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NO.198T

The Tabernacle

Our journey to true worship

ENTERING THE PRESENCE

As we continue our walk through the tabernacle of Moses in type, we come to the little ten by ten room in the innermost part of the structure. When we were in the Outer Court we had the light of the natural sun. This speaks of our beginning in Christ when the Word we received gave light to our natural minds. Our experience came with a natural literal understanding until our Lord brought us daily to the Laver and began to wash the dust off our feet and hands so that he could open the area of our souls and begin to give us the light of His Spirit.

In the Holy Place we walk by the inner light of His Holy Spirit and with each piece of furniture we begin to receive Him from within. He is no longer an outer God, separate from us but we find that His Spirit is our strength and little by little we trust Him and we let go of our old ways of worship.

When we get to the Altar of Incense before the Veil, we realize that all our works are as nothing and that it is the work that He accomplishes in us that will bring about our deliverance and the deliverance of creation.

When we behold the last Veil we know that His Presence is very real behind it and if we have been able to grasp the truth that we are this tabernacle not made with Hands, we know for certain that this room is within us and that His Presence is waiting for us. As the old song declares, *"My God is real*

for I can feel Him in my soul!" Indeed His presence has been there for us but we have only felt it afar off. We have known the guidance and faithfulness of His Holy Spirit, but it has only been on very rare occasions that we have felt the warmth and glory of His presence.

Entering His presence is the hope that is set before us. God promised this to Abraham and this is our strong consolation. *"thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the HOPE set before us.*

This HOPE we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, AND WHICH ENTERS THE PRESENCE BEHIND THE VEIL, WHERE THE FORERUNNER HAS ENTERED FOR US, EVEN JESUS, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (Heb. 6: 17-20)

Jesus entered the presence behind the veil. He is our forerunner and now we enter with Him by hope. In the meantime, *"Seeing that we have a great High Priest who has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize*

with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Heb.4: 14-15) Our hope is to enter the Presence behind the veil even as Jesus our forerunner has. Jesus clearly told us that He was going to prepare a place for us, And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (Jn.14: 3

Certainly it is the place behind the veil where Himself entered and is now leading us to. He has been preparing our souls for the perfect union with Himself; This is what we have been groaning and travailing for. *“For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. And not only they, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.” (Rom.8: 22-23)*

Even we who have the firstfruits of His harvest are in travail, awaiting the glorious union that will reveal our new bodies.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT And Dagon

We all know that the Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament was a little chest made of wood overlaid inside and out with gold. The Ark was sacred and as Israel traveled through the wilderness, the priests were given specific instructions to carry it on poles of wood overlaid with gold. This Ark represented the Presence of God in Israel.

All through their journey, the Ark guaranteed that God was with His people, and that their enemies were sure to be defeated. Because of this Ark, the entire populations that were then, trembled when they heard of Israel. When Israel came to Jericho they were greeted by Rahab the Harlot who said, *“I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.” (Josh.2: 9)*

They had heard how the Lord had parted the Red Sea and how He had led them to utterly destroy

two kingdoms that came in opposition to them. Now they said, *“Our hearts melted; neither did they remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.” (Josh 2: 11b)*

Israel walked victoriously through the lands as long as the priesthood was in order and the Ark of God was in their midst. It was when the Philistines conquered the Ark that things began to turn for Israel and also for the Philistines. I cannot help but smile when I read the story of Dagon and the Ark. The Philistines knew that there was power in the Ark so when they captured it, *“they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon.” (I Sam.5: 3b)* Dagon was a god of fertility worshiped by the Philistines and it was to honor their god that they set the Ark by it as a trophy of their conquest.

“And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the Ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again. And when they arose the next morning, there was Dagon on its face to the ground before the Ark of the Lord. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only the torso of Dagon was left of it.” (I Sam.5: 3-4)

The Ark of the Lord became a fearful thing and the Philistines went about devising ways to quickly return it to the nation Israel. Today, many are occupied in searching for the literal chest of wood overlaid with gold, but even if they should find such an item, their search is in vain, for as Jesus came to fulfill all things, the power of God is no longer in the little wooden chest; the power of God is in the Ark not made with hands. The true Ark of God is the Christ made flesh in Jesus and in His Body. It is the Christ that was revealed in Jesus and that is soon to be revealed in a people chosen and elect of God.

The Philistines could not get rid of the Ark fast enough, so they decided to send it to Gath *“And so it was, after they had carried it away, that the hand of the Lord was against the city with a very great destruction; and He struck the men of the city, both small and great, and tumors broke out on them.”*

Therefore they sent the Ark to Ekron. So it was, as the Ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, 'They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to kill us and our people.' (I Sam.5: 9-10) These people had the good sense to know and to respect the power that was in the Ark.

Most of us are aware of the mixture of false gods that has been thriving in the fertile ground of our carnal minds. Looking back on the way we have come so far, we recognize that it has been a walk of separation from the things that we sought for our lives. The Ark of God (the Christ within) has dwelt among the Philistines of our carnal minds.

But by His grace and mercy, our Lord has sent the fires of purification to us. He has been separating the tares and bundling them to burn. Jesus said that at the end of the age, *"The Son of man will send His angels, and they will gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth, then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"* (Matt.13: 41-43)

If we have not been able to lay down some of the gods of this world's religions and traditions as well as all the false gods that have established a solid foothold in our minds and hearts, we will find that fires have been lit in our lives and they will keep burning until all our ideas of celebrating these false gods are stripped from us. Our God is a jealous God. He will not share His temple with any other; there can be no other gods beside Him.

I pray that we will be able and willing to receive the Word that He speaks to us in the fire, *"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted (engrafted) word, which is able to save your soul."* (Jms.1: 21)

We are all redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God, but it is as His life takes hold of us that we are saved. Paul wrote that *"... when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His*

Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." (Rom.5: 10)

THE SPRINKLING OF BLOOD

By God's grace, in Christ, we are permitted to take a look behind the curtain into the heavenly places of the realm of spirit. This is a place within that has not been explored and that no man has been able to penetrate. The psychologists and psychiatrists of our day call that dimension *"The unconscious."* There is also the realm that they call the *"subconscious,"* (soul) and they manage to delve into that, but the realm of "spirit" or "unconscious" is still a closed mystery to them.

Paul makes this declaration, *"Therefore having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."* (II Cor.7: 1) The Levitical priesthood had to offer sacrifices of bulls and goats in order to sprinkle the blood and cleanse the the tabernacle according to God' law.

*"And according to the law almost all things are purged (cleansed) with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission (forgiveness). Therefore it was necessary that the **copies (types)** of the things **in the heavens** should be purified with these, but the **heavenly things themselves** with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, **which are copies (representations) of the true**, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."* (Heb.9: 22-24)

Up to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God required sacrifices of animals such as bulls, goats and doves. These represented the carnal nature that needs to be slain for atonement. It was when the blood was sprinkled that the sacrifice was acceptable to God. It showed that the beastly nature had been slain and the sprinkling of the blood was the sign that the slaying of the old was before the Lord. However, because these sacrifices were of bulls and goats and such, the atonement was temporary; there was no new life available to them. It would take a better sacrifice.

The Old Testament law dealt with the literal temple; it did not give life. *“Therefore it was necessary that the copies (types) of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.”* (Heb.9: 23)

At Calvary, Jesus took upon Himself the total sin of the human race and nailed it to the cross. This was no longer the sacrifice of the blood of bulls and goats, it was the sacrifice of the blood of God's pure Lamb. *“For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that **those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.**”* (Heb.9: 13-15)

By His blood sacrifice, Jesus thoroughly cleanses and sanctifies our minds and hearts from all the dead works of carnal man. By His Spirit, He enters the realm of our souls and opens the line of communication between Himself and us (He is the Mediator). The way to God had been sealed since the man and woman had been cast out of the garden. Jesus is the Way to the Tree of Life (Christ) and once more it is opened to man's soul (his conscious mind). Jesus by His Holy Spirit is our Mediator and Communicator.

Little by little, the Holy Spirit has been uncovering the works of darkness that have been hiding within us. This is as the sprinkling of the blood. Once He reveals them, we acknowledge them and repent (turn from them), He removes them from us. When the images of false gods are removed from our hearts and minds, we see Him more clearly.

Now we still see Him through some of the images that we have built in our minds, but when they are removed, He appears and we see Him as He is. *“And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”* (I Jn.3: 3) *“For now we*

see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.” (I Cor.13: 12)

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

When Jesus comes to dwell within by His Holy Spirit, the battle is far from over. Principalities and powers who have built their strongholds within us are not ready to let go. So now we find that we are wrestling against thoughts that we once found acceptable. As the Spirit speaks to us we realize that the knowledge of God that we had accumulated is contaminated with the ideas of men. The same spirits that spoke to Eve in the garden are trying to keep the place that they held in our darkened souls and spirits.

The spirits of darkness that had been leading and controlling our lives are now pressing against us to keep their strongholds. But as the blood of the Lamb is sprinkled (His life in us), they can no longer hide. One by one, the Holy Spirit reveals them to us and when we acknowledge them, He removes them from us. Still they often return or send others to harass us. *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the **heavenly** (high) **places.**”* (Eph.6:12)

Spirits of darkness work best in the night when we feel defenseless. It is then that fear and dread suddenly come against us. These powers are rulers of the night trying to disrupt our peace and our faith in God. When thoughts flood in to discourage, frustrate, irritate or beat us down, they come from spirits of the prince of the air (principalities).

As long as we are in these bodies, we are never so spiritual that we cannot feel their sting. On the contrary, the longer we walk with our Lord, the stronger these forces come against us. However, the more light, living word that we have stored in our hearts and minds, the quicker we defeat them; *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* (Ps.119: 105) His light gives them no place to hide.

DREAMS THAT DELIVER FROM THE PIT

The Word of God reaches us in many forms to give light to our path. He often speaks to me through dreams. Joseph of old, Daniel, Joseph the carpenter and many others heard the Word of God through dreams. In the midst of all his sufferings and testing, Job declared, *"For God may speak in one way or another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction. In order to turn man from his deed, and conceal pride from man, He keeps back his soul from the Pit, and his life from perishing by the sword."* (Job 33: 14-18)

Receiving instruction and warning from God through dreams has been one of the great blessings of my life. However, one must listen to the Spirit for the correct interpretation, because when the carnal mind figures out an interpretation, it can be very damaging. A dream that comes from the Spirit must be interpreted by the Spirit.

Dreams are a special way that God uses to speak to His people. The Bible names many who had this experience. When King Saul was rejected of God, he trembled before his enemies and inquired of the Lord but *"...The Lord did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets."* (I Sam.28: 6b) These were the means that God used to communicate to His servants.

One must always remember that dreams are to seal our instruction and not to guide others. They always point to us and most of the time they are symbolic. One must wait on the Spirit and not try to figure them out. There are some in the Body of Christ who are anointed with the gift of interpretation and they can lead us to the right understanding. However, we know for sure that a dream is from the Lord when it comes to pass but we never try to devise ways to bring them to pass ourselves.

As we walk with the Lord, we are all aware that we go through times of learning from Him, and

times of testing what we have learned. At this time, God's people are being tested in the fire, each individually according to His purpose. For this reason, we are exhorted to pray for one another that our faith fail not. Spirits of darkness have pressed against us but we know that God uses them for our learning. Because of worldly events, spirits of depression and despair have had a hay day among all people. Even Christians filled with the Spirit have been feeling the blows.

Recently, I had this dream, *" I am walking on the sidewalk of a city street. My husband Michael is with me along with others which are not identified. Suddenly Michael is missing and I look all around for him. I see a swift stream of water running in a gap between two buildings. As I look closer I see that my husband has fallen in the water. It is very deep right off the edge and the current is extremely strong. I just know that he has been swept out to sea and I cannot go after him. But then I see a door open in the next building and lo and behold, here is my husband, soaking wet but grinning from ear to ear. I find a towel and dry clothes for him and tell him to never scare me like that again."*

The dream explains the things that have taken place within me. My husband represents my spirit. I am walking with others on the SIDEwalk (separated walk) of the City of God (The Body of Christ), when suddenly, out of nowhere, my spirit is swept away by a strong current that I am powerless to resist and overcome. I realize that these are the forces of depression that I had already felt. These forces take us by surprise and we are powerless to rescue ourselves. But the Lord has prepared us for this. He has lifted us up to a safe place behind the door (Christ). The whirling currents that were strong enough to pull us under like a vacuum were overpowered by His strong Hand. It was a close call and I would not want this to happen again! It clearly identified with the forces that I had felt within me.

In moments of sudden distress, there may not be time to find a verse of Scriptures or to call a friend for help. Only His engrafted word in us has the power to bring us to a safe place and keep us there. When forces of hell rise up against us to pull us un-

der, it is the Word that is implanted in our hearts that has the power to rescue. His Light, His personal Word is the power to bring us back up. This is why, He exhorts, ***"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."*** (Heb.3: 15) It is not His written word that saves us it is His voice. We are reconciled by His death and saved by His life- **His voice is His life.**

Beloved, the words that He so faithfully writes in our hearts and minds are not just the "ten commandments," they are personal words to bring us up from the Pit and take us all the way to the fullness of His purpose for us. His word in us brings our spirits out of dark places where the forces of hell are at work to pull us under. He is the Overcomer in us and we will not fail as we keep our minds stayed on Him.

The battlefield is our minds and our emotions. These places are being purified by the sprinkling of the blood. His blood speaks of His life in us. We apply His life to every circumstance of our lives. This is how we put on the **mind of Christ.**

His Holy spirit has come to us and has opened our heavens so that step by step, we are taking them back from the clutches of the devil who had seated himself in our temple. At Jesus' baptism the heaven open to Him, *"Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened."* (Mk.3:21) It was then that He heard His Father's voice. When our heaven opens, we have access by His Spirit, to hear His voice. Then He reveals to us the truth that we need for that day and when we receive the truth, the truth makes us free indeed.

GOD'S MIGHTY LITTLE GOLDEN CHEST

Before God gave any instruction to Moses concerning the building of the Tabernacle, He gave him the detailed design of the Ark of the Covenant. There was good reason for this to be first, for the Ark is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, and without Jesus, there can be no habitation of God among us.

An ark is a box or chest made to hold and preserve valuable things. There are three arks mentioned in

the Bible. The first is the Ark of Noah. Many wonderful truths in type are found in the study of Noah's Ark. It was Brother Bill Britton who, years ago, first wrote with an anointing that opened our eyes to the wonderful truths that are hid in the dimensions and materials of this Ark. But the greatest function of Noah's Ark was to preserve the seed of life in the earth.

It was within that Ark that precious seed was gathered and kept safe from the wrath of God which came in the form of a great flood. *"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air; for I am sorry that I have made them. **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.**'"* (Gen.6: 5-8)

It was the grace of God who had raised up a man like Noah so that the seed of man and beasts were not destroyed from the face of the earth.

The second ark mentioned in the Bible was a little floating basket made of bulrushes, daubed with slime and pitch which Mose's mother carefully assembled. It was in this crude ark that she placed her precious cargo. Baby Moses held within his loins the very seed of the chosen deliverer of Israel. It was in this little ark which floated gently on the river Nile toward Pharaoh's daughter, that the life of God's nation and the seed from which the Savior of the world would one day come, were safely preserved.

The third ark of the Bible is the Ark of the Covenant. This was a little chest about four feet long by two and a half feet wide and two and a half feet high. It was the smallest of all the furnitures of the Tabernacle and it was the first dwelling place of God's presence with man and a glorious type of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (the Word made flesh). It is also a type of the entire Body of Christ that will be revealed at the time of the manifestation of the sons of God.

There is much talk in Jewish circles about the location of the original Ark. By the Spirit we know that the only ark that has any value now is the place of His abode and we know that this place is in Christ Jesus and in the Christ that is the hope of glory within us.

As long as God's Ark was in Israel, the glory of the Lord rested upon them. But it was a sad day when the Philistines, who were Israel's fiercest enemies conquered the Ark of God. Then the glory departed and although the people went through the motion of life, it was all a sham and a pretense. It was Ichabod- the glory had departed.

Now, God's Ark is His Christ. *"For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."* (Col.2:9). When the Words of life that are Christ are rejected by a person, group, church, nation, that people becomes Ichabod. They may go through the motions of life but the glory has departed. They no longer have power against the enemies of their souls or of their country. We see this in our world today. The words of life have been replaced by another Jesus and Christianity has joined the ranks of a world's "religion.." It has no part in the affairs and governments of men who are now falling by the wayside. **But this is also in God's plan.**

Today, the time of the harvest has come. The reapers have been sent and the fields of the world and of the kingdom of heaven are being reaped. The enemy has sowed many tares within the rows of wheat and they all seem alike, but the reapers have their orders and they know what to do. They *"First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them., but gather the wheat into my barn."* (Matt.13: 30b)

There is a saying that "Who resembles, assembles." This is true. The vision that we have in our hearts determines who we really are. God is not drawing us by our same doctrines or by our same works; God is drawing us together by the same vision. Anything that is not according to the vision that God has given us is "tares" and it will be burnt.

INSIDE THE ARK

Just as Noah's Ark preserved the seed of life in

the earth and Moses's Ark preserved the seed of God's chosen people, the Ark of the Covenant preserves all things that pertain to God's presence among men.

"And behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called "The Holiest of All," which had the Golden Altar of Incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail." (Heb.9: 3-5)

The writer of these verses makes sure to note that the details, or the meaning, of the things found in the Ark could not be disclosed at that time. It is certain that even if the writer, most likely Paul, could comment on them, no one would be able to comprehend them. Today, by revelation of His Holy Spirit, some are able to understand the meaning, but it is certain that those who understand only understand in part at best, and they are not the multitudes.

In the Old Testament, God resided in the Ark. In the New, God dwells in Christ *"For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him who is the Head of all principality and power."* (Col 2: 9-10) It is the Christ in you who is your hope of glory and the hope of the world. The Christ within holds the power to deliver creation from the bondage of death. These are the precious things that the Prince of this world has tried so hard to get rid of.

THE GOLDEN POT OF MANNA

It was on the dust of the ground that Israel picked up their daily manna in the wilderness. They had to stoop down and pick it up each day and they could not keep any of it for the next day, except on the Sabbath. But the manna that is in Christ is not found on the ground; it is in a **golden pot**. When we enter the Ark of the New Covenant in Christ, we receive the Word of Life through the Golden Pot or directly from the bowels and mouth of the divine nature. This manna will not spoil with time; it is eternal.

We do not need to labor for this Word; He abides forever within; we only need to be found in Christ. How many times have we been as the Pharisees who searched the Scriptures but would not come to Christ. We have searched for knowledge but did not open our ears to His voice calling from within. It is when we enter into Christ that we find the peace of the voice that feeds us from the Golden Pot and our strivings are over.

AARON'S ROD THAT BUDDED

The rod was a just a dead stick when it was laid in the Ark. In the book of Numbers, we have the account of the day that Aaron's rod budded. Each leader of the tribes of Israel was in the contest for the High Priesthood. God had told each one to write their name on his rod. Aaron wrote his name on his rod.

"Then you shall place them in the tabernacle of meeting before the Testimony, where I (the Lord) meet with you. And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom;..." (Num.17: 3-5a) So it was done accordingly *"Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds."* (Vs.8)

All the children of Israel had been contending against Moses for choosing Aaron but now God had squelched their murmurings and established Aaron as the chosen among his brethren. Because Moses was slow of speech, he could not be the High Priest. So God chose Aaron. Moses was the writer of the Law, but it was the one with the voice whose rod was chosen unto resurrection. This plainly denotes that the Law cannot give new life; it is the Spirit or the Voice that speaks the word, not the letter that we read who gives new life.

When we move by the letter of the Book or by the letter that someone teaches, we receive the Word in the form of seed. When seed is dropped into the ground, it is not edible until it is changed into the fruit that it contains. A grain of wheat must grow into the green blade that becomes the beard that forms the grain. This is the miracle of God's seeds.

The Word that we hear must be quickened to our hearts and minds and become the grain that feeds our souls. Seed is good but it does not give life; it is the fruit of that seed that gives life. This is why Paul wrote, *"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."* (Rom.8: 11)

The written words of Jesus are seed but it is His Spirit, not the letter or the doctrine that give life. If His Spirit dwells in you, Paul says, He will speak to you and open your understanding and give you new life. A person who is alive, speaks. It is one thing to gather and share the Word that He speaks to our hearts, this is as the cup of water that primes the well within, but that word must needs to be confirmed by the Voice within.

Jesus is our great High Priest. He has placed within the Ark (the Christ), His rod that budded and blossomed over night. God has chosen His rod to lead us out of the realm of death and bring us up victoriously into eternal life. Others have thrown their rods in the mix, but God chose the One who broke the bonds of death and showed forth His glorious life in the earth.

Jesus fulfilled this and in Christ we are given the power of this same rod. As Peter said, *"His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue."* (II Pet.1: 3) His rod is over all principality and power in this world and of the worlds to come. His rod has the power to transform us. It is the power of an endless life.

Beloved, as we enter into the fullness of Christ, we are entering into the Ark of His Covenant. We stand in the power of His rod (resurrection) and we are being transformed into His image- spirit, soul and body. Amen.

To be continued...

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*