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NO.233

THE SERPENT'S MASTERPIECE

THE STONES OF THE ANOINTED CHERUB AND OF THE HIGH PRIEST

The arrogant serpent that enticed Eve in the garden is none other than the brilliant creature that the prophet Ezekiel describes in details. Adam and Eve were created as one but God took out the female who is the intuitive and emotional side from the male who is the spiritual side. This is why Adam was not deceived, but Eve was. Howbeit when Eve gave of the fruit to her husband and he ate of it, the spirit of man was plunged into darkness and death.

The serpent knew that Eve could be enticed and he approached her with great cunning. This fruit would make them wise and they would not need God to tell them what to do, this has been the lie in man's spirit ever since. Eve had found a new love and became the first harlot. And so the serpent slithered into man through his emotional side.

The serpent was once a brilliant being as Ezekiel describes him in this lamentation. *"Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created; till iniquity was found in thee."* (Eze.28: 13: 15)

The iniquity that was found in him was the love of

self and the pride of life as well as the determination to be God at any cost. His craving was to take the place that belongs to Christ. In the beginning he had been given an illustrious place as the cherub that covereth. God had given him nine precious stones which means he was the covering of many people. (At the time, these stones were all precious. In time, some became semi-precious only)

Twelve stones are found on the breastplate of the High Priest. Each stone represents a tribe of Israel. The High Priest wore them over the ephod. This signified that God had given the High Priest charge over His people. They were worn on his heart. A priest is a mediator between God and man. He is the bridge or the way for the people to God.

Just as a prophet brings the Word of the Lord to the people, the priests bring the needs of the people to God. Jesus is our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek and because He cannot die but *"...continueth ever, He has an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."* (Heb.7: 24-25) He is our Mediator and He is in us.

This means that our great High Priest is able to save all that come to Him, no matter when they come even to the uttermost. He will forever receive those who come to Him and make intercession for them. This include those who were disobedient in the days of Noah. Those who have been disobedient since and those who will still be disobedient. Our

High Priest has a forever priesthood.

The brilliant spirit being who was once “The cherub that covereth” was given nine of the twelve stones. This means that in the beginning he covered nine of the twelve tribes of God's people. They were under his covering. Who were the missing tribes? According to the order of the tribes we find that indeed Benjamin, Manasseh and Ephraim are the three missing tribes. Because Joseph has the double portion, his two sons are named as his tribe.

This means that this cherub never had control over the seed of Benjamin or of Joseph. God in His infinite wisdom and knowledge had reserved some who would hear the voice of the true Shepherd and would not follow another. They would also taste of the realm of darkness and death, but God had chosen, elected, and ordained them from the beginning. They were called in Christ to deliver creation from the bondage of corruption. They are the little flock who hears and follows His voice.

JEREMIAH' S ALARMING MESSAGE

After he deceived Eve, the serpent was ready to set up his kingdom among men. Eve's firstborn son Cain fully displayed the religious nature of the serpent and when she gave birth to Abel he thought nothing of killing the one who threatened his pre-eminence with God.

The serpent spirit had his evil plan in tow. He had influence and control over the minds of the people and it became obvious that no matter how they tried or how much they desired to obey God, they could not. God called them rebellious and stiffnecked and that was their nature. They wanted to worship God but were always bent toward worshipping idols and false gods. After proving this to them for many years, God sent them His prophet and put His plan into action.

When the people heard the word that God gave to Jeremiah for them, they could not believe their ears. From the beginning of their walk with God, they had constantly sinned against Him, yet each time He forgave them and gave them another chance, but now God was promising judgment.

God's words were clear, *“I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.”* (Jer.1:16)

And again, *“Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them. Then shall the cities of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem go, and cry unto the gods unto whom they offer incense: but they shall not save them at all in the time of their trouble.”* (Jer. 11: 11-12)

Jeremiah was devastated by what he had to tell them. He wrote, *“Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!”* (Jer.9: 1) He gave them the word anyway.

This seemed to be the end of God's longsuffering and yet what looked like desolation for Israel was instead the instrument of their redemption. Nevertheless, there was a fire to walk through. It meant leaving their country and submitting to captivity in Babylon for seventy long years. Although it did not seem like it, this was actually God's way to save them from extinction and bring them back unto Himself.

When the armies of Nebuchanedzzar marched into beautiful Jerusalem, they torched the walls of their city and plundered and burned down their temple. And they took the people into captivity among whom were Jeremiah, Daniel and his companions.

There is no doubt that the captivity of Judah to Babylon is a perfect example or type of the captivity of the church of Jesus Christ to the systems of Christendoms that have been set up in the world since after the resurrection.

Christianity began with the first apostles. Through the Holy Spirit they were commissioned to go and be His witness in the uttermost part of the earth. The first Christians suffered much persecution for their faith and during the rule of the Romans they were tortured and even fed to the lions. They would have disappeared from the face of the earth, but

God raised help for them in the form of the Emperor Constantine. And this was the foundation of :

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It was on Patmos that an angel came to John with this invitation, *“Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters; with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”* (Rev.17: 1-2)

What happened between Eve and the serpent in the garden was more than a mere conversation; it was consensual rape. The first woman had become a prostitute, she was carrying within her a seed that would one day produce the full *“Mystery Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.”* (Rev.17: 5)

The serpent spirit had entered within Eve and planted his seed in her heart and mind. That seed was the intense craving to lift itself above God and above the stars of God at any cost. Eve had eaten that fruit, meaning she had taken that seed within her being. The one who was called to be the bride of Christ was now the serpent's bride. She needed to be redeemed.

From this day forward she would give power to the serpent who in turn would clothe her with the brilliance of his devilish cunning and sit her upon many waters. This means that she would be queen over the souls of the people of the earth.

The deceived woman (the church in the world) was now the puppet of her serpent lover. Clothed in royal garments she sit as a queen upon many waters (souls of men). In this way she rubbed elbows with the kings of the earth and led them into fornication. Under her rule, the masses became intoxicated and mesmerized by her dazzling beauty and her wealth. This was the state that Christianity fell into and it is the situation today.

This masterpiece began when the Roman Emperor Constantine was converted to Christianity. God's

true church was being persecuted and martyred and this was God's way to save His true church from extinction. Soon after Constantine's conversion, the edict of Milan was ratified proclaiming tolerance of all religions within the empire and Christianity became the state's religion.

In AD 326 construction of the old St.Peter's basilica which would become the seat of the Vatican, began at Rome. As time went, churches and cathedrals were erected all over the land and the Roman Catholic Church took her place of pre-eminence with the ruling kings and as the religion of the people.

This was the end of the ghastly persecution of Christians, but it was also the beginning of Babylon the Great, the mother of all harlots, the formation of the counterfeit of Christ in the world. It was the serpent's master plan to manifest himself as God in the world; men would worship his image.

Just as Judah had been taken into bondage to Babylon, Christians were taken into bondage to Mystery Babylon where they have been experiencing the depth of the great deception. It is from Mystery Babylon that the elect of God have been called out throughout the centuries.

Some may still feel the need for these fellowships in their lives while others have re-grouped in a smaller form. It is as we walk close to the Holy Spirit each day and see the counterfeit for what it is that we are made free indeed. When we hear the call, let us flee and never look back.

THE FALL OF LUCIFER THE FALL OF MYSTERY BABYLON

This is how the prophet Isaiah describes the fall of the being he calls Lucifer. This is the only place where this name appears in Scriptures. The name Lucifer means “the Lightbearer or the Shining one.”

“Thy pomp is brought to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the na-

tions! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.” (Isa. 14: 11-14)

The prophet addresses this being with “*Thy pomp.*” The Hebrew word “pomp” means “majestic highness or haughtiness.” The American Heritage Dictionary defines it as “splendor- magnificent display.” This being had amassed much wealth and fame in the world.

It is none other than the “...woman arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a gold cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness or her fornication.” (Rev.17: 4) It is none other than this one called “*MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*” (Vs.5) It is none other than this one who has the mind and heart of the serpent. She is the one with the gold and glitter who displays the magnificence that the counterfeit has robbed from Christ. She has chosen the splendor of the world above her first love.

Can you not hear the words of Isaiah and the words of John on Patmos, “*Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.*” (Rev.14: 8b) Isaiah saw behind the mask of that woman. He saw the spirit of that serpent who was once the cherub that covered God's people.

The serpent exploited the woman (God's people) to form his perfect counterfeit of Christ. He set up a priesthood that led the people into works for humanity that appeared to be of God while the true Word of life and of overcoming death laid dead in their streets. The counterfeit uses the Bible, teaching the literal letter of the word and causing strifes and divisions and even hatreds and wars in the earth.

Because the ears of the people have been trained to hear this impostor, they cannot receive the truth

when they hear it. Only the “elect” at this time will respond to the word of truth for they know the voice of the true Shepherd and another they will not follow.

One may think that this speaks only of the Roman Catholic Church but that is not so. Indeed, flocks from Protestant Churches and even various groups outside of the mainstream feel guilty if they do not accomplish something for God!! This is the spirit of the serpent and not the liberty of the sons.

Mature sons recognize that it is God who alone can bring an end to our corrupt nature. It is the Spirit of God who daily speaks and leads us to do what He has purposed for us.

The serpent showed himself to be a highly intellectual being. He took up his abode in the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He waited there until he found something in the woman that would respond to his lure. The lure was himself; the desire to be like God would be expressed through men.

It is not so much the tree of knowledge of good and evil that causes death, it is the spirit that dwells in that tree. It is the serpent spirit that swells up and raises itself up with pride above God because of his knowledge. It is the knowledge that disdains the simple truth that is in Christ. It is the spirit that emanates from the hearts of those who have achieved so much by their knowledge. It is an abomination before God.

The serpent was slain on the cross, and as the light of God reaches our darkened minds, we realize that all knowledge is in Christ. Lucifer is the “man of sin” who sits in the temple of God, the hearts of men, making himself to be God. This is why, until we are fully free, we still cling to and desire the religious ways of man.

When we are made free by the truth we are nauseated by the religious ways of man. In my young days, I smoked cigarettes. When the Lord set me free, I could not stand the smell of them anymore. If I detected the least trace of the smell of cigarette smoke in my hair after eating in a restaurant, I had to shower quickly. This is how we feel about “reli-

gion” after we have been set free by the truth; the least trace of it is very offensive.

Jesus squarely faced the Pharisees of His day with these words, *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”* (Jn.8: 44)

They could not believe this. After all, they thought they were clean. They followed the traditions of the fathers. They called Abraham their fathers but Jesus told them, *“If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.”* (Jn.8: 39-40)

The true nature of the first Adam is motivated by the spirit of Antichrist that exalts himself above God. Antichrist is not one man to come, Antichrist is the first Adam creation man who has polluted himself with the spirit of Lucifer.

Again, Isaiah prophesied of the fall of Lucifer, *“They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; that made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?”* (Isa.14: 16-17)

Now we are considering this “man” that made the earth to tremble and shook kingdoms and nations. The man that made God's beautiful planet as a wilderness. This man who is destroying cities (people) by warfare and terrorism. And we see the Adam man who followed his emotional side into the pits of hell.

THE COUNTERFEIT OF CHRIST THE MAN OF SIN

As we walk daily with the Lord, the Christ within is revealing Himself to us more and more. All truths are contained in the Christ within and the Spirit of truth reveals them to us as we go. I am reminded of

a dream that I have already shared with you. *“In the dream, I am looking out from my living room window and I see a couple digging in my front yard. They are working fast and hard digging up stone tablets with writing on them. They have already arranged many stacks of these tablets all over the yard. I am happy to know that the writing on these is French so I can easily understand it.”*

The meaning of the dream is clear. The Lord is revealing the work He is doing in us. The Christ within holds all of the truths that have been ordained of God for us from the beginning and by His Spirit they are being dug up and brought to our understanding. *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* (Eph.2: 10)

We are the field, the front yard, and all that God has ordained for us from the beginning is contained in our earthen vessels (in the Christ within). We are now beginning to find out what they are. Our earthen vessels hold the spiritual treasures that have been hid in Christ from the beginning.

As the Spirit of Truth leads us into more and more truth, we are finding that what we had once called God and religiously attached ourselves to, had been a counterfeit set up by the man of sin that has been sitting in the temple of God making himself to be God.

“Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” (II Thes.2: 3-4)

The Man of Sin is the counterfeit, the religious man who has made his abode in the minds and hearts of man. It is when the Spirit of truth opens our eyes to the truth that we recognize the impostor.

This is why we must be taught by the anointing within and not by any man. Yes, the Lord has given us men to teach us, but true teachers will teach us how to tap into the Christ within so that we may be

established in the truth and do the work of the ministry- which in turn is to show Christ to the people. The ministries must lead the way to Christ and not to themselves or to their ambitions.

The man of sin is none other than the one who has coveted and usurped the place that belongs unto Christ. He has set up the many religions that are in the world, in the name of Christ. These religions have been the perfect counterfeit and it is only when God's Holy Spirit reveals this to us that we are able to move away from its enticing ways. It is because we still have some of that same nature in us that we are subject to be lured back into its snare.

THE SERPENT ON THE POLE

In His conversation with Nicodemus Jesus reminded him of Moses in the wilderness, *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (Jn.3: 14-16)

When the Son appeared in the world, He was the perfect opposite of those who called themselves the ministers of God. He was as a rebel among them.

According to Jesus' words to Nicodemus, our faith in the Son who came that we might have everlasting life has to do with the serpent being lifted up on a pole. We are told that the *“Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world.”* (Rev.13: 8b)

At Calvary Jesus laid His life down in obedience to His Father, but those who actually drove the nails into His flesh were energized by the serpent spirit that was driving the Pharisees.

It was the serpent spirit that deceived Eve and caused hers and Adam's death. It was that same serpent spirit who drove Cain to kill his brother Abel and it was that same spirit that slew the Son of God from the foundation and nailed him to the cross at Calvary.

Why is the Son of man compared to the serpent that Moses lifted in the wilderness? We go back to the time after God delivered Israel from the bondage of Egypt and when the king of the Canaanites came against them and took some of them prisoners.

So Israel called upon the Lord to be delivered from the oppression of the Canaanites. God heard them and hearkened unto them and *“delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities...”* (Numb. 21: 3b)

But as they continued their journey through the wilderness, they began to be discouraged because of the hardness of the way. *“And the people spake against God and against Moses, 'Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.’* (Vs.5-6)

They had been delivered from the bondage of Egypt. He had just given them the victory over the Canaanites and He was feeding them with manna each day. It was a miraculous journey, but instead of being grateful they were yearning for the leeks and garlic of Egypt and they turned against God.

They were delivered out of Egypt but Egypt was still in them. Physically, they were being invaded by biting serpents, but the real problem was with the serpent thoughts that caused them to come against God. They needed to slay the serpent in their carnal minds. This is why Moses followed God's instructions and made the serpent of brass and set it on a pole. God told Moses to make a fiery serpent of brass and set it upon a pole. *“And it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.”* (Num.21: 8b)

They looked upon the serpent of brass, but when our minds are invaded with the serpent's thoughts, we look to the Son of Man who put our sin nature on the cross. As we walk with Him, we find that when the old nature lifts itself up and we are invaded by serpent's thoughts, we can lift our eyes to the

cross, embrace His sacrifice and be healed. The nature of the serpent strives continually to keep us in deception but we defeat it as we lift up the way of the cross.

As soon as the Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism, He was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested of the devil. As soon as we receive the Holy Spirit, we are tested by our old nature who tells us there is no such thing as the Spirit baptism and harasses us continually to make us doubt. But as we take hold of His word and His Spirit we are made strong and able to stand in the faith.

The serpent nature has tempted us many times as it did the Lord. *“If thou be the Son of God command that these stones be made bread.”* (Matt.4: 3b) The serpent in our old nature tempted us with great ministries, prestige and fame among the people.

The tempter is ever speaking in our ears, *“Follow me and I will give you the kingdoms of this world.”* We see that this is what happened to anointed men who sold their souls to the system. The serpent nature of their old man was not slain. They by-passed the death of the cross and kept their eyes only on the resurrection.

It is only as we partake of the death of the cross that we enter into resurrection life. If our natural man dies without going through the cross, the natural man has no hope of resurrection. The good thing is that the cross of Christ continues throughout eternity. Jesus did an eternal work. *“The Lord hath sworn and will not repent, Thou art a PRIEST FOR EVER after the order of Melchizedek.”* (Ps.110: 4)

THE DEATH OF THE CROSS

The death of the cross is the only provision given by God to slay the serpent. God told the serpent that he would bruise the woman's heel but she would bruise his head. In this verse, the Hebrew word for bruise means to snap or to break. The woman, the church, would break the head of the serpent. She would stomp on his head and destroy it. This she does as she takes hold of the death of the cross daily. The reason the death of the cross is so powerful

is because on the other side, there is “resurrection.”

The death of the cross is the only “death” that provides life eternal. Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him. *“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, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* (Heb.12: 2) It took the death of the cross for Jesus to set down at the right hand of God's authority.

The joy that was set before Him was “resurrection” not only for Himself but for all who would die the death. One thing to remember is that Jesus laid His life down voluntarily. No one took His life from Him- He laid it down. He believed the Father and knew that this was His mission in this life. He found great joy in knowing that by His death, He opened the door to the Father for all who would come through.

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (Jn.17: 3) Yes, all life comes from God, but there is the life of the flesh and life eternal. Our quest is for life eternal. We have this life when we know the One true God. This means that there are many man-made gods in the world, but the life giving God is the One who sent Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is our sacrifice for sin. Nothing else will do. None of the sacrifices of the Old Testament, none of our good works, nothing can atone for sin but the blood of Jesus. He walked the earth as we know but now He has come to us by His Spirit. If we follow Him merely by memorizing verses of the Bible, we have a religion. If we follow His Spirit we enter into life.

The Spirit will daily lead us to the cross. The death of the cross for us is the laying down of our old ways. This also must be a willing sacrifice. It is a daily baptism for us. Step by step the Spirit leads us to lay down our love of the world, our love of self and the love of our religious nature as well. We can know a lot of truths and be well versed in the Word of God and still hold on to our old nature. This is

what the Pharisees did. The cup was clean on the outside but the inside was full of dead men's bones.

The Psalmist wrote, "*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.*" (Ps.116: 15) He was not speaking of the death which is an enemy and that will be overcome in the end. He was speaking of the death of the cross. Some have been martyred and had to literally lay their lives down for the faith, and that is also precious in the sight of the Lord, but it is when we let the Spirit lead us and deny the ways of our educated carnal mind that we please the Lord.

This does not mean that the Spirit will not lead us to accomplish great things in the world, but it means that in whatever we accomplish we give honor and glory to our God. Many men of renown have also been followers of Christ. They may not have been "religious" as men define "religious" but they were humble men and did not let their accomplishments be their gods.

A WORD FOR TODAY

"Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the Lord that rendereth recompense to his enemies.

Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child,

Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? Saith the Lord; shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? Saith thy God. (Isa. 66: 5-9)

By the Spirit, the prophet saw the day that we are in now. It is the day that Zion, the true church, is giving birth to the new creation of God in the earth.

She has been going through her darkest hour. She has been kept in the secret place of the Most High. He has cared for her and the child with her. This child is the image of His Son. He is appearing, not as one solitary man, but as a many membered son.

In her latest publication, Rosemary Garzon writes about the "power of darkness." She quotes the words of Jesus to those who came to arrest Him in the garden of Gethsemane, "*Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.*" (Lk.22: 52b-53)

"It was THE HOUR for the power of darkness, even the appointed time on God's calendar. This "power" is delegated or appointed for a season for a specific purpose...The crucifixion would never have taken place if the power of darkness had not been in control of the situation: IT WAS THE HOUR FOR THE POWER OF DARKNESS TO BE IN CONTROL." (Rosemary Garzon)

While, in the secret place, the Lord has been preparing His church to give birth to the Manchild, the hour of darkness is passing over the world. It is all the workings of God. Everything is on time and nothing will fail. May the Lord make His word real to your heart and may it comfort you and give you strength each day.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*