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TWO WINGS OF A GREAT EAGLE

No.252

“THE MANCHILD IS CAUGHT UP”

A few nights ago, before going to sleep, I read the beautiful song of praise that David wrote to the Lord when He delivered him from ALL his enemies!! (II Sam.22:1)

What great joy and peace must have flooded the heart of this man when he finally found rest from the daily threats on his life. I remember the great relief I felt when the war was over in Paris and I knew we would no longer hear the sirens warning us that bombers were coming over the city. How can peace rule the hearts of those who live constantly under the threats of attacks on their lives? This is what war is for so many people in the world today; it is hell. Living under threats of death that can come at any time is devastating.

David was constantly under threats from the man he had learned to love and respect. The man for whom he tenderly played his beautiful music. He would have given his own life for this man who was his king. Long before he was even born, God had chosen David to replace this man Saul. And it was Saul that God used mightily to purify and refine His David. So on the day that David was delivered from ALL his enemies, he was filled with great joy.

God revealed many things to David and so David knew by the Spirit that Saul had been chosen for God's purpose and he refused to lay hands on him. To us, Saul represents the systems of religion that have rejected the Word that the Lord has given us. By the Spirit, we know that we have the Word that will rule and reign in the earth and they are threatened and enraged because of us. But we have

learned to just withdraw and wait on the Lord for His perfect way to fulfill His plan. As I read the beautiful words that David penned for His God, I felt the joy that he must have been feeling and I heard these words, *“The Manchild has been caught up to the throne of God.”*

This came to confirm that we have reached another level where the enemies of our soul can no longer reach us. The Manchild is our new spirit. He is the Christ that has been formed in us. He is the Spirit of the new Christ man and he has been caught up to the throne of God. This Manchild will neither fail nor fall. He has found the Father and Father has made a feast for him. He will never be rejected of the Father.

The Manchild is the Son who has been trained and tested in us. He has grown to maturity and is now the Son of God in us. He has brought us to Father's house and our new man is caught up to His throne.

Let us keep in mind that this is not a literal throne up in space; this throne represents the power and authority of God that we can only reach through maturity in Christ. Our new spirit, our “manchild” is now seated in the authority of the Christ just as Jesus is seated in the authority and power of the Father. *“To him that overcometh I will grant to sit in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”* (Rev.3: 21)

This is our present position in Christ. It is our personal position and the position of the entire Body. Together we are the “Manchild Company,” each one having come to maturity in Christ through suffering

and learning obedience. Indeed Christ has been formed in us and He is the overcomer.

Just as David overcame ALL of his enemy by God's Spirit, so this Christ within has come to full perfection and caused all our enemies to be under our feet. The last enemy to be overcome is the death in these bodies and the new Christ man is the Overcomer who stands ready to over rule the death of these bodies.

Our spirit man is caught up to the throne of God but we are still in earthen vessels. The woman is the church in the earth and so each one of us is "the woman" in our earthen vessel. So where are we? We have fled in the wilderness. This is not a literal wilderness but it is very much like it. We are in the world yet not of it. We dwell among people who do not speak our language. They have no idea of what is taking place within us.

They neither know nor understand that we belong nowhere in their world. We have found a place where we are fed. We have meat they know not of. We have found the hidden manna. He has revealed the deposits of hidden manna that He has buried within each of us.

Yes, the true church in the earth is that woman in the wilderness. We have no actual meeting place but He feeds us the bread of life through the spirit of revelation and through those with whom He puts us in touch each day.

We are His firstfruits and we are all ministers to one another even when we are unaware. He sends angels to minister to us in our times of need. They often come as brothers and sisters in the Lord and more often they come to us as wonderful thoughts of revelation and light.

We are the woman the church who has found her place of refuge in the wilderness. We have been totally severed from the market place of religions. We have found a place that is holy and pure and we do not seek after thrills or great pomp and excitement. Our thrills come strictly from the beauty of the risen Christ within. We need not run to and fro to large

gatherings to be refreshed. Our times of refreshing come as the morning dew every day.

THE GREAT EAGLE

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." (Rev.12: 14)

This wilderness time will not last forever. There is definitely a limit on the time spent in this hiding place. But it is a good safe place for us. The serpent tries very hard to dislodge us. He casts water out of his mouth as a flood. Have you felt that water from the serpent's mouth trying to drown you?

This water from the mouth of the serpent represents spirits that flood our minds with deceiving words of discouragement and defeat. These thoughts are often accusations and harassments to shame us into doing something for God. This happened to Peter and John when they had been on the Mount of transfiguration and had seen Moses and Elijah and the glory of Christ. Right away they wanted to do something great with what they witnessed so they proposed to raise up three tabernacles.

We know the source of these thoughts yet when we hear them they sound like the voice of God. We have been given the glorious truths of sonship and reconciliation and it is logical that we should use them to bring the people together into a visible touchable group to reach others. Many have made great efforts to raise up assemblies and conferences and bring people together, but in the end they have lost contact with the true flow of the Spirit and what they have built is crumbling.

Such are waters from the serpent's mouth. They are relentless thoughts that storm our minds to disquiet our bodies and souls. But this woman is the free woman and she has found her place of refuge and she eats the true bread of life. In our spirits, we have been caught up to the throne of God and we are fully covered by His authority and power.

At times, the intruder will find ways to jar our peace and tranquility; this also is water from the serpent's mouth. How did David handle such intruders? He began to remember all that His God had done for him in previous times, especially during the painful episode of his rebellious son Absalom.

He writes, *“Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.”* (Ps.42: 8) David had found the refuge for his soul. He was raised above the storm on two wings of a great eagle.

And the woman is given TWO wings of a great eagle. These TWO wings speak of the witness of the Spirit and the eagle represents the Christ in His Body. This eagle has two huge wings and the span of these wings reaches on either side of the veil. Along with the church here, there are the witnesses who await the better resurrection that will come when all has been fulfilled in the earth. This eagle is the source of our nourishment and protection.

God told Israel *“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagle's wings, and brought you unto myself.”* (Ex.19: 4) All through their wilderness journey, Israel was carried on these great wings. They were fed and their garment never wore out. Daily we are carried on eagle's wings whether we are aware of it or not. We are not alone in our suffering; the entire Body of Christ carries us onward.

I was sharing this with a dear friend and sister in the Lord who is going through an extremely painful time. The treatments that she needs make her even sicker and so she reached a time when the pain was so unbearable she simply told the Lord that she could not take any more.

It is then that the Lord took over and all of a sudden she was filled with peace. She knew that from now on, He was taking her through. It was then that she realized that she was not alone. She knew that the entire body of Christ on either side of the veil was holding her up and ministering to her.

The words that flow into our minds from the Christ within and from His Body are waters of healing and hope. They are strength to lift us above the pain and carry us through in our moments of need. It was on eagle wings that the saints who were burnt at the stake, tortured and stoned did not recant but stood strong for the faith. The eagle speaks of the Christ in His entire Body. The two wings are the saints on either side of the veil that stand with us as our guardian angels. What a mighty God!

*“And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that **THEY** should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.”* (Rev.12: 6)

Recently someone asked me, *“Who are the **THEY** that feed the woman?”* Our Lord uses various means to feed us. Sometimes He simply uses the world around us to convey some truths to our hearts; it may come through a song we hear or something we see that stirs a witness in our spirit. Oftentimes He sends messengers, maybe a phone call or email to bring us the right word at the right time through one of the saints we know. Or still He speaks to us directly through the spirit of revelation.

He may also send us special messengers who are part of the “angelic” realm as it was for John on Patmos. John writes, *“And I John saw these things and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of **THE ANGEL** which shewed me these things.”*

Then saith he unto me, 'See thou do it not: FOR I AM THY FELLOW-SERVANT, AND OF THY BRETHREN THE PROPHETS, AND OF THEM WHICH KEEP THE SAYINGS OF THIS BOOK: WORSHIP GOD.’ (Rev. 12: 8-9) I wonder what John thought when he heard this from the angel. What do we think?

There was a day when Jesus was questioned by the Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection. *“Master, Moses said if a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife,*

*deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: likewise the second also, and the third unto the seventh. At last the woman died also. Therefore **in the resurrection** whose wife shall she be of the seven? For they all had her.* (Matt.22: 24-27)

Jesus was quick to answer, “*Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are AS THE ANGELS OF GOD IN HEAVEN.*” (Vs.29-30) These are not the angels but they are AS the angels meaning they are spirit beings.

It is good to note here that Jesus is not speaking of Himself in His glorious body resurrection. He is speaking of a “spirit” resurrection (as angels) and not of an eternal body that can be touched. Therefore He is not speaking of the “Better Resurrection” that the saints are awaiting. The word “resurrection” means a “raising up” a “standing up.” The “better resurrection” is what those who have gone before us are eagerly awaiting.

Jesus was speaking of what happens to the spirit, by the power of God, after a body goes to the grave. Jesus told these Sadducees that they knew neither the scriptures nor the POWER OF GOD.

The moment that the thief on the cross said, “*Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.*” Jesus said, “*Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.*” (Lk.23: 42-43) Jesus saved his soul from hell (more death) and took him to paradise. The thief's body saw corruption in the grave but he was raised in spirit.

Jesus died but He did not see decay in His body. “*Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*” (Acts 2: 27)

Jesus is the resurrection. He has full power to raise us up in spirit, soul and body. When one dies, the soul of the one who calls upon the Lord is saved from death and hell. At that point they are AS the angels while they await the full or “better” resurrection of their body.

Some of these are prophets and ministers of God

and they continue their ministry to the Body of Christ. It was a prophet who called himself a fellow-servant who ministered to John on Patmos. Such are the THEY that are feeding us as well as those who minister God's word to us on this side of the veil.

THE REMNANT OF HER SEED

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Rev.12: 17)

As we know, the woman of this verse is the church who gave birth to the Manchild. She is the one who received the Word of life- the seed from the Holy Spirit. She nurtured it until that Word became her life. However, there are believers in Christ who have heard the same Word of life but the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches and the lusts of other things enter in and choke the word so that it becomes unfruitful (See Mk.4: 19) Jesus spoke these words as he taught the parable of the sower. He explained that some could only produce a partial harvest.

The seed of the Word is sowed into our inner beings (soul and spirit) but it needs to be cultivated. When Moses died and God anointed Joshua to lead Israel into their land, He told him to be strong and very courageous.

Then He said, “*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*” (Josh.1: 8)

For us who are in Christ, the book of the law is no longer written on tablets of stone; it is written by the Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds. As we meditate on that law day and night, it produces the fruits of the Spirit within. This is not a religion; it is our life. Our prosperity consists of bringing forth the Manchild so that when the time comes we will be transformed and translated into His image. This is the good success we are pressing toward.

Some are busy with many things and they can only bring the seed to a partial harvest. Some thirty percent, some sixty percent and some one hundred percent. Indeed, the hundred-fold harvest has produced the Manchild while the rest is the remnant of her seed.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Christ.”

Their harvest will come when they are ready. In the meantime, the dragon is loosed on them for the purpose of moving them closer to the Lord. They will have to take hold of the Overcomer spirit within and overcome just as we have to overcome.

THE OBEDIENCE OF SONS

In His hour of great agony Jesus prayed *“O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.”* (Matt.26: 42) Jesus knew the vital importance of His obedience to the will of His Father and He gave us a key to understanding this when He told the disciple who was trying to keep Him from death, *“Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?”* (Vs.53-54)

Jesus knew that the decision for His actions had to line up with what the Father had already spoken. The Scriptures had to be fulfilled. There is no changing what the Law and the prophets have already spoken, for it is the perfect will of God. Jesus was sent to fulfill God's will. He had to walk out the words of God's will in flesh and blood. Thus is every jot and tittle of the law fulfilled.

All that is to be done is written from the beginning and confirmed by the Scriptures and the voice of all the prophets. The Scriptures are contained in the first five books of the Bible. The lives of all the characters in these books are also types of what Jesus and His body have to walk out in flesh and blood.

To do this, Jesus had to learn obedience through sufferings. He did not order His own steps. He had to obey the Father's will even though the Father's will was totally opposite to the will of the established church of His day. So Jesus was labeled a rebel and a blasphemer by them. The devil tried to lure Him into joining them when he offered Him the kingdoms of this world.

Nevertheless, Jesus remained obedient to the will of His Father. When he told the devil, *“It is written...”* He was saying the will of my Father is written in my heart. The will of God is His law. Moses wrote the will of God for the people in stone, but in the Spirit, God's will is written in our hearts.

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.”(Heb. 8: 10)

The Old Covenant was kept under the law of Moses, but in Christ the New Covenant is kept by the law that the Holy Spirit writes in our minds and hearts each day. Obedience to God's will for us means doing that which the Holy Spirit leads us to do or undo or not do. *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”* (Rom.8: 14)

Obedience is learned. A child does not know to obey until he is taught. Obedience to the will of God is what all the sons must learn as they walk in these earthen vessels. The flesh has strong desires of its own and overcoming such desires by the power of the Spirit is key to becoming a son of God.

One of the strongest desires of the flesh is to be accepted and honored by others. The soul that sinneth will sell herself to receive that honor. *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”* (Jn.1: 12)

David is called a man after God's own heart. He was chosen by God to be king over His people. He was anointed to sit on the throne but first he had to

be prepared. He could not rule without learning obedience and submission.

When he was only a youth keeping his father's sheep, he learned obedience as he spent many days and nights on the mountains by himself with his father's sheep. He learned to trust God and to protect the flock from the lion and the bear with his bare hands. Later, he learned obedience in the house of Saul and suffered many severe testings and humiliations before he ever sat upon the throne of the kingdom.

God is no respecter of persons, that which He ordained for His Son Jesus and for His anointed servant David, He also requires of those who will become sons of God. Jesus had to learn obedience even though He was already God's Son. He had to learn to submit to the body of this death even unto the death of the cross. He had to suffer the rejection of His own who were the religious rulers of the people.

Both David and Jesus fulfilled their part of the Scriptures by the same Holy Spirit. This is why Jesus is called the Son of David. And it is why, in his darkest hour, David could write, *"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* The very same words that Jesus cried out on the cross! (Matt.27:46b and Ps. 22:1)

Although God had already chosen him to be king, and Samuel had already anointed him, David learned to humble himself and run from Saul rather than fight in order to save his life. Not that David could not have fought and won; he was strong in battle. He had killed his ten thousands of Philistines, but he had to run from Saul. He was learning obedience to the Spirit and this we have to do many times as well. Turning the other cheek is obedience to the Spirit.

We also learn obedience through suffering. These bodies and this world are the greatest tools used to cause our sufferings. When we understand this, we do not rebel for we know that all our sufferings teach us obedience to the Father. *"All things work to the good of those who love God."*

DAVID'S SECRET PLACE

In his darkest hour David wrote the beautiful psalm twenty-two. *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel."* (Ps.22: 1-3)

No sooner did the prayer come out of David's mouth, God had given the answer. The Psalmist quickly writes, *But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.* David knew that to find the answer, he needed to turn his heart to praise. When our God seems to be silent, we need to remember that He dwells in hearts that praise Him.

This does not mean that He dwells only in the songs we sing when we congregate; He dwells in a hearts that give Him honor and homage for who He is. Hearts that acknowledge Him in everything small or great. Heart that recognize His love and care. This is true praise.

Our God dwells in hearts that are grateful for His grace and forgiveness. Jesus introduced Him to us as our Father. He is a Father who knows our infirmities and remembers that we are dust. *"For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust."* (Ps. 103: 14)

Our obedience to His will brings us to the place where we trust Him. Each time we obey, we discover the God who is our Father and who loves us. Our sufferings lead us to Father's house and to extend compassion and mercy toward those who have not yet found Him.

When God first raised up David He blessed him with strength over the lion and the bear. Later, David was a champion over the giant Goliath, the greatest enemy of Israel at the time. But as David matured, God began to reveal his inner weaknesses. He exposed David's flesh in the matter of Uriah and Bathsheba.

God did not cover up for David. He let him reap

the full harvest of his evil deed. His shame still follows him on the pages of the Bible. This was an affair of the flesh, however David's heart was fixed true to His God in the Spirit and God never rejected his election.

David wrote, *“Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.”* (Ps.22: 12-13) These bulls are the power of the man of flesh. They are the strong appetites and lusts of the carnal man. The roaring lion is the overwhelming power that brings a man or a woman to commit the sin they cannot resist.

David had found these many bulls and ravening lions in his flesh. He could easily defeat the armies of the Philistines but it was lust that drove him to the edge of the precipice and he cried earnestly to his God for deliverance.

It is then that he found this prescription, *“Ye that fear the Lord, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify his name; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel. For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.”* (Ps.22: 23-24)

True praise is when we acknowledge that we are very weak and God is mighty and His love endures forever. It is when we know for certain that we cannot survive in this world without God. This is the praise that comes from our hearts when we come to the end of ourselves. What a mighty God we serve!

FORGIVENESS

Jesus gave us the greatest example of forgiveness when He prayed on the cross, *“Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.”* (Lk.23: 34)

God called David the man after His own heart. In spite of all his faults, David showed fairness and forgiveness to those with whom he had to do. He certainly showed great love and forgiveness to the man who wanted to kill him.

Saul was filled with jealousy and anger and he

could not wait to kill David. By contrast, David showed mercy. When he was given the opportunity to slay Saul, David held back his sword and refrained from slaying him.

David had come upon Saul while he was sound asleep in a cave. He held back his men and cut up a piece of Saul's garment to show him how close he had been to him. Saul had to acknowledge that David was a better man.

There came the time when a young Amalekite came to David with the news that Saul and his son Jonathan had been killed. The messenger was very excited to tell David what he thought would be great news of rejoicing. *“But David said unto the young man that told him, ‘How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?’”* (II Sam.1: 5) Then the young man proceeded to explain how Saul had been in a desperate situation while fighting the Amalekites on mount Gilboa.

Saul was leaning upon his spear while chariots followed hard after him, the young man related. *“And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, Here am I.. He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me.”*

So I stood upon him, and slew him because I was sure that he could not live after that he had fallen: and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my Lord.” (Vs.7, 9-10)

It is certain that the young Amalekite expected a thank you and a reward for this deed, but instead *“David and all the men with him rent their clothes as they mourned and wept and fasted until even for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.”* (11-12)

Then David look at the young man and declared, *“Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the Lord's anointed.”* (Vs.16)

David slew this Amalekite and then wrote the most beautiful lamentation over Saul and Jonathan.

“The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen!..From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back and the sword of Saul returned not empty. Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou was slain in thy high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen and the weapons of war perished!” (Vs.19, 22-27)

The man after God's own heart wept for Saul and Jonathan. He recognized that because of them he had matured in ways that would have been impossible otherwise. Saul taught him to war against the inner enemy of his soul and to learn restrain.

He recognized that the man who had been driven by jealousy and fears and who had been out to mercilessly kill him, chasing him for years into caves and strongholds had done so by God's design. In David's eyes, Saul was still the anointed of the Lord and no one had the right to lay hands on him for God had said, *“Touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no harm.”* (Ps. 105: 15)

Many among us have been rejected by our own brethren for our Word. I am speaking of brethren in Christ as well as natural family. We have been humiliated and belittled by those we loved and respected. At first we were hurt and angry with them but as we understood God's way, we have come to know that they were doing what the Lord had them to do. They were chosen and inspired to this. They were not our enemies, they were our best friends.

This is not to say that we agree with the systems

that they support but it is to say that we do not hate them as persons and we fully understand that what they did to us, they had to do. We can join ourselves to the Spirit of David and know that because of them, we were clothed with scarlet and ornaments of gold (God's salvation through the blood of Jesus).

Just as David had forgiven Saul, Joseph also forgave his brothers and in Christ we will forgive all who came against us. We will slay the immature “Amalekite” in our minds who would find pleasure in vengeance. We will see that it was God using all things to bring His glorious salvation to the earth.

Recently I received a letter from Barbara Allen and she writes, *“Years ago I was sorely hurt by a friend. As He brought me through the rejection, He spoke to me “DON'T DRINK THE GALL.” Jesus refused to vinegar and gall to slake His thirst. So it is with us today. Bitterness is not the goal- Life is! We, too, are to refuse the gall during these “cross” experiences we're going through now.*

Thank you Lord for conforming us unto your death, for in it all we learn to know You intimately. Yes, the lambs are for the slaughter- an exchange of our life for His. Oh, The wonder of it all!” (End of quote.) Barbara also blesses us regularly with her publication “Pillar Talk.”

What a great word on forgiveness. When we forgive we disconnect ourselves from any root of bitterness that could stunt our growth in Christ. Even though His mouth was so dry that the vinegar would have given some relief, Jesus turned away. We must come to this same attitude and refuse our carnal nature that demands resentment and retaliation.

“Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (I Jn.3: 2) Let us always remember who we are in Christ. Let us not allow the enemy to rob us from our true identity.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*