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July 2023

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY-

A **PEMINDER-** When we read what the Spirit speaks to our hearts, it is good to always keep in mind that our God has made an immutable, everlasting plan for His creation. He knows the end from the beginning of all that is happening, and nothing takes Him by surprise. He knows the hearts of all creatures. He uses evil for His purpose. Those whom He has called to be "firstfruits," are given spiritual understanding. Their souls go through cleansing and purifying until they are made virgin so that they may become the presence and righteousness of God in the world. Until then, they need to be watchful and vigilant, and to pray. The intense suffering of this world is very real and most painful, and the wickedness that is being revealed in the hearts of humankind is enormous. But the Spirit of the overcomers in Christ works mightily to bring the purpose of our God to its fulness and glory.

THE AX IS LAID UNTO THE POOT OF THE TREES "...O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." (Matt.4:7) John the Baptist spoke these words to the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to his baptism. Someone else might have rejoiced to see them come to repentance, but John saw beyond their superficial actions; he saw their roots, and he knew that their hearts were far from true repentance. They were pretenders, impostors, and he said unto them, "Now the ax is laid upon the root of the trees." The baptism of John unto repentance began the work of exposing the source of all evil. It opened the door to the destruction coming upon the works of the devil. When Jesus faced the Pharisees and Sadducees, He called them a generation of venomous, deadly serpents, (vipers), "...ye are of your father the devil..." (Jn.8:44). This was not going to be a superficial work, but it was purposed to destroy the deepest root that the deceiver, the devil, had planted in the world. It is "...For this purpose that the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (I Jn.3:8)

When John the Baptist spoke of the "ax," he was speaking of Jesus, the Word made flesh, as the "ax" which would lay bare and expose the wickedness in man's hearts. The ax, the sharp and powerful Word of God, would uncover the evil of the systems which the hearts of wicked men have created in order to control and abuse the people of this world. The systems that rule this world, were set up by the serpent spirit disguised as pious, sincere and able men. They are such as killed the Son of God, in a most brutal and cruel way. They imprisoned and also mercilessly imprisoned, tortured, silenced, and even killed those who have proclaimed the truth of the Gospel ever since. I do not hesitate to say that the devious serpent spirit, has set his throne at the heart of most governmental systems of this world. The good news is, that the day is now at hand, when an army of sons of God, who have been redeemed among men, and have learned to follow the conquering Lamb through suffering and even death, will make a surprise appearance on the earth, to show forth the glory and the love of God and slay the dragon by the brightness of their countenances.

THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL IN THE WORLD- When Jesus called the Pharisees and Sadducees a "generation, of vipers, or venomous deadly serpents," He was laying bare the root of all evil in the world. The cunning mind of the deadly serpent/dragon has devised and set up the systems by which nations are

controlled in this world. After God confounded their language at Babel, powerful men began to divide and to build kingdoms with self-seeking rulers to dominate the people and bring them into servitude. Israel was first ruled by judges, but then they desired to be ruled by a king, just like the nations around them. So God gave them Saul, the best among them, who soon disobeyed God and became a corrupt, rejected king. From that time, Israel was ruled by a mixture of good and evil kings. The systems of nations, organizations, institutions, clubs, societies, gangs, political parties and more, have been the way of life for the societies and generations of this world. "But Jesus came teaching and preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God." Indeed our God is very well organized; there is no confusion with Him and His kingdom is not divided. It is a kingdom where the citizens live in perfect peace, for their hearts are submitted to the righteous authority of the King of kings. It is not so with the nations and organizations of this world. Paul speaks of them as "...principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world, the spiritual wickedness in high places," (Eph.6:12). Rulers may begin with good intentions and goodwill, but sooner or later, they become corrupt by the sheer pressures and demands that the "prince of this world" imposes upon them. Often, their power corrupts them; their sense of good and right lessens, and they become despotic and totalitarian. Thus the old saying, "Power tends to corrupt, absolute power corrupts absolutely." Only those who learn to follow the Lamb nature and learn to submit to His authority, will receive the kingdom of God in their hearts, They will not follow their own will, but will do His will. Jesus asked the Father to remove the cup of His suffering, but He conceded, "...nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." (Lk.22:42)

Jesus, the beloved Son of God finished the works that the Father sent Him to do in this world; He lived in this world, fully under the authority of His Father. He never yielded to temptations even though the devil used all kinds of ruses to lure Him and try to deceive Him. Today, the still small voice of the Holy Spirit continually teaches us and guides us, but His voice is often buried under the clamor of voices that daily assault our minds. Through the many means of communication, the media accesses man's minds, with all kinds of stimulating thoughts and enticing ideas. From the youngest to the oldest, minds are attracted by the tempting and irresistible offers seen on the various electronic gadgets they cannot help watching. The well groomed, alluring men and women who report the news have learned to raise the crescendo of their voices to try to pull their audiences into the frenzy of what is being reported. This is to entrap their listeners into the feverish and hectic excitement that stirs fears, anxieties and even panic in the hearts of helpless citizens. Thus the media has become the instrument of the devil to bring people into uneasiness and dissatisfaction. Thus they become belligerent, rebellious and aggressive against the laws that protected them.

All things were created by the Word of God, and they were very good from the start." For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him. And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." (Col.1:16-17) All these things were indeed created by the Lord Himself, and they are for His pleasure. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Rev.4:11) By cunning manipulations, the devil was able to deceive Adam and Eve and plant doubt and mistrust of God in their hearts. This was the beginning of what we call "hell," for God never created hell. It is the pride, the contempt, the rage that the devil planted in the hearts of man, that created the hell that is burning man's soul, right here on earth today. Hell is the power that is out to destroy man and his beautiful habitat. "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell...But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." (Jms.3:6,8) The devil deceived man by planting the seed of pride and greed within his heart, and making him believe that he

is smart enough to care for himself and his planet by his own intelligence and reasoning. Man became even more puffed up and sure of himself, when he began to make discoveries that astounded him. He continued to develop his mind and as time went by he was able to figure out the complicated formulas and laws of physic and science that God set in the universe. Man has now reached into outer space and artificial intelligence. In the world of science man has made advances in all branches of medicine to help humankind. At the same time, he has also found the key to nuclear energy and has created destructive weapons. Man is extremely proud of his seemingly unlimited knowledge, which he uses to improve life, and to protect himself and his possessions from invading enemies. But what man did not see coming, is that some of these wonderful discoveries, in the hands of powerful and evil men and women, have turned out to be for his own destruction and the destruction of his beautiful planet. Man, who has accomplished so much, forgot about the God who created him. In his zeal and intensity, he has painted himself into a corner with no way out... if it weren't that God so loves the world!

THE MYSTERY OF MQUITY- Paul wrote of a specific time coming into the world,"...For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." (II Thess.2:7-8) Strong's lexicon defines the word "iniquity"in this verse, as "lawlessness, transgression of the law, condition without the law, contempt of the law." Paul was explaining that there is a power who restrains evil in this world. Jesus said that man's heart is filled with murders and all manners of evil. Jeremiah said that it is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked. God in His mercy, gave men "laws," to restrain the power of evil in the man's hearts. Today, it is obvious that we are witnessing the lifting of this "restrainer" in the hearts of man. The fear of the law that kept the power of evil at bay, is now being removed from man's hearts. The rulers of this world no longer adhere to any moral law; they change laws to suit their agendas. And the people have lost the respect and the fear of the laws of the land as well. "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." (I Tim.4:2) Their conscience has been ironed smooth, and no longer restrains them.

But God has lifted the power of the law; it is now written within the hearts of His followers, and will continue to increase in the hearts of lovers of truth, over the ages, until it is written into the hearts of all humanity. The brightness of the Word made flesh in the sons, is beginning to shine in the gross darkness. It is the cause of much of the great shaking that the nations are feeling today. As a result, we are witnessing a time of great lawlessness and violence, as the beast, the devil and the false prophet are being forever cast into the very lake of fire that they had created in the world. (Rev.20:10). Today, as lawlessness increases, the destruction of the works of evil, is accelerating. The "Man of sin" has been dealt with in the hearts of the sons, and the time has come, when the "Man of Sin" that has ruled the world from the temple of man's hearts, is being unmasked, and his works fully destroyed.

And so, as Paul explained, the one that letteth, the "restrainer" that held back the fulness of evil, has been removed and the mystery of iniquity has been laid wide open for all to see and to feel. Other translations note, "The secret of evil is already at work. But the one who now holds that power back will keep doing it, until he is taken out of the way." (Vs.7). God has transferred this power to those whose hearts have been cleansed and purified by fire. The sons, who have followed the Lamb are become "the Word made flesh," and they are the Spirit of His mouth that is at work to consume the Wicked one and all his works, until all power is turned over to our Lord and His Christ. "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever." (Rev.11:15) Be encouraged my dear brethren, God is fully in charge and what we see happening is the storm before

the calm. As sons, our hearts go out to the much suffering that we see, and we pray earnestly that our God will cut the work short and that this suffering creation will quickly come into the liberty of the sons of God; as it is written.

GOD WHO SO LOVES THE WORLD has never left the creation and the creatures that He has made for His pleasure. He has prepared and preplanned all things. The devil did not catch God by surprise; on the contrary, it is God who has a surprise for the devil. First, God sent His Son as one single man Jesus with the mission of saving the world from all sin; and Jesus triumphed in that work. Now, the Son of God has magnified Himself in the world, and has given life to an entire first harvest of people. We who have the witness of God's Spirit within, know that the time is at hand for these sons to appear and deliverer a creation that is in great pain. "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God...Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain until now. And not only they, 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 body." (Rom.8:19,21-23)

And so we are all groaning and travailing in pain, yet, let us rejoice for at this very time, we are witnessing two very active works of Christ; one part is taking place in the saints everywhere, and another part in the entire world. On one hand, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the sons are bringing the works of the devil in the world down to a screeching end. On the other hand, the Spirit is bringing the saints to the perfection of His likeness and image. Each time that a son of God receives the word of truth and speaks that truth even to him or herself, the work of the devil somewhere is coming down. We are now as Christ is in the world. We are a spiritual army, we are a force stronger than any man-made weapon in this world. His armies are His witnesses and they are on both sides of the veil. The brighter the light rises within each of His sons, the quicker the systems of this world tumble into nothingness. This is the rising of the new Day. The rising of the Son of righteousness with healing in His wings. In the dream that Daniel interpreted, the stone that destroyed the nations was cut out of the mountain, without hands is Christ in His body. The work of God in the world is not accomplished with fleshly means. It has not been accomplished by means of the flesh in us, and it is not done by means of the flesh in the world.

At this time, the greatest part of this many-membered Christ, are still as a cloud gathered on the other side of the veil. They stand ready to leap out from behind the veil that keeps them hid from our sight. Jesus made the way when at His death, the heavy veil of the temple that separates the Holy of Holies, was split from top to bottom. Soon, He will lead the saints through the veil, to be joined in perfect union with the body of sons who will have been made perfect in the earth. Many have seen these witnesses, in dreams or visions, pushing through a drape or curtain, eager and ready to join us on earth and show forth the glory of God to all creation. "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise; God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." (Heb.11:39-40) Let us be one mind with Paul who wrote, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time, are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us." (Rom.8:18)

May our Father open the eyes of our understanding in the things of Spirit. And may He strengthen us in the inward man, that we may take heart and not faint.

Because He is love, Jackie Caporaso