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WRITE THE VISION AND MAKE IT PLAIN...

...upon tables, (of your hearts), *that he may run that readeth it.*” (Hab.2:2). A vision is an inner knowing of what is coming in the future. In the midst of affliction and distress, it gives hope of better things ahead. Visions give incentive or motivation to keep on walking through great difficulties and tragic times. It was David’s connection to God that gave him the heart and inner strength to face Goliath, and to challenge the fearful Israelite armies asking, *“Is there not a cause?”* Habakkuk was a prophet who lived in Judah, at a time when the country was being assaulted by violent men. He laid out their miseries before God and pleaded with Him for an answer to their urgent need for help. And Habakkuk waited, howbeit impatiently, to hear from God, until finally the Lord answered with a clear and reassuring vision of future restoration. He told the prophet to write the vision and explain it well so that the people would understand it and run with it. In other words they would run after it; they would be motivated to move on through their ordeal, looking for the rainbow ahead. The vision gave them renewed courage and new hope for the future.

Today as never before, we hear the painful groaning of creation. *“For the earnest looking out of the creation doth expect the revelation of the sons of God; for to vanity was the creation made subject, not of its will, but because of Him who did subject it in hope. That also the creation itself shall be set free from the servitude of the corruption to the liberty of the glory of the children of God; for we have known that all the creation doth groan together, and doth travail in pain till now.”* (Rom.8:19-22 Young’s Literal Translation). The suffering that the creatures, and creation, have been subjected to has become almost intolerable in many parts of our world. Those who are still sheltered, can clearly hear and feel the pain through the various means of visual and audial media that flood our minds with news. We ourselves groan in pain, and our hearts cry out to God. But as sons, God gave us a vision, and we hold on to it, and as the fathers of the faith before us, we stay motivated and move on to attain it. As in the days of Habakkuk, the vision of restoration is written plain upon the tables of our hearts. God’s entire creation is hoping against hope that the Son of God soon appears and deliver them. Most are waiting for the one man Jesus who once came to die on the cross, but the truth is that this time, the Savior is set to appear, (as Jude wrote), in myriads of Himself, or in many sons in His image and likeness.

For this reason, the sons who were themselves redeemed as firstfruits from among men, have been undergoing serious changes. They are being transformed by the renewing of their minds, until they think as their Father thinks and act as He acts. By His Spirit, the Lord Himself is doing this work in us, and our part is to keep the faith in the vision set before us, for it is faith that seals the deal. Salvation is by grace, through faith, and it is when we believe to the end that we receive our full salvation. By the same token, it is as we believe God’s word unto the end that we receive the fulfillment of the vision.

As I am writing this, I received an email from brother John Joseph with this definition of faith, *“Faith is the substance of things hoped for...things not yet seen, for by it the elders obtained a witness.” Faith is not believeism; it’s not mental; it’s a spiritual substance that we may say stands in the place of things before they become manifest things. AND, as well it witnesses in our heart a Yes and an Amen, so that*

we know that the things we ask for are indeed THERE but not yet HERE, but on the way.” End of quote. It is by faith that we receive the answers to prayers. It is faith that moves mountains so that we find the strength to continue the journey. There are many faith avenues that lead to receiving the reward of our prayers, but the faith that sons live by is the “faith of the Son of God.” The faith of the Son of God, is the faith that goes beyond asking for the gratifications and needs of this self-life; it is the faith that believes in the full deliverance of God’s creation. The Son of God is the heart of the Father, who so loves the world that He gives of Himself to save it. The vision that sons of God are running with, is the vision of God’s kingdom in earth as it is in heaven. It is the vision of a humanity no longer driven by the needs and cravings of the flesh, but a people who can lay down in peace with the now subdued natures of the lion and the bear. A vision of a world where there is no more war or violence, and where “*Where they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of host hath spoken it.*” (Mic.4:4)

The faith of the sons of God is the power that is ushering the coming of this new Day. This is why we yield ourselves to the hand of discipline of our Father, and with Paul we “*reckon that the sufferings of this present times are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.*” (Rom.8:18) Sons know that if Jesus became a Son through sufferings, then they must suffer as well, for not only did He taste of death for every man, but “*It became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through suffering.*” (Heb.2:10) Jesus is the Captain who leads us into full salvation. If He was made perfect through suffering, to be perfect then we can expect to suffer as well. “*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*” (Matt.5:48)

Jesus knew what was required of Him, and He did not shy away from it; on the contrary, He rejoiced, “*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame...*” (Heb.12:2a). The joy set before Him was the vision that kept Him on the cross. And so it is the vision of the deliverance of God’s entire creation, that strengthens the faith of the sons of God, and keeps them believing and moving on without hesitation or fear, day by day and step by step. When we see what is happening in the world, we do not turn back but we know that the way to deliverance is for us to continue and follow the Captain of our salvation. He is leading us all the way to the top of Mount Zion, which is symbolic of the government of Christ in the world. As it is written “*And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau, (kingdom of the man of flesh), and the kingdom shall be the Lord’s.*” (Obad.21)

And so we take heart, and we keep faith alive. Peter wrote, “*That the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation (appearing) of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith- the salvation of your souls.*” (I Pet.1:7-9) Be encouraged sons of God, the time is coming soon and the vision will not tarry. Let the fire of God’s love refine the faith that ensures the victory at hand. We are called to keep the faith as we are joined to the throng of those who had a vision and kept it unto the end. We are the Light in a world of gross darkness. Let us yield ourselves to God’s fire and continue the faith unto the end of this age, and the beginning of the new. *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.* (Rev.22: 20-21)

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*