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WHEN ANGELS STAND

THE ANGEL IN MY CLOSET- A few years ago I had a dream that seemed so real, I thought it was an apparition rather than a dream. *"I was in bed asleep when I was awakened by someone who wanted to introduce me to my husband. He took me to my walk-in closet where I saw an astoundingly large, majestic angel. I could not see his face but his body was extremely impressive. I was told that his name is Michael."* End of dream. Although I did not really understand the meaning of the dream at the time, it made a lasting impression on me and I knew that the Lord would give me more light on it later. (As it often happens in my dreams, I represent the people who are hearing the Word by the Spirit).

I had been reflecting on the words that the Spirit had been speaking lately, when the Lord led me to read again the verses about the "Last trump and the voice of the Archangel." He then gave me a vivid remembrance of the angel to whom He had introduced as my husband in my closet. This huge angel represents our Husband, the Holy Spirit, whose bigness speaks of the increase of His power and presence in us. It also emphasizes the truth that the Holy Spirit in us individually, is the same Holy Spirit in all of His firstfruit people; He covers each and everyone of us. For years, He has come continually to us from within our "closet," the secret place of spirit in our inner being. He sometimes comes as a thief in the night and strips us from some of our carnal treasures. Or He comes as lightening, illuminating our darkened souls with a swift revelation of Himself. He also comes as a loving bridegroom at midnight. The Lord comes to us all the time. Young's literal translation of the book of Jude tells us that He comes in *"his saintly myriads."* He told His disciples that He would not leave them to be orphans, *"I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you."* (Jn.14:18)

The Lord comes to us continually, and brings us new understanding of what He is doing in us, and also in the world. When I saw Him as Michael the archangel, I knew that He was coming with a Word that was going to bring changes in our lives as well as in the world. Michael is the warring angel. He is the one who fights at all levels of the heavens of our minds and hearts. *"And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was there place found for them in heaven any longer."* (Rev.12: 7-8) Angels are not little chubby beings whispering sweet things into our ears; they are the messengers of God's words that cause changes in us and in the world. They come in the persons of ministers, or by the Spirit directly in ears that hear.

Our God has a definite, unchangeable plan for His entire creation; it was set from the foundation of the world. God has prepared many things that He has hid as mysteries, yet, most of humanity has been busy running their lives, totally unaware that God has been working His mysteries in them and in their world. Most religions have created images of a god that keeps demanding more of the people. Thus until we are called out of darkness unto the Light, we are kept under the bondage of fear and servitude. In our darkness, we have all been taught to revere, serve and support the gods of man's own imaginations. The knowledge of the God in whom we live and move and have our being, had been buried deep under the piles of rubbish that the traditions of man had planted deep into our minds and

hearts. It is only when the Spirit of God calls us out, that He begins to reveal His mysteries to us, and we begin to be lifted up into a new world of light and glory. The greatest mystery of all, which is Christ made flesh in us, and us in Christ, is now breaking through the clouds and arising as a new Day. The "Son" who, some two-thousand years ago, came to this world as the "Bright and morning Star," is now arising in a many-membered body, from the midst of us as the Sun of Righteousness. We are told of a day when this mystery will be completed and that it will be ushered in by the resounding sound of a mighty trumpet. *"But in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, **the mystery of God** would be finished as He declared to His servants the prophets."* (Rev.10:7) And again, *"Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!'"* (Rev.11:15)

Paul gives us another detailed view of that day, *"Behold I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall all be changed."* (I Cor.15:51-52) And again, *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first."* (I Thess.4:16) The mystery of God that we are awaiting is Jesus Christ arising as the Head of His body of sons, as the High Priest of a royal priesthood, as the King of a new governmental order of kings in the world. Indeed, Jesus Christ is the High Priest of a divine priesthood that shall rule and reign over the kingdoms of the earth. *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection, on such the second death hath no power; **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."*** (Rev.20:6)

Before moving on with this study, it is good to be reminded that the book of Revelation can only be understood by the Spirit. When it is interpreted by the natural mind, it produces only fear and confusion. Actually, the book is best understood by "living it." *"Happy is he who is reading, and those hearing the words of the prophecy, **and keeping the things written in it--For the time is nigh!"*** (Rev.1:3 YLT) When we live through the events that are described by the symbols of the vision, we can clearly understand what is said in the book. This is what is taking place in our day.

Our interest for this study is centered on the meaning of the message that each of the seven angels is sending out, and the distress and destruction that each message seems to be causing in the world. Yet we read, *"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."* (Rev.12:12) In Christ, even though we still walk on the earth, we dwell in the heavens; we see behind what is happening and understand what God is doing through it all. This is why it is good to be diligent, and to feed our minds and hearts on things from above, and not so much on the affairs and the politics of men.

WHO ARE THESE ANGELS?- In his vision, John saw seven angels preparing to carry out their divine mission. There had been no new word in the Spirit, and now these are given the power to call out loud and clear, words that will shake the world of man, until nothing that can be shaken is left standing. *"...there was silence in heaven about the space of a half hour. And I saw seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."* (Rev.8:1-2) Angels are messengers and the trumpets speak of the clear, resonant and penetrating Word of God, being blown by the Spirit into the hearts and minds of those who will hear it. We know that God will do nothing without first revealing it to those who can hear; *"Surely, the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secrets unto his*

servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7) God does everything by His Word. John the Baptist was the last of the Old Testament prophets; he came to introduce the Son of God in person, and was brutally murdered. From that time on the Word of God came through the Son. First through Jesus in the flesh, then through the Son by His Holy Spirit in His called out people. Since then, the Word has continued to flow to those with ears to hear; it flows in waves. In our life's time we have witnessed many of these waves, the salvation by faith wave, the Pentecostal wave, the Sonship. With each wave, the Lord has revealed more of Himself and of the plan and purpose of God in this world. With each wave our understanding has become clearer, and the mystery that has been hid for ages within us, has been formed in the sons who are becoming the Word that delivers creation.

The seven angels standing before God are not ordinary messengers; they are seen *"coming out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles."* (Rev.15:6) Their attires reveal their identities. They are wearing the white linen of righteous saints, and golden girdles which are the priestly garments of the eternal, royal, Melchizedek priesthood. This is the priesthood of the sons of God with Jesus Christ Himself as High Priest as we see Him in the midst of the golden candlestick, which is in the midst of His body of sons. *"And in the midst of the golden candlestick one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle."* (Rev.1:13). The angels stood in their priestly garments, at the golden altar which is before the throne of God, and were given much incense to offer with the prayers of all saints. These sons of God have gone through much preparation for the day when they are given the trumpet power to blow the Word for the deliverance of creation to begin. As sons, we might have thought that the Day of deliverance was going to be easy, wonderful and joyful for the world. But while this is true, it also does not come without much distress to the old beings that we were. The prophet Joel speaks of the great and terrible day of the Lord. And surely, the changes that have already begun are both great and terrible, for the righteousness of God has descended to judge the earth, and will not stop until it is accomplished.

ABOUT GOD'S JUDGMENTS- When we hear the word "judgment," we right away think of "punishment," yet God's judgments are not punitive, they are transforming. God judges the earth by righteousness. Evil trembles at God's judgments but the righteous rejoices. As sons, we go through the fire of God's judgments and come out without the smell of smoke. All who follow the Lamb go through the cross. When the sons are ready, God's judgments are sent into the world. *"Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein; then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh **to judge the earth; he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.**"* (Ps.96:11-13)

The righteousness of God means "the right way, by God's standards." *"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."* (Prov.14:12) The systems that run this world have been established on ways that seem right unto man, but they have led man into more death. When God's righteousness comes, it judges the works of darkness, or reveals them for what they are. This is the way that God's judgments are sweeping into the world even in our day. The Word of God that is coming through the voice of the sons of God, is causing the surge of lawlessness, turmoil and violence that has been shaking the nations of the world today. The world is poised to see much more change until the dominion is fully restored to the priests of God and of Christ. *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."* (Rev.20:6)

THE LAST TRUMP- Speaking of the times of the end Daniel writes, *“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great Prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time, your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake. Some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.”* (Dan.1: 1-3) Daniel was prophesying about the time of first resurrection. Resurrection is Jesus Christ come in the flesh; He is the Word made flesh in us. He is Jesus appearing again, in a people in His image and likeness. The Spirit has been revealing the Son in us, and is about to appear in the world. The mystery which was Christ in us, has now become us in Christ for the whole world to see. When we first turned to the Lord, we took hold of the measure of faith, and began a journey where day by day, He quickened us and brought us into new light and new life. By the power of His resurrection the Lord has transformed us into sons of God. Our journey has not been easy. We had to overcome obstacles at every stage of our growth. When light entered our darkness, the prince of this world that controlled us, knowing that his time is short, pulled out all his dirty tricks and lies to bring us back into his bondage. This was often a time of great distress; we had to leave the old comfortable ways and choose God. Moses chose *“...rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.”* (Heb.11:25).

Every time Jesus reveals more of Himself and of His plan to us, we have to make a choice. This choice has often led us to leave behind the old familiar ways and even people and places. We are still as the woman fleeing in the wilderness and there is war in the spirit realm. There is war in the realm of our minds, and in the minds of the people everywhere. There is no peace anywhere because there is no peace in the hearts and minds of humanity. The warfare between Christ and Satan is raging all around us, and in us too. These are the times of the last trump, *“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven...And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of the brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”* (Rev.12:7-8,10)

By the Word that our God has been blowing through the trumpets, (steady and sure voice), of many messengers, servants, or angels of God, (we know many of them by name), the sons have been inwardly changing from glory to glory. However, it is the Word sent by the voice of the archangel, the Word from the Lord Himself spoken through the sons, that brings the final transformation, from the body of this death unto the glory of immortality. The words of the last trump have already begun to blow and will continue to blow, until *“In a moment, at the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”* (I Cor.15:52-53) This work has taken great preparations and much suffering, from the agony of Jesus on the cross, to the saints who were tortured and slain for the faith, to the much suffering of the sons who have been cast out for their words. Many of the world's innocent people have died young because of the lack of care from those who were called their guardians. But there is a people arising in the image and likeness of the Son of God, and they will rule and reign with Christ to establish the laws of the kingdom of God in the hearts of man. Then peace and joy will be restored in God's world forever. As witnesses of this mighty work, we are watching, holding our breath, as the Sun rises on this new Day. Blessings and honor and glory to our God forever more!

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*