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BACK IN THE BEGINNING

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men." (Jn.1:1-4). This happened in the beginning, and the Word is the beginning. In the dispensation of times, God opened redemption to us, according to the riches of His grace, (we are being saved by grace, through faith), that we might know that His will is to gather all things in Himself. "That in the dispensation of the fulness of times, he might gather together ALL THINGS in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him." (Eph.1:10) This means that all things, barring none, began in Him, and issued from Him. They were sent into the earth "...according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself." (Eph.1:9) After their purpose on the earth is finished, they will be refined and ready, as His will intended, and they will ALL be gathered again in Him. When we understand this, we know that our very souls were part of the "things" that were in Him from the beginning. Our soul's first love was God, but when Eve, who is the mother of all living, (Gen.3:20), took a catastrophic turn in the garden, our souls became enamored with the serpent's ways. This was also God's purpose, to teach us invaluable lessons. We had to fully taste of hell and death until our desires turned again to our first love.

It was Eve, (soul), who sinned. Adam partook of her sin because he loved her, "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh...Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh." (Gen.2:23a, 24) Just as Adam took on the sin of Eve and went into hell and death with her, so Jesus took upon Himself the sin of the world, and went into hell and death for her. Howbeit, the first Adam was created earthy from the beginning; he could not find his way out of this furnace of earth. Jesus came from God; He was heavenly from the beginning. In earth, He walked the walk, overcame the forces of hell and death and became the Savior of the world. Jesus rescued our souls from hell and death, and now He is wooing us back unto Himself. He is giving us a new heart to love Him and not love self and the world.

Jesus became the second man, the Last Adam. Our souls were married to the first man Adam, but he has been replaced, and our souls are now being prepared to marry the Last Adam. So He is preparing us, cleansing us individually and making us for Himself, a glorious church, (called out people), an habitation of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to express the beauty of His righteousness in the earth. ALL THINGS are passing through the fires of this furnace of earth, so that in the dispensation of the fulness of times, all souls will be turned back unto their true Love.

The vision that John saw on Patmos will soon become reality, "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God ominipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." (Rev.19:6-7) Can we not hear the great rejoicing of creation, as the Lamb of God finds His beloved, the soul He took through the fire

with Him, and whose heart will never again seek other lovers. This is the simple and true story of who we once were, who we became and who we are now; not only restored, but made brand new in Christ.

THE SIMPLICITY THAT IS IN CHRIST- Jesus said, "Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." (Jn.14:30) No one and nothing could turn Jesus away from following the will of His Father; He was sealed from the temptations of this world. This is where as sons in His likeness, we find ourselves. What anyone who hates us for the Word we speak, could say or do, would never be able to penetrate our souls or inhibit our walk. The only enemies that could destroy us now, are the thoughts that we allow in our own hearts and the spirit that hounds us and harasses us daily, saying, "You don't pray enough, you don't read your Bible enough, you don't do anything for God, you aren't humble enough, you don't go to church or assemble, and on and on..." These are the enemies that could rob us from true peace of heart and fellowship with our God.

There are teachers of the Word that use these things to keep their sheep from straying away from their folds. This enemy targets those who have come out of old order, and are following the voice of the Shepherd by faith. The same religious serpent that worked in the Pharisees, constantly piles guilt and condemnation on us. Jesus told the Pharisees, "Ye are of your father the devil..." (Jn.8:44). The same spirit that worked in the Pharisees works through the teachings of Babylon, and through the many self-appointed teachers and preachers who take advantage of our weaknesses and fears to keep us under the Law of bondage. These come as wolves in sheep clothing, ready to devour the unaware. They are often flamboyant individuals who boast of the good works they do for God and for humanity, or the more subtle ones who offer a way to know God and reach the perfection of Christ through sacrifices, service and support to their creed or organization.

This sort of scheme was happening in Paul's days. He writes, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtility, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (II Cor.11:3) What is the simplicity that is in Christ? It is the grace of God through faith. In other words, it is trusting that God's grace is strong enough and that His promises are sure enough, to save us from our misery, and transform us to be as He is. It is as simple as the parabolic teachings of Jesus, as He explained the process of the seed in the ground, and the fruit that is produced from the two. The Spirit uses the things we deal with daily, to explain the whole plan of God. This is why Jesus still speaks in parables through dreams.

He explains, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." (Jn.12: 24-25) James said, "...Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." (Jms.1:18) The Word of truth is Jesus Christ Himself in the form of a seed that He plants into our earthen vessel. There, it is watered, and fertilized and tended until it brings forth the fruit; and the fruit of this Seed, is the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.

Luke wrote about the sower that planted the seed by the wayside. That seed was planted everywhere, in every field, but not all were fertile enough to make it grow. Matthew quotes, "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world..." (Matt.13:37-38a) Jesus was not speaking of a field of literal rocks and soil; He was speaking of the hearts of men in the world. With such parables, Jesus explained the simple ways that our God works in us to bring us to the fruit of His image and likeness. The seed that is planted in us is the incorruptible Word of God. The image and likeness of the Son that we are looking for, does not come by any works of our own, it comes by the miracle of the new birth in

the midst of us. This is the new birth that is causing the inner birth pangs and travail that we are feeling within ourselves, and also in the world at this time. The appearance of the Son of God is coming from the midst of the first harvest of the Seed that Jesus planted long ago. The Word of truth, is made flesh and will be manifested to deliver creation from the bondage of corruption. As Paul wrote, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves, waiting for the adoption, (placement), to wit, the redemption of our body... For the earnest expectation of the creature, (creation), waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." (Rom.8:22,23 and 19).

OF HIS OWN WILL- "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." (Jms.1:18) From the beginning, God, of His own will, planned an order of harvests. He chose a people to be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures, and He never changed His mind. He first sent His only begotten Son, then He begat us in the Son, by the word of truth. Indeed, God planted the seed which is the word of truth, in "our" earth which He had formed, and He waited for the new plant to grow into the fruit of His likeness. James tells us that the Father did this of His own will. It was His idea, His mindset, His purpose, His intention, His desire to do this; the firstfruits were not chosen because they were special or different or because of anything they did; they were simply chosen by the will of God, for His good pleasure.

In a parable, Jesus explained that the Sower planted the Seed in all the world, but only certain soils were capable of receiving the Seed, and give it the proper environment and nourishment needed to grow. This is speaking of those who were chosen to become sons and be an offering unto God. The Spirit is repeating this truth because it is easy for us who are learning His ways, to fall back into thinking that we must attain our sonship by knowledge or by our good works. The truth is that we become sons because of the Seed that the Sower has planted in our soil. This is a birthing and not a work of man's hands. There are no other ways to the Father but by the Son in us. This cannot be altered or stopped; we have been impregnated with the incorruptible Seed. Through our daily trials and suffering, the Lord is bringing this seed to maturity. Soon, the Son in us will appear, fully formed and mature. This is the soon appearing of Jesus Christ that creation is eagerly awaiting. This is the coming of God's kingdom in earth as it is in heaven. God who has been ruling from the invisible realm of Spirit, will soon be ruling His creation through the kings and priests of His beloved Son. This is dominion restored, which the first Adam had lost.

When we understand this, we are made free from striving to attain by our own works. We have been in the school of the Spirit, we have gone through many grades, and we have passed many tests. So now we come to the time of graduation. Some graduate through the grave, some will still be here when the new Day arises. All will be changed as Paul taught, "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 be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (I Cor.15:52-55)

THE RISING BUDDHA- Peter writes, "Wherefore the rather brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure..." (II Pet.1:10). Paul says, "For ye see your calling brethren..." (I Cor.1:26). There is a difference between those who are "called," and those who practice religion. When we have been "called," we usually know it, and our calling as sons of God becomes priority in our lives. Sons have been growing into maturity, or perfection in Christ. As that day approaches, many testings, or

temptations are pressing to deter them, (us), by any means available to the foe. The foe works through our minds, emotions and desires. Guilt and condemnation are the two powerful weapons that he uses against us to discourage us; "You are not doing anything for God" is the serenade played continually in our ears. Doing works to secure our sonship, and bring it to completion is very tempting. James tells us that pure religion is to help others, and we know that this kind of religion is a good thing. As good as pure religion is, and we are called to practice religion out of our pure hearts, its practice does not advance our status as sons.

To further explain, the Spirit once gave me this dream, "I was sitting on a bench, high in the heavens. From that place I could see the whole earth way down below. Then I noticed a huge statue of a Buddha growing up from the earth, with its head reaching to almost the height of where I was seated. I saw many lights on its huge face, and people were climbing up rope ladders that had been set up on the statue, to reach and touch these lights." In my dream, the Buddha represents the world's religions. Buddhism is a well established religion which began 600 years before Christ. Followers of Buddhism seek inner peace, (Nirvana). The teachings stress the value of wisdom, kindness, patience, generosity and compassion. They prohibit the killing of any living being, stealing, lying, sexual misconduct and intoxication. In this dream, the Spirit chose Buddhism in particular because its teachings are very similar to those of Christianity under the Law. We know that as we grow in Christ, we are still under the Law. "Now I say, that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all. But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed by the father." (Gal.4:1-2) The dream reveals the means given to the followers of Buddha, to attain the enlightenment, revelations and peace that they strive for. They have to climb rope ladders to reach the light of understanding or enlightenment. Climbing a rope ladder on a straight up wall is perilous and exhausting. It speaks of the self-discipline, self-effort and self-sacrifice that must be made to reach that place. The teachings of religions may be similar, but the means to attain are very different.

At a time when we are coming to the end of this age and the beginning of the new, we may be looking for any means to hasten that Day. The Spirit within us cries out, "Come quickly Lord Jesus!" And the serenade plays louder within us, "What can I do to attain to the vision set before me quicker?" The Father does not give us a rope ladder to climb. His enlightenment which is to know Him as He is, does not come by our own self-efforts or discipline; it comes by keeping our eyes on Him. It does not come from joining the many groups that are forming in the land to bring back peace and order to this country and to the world; the Light we seek as sons is not found in any form of religion or religious works; it is found as we hear His voice and follow the Christ within.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." (II Cor. 4:6-7) The big difference is that "The excellency of the power may be of God and not of us." The Light of truth shines within our hearts. God has commanded His truth to shine in our hearts, in the face of Jesus Christ. Only He is the quickening Spirit and the Giver of life. Only He is able to bring us out of this death into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. It is the power of His resurrection that is changing us and giving us eternal inner peace. Only Jesus Christ could declare "I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?" (25-26) Hallelujah!

Because He is love, Jackie Caporaso