that each of us possess in Christ. The beautiful, masculine diamond ring in our possession speaks of our union with the masculine, life-giving Son, while the church that we are going to enter, speaks of the virgin bride, (our lady or Notre Dame), the feminine part of our new nature. The male denotes the giver of life, (life-giving spirit), for the male carries the seed of life, while the female, (soul), receives and nurtures the life and gives birth to the seed. It takes both male and female to form a being. In the dream, the ring was already on my finger, which shows that the male side is ready, the Christ within is formed, but there was a problem with my face, or the identity part, soul part of me. Our bodies are identified by our faces. There was a very small, but still disturbing blemish on the face. I was dressed, thinking that I

was ready to show forth the glory of the Son of God to the world, (diamond), but this blemish stopped me. My husband, (Holy Spirit), called it a virus, which although very tiny, has the power to reproduce itself and spread quickly. The dream shows that while, in the Spirit, the Manchild or new creation of Christ in us, has been birthed, caught up to the throne of God, and is ruling over our own domain, we are not yet complete; we are not yet "perfect in Christ." We are still clothed in mortal garments of flesh and blood. With Paul we cry out, *"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the BODY OF THIS DEATH?"* (Rom.7:24) Paul knew that as long as he was still in this body of death, he was subject to sin. Inwardly, we are perfect in Spirit, but we are not yet as perfect as we are called to be, *"Therefore be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."* (Matt.5:48). And so, Paul explains that not only the world groans and travails for a change, *"...but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the REDEMPTION OF OUR BODIES."* (Rom.8:23) The adoption, or our coming into full sonship, is the time of our total "redemption" which is the change of our outer bodies.

Because we are coming out of darkness into the light, these things often sound confusing. Peter had a problem understanding what Paul was talking about. Paul said, *"Howbeit, we speak wisdom among them that are perfect, (spiritually mature), yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes, (rulers), of this world, that come to nought. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom of God ordained before the world unto OUR glory."* (I Cor.2:6-7) In the process of our growth in Christ, our imaginations have planted many things in our minds that were not according to truth. Truth is what we seek; Jesus said, *"I am the truth, the way and the life..."* (Jn.14:6) So we can only find truth by His Holy Spirit. *"Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..."* (Jn.16:13) We can only know truth by hearing it from the Spirit of truth. If what we read or hear issues from the Spirit, the Spirit of truth within us gives us witness; it rings a bell. Because many of us have been strongly indoctrinated by literal teachings and traditions of man, we can be confused by the things of the Spirit. This is why we continue our journey, led by the Holy Spirit and guided in the paths of righteousness, (God's right ways.)

The pure diamond within us has no blemish. *"We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."* (I Jn. 5:18) We have been born of God in Spirit. The son within us is begotten of God and cannot sin. *"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."* (I Jn.3:9) He is our refuge and our fortress, He is the Son in us, but our soul is still connected to our bodies and while she is almost a pure virgin now, she is still susceptible to the viruses of this world. In chapter 5 of II Thess. Paul speaks of the times we are in now, and he counsels us to be watchful and not sleep. At the end of the letter he shows the reward we shall receive when all is completed, and the Christ within appears in body, soul and spirit, *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming, (appearing), of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (I Thess.5:23). It is when Christ appears in us, that we will appear as He is. John tells us that *"...when He shall appear, we shall be like Him..."* (I Jn.3:2) And Paul says, *"When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with him in glory."* (Col.3:4)

THE WOMAN IN THE WILDERNESS- While our spirits are renewed and ruling, the work of cleansing our souls from all impurities is still ongoing. If we still hold on to ways and reasonings of the carnal mind, we cannot yet show forth the glory of our union with Christ, and the Son in us cannot yet be revealed. This is why there is a gap between the time that the Manchild is caught up, and the time when the woman has finished her wilderness journey. As sons, our spirits are caught up to the throne of God, but the woman, (our body and soul), is still left fleeing with all her might, keeping herself from the dragon

who is spewing a flood out his mouth to drown her. This picture describes what we were talking about above; our spirit or life is caught up to the throne, the authority of God, but this woman, our body and soul, is still in the world and under constant pressures and attacks meant to stir her human emotions, weaken her mind and bring her back under the influences and ways of this world. The dragon uses man's pride of life and of country, old traditions, herd power, false prophets coming in the name of Christ, the media news, and the reasoning of charismatic and theologically educated minds, cloaked as shepherds but who are wolves, to blur her vision and rob her from her pure faith in Christ. With it all, her body is also under attack and suffering, but she is strengthened in her spirit, by the Christ within, and also by the Christ in the many brethren who hover spiritually over her, as the wings of a great eagle, as she flees from the flood that is out to take over her mind and her hope.

But the woman also receives help from an unexpected source, *"And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth."* (Rev.12:16) I have often wondered what was the "earth that helped the woman as she fled." Having gone through my last two severe times of testing in my body and soul, I began to understand at least a part of it. I also asked John Joseph, a brother in Australia, knowing he has been going through severe testing in his body, if he had some insight about this. This is what he wrote, *"I think of Elijah camped beside the brook Cherith for about three years waiting for the next Word from God. The brook is drying up according to God's most recent Word; he hasn't heard anything further, but the water level is dropping day by day. The menu isn't anything to write home about, but the ravens never fail morning and evening. All those days there by the brook with nothing much to do; no one to talk to, month after month but what dealings the LORD must have exercised in him and how thoroughly they must have been wrought in him when you consider the mighty ministry which followed. After such a time in that solitary place it might have entered the prophet's mind that his survival consisted of the brook and the ravens. But if it did enter his mind in that way, God would have readjusted him to know that He alone was Elijah's Source and these other things were Channels that He had provided. When the time was up, these channels dried up and God led him to the next channel of divine provision, a widow woman, where he stayed yet more years. I think these are good examples of "the earth helping the woman". I've learned that we must never confuse the channel for the Source, because if we do we end up with an idol. An idol is anything that comes between my heart and God's heart. An idol wants to appear as the source. A channel turns my heart to the Source in loving appreciation. So, I thank God for medical help. It has saved my life. But the hand of modern medicine has had behind it the hand of God."* End of quote.

As we who have come to the knowledge of Christ, we who are still in this world, are fleeing from the unrelenting forces that pressure us and seek to discourage us. We find ourselves separated from the people and things which identified us as faithful Christians. We are stripped from all that we did to look pious, and we are as total backsliders, hidden in the earth. We are as Joseph of old, who wore the garments of Egypt, and spoke their language. We no longer belong to any church or group that congregates visibly. When sick or injured, God provides us with the world's doctors, and we follow the laws of the land. So the dragon loses sight of us and turns his anger away from the true woman and goes to attack her seed. And so the warfare continues against the visible church which is being sorely persecuted by the dragon; prayers are taken out of public schools, and students in colleges and universities are rebelling against anything Christian. But the woman and her child, God's firstfruits, are safe and soon to be revealed and to bring deliverance to all. Hallelujah!

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*