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THE WOMAN AND THE MAN CHILD

AS WE LEARN WE MUST LEARN TO UNLEARN- I once dreamed that "I had given new furniture to a dear friend. She gladly accepted, but one day, I went to her house and found that her living room was so cluttered that it was nearly impossible to walk through. She had arranged all the new furniture among the old, and the place was no longer livable." Later in our relationship, I realized that she had gladly received and kept all the new truths that the Spirit had revealed to us, but at the same time, she was still holding on to the old doctrines of the past. Later, when it came to moving on higher in the revelation of Christ, she was hindered by the old ways that were still very much part of her life, (the furniture in the living room). As our understanding clears, it is important for us to let go of the teachings that we clung to as we climbed this ladder of truths. In the many years that our generation of sons has walked with God, the Holy Spirit has revealed many new things to us; things that have brought us closer to knowing the Son of God as He is and therefore, knowing our true identity in Christ. Paul did not address his letters to everyone; he was writing to the saints, to those whose minds have been sanctified, or set apart for God's purpose. He was writing to them because he knew that they were the ones who could grasp the revelations that he was explaining to them.

Paul writes that the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is also our Father, "...hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, (in our soul and spirit), in Christ. According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love...In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace." (Eph.1:4,7) He has purchased us, bought us back, paid the price of the penalty of the Law, through His blood, we are redeemed. We were already in him before this world came into existence, and we were chosen at that time, to accomplish God's purpose in the world. These are truths that must replace the old comfortable furniture of the past, in our lives. We can no longer accept that we will always be only sinners saved by grace; we must know that we have been redeemed and made new according to His riches in glory. Jesus Christ is our foundation, and we are built upon Him. He is our Savior, our Redeemer, our Lord and our new life. We were taken out of Him, and are now made new and returning into Him. When we know this, the temporal identity that we have carried begins to fade, and we begin to fully embrace who we are as sons of God. We then realize that "Our light affliction, which is for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (IICor.4:17-18) So all things that pertain to this earthly life are for a season yet we know that our passage through it all, is of vital importance to God's purposes. As sons in Christ, we have been called to overcome all the wiles of the devil, the afflictions of the soul and the darkness of the world, (the world, the flesh and the devil), until all these things are under His feet and there is no more death. Each son has his or her own share of the work to overcome as he or she passes through this life. These are the sufferings of Christ.

THE CLOUD BY DAY AND THE PILLAR OF FIRE BY NIGHT- It is good to always keep in mind that "There is neither Jew nor Greek, (Gentile), there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye

are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Gal.3:28-29) When we trace our natural roots, we find out who our ancestors were, and what traits we might have inherited from them. We find out their bravery, their suffering and many things that are part of who we are. When we uncover our true identity in the spirit, we find that we descended from the seed of Abraham, the man who heard the voice of God and obeyed with no hesitation, because he knew and trusted the voice that rang a bell in his heart. It was the voice of the One of whom he was a part. Throughout the forty years of their desert walk, the Israelites were guided by Christ in the form of a pillar of fire by night to give them light and protection from the darkness and from the wild beasts, and a cloud by day, to shade them from the burning sun. Furthermore it says, "And did all drink of the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." (I Cor.10:4)

Our eternal ancestry is found in Christ but we were born of the flesh in Adam, and entered into gross darkness, not knowing that there was another world beyond what our natural senses could detect. It was when we first heard the voice that we had known so long ago, that we began to question who we were and what we were doing here. In the earthly realm, we were dead and totally ignorant of our previous life. It was the sound of the voice of God's Son that began to stir us from our lethargic state, and we slowly or sometimes suddenly, came to the awareness that we really did not fit here. I remember, how I was moved when I stood in the Methodist Church one Easter morning, and when I heard the mighty choir belt out the words of the Holy City, Jerusalem, tears began to flood my face, uncontrollably, behind the veil of my little hat. It was the voice of the Son whom I had known from the beginning, and it was His love that I had missed so much, that now shook my soul and quickened my spirit. This was only the beginning of a long journey out of darkness, into His marvelous light.

As I write this, I am reminded of the words of Jesus to Peter. It was the third time He showed Himself to them after His resurrection, and they had shared a meal together, "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs." (Jn.21:15) Then Jesus repeated the same to Peter, but this time, "...he saith, Feed my sheep." (Vs.16) And then for the third time, He repeated the same question to Peter and said, "...Feed my sheep." (Vs.17) This command was addressed to Peter then, and to all the disciples thereafter. First we note that the ministry to the lambkin or the sheep must be prompted by one's love for the truth: "Lovest thou me?" It cannot be just a way to earn a living. Secondly, it must recognize the two distinct callings in the church; most are sheep but some are lambs. This is not to denote maturity, but rather to show that some are called to give their wool, while others are called to give their lives to the Lord. Symbolically, this points to the difference between those who are called to be sons, and those who are called to be the woman, the church, who is the body of Christ, "And he is the head of the body, the church..." (Col.1:18)

THE WIFE OF THE LAMB, THE BRIDE, THE CHURCH, THE NEW JERUSALEM BODY OF CHRIST, THE WOMAN WHO FLEES IN THE WILDERNESS- These titles all belong to the called-out church, the one that the Lord Jesus redeemed for Himself. She has nothing in common with any of the organized systems we call churches, and who have their place in the world, but who cannot give birth to the "man child" company, the elect who are the sons of God. This woman, the church is "...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." (Rev.12:1) She is not seen in the earthly realm for she dwells in the realm of Spirit. Anyone looking for such a church in the earth will not find her. She is clothed with the sun, which means that she dwells in God's perfect light and life giving energy. The moon, meaning the shadows, the literal understanding of man, the law, has been overcome or fulfilled by all her members. And glory of glory, "...she being with child cried,

travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered." (Vs.2) At the same time appears a devastating, most powerful force, "...a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads...having great wrath, because he knows that he hath but a short time." (Vs.3-4) This dragon embodies the brutality, cruelty and inhumanity which he transfers to the minds of the world's rulers under his domination, (crowns upon the seven heads). This evil mindset is coupled with the force of his wrath, (red dragon), and with the power of destructive and deadly weapons of war, (ten horns). We can easily see these images unfold in the events taking place in our world today, and know that we have surely come to the end of this age. We also know that this is the enemy which is out to annihilate all that names the name of Jesus or of Jehovah in this world.

And so it is in the midst of all this warfare that the woman's man child is born and caught up into the full authority of God, (His Throne). "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron, (the Law), and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." (Vs.5) This man child is a company of sons who is born out of the true church, in the midst of all this struggle, and caught up into God's full authority, his throne, to overcome the seed of the serpent-dragon. Even though the battle is played out in the literal world, it is by faith, hope and love that the spiritual warfare will be totally won.

So we have on one hand the powerful dragon rising with red-hot rage in the world, and daily increasing his acts of barbarism and atrocity against humanity. On the other hand, in the Spirit, we see the new world order of God arising in the city called, "The new Jerusalem." She is the wife of the Lamb and it is her seed, (the man child company), who holds the power to deflate, defeat and overcome, this abominable red dragon who controls the minds of world's leaders. Who would have thought? Who can believe such a thing? Those who are part of that great wonder, the church, and the elect company of sons.

THE MAN CHILD COMPANY is made up of sons who were predestinated in Christ before the foundation of the world. These were chosen in Christ to accomplish God's purpose in the world. When they were in Christ, they were spirits, in Adam, they fell and were as all men, under the law of sin and death; their head or husband was the law. Jesus our Redeemer, paid the penalty of the law, and has been restoring us to our true Husband, Christ. We cannot have two husbands, either our husband is the law, or Christ the Lord. But "...when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption, (placement), of sons." (Gal.3: 4-5) As mature sons, we are now under the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the law of sin and death." (Rom. 8:2) Much of what we have learned has been through trials and errors, and for that reason we have had to unlearn many of the things we were taught at first; these were only in part, at best. We have been as the blind man that was brought to Jesus to be healed, "And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up and he was restored and saw every man very clearly." (Mk.8:23-25) Our spiritual blindness is being healed in the same manner, Jesus has taken us individually by the hand, and brought us away from the crowds. He has anointed our spiritual eyes with the words of His mouth and touched our blindness; little by little. What we saw at first was distorted and not blurred, yet it has all been some help on our walk. But as we have moved on, we have had to let go of what we thought was right, and let His word anoint our eyes over and over until we can see clearly and perfectly. This is why along the way, our doctrines and ways have been amended or even changed. Many of our teachings must be left behind, as He appears more and more clearly. What does

not change is Christ, our foundation; when it comes to salvation, resurrection life, eternal life, there is only one foundation. "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Cor.3:11)

So this wonder in heaven, in the Spirit, is the bride, the church who is also the body of Christ. She must not be confused with Mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots that sits upon many waters, (souls). This church had its beginning as the true church, but she sold her divine glory for the wealth and power of this world, and she became a harlot and a counterfeit or imitation of the true church. And this bride is not Israel of the Old or New Testament. God gave Israel so much grace and mercy, yet she continued to play the harlot with the gods of this world, and when Jesus came to save her, she rejected Him, and now her house is left "desolate," without husband and without God; read Matt.23:38. Christians who are so deceived as to think God will rebuild the temple of stone and mortar in literal Jerusalem, and will again accept animal sacrifices, will be most disappointed when they see that the true temple, where God dwells is the body of Christ, the church. There is only one temple of God, and there will never be another built by man's hands. The church, the bride of the Lamb, is the New Jerusalem that will never close her gates by night, for there will be no more night there.

This bride is the body of Christ, and the body has been in the earth, fleeing from the red dragon until the time that something phenomenal happens; here is the picture, "And when the dragon saw that he was cast into the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." (Rev.12:13-14) You see, the woman, the true church who is the body of Christ is not hopeless as she flees. She is a many-membered company, supported by the power of the Spirit in Christ. She is made up of called out ones who have been quickened, made alive in Christ, and whose souls have been cleansed by the washing of the water, by the Word, and joined to their new born again and quickened spirit.

And who are the two wings of the great eagle? The great eagle is Jesus, and the two wings are His witnesses, the sons, the man child company. The sons have been caught up into the throne, the authority of God in Christ, and they are feeding, sustaining and encouraging the church to keep fleeing from the dragon system who is out to capture her back. The sons and the body are sustained by Jesus the Head, and the spirit of the sons, which is the same Spirit that dwelt in Jesus gives life to the soul of the woman, and their life is in Christ. The sons are anointed to shield and to feed the woman. So God's perfect order for the world is Jesus Christ the Head, the sons who stand upon His shoulders and are the priesthood and authority of Christ to the church. The church is the bride who yields herself to her bridegroom, the spirit. She is the city new Jerusalem, whose gates are never shut by day, and in whom there are no nights. This is the order of God's kingdom being now established in earth, as it is in heaven.

The church is the one who opens her gates to the nations of the world, and the sons are the kings and priests who are its government. They stand on the shoulders between Jesus the Head and the Body, the church. Kings and priests connect the body to God Almighty, and the body brings the people into His courts. At the last trump, God will bring the sons who are asleep in JESUS the Head, to be joined to the sons who are still in this world and be forever one in the Lord. (See I Thess.4:14).

May the Father of Lights revive us daily and keep us with His love.

Because He is love, Angèle Caporaso (Jackie)