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THE FIRST AND THE LAST

GOD'S BLUEPRINTS- *"Remember the former things of old: for I am God and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."* (Isa.46:8-9) Let us be reminded that all of God's plan was already finished from the foundation of the world. But the time came, when all that was finished in the Logos, (God's Word, His mind), had to appear in physical and material visible form. We were all in God's plan, in His blueprints. Jesus was already *"Slain from the foundation of the world."* (Rev.13:8). I am reminded of this dream, *"I was running to the airport to catch a jet plane. Under my arm, I was carrying a large roll of blueprints. I had to get on this plane because it was only when the plane reached the highest possible altitude that I could read and know these blueprints."* In the dream, I represent the sons, who are given these blueprints through the Holy Spirit, by means of revelations and scriptures. But these cannot be deciphered or interpreted except we reach a high place in the Spirit. God's plan, from beginning to end is ours to know, but we need to get on board the mind of Christ, (the jet), for only there, are we able to comprehend and to know *"the things that God hath prepared for those who love Him."* Read I Cor. chapter 1.

By the Spirit and through faith, as promised, our Father is leading us into all truths. *"Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth..."* (Jn.16:13) It is as we are taught of the Spirit, that we understand more of God's truths. And it is by the revelation of the Spirit, and through the hardships of our daily lives, that these truths become life in us.

LET US GO ON, UNTO PERFECTION- (Heb.6:1) God's entire creation is contained in the Word, the Logos and in that form, it has been finished, complete and perfect from the foundation of the world. We read in Genesis that *"The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."* (Gen.1:2) This was when God's Word became His Voice, and when He set out to speak forth the creation that was already in His Logos, unto the visible realm of the Earth. Genesis is the record of the transfer of creation, from the invisible Word of God, unto a totally void, formless, rock and dirt, terrestrial planet we call Earth. God has a special interest, a huge affinity and an endless love for planet Earth; He has chosen it for His habitation. And He has chosen man to be His Word in that world.

In six day's time, (according to God's calendar), God set up all manner of life in the earth; including the man that He put in charge of it all. *"God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the morning and the evening were the sixth day."* (Gen.1:31) God's creation was indeed "very good," yet it was not yet the perfect, complete creation that He has designed. Nevertheless, at the end of the sixth day, God rested. The work now fell into the hands of the Son, who is the Star player in the work of continuing the making of the perfect, complete man in God's image and likeness. The Bible gives us a picture of the first Adam man, living in a garden called Eden. By the Spirit, we know that the garden and the trees are symbols meant to portray invisible, spiritual realities. Howbeit, for this study, let us just take things as they are written. Adam, (male and female), was at first an

innocent being who lived by hearing the voice of God every day. This man issued from God's creative order, he was not begotten, thus he was not perfect, and he was vulnerable to sin. A perfect man cannot sin. *"Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin...and he cannot sin because he is born of God."* (I Jn.3:9) Adam is the first man that we meet in the Bible. But there is another man in the wings, *"And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit...The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy such are they also that are earthy; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly."* (I Cor.15:45,47-49) There are two men in view. It is clear that the first Adam bears the image of the soul man. And the Last Adam man is the man from heaven who lives by the Spirit, and who is Lord of his soul. He is the Christ, the new creation man, and we shall bear the image of that heavenly man.

God loved Adam, His soul man, and He gave him a fearfully and wonderfully made body, (Ps.139:14). But the life of that body is in the blood, and blood is earthy and corruptible. *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood."* (Lev.17:14) The making of the perfect man, the man in God's likeness and image, has been ongoing: it is all contained in God's blueprints from the beginning. The Star of the plan is the *"The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* (Rev.13:8) God knew from the beginning that His first man Adam, (and Eve), must fall, and He prepared the Savior, the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world. Was this necessary? Yes, all this is needed to complete God's perfect man.

Let us now ask this, "What if the tragedy that took place in the garden of Eden, was all part of God's plan?" After all, God is all knowing, all powerful, and is He not the One who created evil, *"I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace and create evil. I the Lord do all these things."* (Isa. 45:7) His plan required evil too. And was it not God who placed the serpent in the tree within the reach of His creatures? These are questions that can only be answered by the Holy Spirit. *"For who hath known the mind of the Lord that we may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."* (I Cor.2:16)

A PEEK BEHIND THE SCENE- We know that when Eve disobeyed God, and ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, not only did she die, but Adam died as well, (for she is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh). This means that the spirit as well as the soul of the man, entered into the darkness of death. They fell from their heavenly, spirit realm, into the sphere of the literal dirt and rock, Earth. Eden is not a literal garden, it stands for the condition of life in which God's first Adam dwelt. So, the man slid into a lower level of life, and ended up with a perishable flesh and blood body, vulnerable to diseases, disorders and suffering. Could we ask why, our God, who is love, and who knows all things from the beginning, allowed this evil tree to remain in Eden? He surely knew that Eve would not be able to resist the offer of the sly serpent, yet He did not remove that tree from her reach. Some have concluded that God was testing them, but it is written, *"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God, for God cannot be tempted of evil, neither tempteth he any man."* (Jms.1:13)

Could what happened to Adam, be the very thing that Paul wrote about? *"For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, (death), into the glorious liberty of the children of God."* (Rom.8:20-21) Vanity is a state of being "Empty, void of truth, morally depraved." Was Paul saying that God stripped His man, made him void and bankrupt of any moral value? Yes, God's first man was made subject to this, not willingly but for a purpose. Indeed, it seems that God used the serpent to bring man down to that condition. Yet man was given hope. By experience, we know that hope is what keeps us all going; we are always hoping for better things to come. Everyone always hopes for something better ahead. The first man is given the hope of being delivered

into the liberty of the sons of God. But was it not our God, the One who created all things, who also created the waster, the destroyer as an instrument for His work? *"Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy."* (Isa.54:16) Indeed, the Lord has need of all these things, to build His complete, perfect, "body-soul-and-spirit-man." Let us ponder this carefully: God made His soul-man first. He gave him a wonderful body, but a body of humiliation and suffering. He brought this soul-led man, into the earth to face the tempter, "the prince of the power of the air." The Old Testament is the saga of man who seeks a place for his soul to dwell in peace, and when he finds it, he is faced with giants forces of resistance. When read by the Spirit, the Old Testament is symbolic of the soul-man walking through the wilderness of life, to find a land where he belongs. If read literally, the Old Testament is mostly history. The voice of the prophets and the Law are the light of the Old Testament. Jesus came and now He is the Light of the World and the voice of God.

THE SACRED SECRET MISSION- *"Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual."* (I Cor.15:46) The first Adam had to come first. Jesus is the Last Adam, the Firstborn of this new creation man, therefore He is the pattern for the many brethren to come. The incredible mission of Jesus Christ can only be known as we let His mind, reveal Him to us. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, But made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* (Phil.2:5-11)

To walk out His Father's plan, the Son of God stripped Himself from His heavenly form, and put on the garment of mortal flesh and blood; He lowered Himself to the level of Adamic humanity. Then in obedience to His Father, He took this man unto the death of the cross in order to raise him up to the highest level of life ever known to man. The most incredible part of this, is that we were in Him on this journey of death and resurrection. *"And (He) hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."* (Eph.2:6) The soul man Adam, who was once in the garden, and who was cast into the earth, was rescued by the grace of God and by faith. As part of the Adam man, our soul goes through the death of the cross, in daily experiences, to be raised together with Christ, at the time of His resurrection. As firstfruits, we know that this appearing is at hand.

Jesus is the Lamb of God and the Savior of the world; the only One who could lay His life down, and pick it up again. *"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay my life down and I pick it up again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down and to take it up again..."* (Jn.10:17-18) John the Baptist introduced Him, *"Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."* (Jn.1:29) He was slain from the foundation of the world, but He showed up clothed in the garment of flesh and blood, to offer up Himself as the only acceptable sacrifice to God. His death was unto resurrection and with it, He raised Himself, and this earthly creation to the highest level of life. Jesus' death on the cross is God's way of completing His creation. At the last Supper, Jesus told Judas, *"...That thou doest, do quickly."* (Jn.13:27) Judas was set to do his part, and Jesus knew that those who were going to kill Him, were also doing His Father's will. He knew that His death on the cross was actually the destroying of the Edenic man, and the end of all the systems that he established for himself in the world. *"...For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."* (I Jn.3:8). When Jesus rose from the tomb, He was no longer an Adam man. He

returned to His place with the Father as the Firstborn and the Head of a new creation. He is the first complete and perfect man, alive in "Spirit, Soul and Body." He came back and walked for forty days to show His new body to His disciples, and to prepare them to receive Him as the Holy Spirit.

THE LAMB'S WIFE- One of the seven angels called unto John saying, *"...Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife."* (Rev.21:9) The bride represents the soul who is being wed to the submissive Lamb nature, as a lamb. She has fought the fight against the arrogant evil serpent nature of her carnal mind, and against the temptations and threats of the worldly systems; she has conquered. She is prepared to be the Lamb's wife, fully submitted to His will. She loves Him with all her heart and with all her soul. He is her Head. *"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the savior of the body."* (Eph.5:23) When the soul is saved, the body is redeemed, and takes on a new glory. *"And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."* (Col.1:18) Christ's bride is made up of many called-out, individual, cleansed and purified souls; the angel introduced her as a "city," the new Jerusalem, the holy city who descended from God, out of heaven. Not the city of rock and stone in the world today.

Paul's fervent prayer for us, is that *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints."* (Eph.1:18) Christ is our inheritance, and we, our pure soul, is His inheritance. We inherit His Spirit and life eternal, and He inherits the beautiful soul and body, to express His love and beauty throughout creation. This is how the perfect and complete new man, the Last Adam man, the new creation of God in Christ is coming into being. *"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!"* (II Cor.9:15)

The Father has not been cuddling our soul; He has been making her tough and strong against the forces of evil. He has called her to *"...bruise, (crush), the head of the serpent."* (Gen.3:15). To do the work, He has supplied her with gifts. When *"He, (Jesus), ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?). He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things."* (Eph.4:8-10) Jesus first went down into Hades, where souls were held captive. He rendered the lying spirits powerless, and He took the keys of Hades and death, and filled the place with His own presence. Then He ascended into the highest heaven, and destroyed the stronghold of the counterfeits of Christ, and the principalities and powers who rule the nations of the world. Jesus also filled the heavens with His presence so that *"In the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in him."* (Eph.1:10) The gift ministries are teaching and training our souls, and they are building us in spirit and in truth, that we might follow only His voice and none other.

Christ is the beginning and the end of God's plan, and we were chosen in Him. *"...he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we, (our soul), should be holy and without blame, before him in love."* (Eph.1:4) Our journey begins in Christ, and it ends in Christ. *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending saith the Lord which is and which was and which is to come. The Almighty."* (Rev.1:8) Christ in us, and we in Christ as one new man, is the glorious new life that shall be revealed in us, and will soon be made manifest to the world! This is the Christ who is now the hope of the world! Thanks be unto Yahweh, the God in whom we live and move and have our being, and thanks be unto Him for the unspeakable gift of His Son and His Holy Spirit!

Because He is love, *Angèle Caporaso* better known as *Jackie*