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UNTO IMMORTALITY

NO.226

IN A NUTSHELL

It is so easy for us to examine ourselves in the natural and miss seeing what the Lord has invested in us- He has invested Himself in us. He has faithfully and painstakingly taught us, strengthened us, comforted us and kept us in the Way. He is the One who has called us and has never failed us. By the power of His resurrection in us, He has made us free from sin and He is bringing us as His firstfruits to the place of "immortality."

Immortality is a dimension of life where one possesses a body that is not subject to death. Paul wrote that *"This mortal MUST put on immortality."* Death is the result of Sin and when there is no sin, there is no more death.

In his epistle to Timothy Paul states, *"...Blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, WHO ONLY HATH IMMORTALITY, dwelling in the light that no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen."* (I Tim.1: 15b-16)

Paul was speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ who overcame death in the flesh and became the first and only to obtain immortality. Jesus was *"...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."* (Rom.1: 4)

Lazarus was dead four days when he was raised from the dead. His sister Martha told Jesus, Lord after four days, *"He stinketh."* Because Jesus had no sin, Jesus was raised from the dead without seeing

the stink of corruption. His own mortal body put on a body that could no longer die. Jesus died on the cross but He did not see corruption. Jesus had no sin therefore death had no hold on Him. The Father offered Him as a Lamb without blemish to atone for the sins of the world. Jesus had power over death but He died when He voluntarily laid His life down; no man took it from Him.

David had prophesied concerning Jesus, *"Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption...He seeing this spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption."* (Acts 2: 27, 31)

Jesus told Martha and all of us, *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?"* (Jn.11: 24) Resurrection is the power that works in us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ. He dwells within the believers who receive Him.

When Jesus was raised from the dead, He became the firstborn among many brethren. He showed us His body of glory, the same body that He had before only now it was no longer a mortal body. Jesus had obtained immortality.

Immortality is when CORRUPTIBLE puts on INCORRUPTION. It is when the death that in THESE bodies is swallowed up by His resurrection Life without seeing corruption. It is when absolutely no sin is found within that death has been conquered in the flesh.

Paul exhorts, “*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove yourselves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*” (II Cor. 13: 5) The Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ by the Spirit and He is the resurrection and the life in us. He has been leading His firstfruits to follow Him all the way to life and immortality.

These are truths that the Spirit repeats to us because they are of great importance at this time. We were once called out of our graves and filled with His Holy Spirit. Since then, as we hear His voice and follow Him, the power of His resurrection gradually raises us up into Him. To the degree that we can receive it, the Light of life fills our minds and hearts and delivers us from the powers of sin and death.

Those who have died in the Lord are awaiting the time when those who remain reach the point of full transformation, when mortality is swallowed up of life. “*The wages of sin is death*”- when sin no longer rules in our bodies, death is overcome. This was the key with Jesus, and it is the same for each of us. Having laid this foundation let us look into it a little more.

THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL IN MY DREAM

A few years ago I had a dream that impressed me for days. It has come back vividly to mind, many times since. I may have written about it previously but each time it brings out more understanding of what is happening in us today.

In the dream “*I was awakened and led into my walk-in closet. As my eyes became accustomed to the semi darkness I see a huge angel. A voice introduced him to me and said, “This is Michael. He is your husband.”*”

When I awoke from this dream I knew that although my husband's name was Michael, this had nothing to do with him. It had to do with the Word to which I was being married.

An angel is a messenger of God and always repre-

sents the Word that is for us today. When we unequivocally and positively receive God's word, we become “married” to that word so that we are as one flesh, fully led by that word. So the husband-angel that I was being introduced to in my closet was the word that would be coming to me by the Spirit within (closet).

By this dream the Lord is announcing that the word He will be sending to us now will come through the Archangel Michael. It is clear in the dream that this was not the Angel Gabriel, but the Archangel Michael. The word will no longer be about announcing the birth of the Manchild, as Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus, the word is to be about the warfare that is taking place because of the birth of the Manchild- The new creation of God in the earth. This is not a word just for me, it is a prophetic word to His people with an ear to hear.

THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL IN DANIEL

As the Lord began to reveal the meaning of this dream to me, I knew that it was important to know why the word would be sent through the Archangel Michael. He reminded me that Michael is the “warrior angel.” So the word given through Michael has to do with warfare. In the book of Daniel Michael is the one called to stand with God's people during times of greatest troubles upon the earth.

*“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people (seed) and there **shall be time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation** even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” (Dan.12: 1-2) This time of greatest trouble in the earth is a time of judgment for those who are still asleep in the dust of this mortal man. It is a time when all will hear the voice of the Son of God but some will still prefer to go the way of the flesh. I believe this time has already begun in the world.

THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL IN THE REVELATION

In the book of the Revelation we find Michael in the midst of those who overcome the fiery red dragon by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. This is the time of great warfare in heaven. Heaven here is not speaking of "paradise." Heaven is the same as the "heavenly places" where Christ is seated at God's right hand far above all principalities and powers...And where *"He hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."* (Eph.2: 6)

Heaven is also the place where principalities and powers have dwelt and are warring against us. *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (Eph.6: 12) The word "High" is the same in the Greek as the word "Heavenly." These powers also reside in our heavenly places. This is where Michael is meeting up with the dragon who is out to destroy the woman.

The warfare is in us, in our spirit and our soul- In our minds and hearts. These are the areas where Michael is fighting and where we are hearing His word loud and clear.

John saw *"a woman clothed with the sun...and she being with child cried travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered."* At the same time that John saw the church giving birth to the Manchild, he saw another wonder in heaven... *"And behold a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads."* (Rev.12: 1a,2, 3)

Dragons were mythical monsters of the Ancient world. They were huge fire-breathing serpents with wings who could swallow ships and men in one gulp. John's vision showed a red dragon. Red is the color of wrath or anger. This evil beast calculates his strategy, using all cunning means and gimmicks to deceive and destroy the faith of God's people.

At the time of the birthing of the new creation of God in Christ, the devil comes to his full potential

of intellect and rulership (seven heads with crowns) and power (ten horns). The prince of this world is now king of the world. This devil is incarnated in the minds and intellects of men who are attracting weak minded people with the riches of this world and the glitter of godless societies. They are using baits such as the "beautiful" people of Hollywood and the Media. They are also very active in the mega churches that are so popular in this country.

These are a few of the many props that the dragon employs to swallow up the people. He is also persistently bearing down upon those who are called to give birth to the Manchild. He uses guilt to bring them back to a time when the word was about Pentecost and the gifts of the Spirit. He is the *accuser of the brethren* and makes them feel guilty that they are no longer "out there" participating in that great move.

Another weapon that the dragon uses against the woman is "discouragement." Especially with some of us who have been in this walk many years and are now getting on in years. He hits us with weariness and we forget all the years of training that the Lord has poured into us to bring us to this place.

"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." (Vs.7-8) It is in this atmosphere that Michael the Archangel appears. The woman, the church has fled to the wilderness, this means that, just as the children of Israel had only God to rely upon in their wilderness journey, she has now left all the supports of men's organized ways and is relying only on Christ within.

The word of the Archangel is able to cast the words and influences of the dragon out of our minds and hearts. Guilt and condemnation have to go. Unbelief concerning the things of God and of Spirit is cast out. Doubts that Christ is truly within and speaks to us go out the door. Not believing that we are hearing His voice through the many ways He chooses for us has to go. Unbelief that God has truly chosen "nobodies" such as us to confound the

wisdom of this world cannot remain. These are the things that Michael is casting out of the heavens within us. He is rooting out the traditions and the love of these traditions that the world has instilled in us. He is giving us the strength and the unction to stand for what we believe. He is even giving us the gumption to please God at the cost of offending anyone.

This is part of the warfare that has been taking place in our minds our hearts continually. It is the warfare of Michael and his angels vs. the dragon and his angels. It is the warfare to clear out all traces of sin from our spirits and souls.

Angels are messengers. They are the ones who bring the word to our understanding. They speak in a way that we can grasp- in our language. They come through our thoughts and often through others who are unaware. Michael's angels bring us the words of overcoming- they are warring angels. The dragon's angels come with thoughts or words through others as well to try to defeat the purpose of God in our lives. This warfare goes on continually in our minds and hearts.

THE WOMAN IN FLIGHT

So it is when the woman clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet, cries to be delivered of her child that war between Michael and the dragon rages in heaven. This is a time of great struggle but as soon as the child is born, God catches him up to His throne. However the dragon is after the woman.

“And when the dragon saw that he was cast into the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the Manchild. And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the dragon.” (Rev.12: 13-14)

The Manchild is caught up to the throne of God. This means that the dragon cannot hinder or destroy the work of God. The new creation in Christ will appear in the earth at the right time, as decreed. But the woman has to flee from the face of the infuriated dragon so she is equipped with *“Two wings of a*

great eagle!” And there is a place (spiritual dimension) where she receives her daily bread of life. The church who is giving birth to the Word that will deliver creation is under strong attacks on every hand but she is able to get above them all and to continue in the word of life from within.

The dragon is using every ruse and gimmicks that he can muster to stumble or destroy the woman. The same word that has formed the Manchild calls for the woman to overcome death in the flesh. Her seed is the word that “bruises” or “tread under foot” the head of the serpent. The same called out ones who give birth to the Manchild are also called to put the last enemy which is death under their feet.

This is why the dragon goes after the woman. He is out to bring her down to the grave. He can no longer tempt her with the thrills of this world for she has been purged in the fires of purification, so he tries to undermine her faith. He tries to take her eyes off her true calling and identity in Christ. It is easy to become consumed with the needs that are created by the continuous attacks on our bodies or our loved ones and to get swallowed up by the cares of this world. This does not mean that we should not take care of the duties at hand, but it means that we must realize that it is all part of this great warfare and keep our affections and preoccupations on things above.

The wilderness where the woman flees is not a literal refuge in the earth, it is a place in the Spirit where the dragon can no longer enter. When Israel marched through the wilderness, their only support was the Lord God. The woman in the wilderness is in a place where her only support is God. Very few even among the brethren, will understand or believe what she is now coming to. This is the wilderness in which we find ourselves.

“And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.” (Vs.15-16)

Water speaks of “spirit” in the earth. When it

comes out of the serpent's mouth, it is evil and deceptive. So these deceptions come from a realm of spirit. There are many of these trying to lure us today. People are writing books about things that are about to come to pass and most of them are just gimmicks.

Seductive men who are gifted with words are arising in ministries to deceive even the very elect if it were possible. They attract the people with gifts of healing and miracles at a time when many are truly suffering. But the "earth" helped the woman. She is hid in plain view doing the everyday things that everyone does and she is not joining ranks with any of these "religious" attractions.

The Lord has kept us in the world. The serpent is not "omniscient" as God is. We are hidden in the things of our everyday life. I know that we have often felt "backslidden," not doing anything for God, but that is exactly where we need to be.

RESURRECTION

The Lord has been taking us through a season of deep cleansing and purifying. Each day of our walk with Him, His Holy Spirit has led us to take up our cross and follow Him. Day by day, all that offends is being dealt with. Day by day, we go through the baptism of repentance and the baptism of fire. These are the steps that we follow in order to come to the time of birthing and immortality.

When the Manchild is born, the Lord appears for He is the Head of this new creation. When He appears, He brings with Him those who have gone to the other side of the veil. Paul writes, "*For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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.*"

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these

words." (I Thess. 4: 15-17) The clouds are those who are on the other side of the veil. When the Lord appears we will all be made one with Him and with them as one body. The air is the invisible realm of Spirit where the Lord is found.

It is through the deep cleansing of the word and the baptism of fire that we are prepared for immortality. Paul explains that "*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.*" (I Cor.15: 53-54)

We have already gone through much warfare as we have fought and overcome the strongholds of the enemy in our minds and hearts, but at the last trump, the voice of the Archangel rallies the troops for the overcoming battle of the ages when the last enemy is under our feet.

THE RAPTURE THEORY

For my readers who might still think that the verse of Thes.4 has to do with a physical rapture in the sky, let me say this: In his epistle, the apostle Paul was writing words of comfort to those who were grieving for the loss of loved ones. But more than that, he was teaching concerning the time of the appearing of Jesus in the clouds and the resurrection. Sadly, it was from this verse of Scripture that the theory of the 'rapture' of the church took root.

Up to 1830 and clear back to the first disciples the teaching was that the church would go victoriously through the tribulations that were coming upon the earth. But on April 30, 1831 a Mrs. Cardale in Scotland gave a personal revelation in a home prayer meeting. She based this on a vision received by a young Scottish lass by the name of Margaret McDonald. This lass had fallen into a trance and described a vision in which she saw the saints leaving the earth at the return of the Lord.

It was then that Edward Irving who began the

Irvingite movement at the time began teaching a rapture of the church. He also taught “the sinfulness of Christ's humanity” and because of this, was excommunicated by the London Presbytery, and in 1833 was condemned and deposed from the ministry of the Church of Scotland.

However, Irving's views influenced Plymouth Brethren organizer John Darby as well as C.H. Mackintosh and C.I. Scofield whose Bible notes popularized the new doctrine. Darby, Scofield along with Clarence Larkin and his charts began to teach this new theory, and in the early 1900s it reached a peak of popularity.

I gathered this information from Bill Britton's well researched book titled “A closer look at the Rapture.” Bill Britton's books are available on line or from The Church in Action- P.O. Box 707- Springfield MO 65801-

THE TRUMPETS

When we study the Old Testament by symbols, we learn the truths of spiritual realities. The Lord gave Moses specific instructions about the way the people were to reach their promised land. We know that when God gave Moses the pattern for the tabernacle in the wilderness, He insisted that everything, even the instruments of service, be made ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN SHOWN TO MOSES IN THE MOUNT.

For all these things, even the priesthood, “...serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See sayeth he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.” (Heb.8:5)

So when the Holy Spirit begins speaking to us about things in heavenly places (in the Spirit) He often uses the symbols of the Old Testament to help us understand their spiritual meaning. Symbols are great tools to open our natural understanding to the things of God.

When we study the tabernacle, the temple or the feasts of the Old Testament we understand that these visible things serve to reveal the invisible

things of God for instance- His true dwelling place in us by the Spirit. When we read about Israel's journey through the wilderness, we can feel the barrenness of our “wilderness” as we flee from the religions and the systems of this world. We know that what happened to Israel serves as ensamples to us who are coming to the end of this age.

And when we study the promised land of Israel, we know that it speaks of our entering into our land or our place in Christ where there is no more sin and death. When we read about the giants in the land and the way that Joshua led the people to defeat them, we understand that these are the giants of traditions and religious habits that have been part of us and that we are called to defeat in Christ.

And when it comes to the trumps or the trumpets we can go back and see what part they played for the people and we find their parallel in the Spirit. So the day came when “... *the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 'Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.*” (Numb.10: 1-2)

A trumpet gives a clear sharp sound so does the Word that comes from the Lord to announce a specific move of God to the people. Two trumpets of silver denote the witness of Christ's redemption.

Paul asked the question, “*For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? For ye shall speak into the air.*” (I Cor. 14: 8-9)

Paul was exhorting the church to always speak words easy to understand. Words as trumpets disperse the darkness, in our minds and in the minds of those who hear them. Our God always gives clear words but sometimes we are not quite ready to hear them and they seem like a blur for a while. At that point it is best to wait until we hear clearly.

Now we understand that the seven trumpets of the Book of Revelation speak of the unfolding of God's plan for us and for creation.

When John introduced “The Revelation” he said, “*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*” (Rev.1: 3) This is very significant. The symbolic book of visions was written to reveal things that were about to come to pass. None of them had yet happened when John wrote this.

And John declares that there is a people who will actually keep or be the subjects in these visions. He called this people “Blessed.” Indeed this people are the church who comes to the end of this age and actually live in the time of the fulfillment of all prophecies. So we can understand why in times past many have stumbled trying to interpret this book, but now there is a people who understands very well the symbols and their meaning because they have found themselves to be a part of what happens in the vision.

In my dream of the Archangel, God is saying that the word that He is speaking to His church is a clear trumpet word from the voice of the Archangel and it is the word signaling the time of the Lord's appearing. Speaking of that time

Jesus said, “*And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*” (Matt.24: 30-31) Through the dream, the Spirit lets us know that this is indeed the “last trump” word. This is the time when the Lord gathers all His elects unto Himself as one Man.

The trumpet of the Old Testament was sounded in various manners and each denoted a certain call. One of these was the call to war. Michael the archangel is the warring angel, so we are instructed that the message of the last trump is to let the people know that the Lord of Hosts (Lord of the Armies) has deployed the troops to the final battle against the last enemy which is death and the grave.

“*For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*” (I Cor.15: 25-26)

“*The wages of sin is death.*” When we are servants to sin the things that we believe are lies. However, when we walk daily by the light of the Spirit we are made free from sin. “*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*” (Rom.6: 22)

The fruit of holiness is everlasting life. As He has given us the power to overcome sin in the flesh, we arise in this power and overcome death in these bodies as well. This is the triumphant work of the Holy Spirit who is the Resurrection in us!

Just as we have followed every move of God in the past, we are now taking hold of this last trump word. The first six trumps were sent to bring us the word to overcome sin in the flesh, so now the last trump bring us the word that overcomes death in these mortal bodies. This is the fruit of the first six trumps in our lives. Blessed is he that KEEP the words of this prophecy!

The book that John wrote on Patmos reveal the steps that the Holy Spirit has taken us through. From the time that Jesus began to build His church on the rock of revelation, His Holy Spirit has led us to this. The seventh trump sounds the word that brings in the time when we meet the Lord in the (air) Spirit and become one with Him (as He is) along with all those who have gone before us (the clouds) “*But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.*” (Rev.10: 7)

ANOTHER PROPHETIC VOICE

Maxine Hedlund, a sister in the Lord, received this on last New Year's eve morning. (2011-2012)

She writes, “*In the dream I was in an outside setting in the midst of many large buildings, either government or commercial buildings. There were people around me, but I can't recall seeing any specific*

person or friend that I knew.

There was activity going on, and in the midst of the activity I looked up towards the sky and noticed large, scattered, puffy-white clouds moving lazily across the heavens. Nothing seemed unusual, but I kept looking at them. All of a sudden, in the midst of the cloud nearest me, images of large buildings started passing swiftly across the front of the cloud from right to left.

The scene was portrayed to me like watching a movie, very clear and precise, almost lit up. After many buildings passed over it, a large building took dominance and positioned itself in the middle of the cloud while the rest of the buildings passed off the scene. This building covered most of the cloud, though the cloud still outlined a background to it. The building looked like a government building, much like the United States Capitol.

*I continued to study the building, and all of a sudden I heard the words: **“THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOW ESTABLISHED!”** I was awed and overwhelmed by the significance of the statement. So I went over to some people who were standing nearby and asked them if they had seen the buildings on the cloud or heard the message. They didn't seem to be aware that anything unusual had happened. I repeated the statement and as I did I awoke.*

Whether in the dream or after I awoke, I don't know which, the thought came to me that at the same time Satan is forming all his plans to take over this world and form a one-world government, his power and plan seems insignificant in light of the magnitude of God's plan and His ability to establish the kingdom in the midst of the earth's present turmoil. How easily God confounded the enemy's purpose that has been formulating for centuries.”

This dream is indeed another strong confirmation of the times we have entered. The large scattered, puffy-white clouds that she was drawn to keep looking at represented the gathering of the saints on the other side of the veil. The people all around were not able to see these as one has to have the eyes of the Spirit to see.

In her interpretation of the many buildings quickly

passing over the clouds Maxine writes, “they represent the many different ages of governments that were established throughout the Old Testament and the church age and perhaps the governments of this world. They quickly pass away because they are now old order and powerless against the intensity of this last divine government.”

She continues, “The work that God has been doing for years of establishing His kingdom within His people is different than the message indicated. This word indicated a substantive appearance of the kingdom on the earth.

It is certain that we won't see a literal building set up visibly now, or perhaps ever, but it says to me that God's kingdom authority is now given to His firstfruits, and they will begin to manifest it in a more powerful way than previously known. This, His power is to challenge the kingdoms of the world and bring down their rule until God's kingdom rules over all. I Cor. 15:24 says “...he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.”

Maxine also writes, “Upon awakening I knew this was one of those “God dreams” as the ambiance of the dream and the spiritual atmosphere I felt when I awoke was of a higher dimension. My first thought was that twelve is the number meaning governmental perfection, and also divine government, so 2012 is the appropriate year for God to give this word. I had not associated 2012 with God's government being established on earth prior to this dream.” End of quote.

Maxine can be reached on email at this address: mghedlund@gmail.com Because she is in process of moving, you can write to me for her correct address.

The Lord is speaking loud and clear and we are joyfully hearing His word. Let us take heart and renew our courage at this time. Let us find the strength of the Spirit to finish and win the race.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*

