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## BEGOTTEN SONS

**LET US MAKE MAN-** We have no real knowledge of how long each of the seven days of creation were, but in Genesis we learn that on the sixth day of creation, God was ready to create His man. *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."* (Gen.1:26) Here is what Paul teaches about the creation of this man, *"Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. And as we have born the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."* (I Cor.15: 46-49) So there are not one, but two men on the scene. What Paul was saying is that, "the first man was created and he was of the earth, but the second man is the true Lord, the one who has dominion, and he is from "heaven," therefore he is "begotten of God." Nevertheless, it is recorded that at his birth, the first Adam man was indeed a son of God for it was God who gave him the breath of life. We read in the recorded genealogy, "...which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God." (Lk.3:38)

Thus the first Adam was created a son of God, and in Adam we are sons of God in the image of the first Adam, yet, John tells us that in Christ, through faith, we have the power to become the sons of God. *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."* (Jn.1:12) John says that Jesus was the Son of God, and that He was the Word that was from the beginning. Jesus called Himself, *"The way, the truth and the life."* The first Adam was created to be an earthy man, but when pride entered into him, he took upon himself the cunning mind of the serpent, the carnal mind, and became the god of this world. He usurped the identity that belongs to the Last Adam, the man from heaven. He took on the demeanor of a pious, religious man and founded the worlds' mystery Babylon. He *"...sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."* (II Thess. 2:4). He stole God's temple, the magnificent machine called the "human body," and made it a temple for his glory. This impostor has to die and a new body has to be formed in the true image and likeness of God. Selah! (Think on that).

**"I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK...** *for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* (Phil.3:14). Have we truly understood what the prize of this high calling is? We most likely and rightly think that Paul was pressing to become a son of God; Paul knew his calling, so why was he still pressing so hard, to attain, and why did he have to leave behind all that he had ever known or worked to achieve? Was this need, this determination to press in to obtain more, part of what our Father had placed in his heart when he predestined some to bear the image of the Son of God? Paul was pressing toward a "perfection" that he knew he had been called unto. *"Not as though I had already attained either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which I was apprehended of Christ Jesus."* (Phil.3:12). There is a "perfection" that some must achieve in Christ. The word perfection here, means completeness. The writer to the Hebrews urged toward the same, *"Leaving behind...let us go on unto perfection."* (Heb.6:1) And there are the saints of Heb.11:40 who received the promises but are still waiting to be made perfect or complete. This perfection is not about the perfect number of sons; it

is about the completeness or perfection of their beings, for there is a sonship in Jesus that remains to be obtained. *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified."* (Rom.8:29-30) Our Father made His plan very secure, and this is why we can declare, *"And we know that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* (Rom.8:28) If we find ourselves pressing on to know God, if we have a healthy appetite for our daily spiritual bread, if as Paul, we are ready and willing to leave behind all the religious activities and traditions of the past, it is because our God has called us and placed within us the need to attain to that for which we have been apprehended from the beginning. It is the Spirit of the son who cries out from within, "Abba Father!" And it stems from our need to be reborn, sons "born of God." *"We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but that which is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."* (I Jn.5:18-20). All this WE KNOW.

**THE INCORRUPTIBLE SEED-** *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."* (Jn.3:6-7) To be born again from being a flesh man to being a spirit man, requires a new seed. *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."* (I Pet.1:23) Only the only "begotten" Son of God could produce the seed that would beget more "begotten" sons of God, (His own likeness and image.) Jesus is the One called to produce and to plant that seed into the ground of our souls. Thus He became the corn of wheat that fell into the ground and died, and rose in Jesus and continues to rise in His many brethren. *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone..."* (Jn.12:24) Jesus did not want to remain the 'only begotten Son,' so He dropped His own seed into the souls of earthly man, to bring forth many brethren. *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the first among many brethren."* (Rom.8:29)

Jesus Christ who was the Word made flesh who walked among men is now being made flesh in the many brethren. Through Matthew's genealogy, we retrace the journey of the Christ seed where it begins with Abraham. God gave the seed to Abram by covenant. He changed his name to Abraham and thus called him to be father of many nations. He then hid within him a new "seed." *"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ."* (Gal.3:16) This is the precious seed that would beget Jesus the Christ in the flesh. That precious seed had to journey through generations until it came to Joseph, the husband of Mary the virgin mother of Jesus. But Mary became pregnant without being touched by man!

The journey of the Christ seed, from Abraham to Joseph was a very hazardous journey. Thus, it is no wonder that God had predestined the entire cast of characters to bring it to its goal. The genealogy of Matthew gives us a list of some of the men who bore that seed; and let us take note of the women who were carefully chosen to receive that seed, and bring it to birth. The first woman to give birth to the Christ seed was Abraham's own wife, Sarah. She was 90 years old and she laughed when she heard that she and Abraham would have a son. We know the story; after Abraham, God had chosen Isaac to be the bearer of the Christ seed. He told Abraham to not be grieved about his other son Ishmael *"...For in Isaac shall thy seed be called."* (Gen.21:12) When Isaac was ready for a bride, Abraham took great care to find the right bride for him. We all know how he sent his faithful servant Eliezer across the desert to

find Rebekah for Isaac. Rebekah, a type of the true Bride of the Lamb, did not hesitate to leave all that she knew and loved and answer, "I will go!" She mounted the camel train, and crossed that endlessly harsh desert to go marry Isaac in his tent, a man she had never met and knew nothing about. Rebekah gave birth to Jacob and Esau; another great story in spiritual types. Jacob was the bearer of the seed and soon was faced with two brides. God gave Leah many sons, but the seed of Christ was reserved for the beloved Rachel. It was Rachel who gave birth to Joseph and Benjamin, the two sons, predestined to be heirs of God in Christ. All these events are part of the journeying of the Christ seed.

Along the way the moving story of Tamar must be told. After Jacob, his son Judah became the bearer of the seed and he passed it to his firstborn son Er who was married to Tamar. But "*Er was wicked in the eyes of the Lord and God slew him.*" (Gen.38:7) Then Tamar was given to Onan the second son, so that the seed of his brother might be raised up, but Onan was not willing to do this, and he spilled his seed on the ground. "*And the thing which he did displeased the Lord; wherefore he slew him also.*" (Vs.10) Then Judah promised his youngest son Shelah to Tamar but because of his young age he asked her to wait. So Tamar went back to her father's house but she never gave up hope. In the process of time Judah's wife died and Tamar seized her opportunity. On the day that Judah went up to his sheep-shearers, Tamar sat by the side of the road, like a harlot. She was wrapped and covered with a veil so that she could not be recognized. When Judah came by and saw her, he approached her. Although she knew that what she was about to do could cost her life, she still made a deal with him. For her favors, he would give her a goat from his herd, and as a pledge she would hold his signet, bracelets and his staff. In the heat of the moment he gave them to her. Later, when Judah sought to give her the promised goat and retrieve his things, she was nowhere to be found. Several months passed until someone told Judah that his daughter-in-law was pregnant. "*...Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.*" (Gen.38:24) It was then that Tamar revealed what she had done. "*When she was brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, 'By the man, whose these are, am I with child: and she said, Discern I pray thee, whose are these, the signet and bracelets and staff.'*" (Vs.25) Then Judah had to admit that indeed the child was his because he had failed to give her seed from his sons. Tamar was a true bride of God, who desired that seed more than life itself. Judah gave her honor and she gave birth to twins, Zerah and Perez. Perez gave birth to Salmon.

Salmon was one of the two men that Joshua sent to spy out Jericho. It was Rehab, the innkeeper who risked her life to save these two men's lives. She did it because she had heard about the God of Israel and she feared. Actually, God had chosen Salmon and Rahab to continue the lineage of the seed. And so Rahab gave birth to Boaz. Rahab is a type of the Gentile church as also was Ruth. This is "*...the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is being made manifest to his saints; to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of **this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***" (Col.1:26-27). Ruth the daughter-in-law of Naomi had her calling engraved within her heart. She stuck to Naomi like glue, and declared, "*Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God.*" (Ruth 1:16) Ruth is the one who married Boaz and gave birth to a son named Obed who begat Jesse, the father of David. Then came the unforgettable story of David and Bathsheba. The truth of the matter is that Bathsheba was the one who was to give birth to his son Solomon, and thus continued the journey of the seed.

Then the seed journeyed through the kings until Israel was taken into captivity to Babylon. Even after seventy years, while most of the people had built their own houses, planted their own fields and felt secure and at ease in Babylon, God had His seed man. Zorobabel and a little remnant with him stood

ready to come out of captivity and go rebuild Jerusalem. *"Zorobabel begat Abiud and Abiud begat Eliakim...and Matthan begat Jacob and Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ."* (Matt.1:13-16). So the seed of Abraham traveled through the chosen men and women of the Old Testament until it came to Joseph and Mary. But Mary was chosen with a special calling. She was visited by an angel who explained, *"...Fear not Mary, for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."* (Lk.1:30-31) Joseph had nothing to do with the conception of Jesus; the Seed was taken up into the realm of Spirit, and implanted into the virgin womb of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit! It was a work of Father God. This is how Mary became pregnant, and it is how the Bride of the Lamb is impregnated by the Seed of Christ to bring forth the new creation of God in Christ. It is the church, made virgin, who is birthing the image and likeness of the Son of God. A scientific mind might ask questions, but the answer remains somewhat of a mystery, and this mystery is "Christ in you, the hope of glory!" Mary did not ask questions, she simply believed and uttered, *"...Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."* (Lk.1:38)

**BEGOTTEN SONS-** And so Jesus was begotten of God, and born of a virgin; He was the only Son of the kind. This only begotten Son came into the world and grew among men, and learned obedience to the Father. *"Though he were a son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered."* (Heb.5:8) It was His obedience to His Father that led Him to cling to the cross, and lay down that life unto death. It was the power of holiness within that raised Him from the dead. By His death and resurrection, Jesus became "the Last Adam Man." This is a new kind of man, produced from an incorruptible seed; a seed in which there is no more death. This Seed is the **Living** Word of God which is spoken to us through the Holy Spirit, and produces after the image and likeness of the only begotten Son of God. This new Living Word of God is ministered to us by the indwelling Holy Spirit. All other means to attain this Word, are only tools to teach us to know Him and to hear Him.

The Word of life is what Jesus called His flesh and His blood. *"...Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him."* (Jn.6:53-56) These words cannot be interpreted literally, but by the Spirit we know that the flesh and blood signify the actual living Word that Jesus imparts directly to us and that we receive by the witness of the Spirit. Just as He walked among men in flesh and blood and spoke to them, so now His Spirit dwells in us, walks in us and speaks to us so that in our flesh and blood we express Him and become as He is. When we partake of His Word made flesh in us, we have life. All this begins by hearing His Word through the words of preachers, teachers or by reading the words of the Bible, or of anointed teachers or writers. As we do this, the Spirit leads us through many trials and testing, and as we continue to learn obedience to the Word we read or hear, His life begins to grow within us, and soon He is no longer pages of paper, or words of preachers; He is flesh and blood within us, and we partake of that bread. *"This is that bread which came down from heaven...He that eateth of this bread shall live forever."* (Jn.6:58)

Jesus, by His Holy Spirit, has been perfecting a virgin bride. He is cleansing her and purifying her; He is implanting His Seed in her, until she brings forth sons after His image and likeness. The Christ seed that was given to Abraham by promise, has been perfected in the first begotten Son, and soon will also be seen in a body of many brethren. This will be the harvest of His firstfruits, with many more to come. And life moves from glory to glory by birthing! This is the way of our God who is life and love. Amen!

Because He is love, *Angèle Caporaso (Jackie)*