



*Springs  
in the  
Valley*

*Volume 1  
by  
B.R. Hicks*



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# Introduction

God made a great contrast between Egypt and Israel in the manner and method in which their lands were to be watered.

Egypt was watered, basically, from below, “by the foot,” either by a tread wheel working pumps or by artificial rills that flowed in ducts from the Nile River. The small embankments of the Nile were removed with the feet to let the stream of water onto the land.

Egypt symbolizes the world, which draws all its productive resources and materials, intellectually and morally, from *below*.

In contrast to Egypt, Israel’s entrance into Canaan’s Land, Beulah Land, or Married Land, formed an awesome view with its many fountains and springs bursting from the landscape, which drank in the rain that God sent from Heaven above (Deuteronomy 8:7). These fountains and springs, being fed with the water from above, quickened the newly sown seed, swelling the seed to produce a rich harvest in the autumn season. The Eyes of the LORD always were upon His Bridal Nation, from the beginning of the seed-sowing time until the harvest, as long as Israel was a faithful spiritual Wife unto Him (Deuteronomy 11:11).

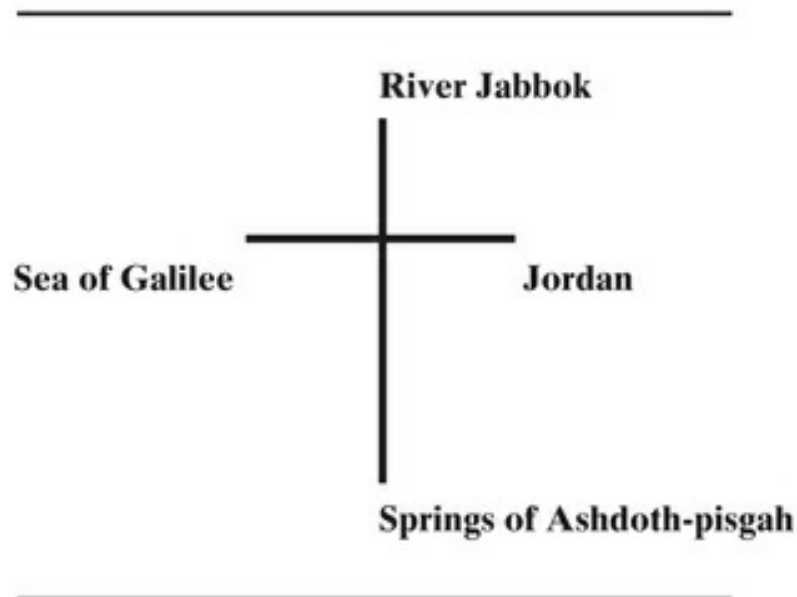
God’s treatment of Israel’s waters symbolized the Heavenly Waters of Truth that Jesus, the Exalted, Resurrected Christ, pours out on His Church and His Spiritual Bride, feeding them from the Humility Fountains and Springs of the Crucified Christ so that they may grow to spiritual maturity in Him.

The Book of Genesis, the Book of Beginnings, records many Spiritual Springs of Humility Truth, which are pictured in the Springs and Fountains of Truth that abound in the other Books of God’s Word.

God blessed the tribes of Reuben and Gad with an extensive plateau of well-watered land, abounding with forests, pasture-land, and fertile plains that were well adapted for their herdsman. This abundance of water was Reuben’s and Gad’s inheritance.

*And unto the Reubenites and unto the Gadites I gave from Gilead even unto the river Arnon half the valley, and the border even unto the river Jabbok, which is the border of the children of Ammon; The plain also, and Jordan, and the coast thereof, from Chinnereth even unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, under Ashdoth-pisgah eastward (Deuteronomy 3:16,17).*

The waters with which God blessed Reuben and Gad form the following Stature of Truth. These waters included Ashdoth-pisgah or the Springs of Pisgah.



The Hebrew word for *Ashdoth* is *Ash-ay-daw*, meaning to pour, an outpouring stream from a spring, which

watered the inheritance of Reuben, whose name means son of the right hand, and Gad, whose name means a troop.

This is a picture for us who ascend, by faith, into the Heavenlies with Christ Jesus, Who is the only Begotten Son at the Father's Right Hand, where we wait to receive His Strength as a faithful troop of soldiers and where He pours forth His Truth into our spirit, soul, and body, through Humility Springs of Truth in the Crucified Christ.

The Book of Genesis is filled with both God's Exalted Springs of Truth in the Resurrected Christ and His Humility Springs of Truth in the Crucified Christ.

Also, we find that God's Word, spoken out of His Mouth, is personified in the Book of Deuteronomy as a Wellspring of Living Water issuing forth.

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live (Deuteronomy 8:3).

The Hebrew word for *proceedeth* is *mo-tsaw*, meaning going forth, exit, source, wellspring, water course, rising sun, utterance. God taught Israel in the wilderness that man does not live by natural bread, obtained by the ability of man's human intelligence, which can take victory over nature and wrest bread from it. But, man's continued existence on earth and his survival in Eternity depend upon God's Supreme, Sovereign Rulership and every Word that flows out of His Mouth as a "Wellspring."

The Hebrew word *mo-tsaw* is also used in the Books of Psalms and Isaiah.

He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into *watersprings* [*mo-tsaw*] (Psalm 107:35).

I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land *springs of water* [*mo-tsaw*] (Isaiah 41:18).

God's Word, His Living Springs of Truth, create Streams of Grace and Rivers of Pleasure and Satisfaction in "wilderness hearts," and they produce fruitful orchards and gardens for the owners and relief to the wayfaring traveller, whom the overflowing heart meets in his journey. God's Living Springs of Truth in Genesis also create great Rivers of Pleasure and Satisfaction for the thirsty heart that longs for the Hidden Springs of Truth in both the Crucified Christ and the Resurrected Christ.

Another beautiful Hebrew word for *spring* is *maw-kore*, meaning something dug, source of water, also of tears, blood, happiness, wisdom, progeny, fountains, issue, wellspring.

The mouth of the righteous is a wellspring or fountain of life, the wise man of Proverbs said.

*The mouth of a righteous man is a well* [*maw-kore*] *of life*: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked (Proverbs 10:11).

Words that issue out of the heart and mouth of one who has been personally instructed by the Wisdom of the Crucified Christ and the Resurrected Christ are, indeed, Fountains of Life. Such a person is a Source of Life, strength, and vitality to those who listen to the flowing spring of teaching, exhortation, and advice that comes from him.

The Book of Genesis is a flowing Spiritual Spring of teaching, exhortation, and advice. The Living Springs of Christ's Wisdom preserve life.

*The law of the wise is a fountain of life*, to depart from the snares of death (Proverbs 13:14).

Christ's Humility Springs of Truth are the law of the wise that instruct us to avoid the enemy's fatal snares and pitfalls along the highway of life which, if not avoided, will bring us to premature natural and spiritual death.

The Book of Genesis is filled with these Principles of Truth from the *Maw-kore* Springs of Truth. In the *Maw-kore* Spring, we also find the fear of the LORD.

In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. *The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life*, to depart from the snares of death (Proverbs 14:26,27).

The Spring of the Fear of the LORD feeds our soul and spirit with strong, refreshing confidence, creating a restful refuge for us. Thus, the Fear of the LORD is a happy, satisfying Spring of Living Water.

In the *Maw-kore* Spring also is found the Unity of Understanding of the *Say-kei* Minds.\*

*Understanding is a wellspring of life* unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly (Proverbs 16:22).

The Hebrew word for *understanding*, here, is *say-kel*, referring to the sixteenth mind of man, which is the last mind found in the human will. When believers allow Jesus Christ to regenerate, convert, conform, and transform all their sixteen minds, which causes their *say-kel* understanding mind in their wills to become one with Jesus Christ, their *say-kel* minds become Springs or Fountains of Life which are enjoyed by the wise.

The Book of Genesis overflows with the Principles of Truth found in the *Maw-kore* Springs and Fountains of Truth.

There is another Hebrew word, *mah-yawn*, meaning spring, fountain, source of satisfaction, well, eye of the landscape, which also pictures the satisfying Springs of Truth found in Genesis.

The Bridegroom in the Song of Solomon revealed that His *Mah-yawn* Springs of Satisfaction were hidden in His Spouse-Wife.

*A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed... A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon* (Song of Solomon 4:12,15).

These verses refer to the LORD's Living Springs of Truth having transformed His Spouse-Wife's heart into an orchard of pleasant fruits and a garden of beautifying herbs, fragrant flowers, and sweet spices.

The Beloved Bridegroom described the beauty of His Spouse's "garden heart" as splendid in colour and fertility. But, since He was the Lawful Possessor, He walled up His Garden to prevent the intrusion of strangers. He sealed her living Spring of Truth with His Sovereign Seal, proving that she was His private property. All these beautiful Springs of Truth in God's Word are pictures and types of the precious Living Springs of Truth found in the Book of Genesis.

By God's Spirit, I have chosen a Spring of Truth out of each of the fifty chapters in the Book of Genesis. Since the number fifty is the number of the year of Jubilee, I trust that you will experience the joy of these satisfying Waters of Truth as I have. This is my prayer for you.

— The Author

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\* B. R. Hicks, [\*The Sixteen Minds Of Man\*](#) (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l., Inc., 1996).

## Chapter One

# The Brooding Of God's Spirit Upon The Word In Our Heart Brings New Life And Light To Birth In Us

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And *the Spirit of God moved* upon the face of the waters. And *God said*, Let there be light: and there was light (Genesis 1:2,3).

The Book of Genesis is a Book of Beginnings. The first verse, in chapter one, refers to God's creation of the original Earth in the natural realm.\*

Between verse one and verse two is a span of aeons of time. In verse two, we find that the Earth God had created had fallen into a state of chaos and darkness. Yet, the Spirit of the LORD did not forsake the Earth but began to *move* upon the face of the waters.

The Hebrew word for *move* means to brood. Here is the first parable or lesson in the Bible that is taught through an object of nature. A hen, for example, *broods* over her eggs until life is brought forth. She faithfully sits on the eggs and imparts to them her very own heat and energy. After a few days, new life is born or manifested through every fertile egg.

God's Spirit, like a great mother hen, as it were, *moved* or *brooded* over the face of the waters until new Light and Life were manifested. The natural creation was brought forth by the *brooding* of God's Spirit and the speaking of His Word.

Wherever the Spirit of God broods, a manifestation of the Light and Life of God has to be produced. When the Spirit of God begins to brood over a person's heart that is in the chaos and confusion of sin and darkness, a Light of new spiritual birth has to arise if the person yields his heart to God. As the Spirit broods or hovers over a sinner's heart, bringing a consciousness of sin and darkness and creating a desire to turn to God, the person's heart comes into the marvelous birth of the Light of the Son of God.

The spiritual creation of Light comes as a result of the brooding of the Spirit on the heart and the entrance of the Word of God into the heart. If the literal creation came through the brooding of God's Spirit and the speaking of the Word and if sinners can experience the brooding of the Spirit of God that leads them into a new birth of Light, then Christians must expect spiritual growth in their hearts to be produced in the same manner. By the brooding of the Spirit and the speaking of the Word, new Light and Life come into believers' hearts and lives.

If we will be still and wait upon the LORD in the Word, we will find the Spirit of God brooding over the Word in our heart, turning it over and over, as a mother hen turns the eggs in the nest, until new Life and Light are manifested. Glorious is the day in which the Truth of God's Word is born, manifested, or written upon the fleshly tables of our heart!

**How long is the "Epistle" in your heart today? How many Truths have been taken from the pages of the Written Word of God and manifested upon the tables of your heart?**

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\* B. R. Hicks, [\*The Missing Link Between The Genesis Creation And Scientific Findings\*](#) (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches, Int'l., Inc., 1988).

## Chapter Two

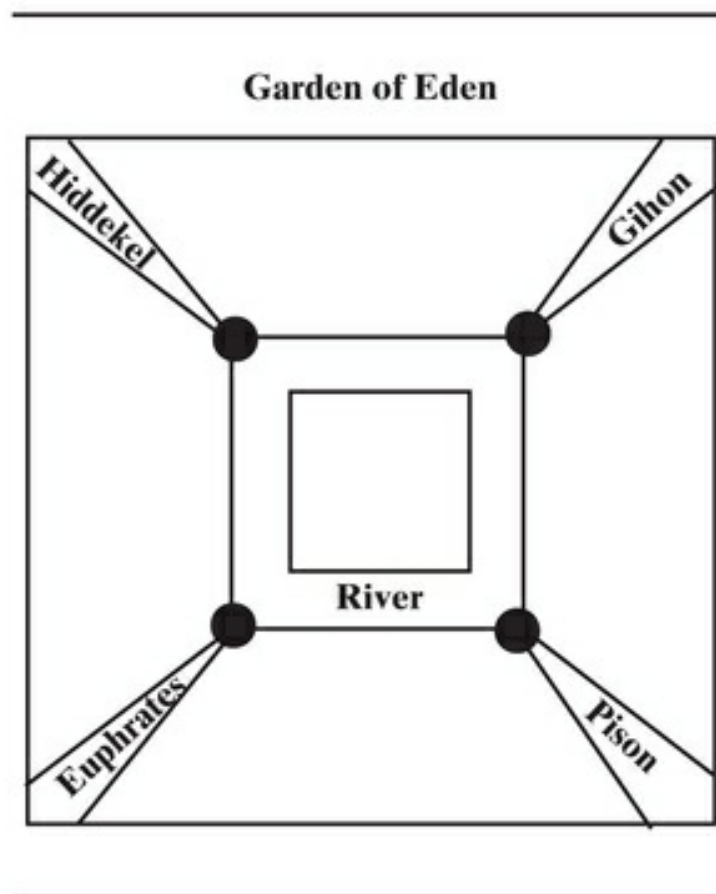
# God Provides An Increasing Supply Of Living Waters Of Truth To Meet Our Spiritual Needs

*And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is *Pison*: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone. And the name of the second river is *Gihon*: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. And the name of the third river is *Hiddekel*: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is *Euphrates* (Genesis 2:10-14).*

The Garden of Eden was Paradise for Adam-male and Adam-female because it was there that the LORD walked, talked, and had fellowship with them.

The LORD God, the great King over all creation, had the Garden of Eden as His princely Palace. The Garden of Eden, signifying delight and pleasure, was also the appointed place for Adam's residence.

In the Garden, God placed a river that branched out through four heads, creating four rivers that watered the Garden.



Sin caused God to drive the first family out of the palatial, pleasant Garden, into the wilderness of this world. Now, the LORD wants to make our heart a Paradise within us. When Jesus comes into our heart, He changes it from a desertlike wilderness into a lovely garden in which He can walk, talk, and have fellowship with us again. The river that the LORD God put in the Garden of Eden was necessary in order to maintain life in the Garden.

Likewise, Jesus Christ has put His Spirit, the Living Spring, in our heart in order to provide Living Waters for the life of our spiritual garden.

The river in the Garden of Eden was divided into four heads, and each one was specifically named as follows: the Pison, the Gihon, the Hiddekel, and the Euphrates.

The Hebrew name for *Pison* is *Pee-shone*, meaning to be dispersive. *Pee-shone* comes from the Hebrew root word *Poosh*, meaning to spread, to be scattered, to grow up, and to be grown fat.

The rivers in the Garden present the same picture that was given to Ezekiel the Prophet who saw the waters issuing out of the Sanctuary (Ezekiel 47:1,2). The first measurement of the waters that ran out, or more literally “oozed” out from the Sanctuary, grew until they were ankle deep, knee deep, and loin deep. Then, they became rivers to swim in (Ezekiel 47:3,4).

When the LORD increases the flow of the waters of Salvation, allowing them to rise up around our ankles, we find the waters of joy and a new walk filling our life. However, there are more Living Waters to be had from Jesus Christ’s Stature, the Source of all Living Waters.

We must not hinder the rise of His Living Waters of Truth. We must allow them to cover our knees so that we can bend them in prayer, praise, and surrender to God’s Purposive Will in our life. Then, we must press on until the loins of our heart and will are submerged in the Living Waters of Christ’s Holy Name or Nature. And, we must allow Christ’s Living Waters of Truth to grow to overflowing Waters in which we can swim in His Precious Name. Hence, we can swim through every situation, clothed with Christ’s Living Waters of His Name and Truth.

The Hebrew word for *Gihon* is *Ghee-khone*, meaning a stream, a river. *Ghee-khone* comes from the Hebrew word *Ghee-akh*, meaning to break forth, to gush forth, to issue forth, to come forth. As we go on with the LORD and allow His Spirit to continue to flow in our spiritual garden, there will be an increase of these Living Waters.

When Ezekiel saw the second measurement of the waters, they were *knee deep* (Ezekiel 47:4). Until we wait upon the LORD for the increase of His Spirit to overflow our knees, causing them to bend in a prayer life that is bathed in the Spirit of God and to bend in a spiritual study life that is filled with Christ’s quickened Words of Truth, we will miss many Eternal Blessings from Christ’s precious River of Life.

The River Hiddekel was a light and lively river that flowed swiftly with a sharp current, watering its portion of the Garden. The Hebrew word for *Hiddekel* is *Khid-deh-ke*, meaning sharp, swift, and light.

God’s Living River always flows with ever increasing swiftness and speed to meet our spiritual need, responding rapidly to the thirsty cry of our heart. Its sharp flow always penetrates the tiniest point of our dry, thirsty heart. Not only does God’s Living River of Spirit and Truth water our own spiritual garden, but it will flow out to the ends of the Earth to bless other gardens as well, if we do not hinder its flow.

The third measurement of the river that Ezekiel saw flowing out from under the door of the Sanctuary brought him into waters that were *loin deep* (Ezekiel 47:4).

As we go on for the LORD, yielding to the mighty flow of His Living River of Spirit and Truth, we will find it reaching unto our very loins. The loins speak of the place of sanctification, procreating power, and fruitfulness.

In the natural realm, God has placed in the loins of the human body the organs for cleansing the body of poisons and wastes and the organs of reproduction.

Likewise, in the Spiritual Loins of Christ’s Stature, the LORD has placed the Sanctifying and Procreating Power of His Holy Name to cleanse us and make us fruitful for His Name’s Sake. How wonderful to let the River of the LORD’s Spirit and Truth and Name water and cleanse our spiritual garden until the impurities and wastes are removed and His Spiritual Procreating Power for witnessing and fruit bearing are brought forth from our spiritual garden.

The Hebrew name for *Euphrates* is *Per-awth*, meaning a breaking, a rushing forth, like the mighty Niagara Falls, and sweet water. The fourth measurement that Ezekiel saw was rivers to *swim in* (Ezekiel 47:5).

The waters that issued out of the Sanctuary, from the west, flowed down on the south side of the Temple by the Candlestick and on down to the east side. They were running waters, like those of a river. They were not standing waters, like those of a pond. This river was a picture of God’s *Torah-Truth* from the Holy of Holies, flowing out to all the earth. This River of *Torah-Truth* and the LORD’s Name constantly flows and ever increases; consequently, the further it goes, the fuller and deeper it grows.

This Infinite River of Truth is so shallow at ankle depth that a believer, as a small lamb, can wade in it and understand its message of Truth. At the knee level, the River of the Waters of Truth is so deep that the believer must make a great search and surrender in order to understand its Truths. The Waters of Truth at the loin level require yet greater search and surrender in order to understand the depths of their Truth. And, when the River of Truth increases and grows to overflowing, swimming Waters, believers experience Truth *beyond their reach*, as long as their feet

are anchored and adhering to the ground under them.

We must be willing to surrender, completely, all forms of security under our feet in order to swim in the “no-form” Waters of Truth and experience the LORD’s Infinite Truth that is *beyond our reach* as long as we are standing still.

In order for a person to swim in the natural realm, there has to be sufficient water to cover the earth so that his earthly body can swim. What a perfect picture for those of us who desire to go on with the LORD Jesus Christ and increase in His Stature and have our being completely immersed in the Mighty Power of His *Torah*-Truth and His Holy Name! As we lose consciousness of our own self through being immersed in the Mighty Power of the LORD’s Truth and Name, we also lose consciousness of the flesh of other people around us. No wonder the Word says that love covers a multitude of sins.

**Have you reached the sweet, sharp, and swift Waters of the Spiritual Euphrates River of His Truth and Name to swim in — the Infinite, Divine, Inexhaustible River that you cannot pass over?**

## Chapter Three

# God Mercifully Provides Blood As A Covering For Our Sins

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them (Genesis 3:21)

God displayed His Redeeming Love, Mercy, and Grace toward our first parents in creation in spite of the rebellious choices they made against Him.

After Adam-male and Adam-female had sinned, they were naked and ashamed before God. God's great Love and Mercy kept Him from sending forth the naked, shameful pair from the Garden in an unclothed condition. Therefore, He slew some animals and provided clothing for them so that their shameful nakedness would be covered in His Sight. Although God corrected the disobedient pair by putting them under His Words of displeasure, He did not disinherit them. As a tender Father, He provided coats of skins for their clothing and herbs of the field for their food.

The death of these little sacrificial animals presents a beautiful picture of our blessed LORD Jesus Christ, Who gave His very Life and Blood so that we might have a spiritual covering for our spiritual nakedness that is a result of sin. The sacrificial animals gave up their lives so that Adam and his wife might go forth protected and covered in God's Humility, Protective Coverings. No doubt, God instructed Adam and Eve at this time about the proper way of offering sacrifices, for later their sons, Cain and Abel, brought their sacrifices to God.

The LORD accepted Abel's offering because it was the first-fruits of his flock. The little animal's blood covered the shame and nakedness of his sin for a season, until Jesus Christ would come and take away sin, once and for all, by giving Himself as a Sacrifice for the whole world.

Cain's sacrifice was rejected by God because he deliberately brought a bloodless offering. Abel's offering was evidence that Adam had taught his sons the proper way to approach the LORD.

Without the Blood, there is no covering for sin; there is no remission for sin. **Is your soul covered with Jesus Christ's Blood? His Blood is the only true Garment of Salvation!**

After we have been clothed with the pure White Robe of Salvation, there is yet another Garment that we must put on. A study of the Garments of the Old Testament High Priest reveals that he wore more than one Garment. The High Priest was a type of Christ, and the Garments he wore are a type of some of Christ's Attributes.

God's Word exhorts us to "put off the old man," which is the carnal, fleshly self-life, and we are to "put on the New Man," which is Christ and His Nature, the Spiritual Man.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).*

The Yoke of Christ is His Humility. Often, He presents us with His Yoke of Humility in the midst of some very trying and painful circumstances. And, very often, our spiritual vision is so poor that we fail to see Christ's Yoke of Humility in the midst of these painful circumstances.

Our carnally minded natural man despises Christ's Humility and draws back from it, thinking that he is worthy of better things.

When our neck is stiff with pride, we chafe under the Yoke of Christ's Humility and feel that it is too heavy for us. It is only when we have bent our stiff neck in real surrender to the LORD Jesus Christ that His Yoke of Humility and Lowliness becomes easy and His Burden light. When our neck has been anointed with the Oil of Christ's Holy Spirit, His Yoke is light. There is even rest for the soul! With the anointing of His Spirit on us, we are able to see Jesus Christ presenting His Yoke of Humility in every circumstance of life. All things truly work together for good! As these experiences in our life produce deeper surrender and yieldedness to Christ, they become as precious jewels and hidden treasures to us. If we are wise, we will seek out Christ's Treasures of Humility.

**Oh, that we might desire and delight in being clothed upon with Christ's Garment of Humility Sacrifice!**

## Chapter Four

# The Only Way To Fellowship With Jesus Christ Is Through The Acceptance Of His Shed Blood

*And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wrath, and his countenance fell (Genesis 4:3-5).*

Cain's offering was rejected, while God received Abel's offering with satisfaction. God had divinely appointed Adam to give unto Him blood sacrifices which were shadows of good things to come in Christ Jesus, namely, His Eternal Resurrected Blood that puts away sin once and for all. Thus, their father had to have taught Cain and Abel what were the right sacrifices to bring to God.

Nevertheless, Cain, in his proud rebellion, brought a bloodless *min-khaw* offering of fine flour, which is described in the second chapter of Leviticus, verse one.

Cain made the same mistake that others make when they think they can have fellowship with the LORD without first coming with the Blood of the Sin Offering to cover their sin. Since Cain's offering had no blood for a covering for his sin, he remained unrighteous. However, Abel, who had brought a sacrifice of blood to cover his sins, was made righteous (Matthew 23:35).

A brief look at the Law of the Offerings will clarify this Principle of Blood Sacrifice for us.

The sin offering was the first of the *non-sweet savour offerings* that were offered in the Old Testament Tabernacle.

The first step in approaching God is to realize that we are sinners and that we have sinned against God. Romans, chapter three, verse twenty-three, says that *all* have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. Therefore, we *all* must have a Sin Offering.

In the Old Testament Dispensation, animals, with their blood, were offered as a sin offering, which was a picture of the LORD Jesus Christ Who came into the world and gave His Life's Blood as *the* Lamb of God. It is no longer necessary to slaughter animals as a sin offering because Jesus Christ became the Eternal Sin Offering for all who would believe in His Redemptive Blood which He shed on Calvary's Cross.

Cain would not admit that he was a sinner and in need of a sin offering of blood for his sin. He wanted to enjoy God's fellowship without the offering of blood.

Many people are like Cain. They want to join the Church without admitting and confessing to Jesus Christ that they are sinners; they refuse to accept the Blood of Jesus as the Sin Offering for their sins. Therefore, they remain unrighteous before God.

The trespass offering, also classed as a *non-sweet savour offering*, was the second of the sin offerings. When Jesus Christ hung upon the Cross and was made sin for us, He became our Sin Offering and our Trespass Offering; hence, there was nothing in His Trespass Offering that was a sweet smelling savour in God's Nostrils.

Because Cain refused to bring the blood offering that would have washed away his sins and trespasses, the LORD was displeased with his offering and with his rebellious attitude. Consequently, God rejected his bloodless offering.

The whole burnt offering was the third offering and the first of the class of *sweet-smelling-savour offerings*. After we have accepted the Blood of Jesus Christ as our Sin Offering and Trespass Offering, and after we have been saved, we can begin to feed on the LORD Jesus Christ as our Whole Burnt Offering.

The whole burnt offering pictured Christ's Consecration, Dedication, and Separation to His Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will. As we feed on Christ's Consecration to His Father, a Holy Desire is generated in our heart also to present our body as a living sacrifice to the LORD.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (Romans 12:1).*

In this verse, Paul referred to the shadow and type of the whole burnt offering which was *entirely consumed* on

God's Altar, making a sweet smelling savour in God's Nostrils. The whole burnt offering pictured Jesus Christ in His total, complete consecration to God, as He makes an Eternal Sweet Smelling Savour in God's Nostrils.

After we have experienced Salvation through the Blood of Jesus Christ, we are to present ourself to the LORD Jesus Christ to receive His sanctification and consecration unto His Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will. Thus, through Jesus Christ, we, too, can become a sweet smelling savour to God.

Cain self-righteously by-passed this step also. He felt no need to offer the whole burnt offering of consecration.

The fourth offering and the second of the *sweet savour offerings* was the meat or meal offering, which in the Hebrew language is called the *min-khaw* offering. The meat or meal offering was to accompany the whole burnt offering, both in the morning and evening sacrifices. This pictures Christ's one offering of Himself. Yet, His one offering became a continual offering unto His Father.

This teaches us to offer up to God our humble acknowledgment of our dependence upon and our daily devotion to Him. Because of Christ's Sacrificial Blood, we can offer up the "bread" of our sanctified strength unto Him.

The meal or meat offering which Cain presented before the LORD was not accompanied with the blood. Thus, in his prideful rebellion, Cain by-passed the blood of the sin offering, the trespass offering, and the whole burnt offering in a vain effort to present an acceptable offering to the LORD.

The fifth offering was the *sweet savour offering* of the blood of the peace offering, which was also accompanied with the *min-khaw* bread offering. This was the fifth offering and the third of the *sweet savour offerings*.

In the order of the sacrifices for the Priests in the twenty-ninth chapter of Exodus, verses ten through twenty-five, the peace offering had to be offered along with the meat offering, after the sin offering and the whole burnt offering had been made.

The peace offering spoke of the fellowship and peace enjoyed by God and His children. The peace offering with its blood and its accompanying meat or meal offering provided a table for God and for man. Part of the peace offering was for God's consumption, and it was burnt upon God's Altar Table in the form of a sweet smelling savour, while the other part was to be consumed by the offerer. Thus, through the blood, the Priests ate at God's Altar Table, enjoying His Presence and Power.

Through Jesus, we also can enjoy, constantly, the Peace Offering and the Meat or Meal Offering of Himself, as we bring our problems and burdens to Him in prayer and lay them at His precious Feet and feed on His Peace "which passeth all understanding."

Cain by-passed all the blood offerings and endeavoured to go directly into God's Presence with his meat or *min-khaw* offering, hoping to feast at God's Table in fellowship with Him. However, Cain found no acceptance with God because he manifestly desired feasting, fellowship, and peace, according to his own will, without coming through God's provided way of the blood.

Cain's actions are like the man in the parable of the man who came to the marriage feast without a Wedding Garment. The only proper Wedding Garment is that which has been washed white in the Blood of the Lamb. The man in the Parable was cast out because he was clothed improperly.

The same thing happened in regard to Cain. Because he refused to wash his filthy garments of self-righteousness with a blood sacrifice, God rejected Cain's *min-khaw* offering (the meal offering) and refused to send His Holy Fire of acceptance upon it.

We cannot eat of Christ and His precious Life unless we are willing to come through His precious Blood. We cannot possibly know the fellowship of His Spirit and His Word until we have come through God's provided Offerings of Blood in Christ Jesus.

## Chapter Five

# Walking With God Produces Health, Happiness, And Holiness

*And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him (Genesis 5:24).*

The Hebrew word for *walk* is *haw-lak*, meaning to walk in a great many applicable ways: to follow, to keep a pace, to come on continually, to be conversant, to go forward, to march, to depart.

By studying the sevenfold meaning of the word *walk*, we come to a better understanding of the life Enoch experienced as he *walked* with the LORD.

A “following experience” comes as a logical sequence of experiences, such as clouds appearing and rain following or as the Light of Christ’s Master Plan and Purposive Will appearing, and our following as He leads.

The Book of Amos, chapter three, verse three, asks, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” Following, then, is the effect of a cause, which is a common purpose and goal.

In order for two to walk together, there must be a mutual agreement between the follower and the Leader. Since it is impossible for the LORD to walk in the path of sin, we must surrender to walk in *His* Footsteps. His Steps are truly Footprints that leave a pathway of His Sacrificial Blood to God’s Throne of Mercy.

Hence, we see that Enoch had a heart that was surrendered to the LORD and willing to walk in God’s Holy Way and Purposive Will.

The Hebrew word for *walk* also means to keep a pace, which is a stretching out of the legs, in walking or running, at an equal rate of speed, along with another person, as in trying to keep a pace. In some countries, the men walk in front, and the women follow along behind; they do not walk a pace or side by side.

Enoch walked side by side with the LORD; he kept a pace with Him. This reveals the depth of surrender in Enoch’s heart. He stopped when the LORD stopped; he walked when the LORD walked; and he ran swiftly when the LORD ran.

The children of Israel had the same experience of stopping and moving with the LORD as they journeyed onward toward Canaan’s Land, being led by the Cloud and Fire. When the Cloud moved, the camp moved; when the cloud stayed, the camp stopped and did not journey.

Enoch’s mind was surrendered to the LORD; therefore, he walked and ran according to the LORD’s Purposive Will, not according to the determination of his own carnal mind.

**Are you walking ahead of the LORD or lagging behind? Or, are you keeping a pace with His Supreme, Sovereign Headship?**

The word for *walk* also means to come on continually, to make progress, become better, to find, to meet, to attack.

It is impossible to walk unceasingly with the LORD and not make progress in our spiritual education and moral development. If we walk with the LORD, without interruption, we will continually experience His Truth working in our heart; therefore, we will be able to war as a Christian soldier.

Enoch walked every day with the LORD; his was a continual and unceasing walk with Him.

Some people behave somewhat like a mechanical toy. They come to the House of the LORD and get a little blessing that winds them up for a few days. Then, when the blessing runs down, they go for periods of time without a personal, intimate, spiritual relationship with the LORD in prayer and in His Word. Many Christians wait until it is time to go to Church before they start to walk in the Word and in His Spirit of prayer. Some even wait until they arrive at the House of God to receive a touch from the LORD. Jesus wants us to walk continually with Him, seven days a week, and always be consistent in the Word and in Prayer.

To *walk* in a conversant manner with the LORD means to converse in a familiar way as a result of study and experience. After we have studied the LORD’s theoretical Principles of Truth in our spiritual education, and after we have experienced their practical value in our moral development, our heart and mind will be full of conversational gratitude and praise toward our blessed LORD.

Enoch’s walk was not a silent one. Enoch and the LORD talked with each other in a familiar and intimate way as they walked along together. There is an old hymn that expresses this thought beautifully. It says, “And He walks

with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own. And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.”

How precious it is to enter into this kind of walk with the LORD! As we walk together with Him, He will reveal the Hidden Manna of the Word to us, and we will return our gratitude and praise in prayer to Him.

Sometimes Christians will walk a pace with the LORD for awhile, but because they get a pouting spirit toward the LORD, they cease to converse with Him. They lag behind in their walk with God because, somewhere along the way, He did not grant their carnal prayer request. Therefore, they get into a spiritual pout and say that it does not pay to pray. But, Enoch had such a sweet spirit of surrender to the LORD that he had none of this spiritual pouting that prevents a person from being conversant with the LORD.

To *walk* with God means to go forward with Him, always advancing toward His spiritual Goal for the spirit and soul, which is spiritual maturity in Christ’s Stature.

Some Christians walk, but they go around in circles instead of moving upward in Christ’s Spiritual Stature and surrendering the unrestrained rebellion inherent in their “wilderness will.” This was true of the rebellious ones of the children of Israel who walked in a circle in the wilderness until they died in the wilderness, short of the Promised Prize of Canaan’s Land. The rebellious ones never did enter into the Land of Canaan. They did not follow the example Enoch had set before them.

Enoch always walked forward with God, not backward, and not in a circle. As he walked with God, each step brought him into deeper and higher experiences with the LORD in his spiritual education and in his moral development until, one day, the LORD just took Enoch from the Earth to be with Himself.

To *walk* with God also means to march with Him, going forward in a steady advance on the world, the flesh, and the Devil, trampling underfoot, crushing, and destroying all opposing things that are against God’s Holy, Righteous Nature.

There are times in the course of our walk with the LORD that He leads us forth as a soldier to do battle in union with Him against the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

Enoch had acquired this class of warrior faith while walking on with the LORD. He was able to march militantly through the enemy’s territory, conquering the opposing power of the enemy.

To walk with the LORD is a glorious privilege!

Another aspect to the word *walk* means to depart. Each step Enoch took with God caused him to depart or separate further and further from the things of the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

The progressive motion of walking with the LORD generates Christ’s Divine Inner Force and Power within our heart and will that enable us to leave and depart from every hindering thing that would separate us from God’s Purposive Will in our life.

By measuring the extent of his departure from worldly, carnal things and his spiritual possession of grateful praise for God’s Eternal Treasures of Truth, we can tell how far a person has walked with God. A person who is walking with the LORD and truly looking into His wonderful Face will find the things of the world growing strangely dim in the Light of His Glory and Grace.

The sum of the whole is the following: walking with the LORD Jesus Christ produces Spiritual Health, Happiness, and Holiness. The best way to lengthen our days is to walk steadily in God’s Purposive Will.

As we realize the full meaning of *walking* in the way of separation with the LORD, we can understand better Enoch’s experience with God’s Word, His Spirit, and His Record that says “Enoch walked with God.”

## Chapter Six

# The Ark Of Atonement Of Christ's Blood Protects The Believer From Death Inside And Outside

Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt *pitch* it *within and without* with *pitch* [*ko-fer*, from the root word *kaw-far*, meaning to cover] (Genesis 6:14).

The Hebrew word for *atonement* is *ko-fer*, which is from the word *kaw-far*. The word *kaw-far* is translated seven different ways, which pictures the sevenfold Atonement of the Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ.

- Pitch — The Safety Atonement
- Mercy Seat — The Satisfying Atonement
- Bribe — The Protective Atonement
- Basins — The Closed Covering Atonement
- Lurking — The Victorious Atonement
- Hoarfrost — The Transforming Atonement
- Camphire — The Beautifying Atonement

In the word *pitch* is the introduction to the Hebrew word *kaw-far*, which means atonement. *Kaw-far* means to cover with bitumen, to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel, appease, make atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, pardon, purge away, put off, reconcile, make reconciliation.

The safety and security in Christ's Atonement is pictured by Noah's covering of the ark, which he built according to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will, covering it with pitch or bitumen within and without. The pitch without and within prevented God's Judgmental Flood Waters from entering the ark. Thus, all God's creatures within the ark experienced the safety and security of God's Atoning Pitch or Bitumen.

Noah's ark is a picture of the safety the believer finds in Christ's Atonement, which protects God-given Truth on the inside and protects against God's Judgmental Waters of Death on the outside. Noah's ark is a type of Jesus Christ's taking on Human Flesh and Blood so that, when we are in Him, we are covered with the safety and security of His Blood that protects our spiritual life from the fleshly man on the inside and from God's Judgmental Waters of Death on the outside. Therefore, we are safe from the storm of God's Judgment against sin.

Noah and his family were safe in the ark that was pitched or covered within and without with God's Atoning Pitch, as it were. All Noah needed in order to go safely through the flood was this ark with its atoning pitch, which God had provided for him. It was sufficient to protect him, both from within and from without.

All we need in order to go through the trials of this life, and to stand before God in the world to come, is Jesus Christ. He is sufficient! He is all we need.

The second picture of Christ's Atoning Blood is found in the *Mercy Seat* that covered the Ark, which contained the Broken Tables of the Law. The Mercy Seat became an atoning covering over the Broken Law, and it covered the Broken Law before God's Eyes so that sinful man's offense of breaking God's Law was not visited upon him.

The Hebrew word *kaw-far*, from which the word for pitch comes, is also the root word from which the Hebrew word for Mercy Seat comes.

And thou shalt make a *mercy seat* [*kap-po-reth*, from the root word *kaw-far*, meaning to cover] of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the *mercy seat* shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the *mercy seat* shall the faces of the cherubims be. And thou shalt put the *mercy seat* above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee (Exodus 25:17-21).

The word for Mercy Seat (*Kaw-far*) in these verses comes from the same fountain of Hebrew words as *pitch*. The Mercy Seat in the Mosaic Tabernacle was the covering for the Ark that contained the Law or the Ten Commandments that Moses broke on Mount Sinai because Israel had made an idol, a golden calf, giving God's Glory to it. The atonement blood that was put on the Mercy Seat became a satisfying atonement for the Broken Law that was in the Ark in the Mosaic Tabernacle.

The satisfying atoning blood on the Mercy Seat completely fulfilled God's requirements, conditions, and obligations for man, and it also completely fulfilled man's wishes, needs, and expectations until the LORD Jesus Christ came and eternally — once and for all — satisfied both God and man with His own precious Blood.

Thus, when God looked down upon the children of Israel, He looked through the merciful atonement blood that caused Him to cancel, annul, and forgive Israel's iniquities, trespasses, sins, and transgressions until the LORD Jesus Christ came and eternally put man's sins in God's great Sea of Forgetfulness that is behind His Back (Isaiah 38:17).

According to the Law, the children of Israel were guilty of Death because, by making a golden calf for an idol to worship, they had caused Moses to break God's *Torah-Truth, without*, on Mount Sinai, and they had broken God's *Torah-Truth, within*, by their continual idolatrous complainings and murmurings against God's Governance and Guidance while they were in the wilderness.

God's Word declares that if we offend God's *Torah-Truth* in even one point, we are guilty of breaking His whole Law (James 2:10).

Repentant Israel took refuge and safety in the merciful, satisfying blood that God had provided as an atonement covering for His Broken Law and for the offenders of His Law, protecting them from God's penalty of Death.

We, who also have broken God's Moral Law and who also were guilty of Death and who also have received Jesus Christ as our Merciful, Satisfying Atonement Covering from sin and its penalty, are safe and secure, within and without, in Him. Christ is the Mercy Seat, and the precious Blood of Christ Jesus is our Satisfying Atonement Covering.

The third picture of Christ's Atoning Blood is pictured in the word *bribe*, which means paying a price to someone else in order to buy an undeserved favour.

The Hebrew word *ko-fer* is translated as bribe in the Book of First Samuel.

Samuel the Prophet testified before Israel that he never had received a bribe, like a covering wall, to pervert his righteous judgment of Israel. Samuel invited the people to witness against him before the LORD, the Heavenly Judge and Supreme, Sovereign King over the land, and before Samuel himself as God's anointed supreme judge in the land.

A bribe was a "blinder" to the eyes of the person in power so that his eyes would be blinded against evil offenses.

Israel could not buy, bribe, nor blind Samuel into giving them unrighteous judgment so that they could walk contrary to God's Purposive Will. They could not blind Samuel's eyes to their wrongdoings.

Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any *bribe* [*ko-fer*, meaning a redemption price, from the word *kaw-far*] to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you (1 Samuel 12:3).

The word for bribe comes from the same Hebrew root word *kaw-far*, meaning to cover as a protective covering. The idea conveyed here is that of a large, protective wall surrounding a city so that the city would be covered, completely, from the eyes of its enemies. The protective wall served as a blinder so that its inhabitants, within, did not have to look on the enemies that were without. Hence, the wall was a protective covering before the eyes of all its inhabitants.

No one could pay God the kind of bribe that man would need in order to build a protective wall around his sin so that God could not see his wrongdoings and, therefore, deliver and protect him from God's Judgment and Punishment of his sins. But, the LORD Jesus Christ, Who was Holy, Harmless, Undeclared, and Separate from sinners, came and gave His own Holy, Sacrificial Blood which built a protective wall between God's Eyes and man's sin.

When we become penitent believers before the LORD Jesus Christ, we need never fear God's Judgmental Eyes that punish us for our wrongdoings by delivering us to Death and Hell. For us, Jesus Christ, through His precious Blood, has put a blinder or a bribe upon His Father's Eyes so that we are protected from His Eternal Judgment.

Noah did not fear God's Judgmental Water that was falling on the outside of the ark, for he was safe within the ark that was pitched, inside and outside, with the protective wall of atonement covering, which was a type of Christ

## Jesus' Atoning Blood.

The fourth picture of Christ's Atoning Blood is seen in the covered *bason* in the Mosaic Tabernacle.

Also pure gold for the fleshhooks, and the bowls, and the cups: and for the golden *basons* [*kef-ore*, meaning a tankard or covered goblet, from *kaw-far*] he gave gold by weight for every *bason* [*kef-ore*, from *kaw-far*]; and likewise silver by weight for every *bason* [*kef-fore*, from *kaw-far*] of silver: (1 Chronicles 28:17).

The Hebrew word for basons comes from the word *kaw-far*, which means a cloud cover, which pictures the Covering Power of Christ's Atoning Blood. The closed, covered bason was used in the Old Testament worship to hold the sacrificial blood and to keep it protectively covered, which kept the blood clean and undefiled until it could be carried into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement and sprinkled completely on the Mercy Seat and the Ark.

This was a picture of the Resurrected Body or Vessel or Bason of Jesus Christ that carried His Closed, Covering Atoning Blood to the Holy of Holies in Heaven, where He sprinkled the Heavenly Mercy Seat and Ark, once and for all, with His Eternal Atoning Blood. What a precious picture of Christ as our Holy Covering!

When Noah was in the ark that was pitched (*kaw-far*), within and without, he was closed in and completely covered by God's Atoning Pitch, which protected him from all God's Divine Judgment that was about him on the outside of the ark.

When we are in Christ's Holy, Atoning, Covering Blood, we are protected and covered from evil, deceitful temptations. In the Atoning Death of Christ was exhibited not only God's Holy Wrath against sin but, equally, His Infinite, Divine Love toward the sinner. Learning to live and move with our enlightened understanding, under Christ's Holy, Atoning, Covering Blood is a great secret; for, then, we are shielded not only from God's Judgment but also from many Serpentine attitudes in our disposition until Jesus Christ can crucify them and mortify them through His Cross and His Death.

Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion [*kef-eer*, meaning a young lion (as covered with a mane), from *kaw-far*] lurking in secret places (Psalm 17:12).

The word for young lion springs from the same Hebrew root word *kaw-far*, meaning covering or atonement. When the young lion, who is the king of the forest, looks for prey, he knows where to hide and protect himself until he can reach forth and victoriously capture his prey, taking complete supremacy or superiority over it. In triumph, the young lion devours his prey, always winning in the contest and struggle over its prey.

I recall a time in Kruger National Park, South Africa, when I once saw a lurking lion spring from behind a zebra, onto its back, and walk forward until it could sink its teeth into the zebra's jugular vein. It was a fierce, awesome sight to see the poor attacked creature running so swiftly as it tried to flee from the menace on its back. Ultimately, it staggered and fell down in death under the supreme, victorious power of the lion.

Likewise, if we faithfully hold on to Jesus Christ, the Lion out of the tribe of Judah, He will devour our unChrist-like flesh through His Victorious, Lurking, Atoning Blood!

If we are hidden under Christ's Lurking, Atoning Blood, we are safe from God's Wrath until the appointed time for Christ to devour our sinful offenses that make God angry. After Christ, by His Lurking, Victorious Atoning Blood, has devoured some area of our flesh, we will be victorious over the enemy when he tries to overcome us and take us captive again.

Christ's Victorious, Atoning Blood is like a lurking lion. It always waits and stays ready to prey on our flesh, taking victory over it regardless of how hard we may run in trying to avoid the supremacy of His Victorious Blood. He knows how to lurk and wait for the proper time and season to spring forth upon our unChrist-like attitudes. Hence, we always are able, ultimately, to take victory over them.

Noah was safe and secure in God's appointed ark that was pitched within and without. The lurking, victorious pitch always pushed back God's Judgmental Waters that were without. Thus, the ark and its pitch are a picture of Christ's Victorious Atoning Blood, which He shed for our safe covering.

The next picture of Christ's Atoning Blood is seen in God's *Hoarfrost* that covers the creation round about, transforming the creation's appearance with its white, humility cloak.

He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the *hoarfrost* [*kef-ore*, meaning white frost (as covering the ground), from *kaw-far*] like ashes (Psalm 147:16).

When God scatters His snow and hoarfrost, covering the ground and the trees with a beautiful blanket of white, the creation is transformed into majestic glory and beauty that is not its own.

Snow and Frost belong to God's Treasures (Job 38:22,23); therefore, He brings them forth according to His Purposive Will. Part of God's Transforming Power is His Snow and Frost. He gives snow like wool for its softness and whiteness. It falls silently, making no more sound than a falling strand of wool. It covers the earth, transforming its appearance, keeping it warm like a fleece of wool and making it fruitful by leaving its nitrogen in the soil.

God also *scatters* His hoarfrost, which is congealed dew. Frost transforms the appearance of the earth, making it look as though God had scattered His Holy, White Ashes over it. What a fitting picture of Christ's Transforming, Atoning Blood that is like Holy, White Ashes of His Supreme Eternal Sacrifice on the Cross.

How wonderful when Christ takes a penitent, believing sinner, who is lost, naked, and undone and covers him with the Hoarfrost, as it were, of His Transforming White Robe of Righteousness!

What a majestic picture of the saints' being clothed with the spiritual Hoarfrost of the LORD's Transforming Power, His White Robe of Righteousness!

Noah also was clothed, as it were, with the ark and pitch in the Day of Judgment.

The seventh picture of Christ's Atoning Blood is the Beautifying Atonement that is seen in the word *camphire*.

My beloved is unto me as a cluster of *camphire* [*ko-fer, meaning a cover, from kaw-far*] in the vineyards of En-gedi (Song of Solomon 1:14).

Oriental women used camphire as a covering to beautify their skin, which coloured the skin a reddish brown. In Jesus, we are covered with His Beautifying, Atoning Blood that changes the colour of our soul from its sinful darkness into the reddish glow of His Resurrected, Cleansing Blood.

When God looked at Noah inside the ark that was pitched within and without, Noah was beautiful to His Eyes because Noah's soul was clothed with the sacrificial blood of his day, which was a type of Christ's Blood. God's Nostrils also could smell the sweet fragrance of Noah's obedience to His Master Plan and Purposive Will.

Noah's beautiful, atoning ark was a perfect picture of God's Son. The penitent soul that is clothed with Christ's Beautifying, Atoning Blood gives the highest degree of pleasure to the Mind and Will of God the Father. As the penitent soul continues on, he is not only clothed with his White Robe of Righteousness (which he receives by Gift); but, as he grows upward in Christ's Spiritual Stature, he becomes clothed in Christ's Beautifying, Atoning Blood in the form of White Raiment and White Linen. Hence, that soul becomes an object of Eternal Delight to the Father and the Son in the New City.

We are accepted in God's Beloved Son because of the Beauty of His Atoning Blood, His Holiness, His Righteousness, and the Fragrance of His Sacrificial Obedience unto Death.

Seven is the number of perfection, and the perfection shown here, in the sevenfold picture of Atonement, is that of the LORD Jesus Christ as a Perfect Covering for our sin. Jesus Christ is the (1) Safe, (2) Satisfying, (3) Protective, (4) Covering, (5) Victorious, (6) Transforming, and (7) Beautifying Atonement!

## Chapter Seven

# God “Shuts In” And “Shuts Up” To Keep Us Safe, To Judge Us, Or To Teach Us

And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and *the LORD shut him in* (Genesis 7:16).

God’s Word gives us interesting insight into what the LORD *shuts*. The meaning of the Hebrew word for *shut* also sheds light on what God’s act of *shutting* is all about. The Hebrew word for shut is the primary root word *saw-gar*, meaning to shut up, to surrender, close up, deliver, give up and over, inclose, pure, repair, shut in, shut out, shut up together, to stop.

In the Spring of Truth found in the story of Noah, we see what is actually the second example in God’s Word of His using Shutting Power. The first example was when God closed or shut up Adam’s flesh after taking out one of his Fiery Ribs to make woman. But, the story of Noah is our Spring of Truth in the *seventh chapter* of Genesis, which is the Truth of God’s Principle of “Shutting In” and “Shutting Out.”

When God shut the one and only door to Noah’s ark, He surrendered its inhabitants and delivered them up to His flood waters so that they might gain the empirical knowledge of complete confidence in Him as He guided and kept them through a situation they never before had experienced. Inside the ark, the earthly inhabitants learned about God’s Salvation from His Judgmental Waters. They learned about His Master Plan for preserving the life of His obedient creation for the future and about His Cleansing Power to rid the earth of its wicked, sinful inhabitants.

While the ark, with atoning pitch within and without, floated in the midst of God’s judgmental, cleansing, and purifying flood waters upon the earth, God repaired and restored the corrupt earth to a clean, pure earth. Thus, He made the old earth into a new, clean, and purified earth, a fit place for the small remnant of saved creation from the ark to live on when they came forth from the ark.

There is both a comforting reverential fear and a Holy Warning when we consider what the LORD did in the salvation and the judgment of man as He executed His Master Plan and Purposive Will by keeping the righteous safe and by punishing the wicked with Death.

Our heart is touched with great seriousness and reverence as we realize that the great flood and the salvation of the righteous remnant was not the work of man but the Divine Work of Almighty God when God *shut* the door of the ark and flooded the earth with His judgmental waters. Thus, we see that God’s act of shutting brings both Life and Death.

God shut in Noah and all the obedient creation, protecting them in the ark that Noah obediently had built. Although Noah had been obedient to build the ark, and although he had fulfilled all God had commanded him to do, he could not bring the selected creation into the ark and shut the one door!

God, in His Divine Intention of preserving life for the future, brought in Noah, Noah’s family, and the selected creation; then, He shut the door to protect them against all His Judgment that was falling outside the ark.

Noah willingly worked to build the ark according to God’s Master Plan, and he willingly walked into the ark according to God’s Purposive Will. Then, the LORD shut in Noah, his family, and the animals that were inside the ark to protect them from the turbulent Waters of Judgment, Death, and Destruction that swirled around on the outside.

The preposition *in* denotes *rest*. Noah laboured faithfully, as God had commanded him to do until the day God said, in so many words, “Go into the ark, now, and take your rest.” After Noah and his family, eight in number, had entered into the ark, the LORD shut the door.

The LORD declares that no man shutteth (*saw-gar*), and no man openeth (Revelation 3:7). It did not matter how desperately drowning people may have tried to open the door of the ark that God had shut; they could not open it. God had shut the door!

Noah had to believe and to choose freely to go into the ark for the salvation of his natural life. Likewise, we, by an act of our own free will, must choose to enter into God’s Spiritual Ark of Safety, the Christ, for the Eternal Salvation of our Life. The day of assurance comes to our heart when we realize that we have been “shut in” in Christ, and the door has been sealed with the Seal of the Holy Ghost (Ephesians 1:13).

While the sun was shining and long before the rain had begun to fall, the LORD had instructed Noah to put a window in the top of the ark so that, later, when he was shut in the ark, he would be able to look heavenward and remember God's Master Plan and Purposive Will for him. Since the window was in the top of the ark, he did not look on God's Destructive Will for the wicked, obstinate sinners on the outside. Hence, his faith and fellowship with God was increased.

The LORD also uses circumstances to shut us *in* so that we cannot move about freely, according to our own will. This is the time to remember that Noah also had a supernatural spiritual "Window of Light" in the ark that was like the "noonday." This Light was above them in the ark to illuminate the whole ark while the sky was clothed in darkness and the destructive waters of death were on the outside.

We need to remember that God shut (*saw-gar*) Noah in for his own salvation and preservation. Likewise, we, too, need to look heavenward and remember and become better acquainted with the LORD's Power and Love that shuts us in for the following purposes: to illuminate and enlighten us; to save us; and to preserve us.

If you feel that God has shut you *in* by some circumstance or situation, you need to look up! You will find the Illuminating Rays of the Glory of God's Son piercing the dark, stormy clouds and the blinding rain that is falling outside. The blinding rain may not disappear and stop falling on the outside, but it is possible for you to experience spiritual Light and *rest* in Christ Jesus in the midst of it.

Many examples in God's Word demonstrate God's Almighty Shutting (*Saw-gar*) Power. Actually, as we have noted, the very first example of God's *Shutting* Power is found in the second chapter of Genesis when God made woman.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed [*saw-gar*] up the flesh instead thereof: And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man (Genesis 2:21,22).

God put Adam to sleep and took a *Rib* out of the Spiritual Man or the "Fire Man" or "Eesh" that was in Adam; then, He closed (*saw-gar*) or shut up Adam's flesh and made a woman out of his Rib of Fire.

God had made Adam from the ground; then, He had breathed his spirit and soul into his body. But, with the woman, God started with Fire; then, He put flesh and bones around the Fiery Rib He had taken from Adam while he slept. Thus, no other creature on Earth was like Adam's wife.

God had reserved within Adam-male the Substance He needed to make a wife or a helpmeet for him, so when God had removed Adam's Fiery Rib, He closed up or shut up Adam's flesh so that He could continue to protect the Inner Fire of Adam's "Eesh Man." Since woman came from Inner Fire and, then, received her outer clothing of flesh and bones, she was a stronger spiritual creation than Adam who was formed with outer substance from the ground, first. Then, God breathed into him the Breath of Life; thus, Adam became a living soul.

When God made Adam, He put great Wisdom within him so that when the creation was presented to him, he gave each animal a name, denoting his nature. This prophetic Wisdom also was evident when God presented Adam with his wife. Although Adam was asleep for an indeterminate time while God made him a wife, when Adam awoke, he recognized her as being bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh, and he called or named her woman.

God intended that woman, with her Fiery, Inner Substance, be the hearth of the home or a source of warmth and comfort to her husband and children. Woman was to surround her husband with the comfort he needed and to be the nurturer within the family. Her Inner, Fiery, Spiritual Strength was to be used to give support and loving care to her children and husband. She was made to be a *helpmeet*.

Adam's flesh was closed or shut up once the requisite amount of Fire was taken from his side to make woman; thus, his remaining Fire was *protected*, which is one of God's Purposes in using His Shutting Power.

Adam's giving of his Fiery Rib for God to make him a wife is a beautiful picture of the Fiery Substance God reserved in Jesus Christ to make His Bride.

For us to become the Bride of Jesus Christ, God gives us Fire by Gift in the Courtyard of His Son's Stature, when He gives us the Holy Ghost and Fire. Then, as we grow spiritually, He encases us in the Wood of Jesus' Human Humility Nature and the Gold of Christ's Divine Exalted Nature; thus, He builds His Stature around the Inner Fire we have received by Gift in the Courtyard. To keep this Inner Fire burning, Jesus' Bride must shut herself in the Holy Place in prayer and in the Holy of Holies under His Headship. Her inner experience of Fire, then, will be protected.

We see this Principle working again when Jesus returned to His Father, and They sent the Holy Ghost and Fire to the faithful 120 souls who waited, shut up in the Upper Room. With the sound of a mighty, rushing Wind, the Holy Ghost came as Tongues of Fire and sat upon each of them. These believers were protected by being *shut in* the

Upper Room, and Fire came to comfort them and fill them with fiery zeal to do God's Will. Once they were filled with Fire, they started receiving the message of spiritual growth and were given the Substance whereby they could have the Stature of Jesus built around their Fire and, thus, be His Bride.

The third example of God's Shutting Power is found in Deuteronomy 32:28-30, when God shut up the Nation of Israel.

For they [the Israelites] are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them. O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end! How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up? (Deuteronomy 32:28-30).

The LORD shut Noah in the "atoning pitch" of the ark for a time of spiritual Light and rest, but He shut (*saw-gar*) Israel up because of her disobedience to His Word. The idea inferred by the preposition *up* is that one is covered from above or closed over.

When the LORD's children, the Israelites, were disobedient to the Light of God's *Torah-Truth*, He took their own disobedience and closed them up or covered them over with it. Thus, they were taken captive by their own darkness and disobedience. As a result, when their enemies came against them, one of the enemies was able to put a thousand of the children of the Israelites to flight, and two of the enemies were able to put ten thousand Israelites to flight. How powerless and helpless God's people become when confronted by their enemies when they have lost the LORD's Spiritual Light, Trustful Rest, and Almighty Help.

God's children, today, who are disobedient to His Word still have similar experiences in which God allows the enemies of their flesh, the world, and fallen Lucifer to put them to flight, causing them to flee from their Eternal Treasures and Possessions. This is why Christians sometimes find that, at the end of the day, their spirits seem to be covered with brass. When Heaven seems to be brass, they find it is difficult to lay hold of the sweet Spirit of Prayer and the Illuminating Light of Truth in God's Word, and their souls cannot find trustful rest in God.

What has happened? During the day, they may have been disobedient to the LORD in some way. They may not have sought Him the first thing in the morning, or they may have failed to forgive those who had left thorny wounds in their spirits during the day before. They may have selfishly refused to reach out a helping hand to someone in need when they had the opportunity. They also may have been cross and irritable because they felt their will *shut up* by God in some way; yet, they excused themselves as being *nervous*, when they actually were angry, subconsciously and unconsciously. Because they did not seek God for the reason for their bad feelings, they became angry with God because He had contraried their will.

Christians often find that the LORD has shut them up in their own disobedience. Only true contrition and repentance will move the Arm of God to take away the veil or covering that He has allowed to shut up His children.

The fourth example in God's Word of His Shutting Power was the time He shut up Hannah's womb until Samuel the Prophet should be born. At the appointed time, Hannah bore her firstborn son, whom she later gave to the LORD, as she had promised before he was conceived.

But unto Hannah he [Elkanah] gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb. And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb (1 Samuel 1:5,6).

Hannah's adversary had made her to fret, to be sad and unhappy because God had shut up (*saw-gar*) her womb. But, through God's *shutting up* of her womb, Hannah had learned to become broken and to pray in deeper intercession before God. Thus, she grew in her spiritual experiences and surrender to the LORD so that when God fulfilled her desire for a child, Hannah was able to fulfill her promise to give him, completely, to the LORD.

We, too, must learn, as Hannah learned, to humble ourself to whatever God has shut up for us.

When the LORD shut up Hannah's womb so that she could not bear any children, it appeared to be an outward shame and disgrace since, in those days, bearing children was a sign of blessing and fruitfulness from the LORD. Nevertheless, God had to shut up Hannah's womb in order to teach her humility and deeper levels of prayer. He taught her how to overcome her adversary, also. And, by her experience of being shut up, Hannah was taught that fruitfulness is from the LORD and that all Life belongs to Him. She learned that Samuel the Prophet was to be her firstborn and that he was to be given to the LORD all the days of his life.

Likewise, God sometimes still has to shut up, to us, the fruitfulness of His Life in Christ Jesus because we have not learned to give it back to Him. Instead, we use it for our own exaltation and pleasure.

Often the Life and Revelation of the Word are shut up from God's children because their desire to gain knowledge and revelation is not so that they might pour it out at the Feet of Jesus in humility gratitude, praiseful

appreciation, and prayer for the benefit of His children. Rather, their selfish motive is to let everyone know how much they have been blessed by the LORD.

As long as Hannah's desire and purpose for wanting a son was to compete with her husband's other wife, she received nothing from the LORD. However, after she had learned humility before the LORD and had given up all desire to compete with another so that she could exalt herself and, when she had reached the place that she only desired a son so that she could give him to God all the days of his life, the LORD heard and answered her prayer. He opened her womb, and she conceived and bore Samuel.

Sometimes, God has to shut up our ministry because we get the idea that it is *our* ministry, to be used to lift up ourself. We forget that *all* Life and the fruitfulness of our personal spiritual growth and every tiny form of our privilege to minister always come from the LORD. *All* Life and the fruitfulness of our personal growth and our ministry always are to be poured out at the LORD's Feet in humble, grateful, appreciative prayer for the edification of His children and for the saving of lost souls.

The fifth example of God's Shutting Power is found in the story of David and Goliath.

This day will the LORD deliver [saw-gar] thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel (I Samuel 17:46).

When Goliath, in all his grandiose, man-made armour, approached David to do battle with him in the name of his idolatrous gods, David came to Goliath with his sling and five stones (representing the Name of JESUS). Using the Name of the LORD, and speaking a prophecy that the LORD would deliver (*saw-gar*) or shut up Goliath in his hand that day, David killed Goliath, Israel's defiant enemy, because God delivered or shut the giant up in David's hand.

The LORD sometimes has to shut up believers' hearts because pride has made them narrow and small. But, to the meek and humble, God will remove the veil or covering that may have caused Him to shut up their hearts, and He will enlarge humble hearts with Wisdom and Understanding.

Let us purpose to be shut *in* with the LORD in a place of Light, rest, and fellowship after we have obeyed His Word, as obedient Noah was when he was shut in a place of safety within the ark. Let us purpose to be shut *in*, in the secret place of prayer and the Word so that we might know the Light, rest, and fellowship with the LORD that then will come to our spirit, soul, and body. May God deliver us from the flesh and the carnal mind that would force God to shut us *up* in any way, as He had to shut up disobedient Israel.

May we learn from Hannah's experience of having her womb shut up that our blessings from the LORD are to be poured out at His Feet for the benefit of others and not for self-exaltation.

And, may we lay hold of the humility and trust that caused God to shut up Israel's enemy in David's hand so that we can march forth to victory in the Name of the LORD.

## Chapter Eight

# We Can Be A Sweet Smelling Savour Unto God When We Consecrate Our Life To Him

*And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth: neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done (Genesis 8:20,21).*

In the old world, before the flood, God had established the necessity for blood sacrifices. When Adam-male and Adam-female sinned in the Garden of Eden and lost their glorious covering of Light, God, in His great Mercy, slew some little animals in order to provide skins of covering for Adam-male and Adam-female. Thus, He revealed the Principle of an Atonement Covering through a blood sacrifice.

The first event that took place in the newly cleansed earth, after the earth's purging by God's flood waters, was Noah's offering of the whole burnt offering sacrifice. Offering sacrifices had been God's Purpose in commanding Noah to take *seven* of the *clean* animals into the ark, versus taking only *two* of each *unclean* animal. God made advance provision so that Noah would have clean animals to sacrifice and still have two left for reproductive purposes.

Noah's first ministry upon the newly cleansed earth was to offer whole burnt offerings to the LORD for consecrating the Earth, the present inhabitants of the earth, and the future inhabitants of the earth so that they might attain unto the Moral High Calling that He had ordained for them.

The sacrifice of Noah's whole burnt offerings was a sweet smelling savour unto the LORD. The Hebrew word for *sweet* means an odour of rest unto the LORD. This offering was wholly unto the LORD; therefore, it was wholly consumed upon the altar by Him.

This offering was a picture of the LORD Jesus Christ's wholly presenting Himself unto the Father as a Sacrifice for the whole sinful creation until every creature has bowed his knees unto God's Moral High Calling for him, by confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord or Creator, Master, Owner, and Redeemer of all creation to the Glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10,11). God's Moral High Calling is that all creation be ruled over by His only Begotten Son, the Lord and Master over ALL.

The Book of Exodus gives the instructions for the whole burnt offering that Noah offered after having left the ark.

*Thou shalt also take one ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram. And thou shalt slay the ram, and thou shalt take his blood, and sprinkle it around about upon the altar. And thou shalt cut the ram in pieces, and wash the inwards of him, and his legs, and put them unto his pieces, and unto his head. And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a burnt offering unto the LORD: it is a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD (Exodus 29:15-18).*

The Priest and his sons placed their hands upon the head of the ram that was to be sacrificed as a whole burnt offering. This action signified that all their sins, spots, and blemishes of prideful rebellion in their hearts and wills were transferred to the ram of the whole burnt offering, which was a picture of Christ Jesus.

The ram was slain, and his blood and life were offered up in behalf of the sins that were placed upon him, and the blood was sprinkled around the bottom of the Altar.

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## Brazen Altar with Blood Upon the Four Horns



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The blood upon the four horns that extended upward toward Heaven teaches us that there is Power in Christ's Blood, of which the Old Testament whole burnt offering blood is a type.

Christ's Blood has Power to lift up the four letters of the Tetragrammaton Name of the LORD (*Yod — Hay — Vaw — Hay*) by our complete consecration in Christ Jesus. The horns on the Brazen Altar, with their blood, pointed upward and were powerful enough under the shadow and type to protect a person who laid hold of these horns, although he accidentally had killed someone.

How much more Powerful is the Resurrected Blood of Christ under the New Covenant! As we lift up Christ's Blood by allowing Him to clothe and consecrate the "horns" of our spirit, soul, body, and will, with His precious Whole Burnt Offering Blood, we will become a living sacrifice for Him. Thus, we will lift up His Father's Name in our thoughts, feelings, and deeds.

The circle of consecrated whole burnt offering blood *upon* the Brazen Altar teaches us that Christ's Holy, Resurrected Blood also is able to give us Power to live each moment of our life as a sweet smelling savour in the Father's Nostrils.

The whole burnt offering in the Mosaic Tabernacle pictures the Living Consecration Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself completely unto His Father, even unto Death, in order to redeem all creation and to help all creation attain God's Moral High Calling. Therefore, Christ's Blood is a "must" for our cleansing and complete consecration to Him and to His Heavenly Father.

Jesus resurrected His precious shed Blood after He had risen from the dead and sprinkled it upon the Great Altar in Heaven for our cleansing and consecration.

The whole burnt offering ram of consecration in the Mosaic Tabernacle was cut in pieces. This, again, is a picture of Jesus Christ, Whose Back was cut in pieces when He received forty lashes of the whip that had nine leather tails, with metal pieces in each of the tails. This meant that, with the forty stripes, He actually received 360 stripes which cut great pieces of Flesh out of His Back. This was the price Jesus Christ paid as a Whole Burnt Offering to purchase our healing. The Prophet Isaiah tells us that "With his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

Jesus Christ was cut still deeper when nails pierced His lovely Hands and Feet. He was cut in His Mind when the crown of thorns pierced His sacred Brow. He was cut to the Heart when the spear of the Roman soldier pierced His Holy Side. He also was cut when they pulled out the Hair of His Beard.

After the Old Testament Priest had laid his hands upon the sacrifice, transferring the guilt and the blame of the people onto the animal, and after the animal had been slain, the parts of its body were separated one from the other, even to the separation of its intestines.

While the whole burnt offering was not listed among the non-savour or sin offerings, it had to pay the price in order to consecrate man to God, even after man had been delivered from the penalty of Death and Hell by the blood offering for sin. The Lord Jesus Christ graciously paid the price for man's penalty for sin, which is Death and Hell;

and He also shed His Blood to consecrate penitent man to God.

When our precious Jesus hung upon the Cross, He was cut or divided asunder — Spirit, Soul, and Body. His Spirit was commended into the Hands of the Father; His Soul went to Hell; and His Body was laid in the Grave. Truly, He was cut in pieces!

The whole burnt offering was washed, inwardly, in its death, as a picture of Jesus, Who was washed inwardly with the Waters of Death. Through Jesus' Suffering and Obedient Death, He proved that there was no spot, wrinkle, nor blemish in the interior of His Soul, but that He was Holy, Separate, and undefiled, inwardly, as He gave His Soul as a perfect Whole Burnt Offering unto His Father. The LORD Jesus Christ carried to the Cross all our faults, failures, weaknesses, indifferences, coldness, hardness, and all the things that keep us from being a sweet smelling savour in the Nostrils of God. Then, He carried them on to the Waters of His Obedient Death to wash them and, then, to the Grave to bury them. He is our inward Whole Burnt Offering. He has obtained His Whole Burnt Offering Blood and the Waters of His Obedient Death in order to wash and cleanse us of all the spots, wrinkles, and blemishes in our inner thoughts and attitudes so that we, too, may be a whole burnt offering unto the LORD in every part of our being and in every phase of our existence.

We can come daily, by faith, to the Laver of His Name, Death, and Life and continue to let Him wash our hands from wrath and doubting and our feet from the dust of rejection, clothing our hands and feet in His Wonderful Name so that they are neither naked nor empty before the Heavenly Father. Thus, because of Jesus Christ, we may be a sweet savour of consecration to the LORD God, the Heavenly Father.

Before the whole burnt offering was consumed by God's Holy Fire, all its parts and pieces were arranged, properly, to its *head*, signifying that they all were under submission and subjection to the power, authority, and mind of their head.

This was a picture of the Humanity of the Son of Man and all His Parts being under subjection to the Son of God, the Christ, the Divine Head of Authority over Him. Consequently, in Jesus' Death, His Soul remained in Hell; His Body stayed in the Grave; and His Spirit rested with the Father until God, in His appointed time, brought them together in orderly arrangement by His Unbegotten, Resurrection Glory and Power. Jesus was dependent upon the Purposive Will of His Father for this arrangement or uniting of His Resurrected Spirit, Soul, and Body.

The whole burnt offering was kindled by Fire that came from God. Because this was supernaturally kindled Fire, the Priests were not allowed to use any other fire because it was a demonstration of the Father's Unbegotten-Glory Fire that would change Jesus' Human Body into a new Spiritual Body and Form, just as God's Glory-Fire changed the whole burnt offering into a new spiritual form as a sweet smelling smoke that ascended into the Nostrils of God.

Two of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, were slain before the LORD when they presumptuously tried to offer strange fire — fire that the LORD had not kindled from His Unbegotten Glory.

On the day of Jesus' Resurrection, God's Unbegotten-Glory Fire burned in Him, showing that His Sacrifice had been accepted by His Heavenly Father as a sweet smelling savour. It was the Father's Unbegotten-Glory Fire and Resurrection Power that fell on Jesus' Body in the Grave, transforming it into a Spiritual Body and a sweet smelling savour in God's Nostrils.

As we identify ourselves with Christ Jesus, the Crucified One, and as we present ourselves a living sacrifice to walk in His Footsteps, God will begin to slay the inner self-life in us by Jesus Christ's Blood, His Name, and the Obedient Waters of His Death. The Spirit and the Sword of God's Word will cut us in pieces and take us apart, inwardly, so that we may see our unChrist-like, prideful ingratitude and rebellion against Christ's Holy Nature; then, we can repent and be cleansed and made whole spiritually. After this, He will put us together again in His Image and after His Likeness.

God's Spirit and Word also wash us, inwardly, in deeper depths of our human will as we give His Spirit and Word free movement in our conscious, subconscious, and unconscious will. As we daily walk humbly before the LORD, we find many spots and blemishes being washed out as we present ourselves as a whole burnt offering to Him. Christ wants to arrange us, properly, unto His All-Sovereign Headship and Purposive Will, not after our own headship and will.

When we have allowed Jesus Christ to empty us of our carnal self, the Fire of the Father's Unbegotten Glory will fall upon our sacrifice. Then, the sweet smelling Savour of Jesus Christ will ascend unto the Nostrils of God the Father. Only when we have presented ourselves for His Obedient Death and for His Crucified Way can we experience that sweet Odour of Christ's Rest. As long as the unpleasant odour of our own evil, disquieted, serpentine will is coming forth, our sacrifice will be repulsive in the Nostrils of God the Father.

How precious was the whole burnt offerings of Noah that consecrated the newly cleansed earth and the small remnant of creatures, again, to God's Moral High Calling for them, which was to be and to do all that He had

purposed for them. After Noah had been shut in, in the place of safety, rest, and fellowship with God, the first thing he did upon coming forth from the ark was to make sacrifices of whole burnt offerings, as an act of giving himself up completely *to be* all and *to do* all that God purposed for him in moving onward and upward in his Moral High Calling from God.

Many times, before we are tested, we think we have presented ourself completely unto the LORD. But, when God sends us new testings through new fires of persecution and trials to prove us, we discover that we need a new portion of Jesus as our Whole Burnt Offering. Instead of the sweet odour of trustful rest and surrender to Christ's Sovereign Headship coming forth out of our heart and will, we smell unpleasant bitterness, murmuring, and complaining coming forth from our inner being. We are a witness unto our own self of our need for a new portion of Jesus Christ as our Whole Burnt Offering so that we willingly can present ourself as a Christ-like sacrifice in the midst of our testings and trials.

We should desire to be like Jesus Christ in every testing so that we can receive fresh Fire from the Father's Glory in the midst of every trial. May He find, in us, the sweet Odour of His Son's restful and surrendered Spirit before Him. And, as the three Hebrew children, may He find us conscious, not of the fire, but of the Glorious, Fiery Presence of the Son of God walking with us in the midst of the fire.

## Chapter Nine

# God's Rainbow Of Promise Assures Us That *All* His Promises Are True

*And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth (Genesis 9:16).*

The rainbow was the emblem of the Covenant or Promise that God made with Noah.

God put a reverse bow in the sky, as it were, with the string of the bow toward Earth, so that the arrows of the bow would shoot *away* from Earth. No more would God use His Bow of Judgment to shoot His Destructive Arrows toward Earth to destroy mankind with a deluge of water. Thus, the “reverse bow” in the sky was a witness and a sign that no more would God’s Judgmental Arrows, in the form of a flood, be sent upon Earth. Therefore, through God’s Preserving Grace in His Promise and Covenant to mankind, man can rest in peace.

Since, throughout God’s Word, the bow has become the emblem of the Promise of God’s Preserving Word and Peace, a study about the rainbow will enable us to behold it with greater understanding.

The rainbow that God has put in the natural realm illustrates many Truths that exist in the spiritual realm. The following three things are necessary in the natural realm in order to have a rainbow: clouds, rain, and sunshine.

God creates cloud formations to store up water to be poured out later upon the earth. In due season, the clouds are brought together, and they bring forth the rain that is stored within them, according to God’s Purposive Will. God’s Wisdom knows when the natural earth needs refreshing rains; He also knows when our personal spiritual earth needs the refreshment of spiritual showers. The thicker and darker the clouds, the brighter and more brilliant the bow appears in the clouds.

Rain always precedes the appearance of a rainbow because the wetter the clouds, the brighter the rainbow. Thus, as dark clouds of threatening afflictions abound in our natural life, the greater Christ’s Bow of Encouraging Consolations abound in our spiritual life (II Corinthians 1:5). We sometimes complain about rain in both the natural and spiritual realms because we fail to realize that rain will be followed by a rainbow. Rain is a necessary part of God’s Covenant with us!

As the rays of the sun shine through the falling rain from the clouds, the reverse bow appears in the sky. The reflection of the sun upon the falling rain creates a beautiful reverse bow that is majestically beautiful, reminding us of God’s beautiful Reverse Covenant of Mercy and Grace that He made with Noah.

God promised never again to destroy the Earth with a flood. Consequently, He set the reverse bow in the sky as a visible witness of His Covenant with man. Each time we see a rainbow, we are reminded of God’s Faithfulness to keep His Promise as He sends His Arrows of Mercy and Grace, shooting them toward Heaven, instead of shooting His Judgmental Arrows of Flood Waters toward the earth, which would cover all the earth with His Destruction.

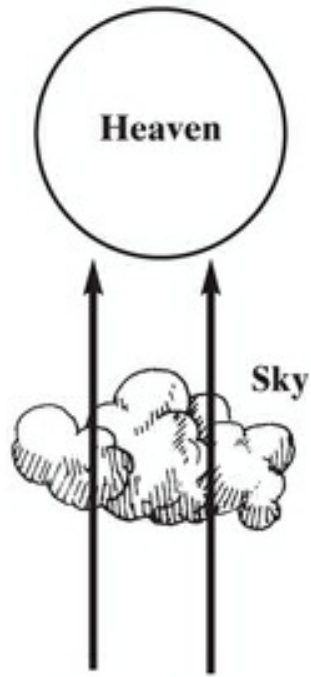
The Covenant God made with Noah should encourage us to know that He also will faithfully keep every Promise He has made to us in His Word through Christ Jesus.

In this natural effect of the clouds, rain, and sunshine, God has drawn a beautiful picture of spiritual revelation. The rainbow is one of the refreshing Spiritual Springs in God’s Word.

The reflecting beams of the natural reverse rainbow are a picture of Jesus Christ, in one way. Yet, in another way, Jesus Christ, as our Spiritual Rainbow, is diametrically different.

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**Noah's Reverse Bow**



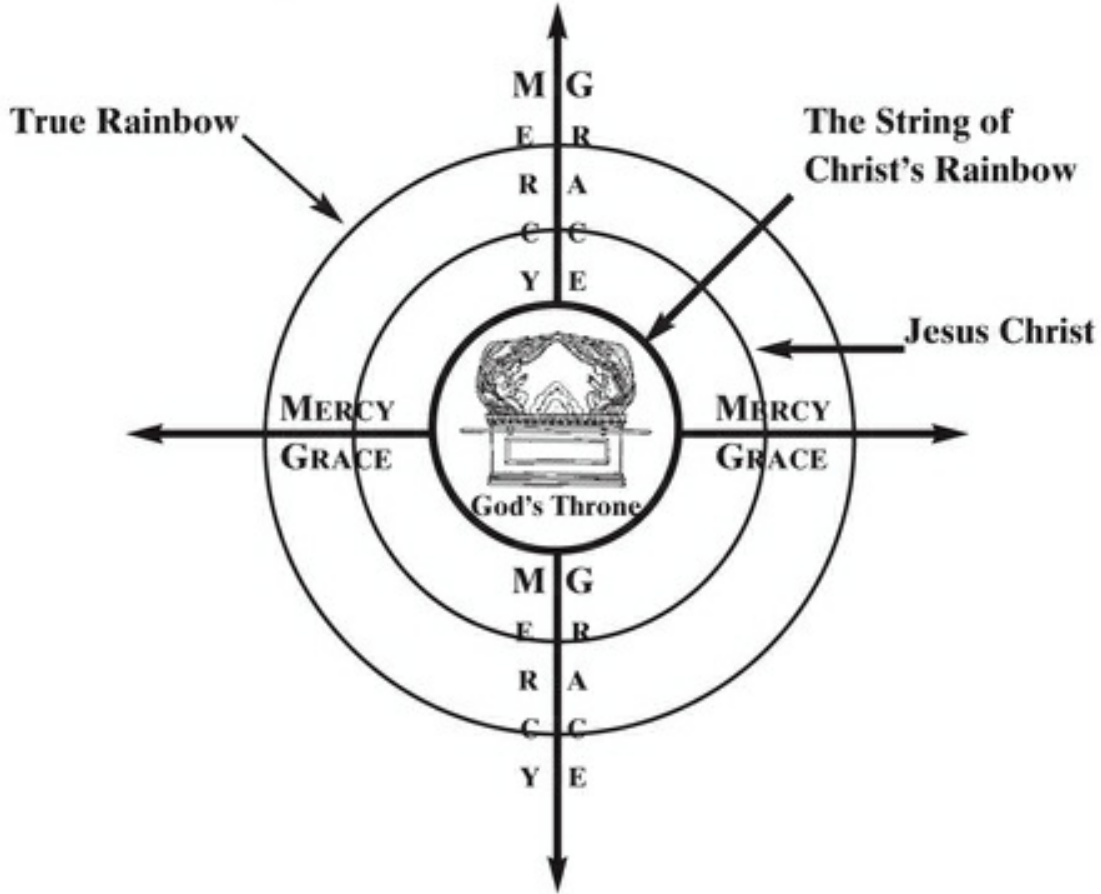
**Reverse Bow**



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**Jesus Christ, The Encircling Rainbow  
Around God's Throne in Heaven**

And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald* (Revelation 4:3).




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The Mercy and Grace of Christ's True Rainbow and Light shoots out His Arrows of Mercy and Grace to all His Creation in all His Universes.

In the natural realm, more clouds of rain and snow appear in the winter season than in the summer. Hence, before we can catch a new glimpse and a new taste of the Beauty and the Resurrection Life of Christ in a new spiritual spring season, God has to allow the dark, thick clouds of threatening affliction of testings and trials appear in our spiritual sky in our winter season. But, in every cloud of testing and trial, He has the rain of Holy Ghost Power to shower His revealing Waters of Truth down upon us so that our Spiritual Garden can be watered, making it more fruitful.

Before Christ's Encircling Rainbow from His Father's Throne can appear with fresh, new Mercy and Grace, there must be new Rays of Righteousness shining upon us from Christ, as the Sun in our spiritual sky. To have a new vision of the Encircling Rainbow of the LORD's Promises, we must get in contact with the Living Sun of

Righteousness and allow the Rays of His Countenance to shine upon our spirit, soul, and will, through the storms and rains of this present life so that we may receive fresh cleansing and purging. Then, our spiritual vision will comprehend the multi-coloured Encircling Rainbow of His Promises.

The natural creation is a type of God's spiritual creation. The natural "reverse bow" is one pure, complete, white ray of Light, broken up into six degrees or six beautiful colours, ranging from red to violet.

**White Light:** White Light is the colour of God's Humility *Shekinah* Glory, from which six other colours spring forth. God's Revelation about His White Light is as follows:

- God is Light (I John 1:5);
- God is the Father of Lights (James 1:17);
- God covers Himself with Light, as with a garment (Psalm 104:2);
- God dwells in a Light which no man can approach unto (I Timothy 6:16);
- God put His Nature of White Light in His only Begotten Son (John 1:4; Matthew 4:16; John 1:9; John 8:12; John 12:35,36);
- God's White Light is a manifestation of His Divine Holiness and Purity (Proverbs 6:23; Isaiah 5:20; Romans 13:12);
- God's Humility White Light works illumination in the soul by His Holy Spirit (II Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 5:14; I Peter 2:9).

God's Humility, *Shekinah*-Glory Light is the great Source of all the other six colours.

Spiritually speaking, seven is the number of completion, and in the spiritual Rainbow of God's Promises is found the fullness of all we need.

**Red:** Red is the longest visible light wave in the spectrum of light. We cannot look on the colour red without being reminded of the crimson colour of the Blood of the Son of God. If, out of every cloud of testing and trial, we will let Jesus pour forth the spiritual Rain of the Holy Ghost and the spiritual Water of His Word, we will receive a touch of the Rays of Sunshine from His Countenance; therefore, we will see a new, fresh red colour of Christ's Blood in our spiritual Rainbow. We will find that out of every trial we will come increased vision, assuring us that we truly overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony (Revelation 12:11).

**Orange:** This colour speaks of sanctification, and the impressing and imprinting of God's Glorious Headship. If we look to Jesus in every trial, He will sanctify our nature and continually show us the way to further sanctification. We need more sanctification from our doubts, fears, and the many little unChrist-like attitudes, dispositions, and the ingratitude that come up in our heart from day to day.

The orange *Kabode* Glory of God's Headship makes an Eternal Imprint and Impression in our heart of the Truth that all the storms in our life are sent by the LORD's Sovereign, Divine Hand. Our Heavenly Father shows us, through every storm in life, that we have need of more of the orange colour of His Glorious Headship in our spiritual rainbow.

**Yellow:** The colour yellow speaks of the Fire and Light of the Word and Spirit. God sends storms into our life to show us a greater vision and revelation of His Yellow Light and Fire in His Word and Spirit. We need far more Light and Fire in our spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ and in our walk with Him and in our ministry for Him.

When the storms of life come, the wisest thing we can do is to humble ourself before the LORD and learn how to meet whatever new spiritual condition He is requiring of us so that our spiritual vision may be increased in new Yellow Fire and Light in His Spiritual Truths.

**Green:** Green speaks of life and growth. In the natural realm, after a storm has come and the rain has fallen and the sun has shone, all creation seems to vibrate with fresh, new growth and life, which is also true in the spiritual realm. Let the spiritual storms come, too, because afterward will come the green New Life, Growth, Increase, and Power of the Life of the Son of God within us.

**Blue:** Blue is the colour of the Heavens. In the Book of Ephesians, Paul wrote the following words to believers:

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And *hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:* (Ephesians 2:5,6).

The Heavenly Father also, through Christ Jesus, has raised us up and made us sit together in "Heavenly Blue" Places, far above the world with its lust of the flesh, its lust of the eye, and its pride of life. The Heavenly Blue Light

of God's Spiritual Rainbow, with its Mercy and Grace, allows us to see that we have the *best* Sovereign Master, the *best* Eternal Plan, the *best* Divine Purpose, and the *best* privilege to work.

The storms of life come in order to teach us, to reveal to us, and to lift us up into these "Heavenly Blue" Places in Christ Jesus. Therefore, our heart grows in humility gratitude for the privilege of living, serving, and suffering for Christ Jesus. We must thank God for storms that loose us from the many earthly entanglements that bind us to the beggarly things of this world. A good spiritual storm causes us to look up to the LORD Jesus Christ in the "Blue Heaven," from whence cometh our help.

**Violet:** Violet is produced by the shortest visible ray in the light spectrum. The deepest violet colour tells of the depths and heights of the Ruling, Reigning Power of Christ Jesus.

Hidden in the storms of life is the revelation of the Depths and Heights of Christ's Sovereign Ruling and Reigning Power which makes all things work together for our good and for His Glory. The spiritual Rainbow, appearing after the storm with its colour of violet, will reveal Christ Jesus; therefore, it will draw us to Him so that we might personally know Him in His Fullness in a greater way.

Remember, God is the One Who has placed the rainbow in the natural cloud and in the spiritual cloud. Clouds must come! Rain must fall! Sun must shine! Only then can we behold the bow in the sky with all its beauty and the Rainbow in our spiritual sky with its glorious, changing Light. Remember, God's Bow of Promise to Noah is a symbolic picture of what God has promised to believers in Christ Jesus.

## Chapter Ten

# The Principle Of “Crossing Over” Leads Us To Salvation And Maturity In Christ

Unto Shem also, *the father of all the children of Eber*, the brother of Japheth the elder, even to him were children born (Genesis 10:21).

This verse reveals another spiritual Spring of Truth! Eber, or Heber as the name is translated in the Greek (Luke 3:35), was one of the progenitors of the Messiah, according to the Humanity or the Royal Seed of Jesus from the house of King David.

God has recorded the history of Shem for the following two reasons: He wants us to learn to be grateful for spiritual parents and grandparents, and he wants us to assume the responsibility of carrying on His Moral Truth that has been handed down to us.

Shem, the oldest son of Noah, was preserved with his wife in the ark which his father had built according to God’s Master Plan. Shem’s conduct of great respect toward his father, on one occasion, is recited to his praise (Genesis 9:20-27).

The Hebrew people are Shem’s descendants. Eber, meaning to *cross over* or beyond, was the great-grandson of Shem and the ancestor of Abraham in the seventh generation. Shem guarded well the treasures of Moral Truth that God had taught him, through Noah, and he passed them down to his descendants.

This teaches us that Eber had great respect and gratitude for God’s Moral Truth that he had received from his great-great-grandfather Noah and his great-grandfather Shem. Eber also was faithful to assume the responsibility of passing down God’s Moral Truth to his descendants.

The word from which the name *Hebrew* is taken can be traced to the same Hebrew word *Eber*, meaning to cross over or beyond. What a fitting name for Israel since they experienced two of the most miraculous “crossings-over” in the history of mankind — at the Red Sea and at the River Jordan — which were necessary in order for them to go into Canaan’s Land.

When it was time for Israel’s deliverance from Egypt, they had to partake of the Passover lamb, and they had to apply the blood of the Passover lamb to the lintel and two side posts of the doors of their homes (Exodus 12:23). Thus, they experienced the LORD’s deliverance from the Death Angel as he passed through Egypt, killing the firstborn sons of all who did not have the “Passover” blood on their doors. When the LORD saw the blood of the Passover lamb on a door, He passed over or hovered over the door, protecting those inside against the plague of Death, ministered by the Death Angel on the outside.

Likewise, through the precious Blood of Jesus Christ, we are saved from the plague and penalty of Death and Hell when the LORD God sees Christ’s Blood on our spiritual door.

Through the Passover blood, Israel took her first step toward complete deliverance from Egypt and started toward Canaan’s Land. Israel, as a son, was on his way to Canaan’s Land, leaving behind the bondage and slavery of Egypt, which was a type of the world with its bondage, entanglements, and slavery.

First, Israel crossed over the Red Sea, after he had received the Cloud and Fire. What a bubbling Spring of Truth is contained here! The *Red Sea* means weedy sea. There were grasses, sedge, bulrushes, flags, and rushes that grew in the Red Sea. Weeds are a part of the curse of sin. When God cursed the land because of man’s sin, He told Adam that the once fruitful ground would bring forth thorns and thistles (Genesis 3:18).

Israel was down in the land of Egypt, bound by the Red Sea. This weedy sea was between them and the Promised Land and their obtaining an inheritance in the Promised Land or Canaan’s Land. Consequently, there was a great need for their deliverance and for their *crossing over* in order for them to get to the Promised Land and taste of its blessings. Thus, they would fulfill God’s Purposive Will for them. Yet, it was impossible for Israel to *cross over* the Red Sea, apart from God’s Miraculous, Divine Intervention.

Likewise, when Jonah refused to deliver God’s Message of Judgment to the city of Nineveh, he found himself in the belly of a fish, with seaweeds around his head. As a result of his rebellion, he found he greatly needed God’s Miraculous Divine Help and Deliverance.

We cannot have fellowship with the full Stature of Jesus Christ until we have been washed in the precious Blood

of Jesus, the Lamb, and have crossed over the weedy sea of sin and disobedient death, having no power to deliver ourself. Even as the children of Israel were bound in Egypt by the weedy Red Sea, needing deliverance, so do we need deliverance from the weedy sea of sin and death in our flesh, our old man. Only as we call upon the LORD, through the precious Name of the LORD Jesus Christ, can we experience the delivering Power of the mighty outstretched Arm of God that will save us from the weedy sea of sin and death in our flesh so that we can receive a new vision and new fellowship with the fullness of Christ Jesus' Spiritual Stature.

Second, Israel crossed over Jordan. The word *Jordan* means the descender. The River Jordan has its origin in four springs in the height of the mountains of Lebanon. As Jordan descends from its origin in Lebanon and travels through the Sea of Galilee to its end in the Dead Sea, its path covers almost three thousand feet. In Jordan's descent, its elevation changes from being very high to a low level of many hundred feet below the land of the Mediterranean Sea. God wrought a Divine Miracle when he opened up the River Jordan, making a way for Israel to *cross over* to Canaan's Land. Through His people Israel, God has painted a glorious Truth for Christians!

Israel's first great crossing at the Red Sea speaks of our first great spiritual *crossing over* from the kingdom of Lucifer's darkness to the Kingdom of Christ's Light. The born-again experience of Salvation is the *crossing over* from Lucifer's Death and Darkness unto Christ's Life and Light.

Israel's second great *crossing over* was at Jordan, which is a beautiful picture of our second *crossing over* from a powerless life as a Christian into a mighty Spirit-filled life under the Divine Headship of the LORD Jesus Christ.

We also must *cross over* the Jordan River or Christ's River of Humility, taking His Divine Name and Headship as our personal Governor and Guide in all our thoughts, feelings, and actions, and descend from our lofty spirit of self-righteousness and our proud, ruling state of mind into the valley of humiliation of the Crucified Christ.

We may be saved and feeding on Christ's Manna or Spiritual Bread and drinking of His Spiritual Water from the Rock, as the children of Israel did in the wilderness, but God wants to increase our spiritual diet. He wants us to *cross over* into the Land of Canaan where the Milk and Honey of His Truth are flowing, where all kinds of Fruits of the land grow in abundance. Until we believe that God has more for us and until we humble ourself, we never will *cross over* into greater growth and a deeper personal spiritual relationship with the LORD Jesus Christ and His Heavenly Father.

How precious to *cross over* the spiritual River of Jordan of Christ's Humiliation, the River of Descending, and receive the glorious Power of His Sweet Holy Name that will lead us on into the Promised Land of the Milk and Honey of His Truth!

Natural milk feeds and produces strong bones and teeth in the natural realm, and Spiritual Milk has the same power in the spiritual realm. We need strong spiritual teeth so that we can eat the Meat of God's Word. We need strong spiritual bones in our hands and feet in order to serve well and to walk through all the troubles and trials of this life as a Christian soldier.

Honey speaks of the spiritual place in God's Word that produces spiritual growth which brings us to the place in which all the ways the LORD deals and leads us in circumstances and guides us in situations that are sweet to our taste. Yes, there is a place of sweetness in God in which we can rejoice in all the persecutions, trials, tribulations, and troubles of this present, earthly life.

God's Word also is sweet to our mind and heart in every situation after we have surrendered to His Glorious Headship. How precious to be led of the Spirit of the LORD into the place in Christ's Spiritual Stature in which the LORD's Word becomes so sweet that our heart constantly longs for communion with Him in the Word and prayer.

The fruit of the land speaks of a believer's spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus. Galatians 5:22 lists nine Fruits of the Spirit, which are as follows: Love, Joy, Peace, Long-suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance. The Fruits of Love, Joy, and Peace picture the growth of the spiritual Hands of Christ within the heart. The Fruits of Long-suffering, Gentleness, and Goodness picture the formation of the spiritually mature Mouth of Christ as it is being formed within us. The Fruit of Faith is a picture of the spiritual Eye. The more the LORD's spiritual Eye grows within us, the more clearly we can see the LORD in everything, as He works all things together for our Eternal Good and for His Eternal Glory. The Fruit of Meekness is a picture of the spiritual Ear that always listens for the LORD to tell us the way in which we should go. And, the Fruit of Temperance pictures the spiritual Nose that can smell and discern the lust of the flesh that always tempts or tries to lead us astray, in one form or another.

Let us turn to the LORD Jesus Christ in a greater way so that, spiritually, we can experience what it is to *cross over* the Red Sea and to *cross over* Jordan.

## Chapter Eleven

# The LORD Redeems Us From Our Own Evil Ways

*And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech (Genesis 11:5-7).*

When the Name LORD is spelled with all capital letters, it refers to Jehovah, the Self-Existent One Who reveals Himself in His Redemptive Love and Power.

In the first chapter of Genesis, it was God or *Elohim*, the Strong One, Who created the Universes. But, when Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed the Word, it was the LORD or Jehovah Who came down to see their condition; then, He mercifully provided coats of skins for their nakedness.

The LORD's provision of coats for Adam-male and Adam-female also represents a beautiful picture of Jehovah, the LORD, coming down in the Person of the LORD Jesus Christ, with His Infinite Love and Mercy, to see and to bear the punishment for every sinful man so that, through His own Blood, He might provide us "coats" of His Righteousness and push us onward and upward in His Perfect, Purposive Will.

Likewise, it was the LORD, Jehovah, Who came down to the Tower of Babel to behold the evil work of His disobedient children.

The account in the eleventh chapter of Genesis of the building of the Tower of Babel gives another record of how man sinned and disobeyed the Word of the LORD.

Before the building of the Tower of Babel had taken place, God had given a message to Noah to be fruitful, multiply, and *replenish* the earth. He also had given the bow as a token of His Love and Promise that He never again would destroy the earth by water. However, after the flood, man rebelled against going forth into the earth to multiply and replenish it. Therefore, man conceived the plan of building a city and a tower so that they could stay together in one place.

Mankind was in complete, evil harmony, determined to disobey God's Master Plan and Purposive Will. They were one people, one language, one mind, one plan, and one work. However, their unity was formed to war against the LORD's Name, His Glory, His Plan, and His Work that He had purposed for them to do. Without a doubt, man's fear of another flood inspired him to try to build a tower high enough to provide safety in such a time. In sinful man's diseased perception of reality, he imagined that he could build a tower that God could not conquer and that was secure from His attack. In Truth, man was enslaved and deceived by his own evil imagination.

In spite of man's unspeakable state of unbelief and rebellion, the LORD came, in His wonderful Redemptive Power, to save and protect man from destroying himself by the evil of his own heart.

Jewish history tells that the builders of Babel planned to place a god, who would protect them, in the tower of the temple.

We should not look down our spiritual nose at the builders of the Tower of Babel, for we, too, are often guilty of putting our trust in false gods or false images. Our precious Redeemer, in His great Mercy, has to come and deliver us from the gods of our own thoughts and plans in our heart and will by destroying the finite "crutches" upon which we lean. He must remove these false supports from us in order to teach us that He is the One God, and the only One, Who can love us, save us, and protect us.

First, our blessed LORD and Redeemer came down to see, experientially, and in Person, the complete condition of His disobedient children. Then, He began to minister the remedy and relief that would save them from self-destruction. The only solution in this case was for God to destroy their evil unity by confounding their unity of language. As a result, there was complete division and confusion among the people because they could not communicate. Their evil plans were brought to naught. Thus, God turned the evil plans and counsel of these disobedient ones to naught so that God's Eternal Plan, Purpose, and Counsel might stand in spite of them. Thus, the evil works of their hands, which promised immortal honour, brought them perpetual shame and reproach.

The sinful willfulness and rebellion of Adam, who rebelled against God's Restraining Word from the Forbidden Tree in the Garden, has been passed down to his sinful, unsanctified Seed who also have been impatient with God's

restraint from evil things and who always are ready to rebel against it. But, God always has been ready to redeem and correct man of his evil ways and works.

Christians sometimes have similar experiences. When believers are set upon going their own way, which is contrary to God's Way, they find the precious Redeemer LORD coming to confound their plans.

Someone has rightly said that our disappointments are God's appointments. It is through disappointments and confusion that the LORD brings us to the end of ourself, thus redeeming us from ourself. Every time the LORD confounds the labour and works of our flesh, we get a new revelation of our Redeemer and His Faithfulness in coming down to minister saving help to us.

So, beloved, when we find disappointments, heartaches, and confusion in our life, we need to remember that the Redeemer has seen the motives of our heart; therefore, He permits us to see the fruits of our own way and work. He uses our own evil fruits to teach us so that we might learn that He is the LORD Jehovah Who reveals Himself continually in His Saving Mercy and Grace. We need to let Him reveal the part of ourself from which He is trying to redeem us.

The people in the city of Babel were guilty of three sins. They said, in so many words, "Let us make brick. Let us build a city and a tower, and let us make a name for ourselves."

The people demonstrated their proud rebellion against God by their actions. Making brick was their first step of independence. Out of their pride, they determined to build themselves a refuge. These bricks were the evidence of their unbelief, so they actually were bricks of rebellion against the LORD and His Word of Promise that He would not send another flood. Why should they have prepared for a flood if they had believed God's Promise never again to send one to destroy the earth?

Obviously, there was fear that God would not keep His Promise about not sending another flood. Out of their distrust of God's Word came the determination to build a tower so high that it would preserve life even if God were to send another flood.

The LORD came down to confound their language in order to redeem them from their fear and distrust and to force them to fulfill His Purposive Will of replenishing the whole earth, not just the plain of Shinar.

We, too, need redemption in order to incorporate this same Principle in our life, for fear and distrust prevent us from taking God at His Word. Fear creates sinful unbelief and sinful doubt toward God from within and disobedient actions from without.

The people at the Tower of Babel were willing to put down God's Glorious, Holy Name or Nature in order to try to bring immortal honour and glory to their own proud names or natures.

There was a display of deliberate rebellion against God's clear and explicit Command to go forth in the earth and multiply. Because of rebellion, pride, and fear, they chose to go their own way and do their own works of self-deception. But, the LORD graciously wanted to redeem them from their fear and rebellion so that they might go forth and do His Will in the earth.

It is a wonderful privilege to walk with the LORD, tasting of His Redemptive Power and experiencing the joy of doing His Divine and Blessed Will.

## Chapter Twelve

# To Have The LORD's Protection Over Our Families, We Must Build Family Altars And Approach God Through the Name of Jesus

*And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD (Genesis 12:6-8).*

The LORD, the Redeemer, had called Abram while he was in his native land. God had told Abram to follow Him, and He would lead him to the Land of Canaan.

Abram came to Canaan's Land and passed through the land; that is, he journeyed everywhere in the land, waiting for the LORD to show him where to stay. The enemies or the Canaanites already were in the land, but Abram did not look at the enemies; he was looking for his LORD to govern and guide him to the place he was to stop. So, Abram journeyed on and on until the LORD appeared unto him.

Abram had just come to the plain of Moreh when, again, the LORD, the Redeemer, appeared to him. Here, Abram built an altar to the LORD in order to worship Him and as a witness that he believed God's Word that this land was for his descendants.

The word *Moreh* means teacher. No doubt, Abram called this plain by the name of Moreh because, here, the LORD met him and appeared unto him, revealing Himself. He also taught Abram, instructing him concerning His Master Plan and Purposive Will for him and his Seed.

After having received the Teaching from the LORD in the plain, the low place, the humility place of Moreh, and after having learned to build an altar and to worship the LORD in the place of humility, Abram moved from there unto a mountain, an exalted place. What a precious picture! After Abram had been taught of the LORD, he journeyed to a higher place, a mountain.

We cannot help but journey onward, forward, and upward to the place of exaltation in the LORD if we will receive His Teachings in the valley or plain of humility.

**Have you ever been in a valley with its shadows on every side? Are you in a valley now? Have you been wondering why you cannot move up onto the mountain with the LORD? If so, be still and look up into the Face of the great Teacher, the Redeemer, the Christ, and let Him teach you His Humility, the thing He had planned and purposed to teach you in the valley of His Humiliation. The success of your journey on the mountain depends upon what you have learned in the valley.**

In the very place in which the moral degeneration of mankind appeared in its deepest form, God sent Abram to build altars and rekindle the Fires of His Godliness and Truth.

Likewise, in the deepest valleys of our spiritual struggle against our flesh, God reveals Himself, teaching us to build new altars of consecration upon which He can rekindle His Fires of Godliness and Truth. Our choice always is between the Depths of Christ's Humility Valley, with its accompanying Mountain Heights of morality and spirituality, or the depths of the fleshly valley of depravity and degeneration, accompanied with its mountain heights of prideful independence.

Abram journeyed to the isolating heights of the mountain and pitched his tent. He did not pitch his tent in Bethel nor in Ai. His first desire was to be alone with His Creator in the isolated, solitary place, not in the busy cities with creatures.

The pitching of a tent indicates work and, therefore, the need of others to help. Abram was the head and leader of his family; hence, by his spiritual faith, he influenced his family and servants to go with him. Abram's tent was figurative of friends and fellowship because this task required the help of friends (Jeremiah 10:20). By personally going on with the LORD, Abram influenced others to go along, too.

When we obey God and go on with Him in spiritual growth, there always will be those who will separate

themselves from us and stay behind. But, there always will be others whom we can influence to go on for God, too.

The place in which Abram pitched his tent was where he also built another altar. This reveals further Light on the Teaching that Abram had received from God in the plain of Moreh, which is that God's first Purpose in all our stops in our earthly journey is for the purpose of our worshipping the LORD and lifting up His Holy Name. Abram realized that God must have the *first* place in his heart and home if he expected God's Divine Protection to overshadow his tent.

If we expect to have fellowship with the LORD and to have the Divine Protection of His *Shekinah* Glory over the "tents" of our spirit, soul, and body and over those in our family, we also must build, in our heart and in our home, an altar for worship and praise to the LORD Jesus Christ.

The Promises of protection in Psalm 91 are to those who dwell in the secret place of the Most High and to those who abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Under the shadow of the LORD's Omnipotent Power and Divine Eternal Love, there is protection and safety.

**Have you built an altar in your heart? Have you built an altar in your home? Do you pray with your family?**

Abram called upon the LORD, the Redeemer. This explains the Teaching that Abram had received from the LORD in the plain of Moreh. Abram understood that he had to call upon the Name of the Redeemer, the Mediator, the LORD Jesus Christ. No doubt, this is what Jesus referred to in John 8:56, when He said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it, and was glad."

By prophetic vision, Abram saw the day in which the LORD, the Redeemer, would come down to Earth and become a Mediator for all those who would call upon His Name. God had revealed to Abram that the only way to God was through the Name of the LORD, the Redeemer.

We are taught and know that there is only one way to God, and that is through the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ. He is the same Redeemer, today, as He was yesterday when He appeared unto Abram.

God declared in His Word that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Again, in Acts 4:12, He declared through His Spirit, that "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

The only way of approach to God is through the LORD, the Redeemer. Many people try to build an altar in their hearts, their homes, or their Churches, but they refuse to call upon the Name of the LORD, the Redeemer, and get personally acquainted with Him, the Self-Existent One Who reveals Himself to those who call upon His Name.

The expression to call upon His Name means to *invoke* in His Name; in other words, Abram invoked God or made contact with Him through the Name of the LORD, the Redeemer. If we are to make contact with God through prayer from the altar, it must be through the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ, the Redeemer.

## Chapter Thirteen

# The “After” Of Separation Brings Us To A New, Expanded Vision Of The LORD

*And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: (Genesis 13:14).*

Lot, quickly and happily, separated himself and his family from Abram because he did not care for the way Abram chose to live isolated unto the LORD, away from the cities. Left to himself, Lot settled in the most luxurious, degenerated, and evil place, among people whose wickedness abounded in an unparalleled measure.

God wanted to impart a greater vision and a more extensive revelation to Abram, but He could not do this until after Abram had separated himself from his nephew Lot. The following facts, which show the kind of a person Lot was, help us to understand why this separation was necessary before God could reveal Himself further to Abram.

Abram gave Lot the first choice concerning which part of the land he preferred for himself and his cattle since the strife between the cattlemen of Abram and the cattlemen of Lot made a separation and a parting of their ways necessary.

Lot made a thoughtless, reckless, and heedless choice to settle in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. He chose the best land because it looked most appealing to the eye, but the inhabitants of the land were sunken in the irretrievable depths of moral depravity and degeneration. Lot considered not the unspeakable wickedness of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah which were a part of the fruitful land he had chosen. Choosing hastily, without Divine Counsel, Lot took that which looked good to his natural, carnal eyes, never considering the great future ramifications of his choice.

The spirit of the lust of the flesh is the same in every generation. This spirit must have what appears to the flesh to be the best, and the lustful flesh must have it quickly. Lot, then, became an example of the Christian who minds the things of the flesh and not the things of the Spirit. This kind of people never can partake of Christ's True, Eternal Spiritual Revelations, for they have wanton eyes that flirt with Sodom and Gomorrah. They are double-minded, professing to be concerned with spiritual things, while actually being concerned only with the things of the lustful flesh.

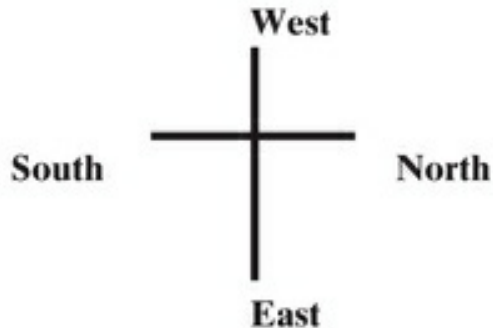
Lot chose the temporal, fleshly fellowship of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah instead of choosing Eternal Spiritual Fellowship with God and with His servant Abram. Hence, Lot's choice cost him the Eternal Treasures of Truth that could have been his through spiritual fellowship with God and Abram. Lot's choice indicates that his nature was similar to that of Esau who, because he willingly sold his birthright for a cheap, temporal pottage of red lentils, sacrificed his fellowship with God.

If God is to reveal the Redeemer, the LORD Jesus Christ, to us in a greater measure, He has to bring us to a greater separation from our family and friends if their hunger is for the things of this present evil world, instead of for the LORD.

After Abram had been separated from Lot, the LORD told Abram to look in the four cardinal points of the compass. He not only was giving Abram a picture of the length and breadth and depth and height of natural Canaan's Land that He wanted him to possess, but He also was giving Abram a picture of the Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ that He wanted him to possess.

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## LORD Jesus Christ



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God also wants to give us a similar vision of spiritual Canaan's Land.

The LORD first told Abram to look *northward*, which speaks of the cold chilly winds that blow from the north, cleansing and purifying the earth and sky in the winter season. Hence, the north wind is a type of God's cleansing and purifying rebuke. God was saying, "As you walk with Me, Abram, there will be times in your spiritual growth that I will have to cleanse and purify you by My cleansing and purifying rebukes and chastening."

Then, the LORD said to look *southward*, which speaks of a type of spiritual growth that takes place in the springtime season by reason of the gentle breeze that blows from the south. Warm southerly winds in the springtime cause the vegetation to bud and burst forth with new life.

God was saying that we also can possess the southward part of the Land and the Stature of Christ's Cross with its Light of Truth. After the wintery north wind of God's Breath of Spirit and Truth blows to cleanse and purify us by rebuking and chastening us, the warm, springtime south wind of God's Breath blows upon the spiritual garden in our heart, causing it to grow and burst forth with new buds and blossoms of His Revelation and Truth.

The next direction in which the LORD commanded Abram to look was *eastward*. The east wind is a type of spiritual growth that takes place in the midst of the heat of the summer season. The burning and scorching east wind speaks of the Judgments of God upon our unChrist-like attitudes and dispositions.

For example, after Jonah had preached to the people about God's Prophetic Judgment that was to be sent upon the great City of Nineveh, the whole city repented in fastings and prayers to God. Consequently, God, in His great Mercy and Grace, spared Nineveh.

Jonah became very angry with God for showing His Mercy to Nineveh, and he went out to the east side of the city where he built a booth for protection from the intense heat. God, in His willingness to allow Jonah to experience His Divine Mercy and Grace, prepared a gourd vine to spring up quickly, which overshadowed Jonah's head, delivering Jonah from his grief.

Jonah was exceedingly glad when God showed him His Divine Mercy and Grace through the gourd vine. However, he was exceedingly angry about the Mercy and Grace God had shown to Nineveh. Although Jonah was glad for the gourd vine of Mercy God had provided for him, he never repented of his anger toward God for the Mercy He gave penitent Nineveh. Consequently, God removed the blessing side of His Mercy and Grace from Jonah and prepared a worm to smite the gourd vine, causing it to wither. Then, God prepared a vehement east wind that beat upon Jonah's head so that he fainted and wished to die, yet Jonah still remained angry toward God for showing Mercy to Nineveh.

God gave Jonah a small taste of His vehement Wrath through the hot east wind, in the natural realm, in the noble effort to provoke some pity in Jonah for penitent Nineveh that had been spared from God's Wrathful Destruction.

However, Jonah did not learn his spiritual lesson about his carnal, sinful anger by God's putting Him on the Blessing Side of His Mercy and Grace, nor did he learn on the Judgment Side of the LORD's Mercy and Grace.

Therefore, he continued to remain angry and unforgiving toward God because of God's having given His Forgiving Mercy and Grace to the penitent city of Nineveh.

God used the east wind to judge the spirit in Jonah that caused him to show no compassion to the people of Nineveh.

God also has to send the Breath of His East Wind into our life in order to show us the merciless "weed spirits" in our garden. And, when He does, we do the same thing Jonah did — we faint, spiritually. The weeds growing in our spiritual garden, denoted by a merciless disposition and angry attitude that is devoid of compassion, must be judged in the spiritual realm by God's Hot Breath of His vehement East Wind.

The LORD also told Abram to look *westward*, where there was more land to be possessed. The rains that come from the west help to finish the maturing and ripening of the fruits in the autumnal season. After God weeds our spiritual garden with the strong blast of the east wind, He sends the west wind with its soft showers of the Water of His Spirit and His Word to bring us to the spiritual maturity and fruitfulness of the autumnal season. Thus, the garden of our heart is filled with His mature Life and fresh Fruitfulness.

Looking out on a natural garden after the husbandman has weeded it and after the soft showers of spring have fallen, causing the plants to vibrate with new, fresh life, is a beautiful experience. Seeing the mature fruits of the autumnal season is also a great joy.

To be in fellowship with the LORD Jesus Christ in the midst of all His seasons: the Winter, with its cold north winds; the Springtime, with its warm, soft south winds; the Summer, with the vehement, hot east winds; and the Autumn, with the west winds that bring maturity is even more precious.

To fellowship those who are busy possessing spiritual Canaan's Land is also a joy because they vibrate with spiritual freshness and vigor, having drunk of the spiritual Water of the Word and the Spirit.

Just as new visions and revelations awaited Abram, following his separation from Lot, so we, too, must separate from our spiritual "Lots" and receive new realities of His Name — the Redeemer, the Self-Existent One Who reveals Himself.

## Chapter Fourteen

# Jesus Christ, Our Melchizedek, The High Priest Of The Most High God, Provides Us With The Strength Of His Word And The Life Of His Blood

*And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: (Genesis 14:18,19).*

A more complete description of this Priest who is called Melchizedek is recorded in the Book of Hebrews.

*For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually (Hebrews 7:1-3).*

This description can be of no other than the Unbegotten LORD God Who always existed without father; without mother; without descent; without beginning of days; and without end of life.

This Unbegotten Melchizedek appeared to Abram in the form of a Man, through His only Begotten Son, Christ Jesus. In the days of Christ Jesus' Flesh, the Unbegotten Father was in Him, and He was in Christ Jesus when Jesus appeared to Abram. Since the LORD Jesus Christ was a legitimate Son, He bore the Name of His Heavenly Father. Likewise, He bore the Father's Name of the Eternal Priesthood. The Unbegotten *Father* is the *Unbegotten* Priest, *Melchizedek*, Who offered His Son as a Sacrifice for all creation from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8). The *Son* is the *Begotten Melchizedek* with an Eternal Priesthood inherited from His Unbegotten Father.

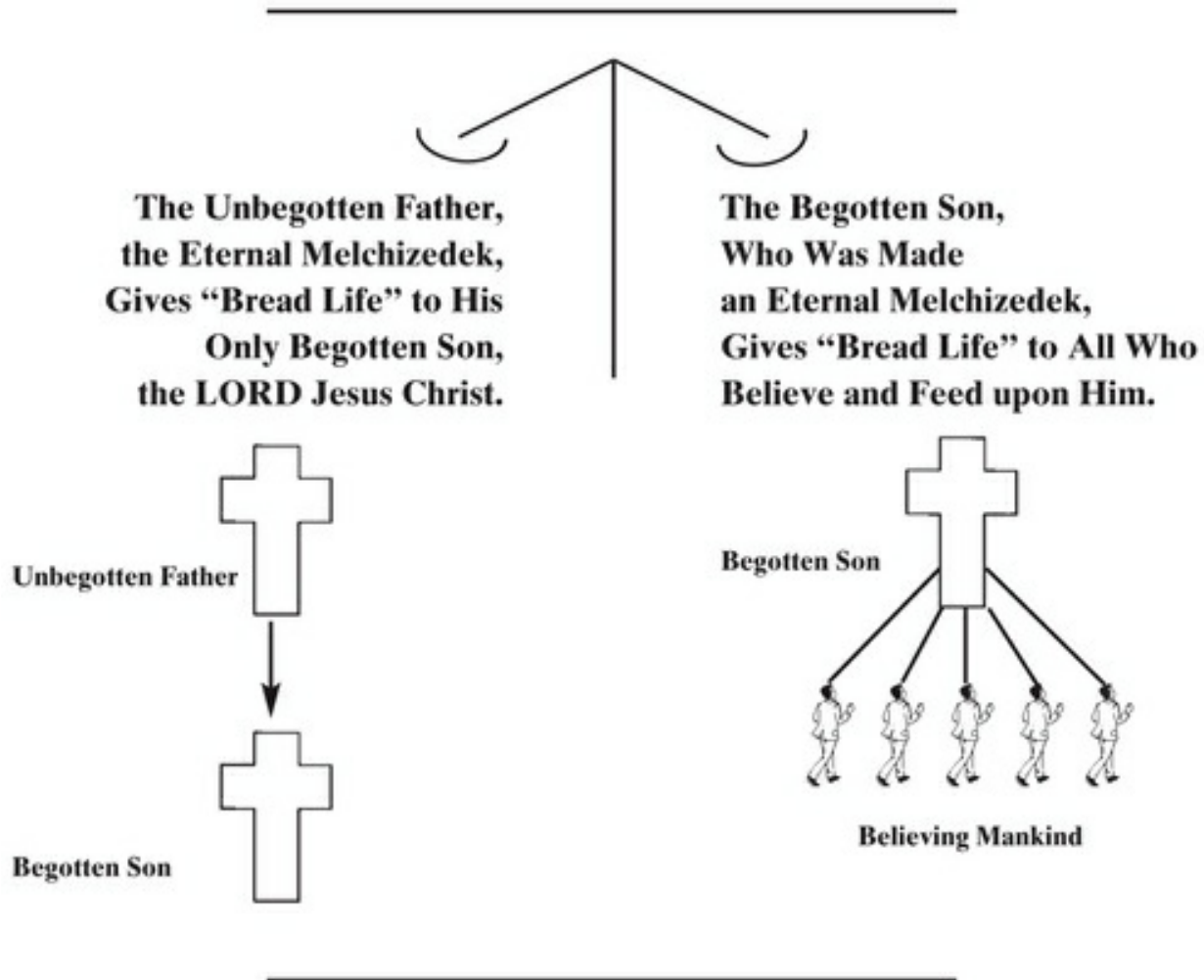
The Aaronic Priesthood was an earthly order, which was done away with at the appearing of the LORD Jesus Christ on the Earth. But, the Eternal Order of the Unbegotten Father Melchizedek is the Heavenly Eternal Order that He gave to His only Begotten Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, in Eternity Past.

Seven times in Scripture (six times in the Book of Hebrews and once in the Psalms), God declared that Jesus was forever a Priest after the Eternal Order of Melchizedek, the Unbegotten Father. God's Word also has declared the threefold Ministry of the Eternal Order of the Melchizedek Priesthood.

*"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread..."* Jesus Christ is the Righteous Bread of God.

*For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.... As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me (John 6:33,57).*

The Unbegotten, Living Father or Melchizedek, has given the Bread of Life to His Begotten Son Who, as the Begotten Melchizedek, gives the Bread of Life to all those who feed on Him.



In serving bread to Abram, the Unbegotten and Begotten Melchizedek was making a prophetic demonstration of the time that the LORD Jesus Christ literally would come in the Flesh, presenting His Righteousness Bread for the people through His broken Body of Flesh. He was the Living, Righteous Bread that came down from Heaven, later, in the fullness of time. When Jesus Christ came in a Body of Mortal Flesh, He declared that any man who would eat of this Bread would live forever. The Bread that He would give was His Flesh which He would give for the life of the whole world. He lived by the Bread of Life from His Father, the Eternal Unbegotten Melchizedek.

We, too, can live by this Bread of Life from the only Begotten Son, the Eternal Begotten Melchizedek.

In the seventh chapter of Hebrews, the first revelation of Melchizedek was His Righteousness, for He was known as the King of Righteousness. The Apostle Paul found this Righteous Bread in the LORD Jesus Christ.

*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: (Philippians 3:7-9).*

The Apostle Paul did not want his own righteousness because it was of the flesh and, therefore, corruptible. Instead, he wanted the Righteous, Holy, Life-giving Bread of Christ, which came to all mankind through the breaking of His Righteous, Holy Flesh as the only Begotten Son of God. The Angel said unto Mary, “...that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

Melchizedek, the King of Salem, brought forth bread and wine for the refreshment and restoration of Abram and his soldiers. He also wanted to congratulate them for their victory over all their enemies and for the recovering of

their people and their goods.

This teaches us that our High Priest, Jesus Christ, our Eternal Melchizedek, always has spiritual Provisions in the form of comforting Strength from His Bread-Life and in the refreshing, restoring Life of His Wine-Blood, which He shares with us after we have become weary and worn from spiritual struggles and battles with the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

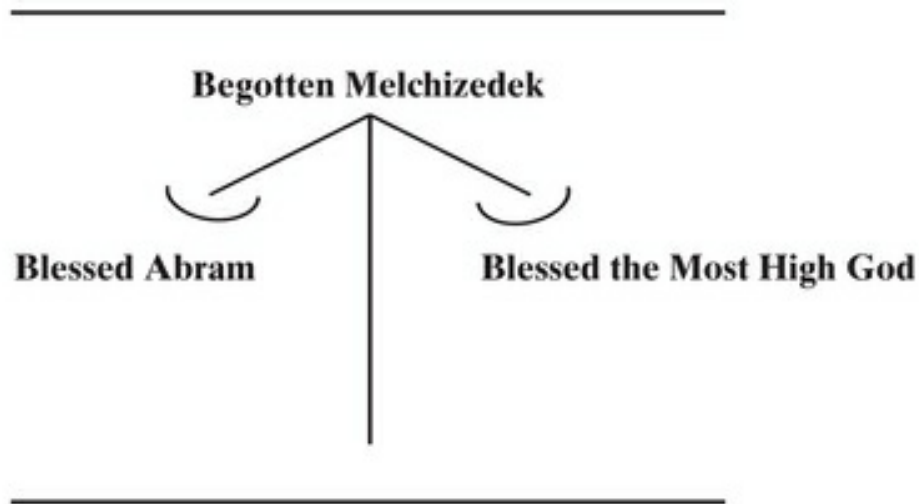
Natural wine is a type of the Resurrected Blood of Jesus Christ, which speaks of His refreshing Life and restoring Joy. Natural wine is the very life of the grape that has been crushed in the winepress. Likewise, the Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ is His very Life that was poured out at the Winepress of Calvary.

Melchizedek prophesied to Abram about the time that He would appear and offer up His Life's Blood for the Life of the human race, thereby becoming the Prince of Peace and High Priest forever, after the Eternal Unbegotten Order of His Father's Priesthood.

The second revelation of Melchizedek, found in the seventh chapter of Hebrews, was that He is called the King of Peace. Jesus Christ, the Priest of the Most High God, appeared to Abram as King of Righteousness, owning a Righteous Cause and bringing Peace.

Peace was made for us through the shed Blood of Jesus. "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace,..." (Ephesians 2:13,14).

Jesus Christ, the Begotten Melchizedek, blessed Abram and the Most High God.



"And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth" (Genesis 14:19). The word *blessing* means the communication of good.

The account in Hebrews, chapter seven, mentions a third thing about Melchizedek. It states that he abideth a Priest continually. Jesus Christ has been resurrected from the dead, and He sits at the Right Hand of the Father to be our High Priest, continually, and to communicate goodness and blessing unto us, just as He blessed Abram.

Paul testified in the Book of Ephesians that God has blessed us with *all* spiritual blessings in Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus.

Jesus ministers continually as our High Priest to communicate unto us the exceeding great and precious Promises of God's Word. He is forever our High Priest, after the Eternal Unbegotten Melchizedek Order of His Heavenly Father, imparting unto us His very Life, Power, and Love.

The Word of God declares that all the Promises are "Yea" and "Amen" in Christ Jesus. Unto Him has been granted the Power and Privilege to bless all mankind who will come unto Him in faith believing. Jesus told His Disciples that, when He went away, He would send the Blessing of the Comforter, the Holy Ghost.

To eat of Christ's Living Bread and to drink of Christ's Living Blood is a precious experience, which imparts spiritual Life to us. Then, we must wait before Christ for the blessing of the enduement of Power. Next to having the joy of being born again is having the Blessing of the Holy Ghost Power that Jesus promised when He said, in so many words, "Out of your innermost being shall flow rivers of living water."

Speaking prophetically, Melchizedek was referring to the time He would rise from the dead with the Keys of Death and Hell in His Hands and with the Power and Authority to bless and pour out blessings through His Spiritual

Bread of Truth and Blood upon men.

Rejoice, beloved! Jesus Christ is our High Priest after the Eternal Order of Melchizedek; He is Righteous; He is Peace; He abides a Priest continually!

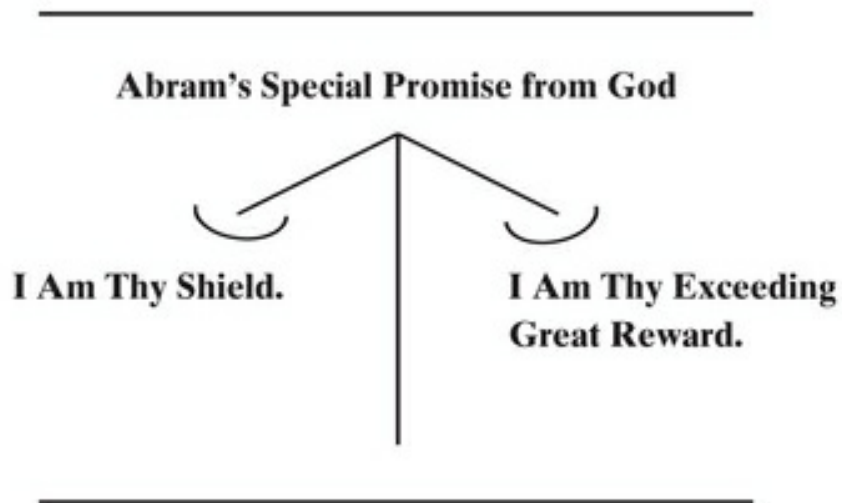
Jesus Christ, knowing Abram's finiteness, weakness, and inability to praise the Most High God as he should, blessed the Most High God in Abram's place. He also was a Mediator of praise to bring gratitude and thanksgiving to the LORD's High and Holy Name. Jesus Christ blessed the Supreme, Sovereign Dominion of His Unbegotten Father as Possessor of Himself and all creation. The Unbegotten Father is the Eternal, Divine Owner and Master of His Begotten Son and all the creation that He has created, according to His Master Plan and Purposive Will.

**Oh, what a Saviour and Redeemer we have! He not only blesses us in the place of His Father, but He also blesses His Father in our place. Thank You, precious Jesus!**

## Chapter Fifteen

# The LORD Is Our Shield From Opposition And Our Exceeding Great Reward For Our Service To Him

After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: *I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.* (Genesis 15:1).



The LORD told Abram that there was no need for him to fear because He would be his Shield, his Guard, his Protector, and his Defense.

In the natural realm, a shield was a part of the warrior's armour that was his defense and protection. In the spiritual realm, the shield is called a Shield of Faith, which guards, protects, and defends us against all our enemies.

The Apostle Paul exhorted believers to use the Shield of Faith.

*Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked (Ephesians 6:16).*

The size of our spiritual Shield from the LORD's Word, whether small or large, is determined by the size of our battle. The LORD always is faithful to give us what we need to overcome our enemies, if we have faith in Him.

Abram did not have to fear any kind of battle because it made no difference how hard the battle, how long the fight, nor how fierce the attack, for the LORD already had promised to be his Shield, his Guard, his Protector, and his Defender. If Abram had to do battle with a fierce, strong enemy, the LORD simply revealed Himself as a bigger "Word Shield" for Abram.

Faith, one of the Fruits of the Spirit listed in the Book of Galatians, is a picture of the spiritual Eye of Christ within us. When our spiritual Eye of Faith sees the enemy Satan approaching, our Spiritual Man arises and lays hold of God's Promises in His precious Word. In this manner, the LORD presents Himself as a Living Shield of Protection for His children.

If we are wise, we will give ourself to the Word of the LORD so that Christ's Shield of Faith can grow within us. Christ, our Shield, will protect us from being ensnared in the many pitfalls that the Devil sets for God's children. We must have this Living Shield of Faith; otherwise, we will be defeated or stopped somewhere in our spiritual journey.

In our humanity, we cannot defend ourself against the Devil and his many devices, but if we feed our soul upon the precious Word of Truth, we will have the Shield, the Christ, Who is big enough for any situation or battle.

This was the experience of the Apostle Paul, who said: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the *faith of the Son of God*, who loved me,

and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Paul learned, as did Abram, that Christ’s Faith was the Shield that protected him from the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

When we battle against all opposition, we are shielded by the LORD, and when we serve our LORD, sacrificing our life to His Work, He is our great Reward.

The word *reward* is *saw-kawr*, meaning salary, fare, maintenance, compensation, benefit, hire, price, and wages. The word *saw-kawr* is related to the word *saw-kar*, meaning to shut up, to surrender, stop, and give over, and it also is related to the word *saw-gar*, meaning to shut up, to surrender, close up, deliver, give up, inclose, repair, shut in self, shut up together, and to stop.

In other words, when the LORD sees the holes or clefts that we have made in our being, our life, through our sacrifice to serve and work for Him, He comes to fill up or close up the hole with His own Self.

In the natural realm, a man works all week, making a hole or cleft in his time, energy, and life; then, at the end of the week, he receives his pay or compensation for his labours. The holes in his time, life, and energy are filled with money. A man’s reward for physical labour comes in dollars and cents.

However, the reward for a man’s spiritual labour for the LORD, after he has made holes or clefts in his time, life, and energy, is the LORD Himself, Who fills up or closes up all the holes with His own Person. But, one can expect this type of Reward only if it has been preceded by some sacrifice according to God’s Purposive Will. The person who loves his own time, life, and energy so much that he refuses to make any sacrifice for the LORD cannot expect to receive the *Saw-kaw* Reward of the LORD Himself.

Abram’s boundless faith and devotion to the LORD God caused him to reap the boundless reward of the LORD Himself.

We find the same example of self-sacrifice in Ruth the Moabitess, who sacrificially attached herself to the impoverished, unfortunate Naomi; however, she was rewarded by the LORD and by Boaz, the Bridegroom who closed up Ruth’s holes of sacrifice.

This Principle is set forth clearly in the New Testament in the five crowns that are promised to man for his spiritual labour. These crowns are as follows: the Incorruptible Crown, the Crown of Righteousness, the Crown of Life, the Crown of Glory, and the Crown of Joy.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now *they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible* (I Corinthians 9:25).

Men who give of their time, life, and energies to strive for natural crowns and victories are very dedicated. They endure all kinds of hardships and make all kinds of sacrifices, even though all natural crowns become corrupted by time. These natural crowns are destined to disappear, leaving empty holes in places they filled.

In the spiritual realm, our reward is the LORD Himself, Who fills up the holes of our sacrifice for Him, and His Incorruptible Crown of His Ruling Power never will pass away. The clefts left in our crucified flesh will be filled with the Power of His Resurrected Flesh which is Eternal and Incorruptible. Certainly, then, we should be far more dedicated and much more desirous to work sacrificially, as we strive to win this Incorruptible Crown, than men who sacrifice and strive to win a corruptible crown. The Incorruptible Crown is Jesus Christ Himself. *He is the Prize. He fills the holes of our sacrifice with Himself. He is our Reward!* He is also our Crown of Righteousness.

Henceforth *there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness*, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (II Timothy 4:8).

The Apostle Paul had worked and fought, sacrificially, in God’s spiritual battle for the establishment of Truth in this world; therefore, he was looking forward to having the holes of his sacrifice eternally filled by the LORD Himself and His Crown or Rule of Righteousness.

Jesus Christ will fill up all the holes of sacrifice, made by the hardships and toils of our present warfare, with the Righteousness of His own precious Self. He never will leave the holes empty.

Righteousness means right acts; acting in a just, upright manner; doing what is right; virtuous. It means doing what is morally right or justifiable. People receive, in this life, crowns of title, respect, honour, and various kinds of rewards which represent the receiving of man’s approval for one’s human righteousness. But, man’s rewards fade quickly because they are finite and corruptible.

The Righteousness of Christ, the Reward for believers’ Spiritual Man, fills up the sacrificial holes in their time, life, and energy that they have spent for Him, and it never fades away nor does it become corrupted. Just as Abram found the LORD to be his Reward because He filled up all the holes of hardships, toils, and works that Abram had

done for Him, so also do believers find that their Reward, their Recompense, is the LORD Himself and His Righteousness.

When believers are crowned with the Righteousness of Christ, it is possible for them to perform acts of true Righteousness and Holiness that will prevail for Eternity. Abram believed God, and it was imputed unto him for Righteousness. Thus, Abram was rewarded with God's very own Righteousness!

The LORD is our Crown of Life after we have been tried and have endured temptation.

*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him (James 1:12).*

The LORD told Abram, "I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward" (Genesis 15:1). As Abram grew in his toils and labours for God, the LORD rewarded him with Himself and His Crown of Ruling Life, which, later, miraculously produced Isaac. The LORD came with His very own Self and Life to fill up the holes of sacrifice that Abram had made, according to God's Purposive Will.

Jesus Christ said, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). The Reward of believers for their toils and labours is an increase of the Life of Jesus that fills up the sacrificial holes within their hearts and minds, until the clefts or holes become Wells of Life that are abundant and overflowing toward others.

Another Reward for the righteous is a Crown of Glory.

*And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away (1 Peter 5:4).*

True under-shepherds do not expect to fill up their holes of sacrifice for the LORD with monetary recompenses. But, their expectation is toward the LORD Who gives them Himself and His Eternal Ruling Glory that never fades away.

Likewise, the Glory and Presence of the LORD Himself were to be Abram's Reward or pay for serving God. All the holes of his toils, labours, and sacrifices were filled with the LORD and His Eternal Glory.

If we, too, serve the LORD, He will give us the same Reward of His Person and His Glory that He gave to Abram for his service to Him. We do not deserve such rich and glorious pay that makes it possible for us to have the LORD personally fill up the holes, clefts, and crevices of time, life, and energy that we have poured out for Him, as we feast with Him from day to day. Nevertheless, such fullness of Glory will be our Crown or Reward, if we labour faithfully and walk daily in the LORD's Will, looking to *Him* to fill up the holes of our sacrifice, not the *creatures* of this world.

As we work in God's service, winning souls for Him, He is our Crown of Joy; the souls we win are also a joy to our heart.

*For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy (1 Thessalonians 2:19,20).*

The compensation for Abram and all Christians for being witnesses for the LORD is His Eternal Joy that He presently gives; but, moreover, the Eternal, Holy Joy that He will give when He comes again will be even greater. The person who wins souls is both wise and joyful.

Just as Paul's converts to Christianity were as a Crown of Joyful Witness before the LORD of Paul's sacrifices and service for the LORD, so also will the holes of our heart be crowned with joy when we see others go on for God as a result of our witnessing; then, we, too, will receive Christ's Crown of Eternal, Holy Joy at His Coming.

There is a future payday in regard to these Crowns of Reward, but, even now, God is busy rewarding His children with Himself as they draw near to Him through the Word and prayer and through living a Holy and consecrated life unto Him.

Praise the Name of the LORD! God will do the same things for us that He promised to do for Abram. He will be our Shield of Protection in the times of battle, and He will be our Exceeding Great Reward. He is the Prize. Let us all run to win HIM!

## Chapter Sixteen

# The LORD Imparts Life, Comfort, And Instruction To Those Who Submit To His Headship

Wherefore *the well was called Beer-lahai-roi*; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered (Genesis 16:14).

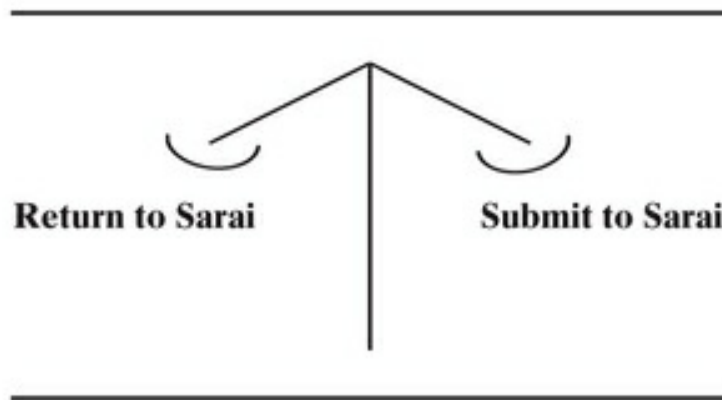
According to the accepted custom in the days of Abram and Sarai, Sarai gave her handmaid or servant-slave, Hagar, to Abram so that she would conceive, and, thus, Sarai would obtain a child for her husband. And, she would have a child that she could train up in the ways of the LORD as her own child.

Obviously, the modern-day concept of surrogate motherhood is not a new one. However, while this act may give a man an heir, it inevitably creates other distressing problems for everyone concerned. In the case of Hagar, for example, she was a servant-slave to Sarai, but she was not legally married to Abram. Nevertheless, she conceived and bore a child by Abram at Sarai's request. As a result, Hagar the handmaid or servant-slave became exalted in her own mind, and she despised her mistress Sarai. Hagar began to make light of Sarai; to disregard Sarai's authority over her; to slight Sarai in the duties that she was supposed to perform for her; and to esteem Sarai of little value to Abram.

Hagar despised Sarai and tried to take Sarai's place in Abram's family. And, then, when Sarai attempted to humble Hagar by putting her back into her place as a servant-slave, Hagar chose to flee into the wilderness in an attempt to escape from the presence of her mistress.

Hoping no one would find her nor know where she was, Hagar fled far into the wilderness. Although Hagar fled from the earthly authority of her mistress, she could not escape God's Divine, Heavenly Authority over her. God appeared in Angelic Form, calling Hagar by name and inquiring where she had come from and where she was going.

Hagar honestly admitted that she had come from Sarai and was fleeing to freedom from Sarai's authority. But, God commanded Hagar to return and submit herself to Sarai.



God demanded that Hagar return inside Sarai's "fence of restraint" and that she willingly submit or yield to Sarai's governmental control of her life and her son's life.

In the wilderness, in the way to Shur, Hagar came to a fountain of water. Later, because of her experience with the LORD in this place, she named the well of water *Beer-lahai-roi*, which means "He that liveth and seeth."

Hagar fled from the eyes of man, but she could not flee from the Omnipresent Eyes of God Who always sees and knows all about each individual, and He always shepherds each living soul. No one can escape the All-seeing Eye of God. He is the God of Absolute Sight.

God manifested Himself, in Angelic Form, as the Living One Who was capable of imparting His Life to Hagar and to her offspring.

This is the first record in God's Word of the LORD's Coming to foretell the birth and give the name of a person before the individual was born. The Living LORD not only revealed and promised Life for Hagar's son Ishmael, but

He also promised Life for Ishmael's Seed thereafter.

Hagar had a precious experience in finding the Fountain of the Living One. Although she was a victim of Sarai's choices, and although she rebelled against Sarai's authority, it was in this painful low place of restraint as a servant-slave that God, the Living One, chose to give *Life* to Hagar and to her son. It was from this humility place that God promised to make her Seed a great multitude and to give them freedom.

Likewise, if we who have been harshly dealt with by our superiors will return and willingly submit to them, we also will grow and increase in Christ's Spiritual Stature and in our work for Him. If we will seek the LORD and lift up our eyes to Him, we will find that He is the Living Fountain and that He will be a Well of Living Water unto us, if we will remain in the humble place of submission.

The LORD is the Living One. He also is the One Who *seeth*. He looked down and saw Hagar as she was at the well between Kadesh and Bered. *Kadesh*, which means a place in the desert, typifies the dry, desolate experiences we encounter in life. *Bered*, which means hail, is a type of judgment, testing, and trial.

When we find ourself between the dry, desert place and the judgments and testings of life, we can cry unto the LORD, as Hagar did; then, we, too, will find that He is the One Who *liveth* and *seeth*.

The LORD saw Hagar's need and revealed Himself to her as the Living One Who was able to minister the Life and Grace she needed in order to return and submit herself to her mistress.

God also revealed to Hagar that He had seen her proud inner thoughts and feelings of rebellion that had caused her to flee from her humble servant's place where she was supposed to be. God also, with His Shepherding Eyesight, guided Hagar back to where she was supposed to be.

If God worked so specially to help a humble Egyptian slave girl, how much more will He help us, with His Living, Shepherding Eyes, to make it to the New City, if we will allow Him to be our Sovereign, Supreme Ruler? His Shepherding Eyes will cause us to return to where we are supposed to be and to submit to those to whom we are supposed to be in submission, if we accept His Headship in our life.

**My friend, have you run away from some unpleasant situation or from some person who has brought pain into your life? Have you found yourself in a dry, desert place spiritually, beset with judgments and trials? If so, then I admonish you to seek the LORD and ask Him to find you and look upon you and help you, as He did Hagar.**

The servant-slave found the Living One Who could supply the Life and necessary Grace for her to return and submit again to her mistress Sarai. How precious is this Spring of Truth! Hagar was just a poor Egyptian slave, a stranger in the land. Yet, the All-seeing Eyes of the Living One looked upon her, and He provided a fountain, a spring in the desert to quench her thirst.

The Merciful Eyes of the LORD see every thirsty heart. If we have not had a spiritual spring supplied for us, it is because we have not yet become sufficiently thirsty.

The Compassionate Eyes of the Living One saw that Hagar had been dealt with harshly and that she needed comfort and instruction. So, in His great Mercy, He sent the Angel of the Covenant, the LORD Jesus Christ in Angelic Form, to instruct and teach her.

He also will send comfort and teaching to us when we are in a desert place, if we will listen and be honest with Him as Hagar was. He will instruct and comfort us through His Word and Spirit.

God ministered to Hagar through the mediation of the Angel of the Covenant, Who was none other than the LORD Jesus Christ.

Through the mediation of the LORD Jesus Christ, God will see us and minister to our need. When the thirst of our needy heart comes before the All-seeing Eyes of God, He sends us a Well or Fountain of His Spirit; then, His Spirit of Life springs up and bubbles over in our heart, quenching our thirst with His Abundant Life.

No one could be more poverty stricken nor in more abject circumstances than Hagar was that day so long ago. Yet, the Hand of the Living One reached down and ministered to her in her need. Nowhere in the Bible do we find a greater picture of God's great Mercy and Love being poured out upon a human being. Hagar was an Egyptian and, therefore, a stranger to the Promises given to Abram. She had no part in the Covenant of Israel. Yet, God reached down in Mercy and Love toward her because she had listened and been honest with Him.

Since God reached down to Hagar, who was a stranger to the Covenant of Bridal Truth, we know and believe that He will reach down to us who are His children, as we strive to lay hold of the Prize and gain Spiritual Canaan's Land. He will impart to us His Life, His Comfort, and His Instruction. Regardless of what our need may be, we can look up to Him, in faith, remembering that He lives and sees.

## Chapter Seventeen

# God's Covenant Of Joy And Laughter In The LORD Jesus Christ Is For Those Who Search His Word And Sow Seeds Of His Word In The Lives Of Others

And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and *I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him* (Genesis 17:19).

Abraham had prayed, and God had granted his request that Ishmael might live and be blessed of the LORD. However, when God wanted to provide the spiritual Blessing and Covenant, He performed a miracle and raised up a legitimate son called Isaac.

The name *Isaac* means joy and laughter. When God miraculously restored the procreative power of Abraham and Sarah in their old age, and the promised son was born, there was great joy and rejoicing. God told Abraham to name his son Isaac, meaning joy, because Isaac was to be a type of the LORD Jesus Christ. What a joy to know that God was going to raise up a spiritual Seed through Isaac! Through him would come the Messiah, the Deliverer, according to His Humanity, Who would bring spiritual joy to the multitudes who would believe on Him.

In later years, Isaac was known as the Peacemaker. There can be no joy or springs of rejoicing bubbling up in our soul until we first have met the Peacemaker, Who is none other than the LORD Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. When we meet Jesus and let Him make peace in our heart, then a well of joy is opened up to us.

As we journey through life with Jesus Christ, we can find many wells and springs of joy that He has placed in the Highway of Holiness. Finding these wells and springs of joy all along the way is what makes life a real romance as we walk with the LORD. Our heart constantly is filled from the well of joy because of the covering of His Righteousness upon us. "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels" (Isaiah 61:10).

We also find wells of joy as we study God's precious Word. The Prophet Jeremiah said: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts" (Jeremiah 15:16).

Other wells of joy come from the springing up of the Love of Jesus in our heart. The Apostle Peter said, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Peter 1:8).

Jesus said that Abraham rejoiced to see His day. Abraham called Isaac *Joy* because through the Seed of Isaac was to come the precious LORD Jesus Who would open these fountains of joy to multitudes of both Gentiles and Jews.

The spiritual Covenant made with Isaac indicated both joy and laughter. Laughter is an expression of happiness and merriment of the soul. Through the spiritual Seed of Isaac would come the Messiah, the Christ. His Covenant of Blood upon the hearts of men would produce such happiness and merriment in the soul that it would truly be a Covenant of Joy and Laughter.

The voice of mirth and gladness is mentioned in Jeremiah, chapter twenty-five, in connection with the harvest of corn (bread) and grapes (wine). This harvest was a great day of joy and laughter among the people because the LORD had so richly blessed their material things. On the other side of the Scales, when Israel disobeyed His Voice, God withheld His Blessing from their crops, bringing a famine upon the land.

This is a prophetic warning for us as well. If the pathway we are on seems barren of the wells and springs of joy and laughter, then it is because we are walking on a path of disobedience. When we walk with Him in the path of obedience, we find many springs bubbling over with joy and laughter in Him. God's Covenant of Blood is a Covenant of Joy and Happiness in the LORD Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, some Christians spend their time in pursuit of elusive worldly pleasure, failing to realize that true pleasure already has been provided for them in Christ.

The springs of true joy and laughter are in the LORD Jesus Christ. When we have Him in our heart, we can look unto Him Who is the Source of all joy and happiness. We should search for Him in the Word, just as we would

search for diamonds or gold in the earth. As we find Him, new springs of joy and ecstasy will spring up in our life. His Joy is real!

As we sow the Seed of the Word in the lives of others, we will find His Covenant to be a real Covenant of Joy. Reaping the harvest of the seed or leading some precious soul into a saving knowledge of the LORD Jesus Christ is a sure source of joy. Next to the joy of tasting of the LORD for oneself is the joy of telling others of the Power and Love of Jesus Christ. This surely is a Covenant of Joy — joy for time and joy for Eternity.

## Chapter Eighteen

# Lifting Our Eyes Heavenward Will Keep Our Eyes Off Our Pain And Weakness And Will Give Us A New Vision Of Jesus

*And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said (Genesis 18:2-5).*

Although God's Presence is everywhere, it is not comprehended by everyone. Having just willingly obeyed God in his performance of circumcision upon himself and the men and male children of his household, Abraham was sorely pained and weak and would have been justified in seeking the shade and shadow within his tent. Instead, he sat in the door of his tent, in the intense heat of the day, looking for wayworn wanderers to whom he could show hospitality.

Abraham used extra effort to lift up his eyes, bringing them to a higher position for a more extended vision. Lifting up his eyes increased his vision. The act of lifting up his eyes also signified taking his eyes from the painfulness of his recent circumcision and the thought of how much it had cost him in pain and soreness to obey God.

The lifting up of Abraham's eyes signified that he was seeking new ways to serve God and proves that he was not sorry for cutting off the outside flesh of his organ of generation. The flesh he had cut off denoted the corruption that had been transmitted by his parents to him as his inheritance from birth. Abraham willingly had severed himself from his natural defilement; therefore, he willingly had consecrated himself to a new, fresh fellowship with God. Although Abraham was in pain and weakness, he lifted up his eyes, looking for a new way to serve God in grateful appreciation for his new union with God. Abraham removed his eyes from himself, a lower level of vision, and placed them upward on Heavenly things in anticipation of a new vision of the LORD.

Many Christians live with their eyes cast down upon themselves and their own particular circumstances of life. Being self-concerned keeps them from being aware of the needs of others. Jesus told His Disciples to lift up their eyes and look on the fields of the world which already were ripe unto harvest (John 4:35). Many Christians never see the whitened harvest field that is just waiting for someone to come and reap it.

Christians who have their eyes cast down upon themselves when they come to the House of the LORD are easy to recognize. Instead of lifting their eyes up unto the LORD, they wait to see who will come and give them special attention. When the desired attention is not received, they leave in a pout. This proves that their eyes were not lifted heavenward for the blessing of a new vision of the LORD. If they had lifted their eyes toward Heaven and received His Blessing and Goodness, then they, in turn, would receive an increased vision of those round about them to whom they could become a blessing.

Abraham *lifted up his eyes*, and his vision was filled with the sight of the Heavenly Visitors who were approaching. The day we realize that the vision and the place of blessing are not downward on our own feelings of pain and weakness, but upward on others, as we take note of how we can serve them, is a wonderful, glorious day. We never should allow life's trials and tribulations to keep our eyes pulled downward, for if we do, we will miss many visions of the Heavenly Visitation of the LORD and His Spirit and His Power.

Abraham expected weary wanderers to pass by. Therefore, God richly answered his expectations. God graciously visits those in whom He has raised expectations; therefore, He manifests Himself to those who faithfully wait for Him.

We cannot lift our eyes heavenward in the true spirit of love and faith without seeing a new form or vision of the LORD. Faith is the spiritual "eye" that always sees and comprehends the things of God. But, we faithfully must choose to turn our vision heavenward.

What did Abraham see when he lifted up his eyes? And, what were his reactions to what he saw?

Coming toward him, Abraham saw three Heavenly Visitors who had assumed human bodies in order to be visible to Abraham and to be conversable with him. One of the Visitors was the LORD Himself, as He appeared in Human

Form.

When Jesus Christ returns again, He will say to some: “I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not” (Matthew 25:42,43). When these people ask Him when they had failed to minister unto Him, Jesus will reply: “Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me” (Matthew 25:45).

Oh, for a vision that will cause us to see the LORD Jesus Christ and also cause us to minister to Him through the deeds of kindness that we can do to His creatures in His behalf.

Abraham saw the need for being immediately hospitable and gracious to these Strangers in the midst of the intense heat of the day. He did not wait for his Visitors to greet him; *he ran to meet them*, showing that he went willingly, not reluctantly.

Some people may see a need, and they may even go, but they do it with a slow, grudging spirit. They need to follow Abraham’s example. When meeting his visitors, Abraham bowed himself before them, graciously rendering courtesy and respect in a visible fashion that could be perceived easily.

Abraham besought his strange Visitors to tarry and grant him the kindness, the pleasure, and the privilege to minister to them by washing their feet with cool, clean water. Abraham saw the need to wash his Visitors’ feet with water so that they might feel cleansed, rested, and refreshed.

Before we can minister to others, we must lift our eyes heavenward and receive the spiritual Water of God’s Holy Word. Then, as we see the needs of spiritual travelers along the way of life, we can bring forth the precious Water of the LORD’s Word, with which we can bathe and wash their feet so that their walk with the LORD will be cleansed, rested, and refreshed.

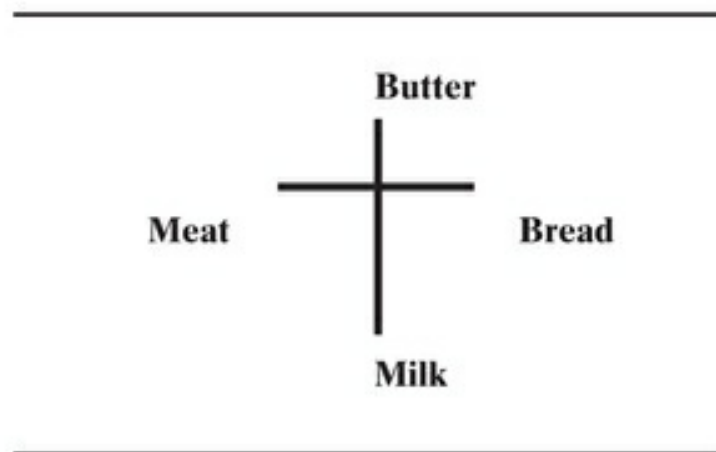
Bathing the feet is one of the quickest ways to produce rest and refreshment in the natural realm. This is true also in the spiritual realm. When our spiritual feet become tired because of ministry and service, we can rest and strengthen them through a “bath” in the Waters of God’s precious Word. Then, after we have been rested and refreshed, we will have a new desire to look away from ourself and see the many others to whom we can minister.

Abraham told his Visitors that he wanted to comfort and minister to their hearts by feeding them milk, meat, bread, and butter.

Abraham’s table was one of simplicity and humility. Although Abraham was a rich man, his dining room was under a tree; he had neither furniture nor expensive dishes and linen. Abraham served his honourable, Heavenly Guests plain, simple, and wholesome food. (This is an example to us not to fail in extending hospitality simply because our place and our food are humble.)

Abraham and Sarah were mutually generous in their duties as host and hostess to their Guests.

The repast Abraham offered his Visitors was a precious picture of a real Full Stature of Spiritual Ministry. He offered milk, meat, bread, and butter.



This wholesome diet was comforting and nourishing for any person in the natural realm. On the other hand, these substances in the spiritual realm are equally beneficial for the believer who is growing spiritually. If we will look away from ourself and look heavenward, we will know where to find the LORD’s Milk, Meat, Bread, and Butter of His Word.

The Apostle Peter commanded us as babes to desire the sincere Milk of God’s Word.

As newborn babes, *desire the sincere milk of the word*, that ye may grow thereby: (1 Peter 2:2).

After the Apostle Peter, acting as a wise physician, had prescribed the purging of the malicious, vicious attitudes of the flesh of believers, he directed them to the diet of Milk in God's Word, whereby they could grow spiritually and mentally in the humility foundation of Christ's Truth.

The Apostle Paul warned the early believers, in the Book of Hebrews, that he could not give them strong Meat because they had not used the Milk of God's Word to grow as they should.

Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age*, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:11-14).

If God's sincere Milk of Truth has not produced spiritual growth in us in Christ's Stature, it is because we have not allowed Christ, the Great Physician, to purge the malicious and vicious attitudes in our flesh.

As believers, our wholesome diet must also include spiritual Bread. Jesus Christ revealed to us that He is the True Bread that came down from Heaven.

And Jesus said unto them, *I am the bread of life*: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.... *I am the living bread* which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world (John 6:35,51).

Looking heavenward will also give us knowledge of how to obtain Butter for our healthful spiritual diet. The Prophet Isaiah revealed that Jesus Christ would eat the Butter of His Father's Zeal in His Purposive Will and the Honey of His Master Plan.

*Butter and honey shall he eat*, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good (Isaiah 7:15).

Jesus Christ is our Living, Eternal Witness! If we feed on the Sweetness of the Father's Master Plan and the Butter of the Zeal of His Purposive Will, we, too, can be like Jesus, choosing the good and refusing the evil of mortal flesh's plans and purposes, which are God's enemies.

Abraham was, indeed, a true minister to his Heavenly Visitors, feeding them with milk, meat, bread, and butter.

It is imperative for those of us who want to be true servants and ministers of Jesus Christ, as Abraham was, to grow in Grace and Knowledge of the LORD; otherwise, our spiritual cupboard will be bare when God sends visitors along. We will not find the following essentials on the shelves of our heart:

- the Milk of the Humility Babe that makes us willing to be a servant and least of all;
- the Meat of Truth that makes us skillful in the LORD's Word of Righteousness;
- the Bread of Strength — to sit in the heat when we are in pain; and to run and bow, recognizing the LORD, our Owner and Master, when He comes to us.
- the Butter or Fat of Zeal which will inspire us to deny ourself in order to serve and minister to others in the midst of our painful circumstances.

Unless we lift up our eyes, we will not recognize our LORD afar off. Unless we daily look heavenward, our spiritual cupboard will be bare of the Milk of the Word that will produce spiritual teeth for chewing the Meat of the Word. Unless we look heavenward, our spiritual cupboard also will be bare of the Bread and the Butter that will produce strong muscles and strong zeal and desire to labour and serve the LORD.

After Abraham had served His LORD and the two Strangers, the LORD graciously informed Abraham that He would impart strength to him and to his wife Sarah and that they would have the son He had appointed, even Isaac.

I am sure that, when Abraham served the LORD and His Guests, he had no idea about the miraculous Word, Power, and Promise that the LORD later would give to him.

**Look away to Jesus! Lift up your eyes!**

## Chapter Nineteen

# We Must Flee To Jesus Christ Who Is Our Place Of Refuge And Live On The Mountain Of Truth

And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, *Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed* (Genesis 19:17).

Lot, who was a son of Haran and a nephew of Abraham, was born in Ur, a city of Chaldea, where his father had died. Being bereft of his parent, Lot followed Abraham and Terah to Mesopotamia, where Terah died at Haran.

Lot then journeyed with Abraham from Haran to Canaan's Land. As they traveled, Abraham's and Lot's herds had greatly increased, and, as a result, strife had risen between their herdsmen because the tract of land that they occupied was inconveniently small. So, Abraham proposed that they separate, and he left the choice to Lot as to whether he would go eastward or westward. Lot chose the prime region of the Jordan Valley in which Sodom and Gomorrah were situated.

Although Sodom and Gomorrah were filled with wicked inhabitants, the country round about them was very fertile and well-watered everywhere, "...even as the Garden of the LORD." It was in the wicked city of Sodom that Lot chose to live and rear his children.

After the city of Sodom had become completely permeated with wickedness, the LORD sent two Angels into the city. Lot pressed the Angels to spend the night in his house. However, before they could lie down for the night, Lot's house was beset by cruel people who had reached full stature of Lucifer's fallen nature, both young and old, from every quarter of the city. They were carried headlong by their vile, abominable affections, which were worse than brutish and an unspeakable shame and an Eternal reproach to human nature. These wicked sinners, in their rage and fury and in their impudence and impenitence, demanded that Lot turn the two Angels over to them so that they might *know them*. But, the two Angels smote the wicked sinners with blindness so that they could not find the door to Lot's house.

The LORD, in His Manifold Mercy to Lot and his family, sent two Angels to warn them of His coming Judgment and Destruction of Sodom. The two Angels laid hold of Lot's hand, his wife's hand, and his two daughters' hands, leading them outside doomed Sodom. When they were outside the city, the Angels gave them a message, consisting of the following commands: (1) Escape for thy life; (2) Look not behind thee; (3) Neither stay thou in all the plain; (4) Escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

Although Lot did not laugh and scoff at the threat of God's Judgment that was soon to come upon Sodom, as did his sons-in-law, he lingered; he trifled; nor did he make haste to get out of the city. Hence, the Angels laid hold of him and drug him out of the city, as it were, thus saving him from death during the destruction of the city.

With what gracious vehemence Lot was urged to escape for his life! He still had to apprehend that he was in danger of being consumed; therefore, he was constrained to flee, immediately, for his very life. His leaving was not a decision he could put off; it was a matter of immediately fleeing for his life, or death would overtake him.

Just as Lot had to flee to save his natural life, so must we flee the corruption of the flesh and the world in order to preserve our spiritual life. Paul told Timothy to flee youthful lusts if he wanted to be a good soldier of the Cross and gain Light, Life, and Power.

The world, the flesh, and the Devil are corrupt, just as the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were corrupt. There is a definite need to flee from the "cities" of our flesh; otherwise, our spiritual life will be in danger of being consumed. We must flee because God has pronounced His destructive Judgment upon this present world, the flesh, and fallen Lucifer.

Lot was not to lust after Sodom. He could not look behind to what he had given up; neither could he loiter in the way; he was under great constraint to hurry! Hurry! Hurry!

Tempting a person to look back is one of the biggest, most frequently used weapons in the Devil's arsenal. The enemy knows he can defeat a Christian if he can get him to look back to his pleasant place of abode with its temporal, earthly treasures, instead of looking up and forward to his pleasant, Eternal Abode in the New City with its Eternal Treasures of Truth.

By persuading believers to look back with lustful longing for the things they have left behind in “Egypt,” he persuades many to slacken off and return to the easy road that offers temporal pleasures along the way.

When God’s people, Israel, remembered how their fleshly appetites had been satisfied with the fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onion, and garlic in Egypt, they hated God’s Manna, and they desired to return to the land they had left, even though it meant slavery under harsh taskmasters.

How the Serpent uses the false notion that leaving God’s freedom, when God’s bonds are His Love and Mercy, is a deceiving trick he plays on people’s minds all the time. The Devil’s idea of freedom really is slavery to sin and ultimate Death!

The Devil sometimes gets us to look back to earthly things we have given up for Christ, which produces in us a self-pitying spirit that revels in complaining and feeling sorry for ourself, as though our past earthly pleasures, mingled as they were with so much affliction and darkness, were greater than our present Heavenly Pleasure that is mingled with the Love, Life, and Light of Jesus Christ.

At other times, the Devil influences us to look back at our past failures and sins, making us feel as though our failures are greater than God’s Forgiveness, thus producing in us a spirit of discouragement that hinders us from pressing on for the Mark of the Prize of God’s High Calling in Christ Jesus.

The Apostle Paul warned us of the importance of not looking back, by saying, “...*forgetting those things which are behind*, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13,14). Only by reaching forth to God’s Word and the Holy Ghost, in prayer, can we press toward the Mark for the Prize of growing up into the Measure of the Stature of the Fullness of Christ. This is the Prize of God’s High Calling. The Prize is growing up in Christ’s Nature and His Likeness and partaking of the Depths and the Heights of God’s Master Plan and Purposive Will that are found in Christ Jesus.

The Angel forbade Lot to stay in the plain since it would be turned into one “dead sea” after God’s Fire and Brimstone had rained down from Heaven upon Sodom and Gomorrah.

The Angel told Lot to move through the plain or valley to a safer place in the mountain. However, when Lot asked permission to remain in one of the cities of the plain, God permitted him to do it. That Lot’s request was not a wise one is evident in the fact that it caused him to sink deeper into the mire of sin. We must not rest ourself in the “plain” of self and the world. We must work to flee to the appointed Mountain of Eternal Truth in Christ Jesus.

It is good to pass through the valley and plains of trials and tribulations and, yet, learn the lesson that God has for us there, which is not to take up an abode in that place. Instead, we must work and climb to a higher place in Christ Jesus, the next Mountain of Blessing, Light, and Revelation, for only there can we find safety.

When we are in a valley, the Devil battles us with spirits of indifference, lukewarmness, and slothfulness. Many Christians stay in the valley, fretting, worrying, complaining, and looking back, so they never pass on up the Mountain of Truth in Christ Jesus. We must gird on the whole Armour of God, realizing that we are just pilgrims and strangers passing through the valley of this world as we are on our way up to new Heights and Depths that God has prepared for us in Christ Jesus our LORD.

God had an appointed place of refuge for Lot in the mountain, and He had commanded Lot to flee there. But, Lot begged for a city of refuge among one of the cities that lay near the plain. It was Lot’s contemptible ignorance that made him think that a city of his own choosing would be safer than the mountain God had appointed.

Since God miraculously had saved Lot from the Divine Fire and Brimstone He had rained down upon Sodom and Gomorrah out of Heaven, He would have miraculously strengthened Lot to flee to the LORD’s appointed place of refuge in the mountain. However, Lot, in his ignorance and infirmity, pled for God’s Merciful Permissive Will to allow him to go to the small city of Zoar, so God answered his request. Lot never learned that God gives the best to those who leave the choice to Him; thus, he forever missed God’s appointed place of refuge in the mountain.

God has given us a detailed account of how we can find His way of escape and His appointed place of refuge in Christ Jesus so that we can be delivered from this present evil world, this corrupt flesh, and fallen Lucifer. How precious is the LORD Jesus Christ Who is God’s Revealed Word! God always has given His people His Master Plan and Purposive Will for success and victory. Let us learn from Lot what not to do. Let us not plead for God’s Permissive Will after He has given us His Perfect, Purposive Will.

The examples of people’s lives in God’s Word were written for our admonition. God’s perfect Plan for deliverance and victory for us is through His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, we can find the Place of Refuge and Life on the Mountain and, thus, flee from the place in the plain of condemnation, destruction, and Death.

After Lot had left Sodom, he was commanded not to look back. Likewise, we must put our hand to the Plow of Truth and not look back to what God has condemned and appointed to destruction. We must consecrate and separate ourself completely unto God by cutting off the things of this world that He has condemned, lest we be tempted to

turn again. Remember, Jesus said that if we put our hand to the plow and look back we are not fit for the Kingdom of God or God's New City, the Bride. We are to allow God to fill us with the Power of His Spirit by going on to His appointed Mountain of Truth in the Heavens with Him.

## Chapter Twenty

# When We Accept Rebuke For Our Mistakes, Christ Will Redeem Us And Cover Us With The Veil Of His Blood

And unto Sarah he said, *Behold, I have given thy brother a thousand pieces of silver: behold, he is to thee a covering of the eyes*, unto all that are with thee, and with all other: *thus she was reproved* (Genesis 20:16).

After Abraham and Sarah had been obedient in taking their journey to Canaan's Land, and after God had promised to give Abraham this wonderful land, Abraham felt that he was obligated to go to Gerar, the capital of the Philistines, to further his existence on Earth.

Fearful that Sarah's beauty would attract the notice of King Abimelech and that he would have Abraham killed so that he could take Sarah for himself, they agreed to say that Sarah was his sister, although she was his wife.

Things happened in Gerar as Abraham had expected. King Abimelech commended Sarah's beauty and sent for her to come to his home. To gain Abraham's favour, the king loaded him with tokens of his esteem. But the LORD was displeased; therefore, He severely punished the king and his people by fast closing up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech. God also visited Abimelech in a dream, warning him that he was but a dead man if he touched Sarah, seeing she was another man's wife.

Although Abimelech was king, he had no right to take someone else's property or, most of all, another man's wife. God commanded Abimelech to restore Sarah, Abraham's wife, to him.

The ignorant sin of a king can bring God's Wrath upon him and also upon his kingdom, but after Abimelech had reproved Abraham, he kindly and willingly obeyed God by doing the following things: he gave possessions to Abraham; he restored Abraham's wife to him; he gave Abraham liberty to dwell wherever it pleased him to dwell in his land, and he publicly gave Abraham a thousand pieces of silver with which to buy a veil for Sarah to cover her splendrous beauty from the eyes of others. This veil was a "redemptive blinder" to prevent any man in his kingdom from looking longingly after Sarah's beauty because she was Abraham's wife and property.

Jewish history tells us that Abraham took the thousand pieces of silver and secured a veil that would cover Sarah's beauty so that those who looked upon her would not be tempted to take her and defile her.

When Abraham's journey took him to the place of Gerar, from out of his midnight will, he formed a hasty, ignorant opinion of the residents. He thought that neither the fear of God nor the worship of the true God was in that place; and he thought that it was impossible for God to speak to anyone there because no one there would obey God. He thought they would kill him if they discovered Sarah was his wife.

Then, because his ignorant opinion had been born out of his midnight will, his heart was filled with great fear, which prevented him from acknowledging Sarah as his wife and from completely trusting God for his present and future existence in the Land of Gerar.

Because Abraham hid the truth, King Abimelech, seeing how beautiful Sarah was and thinking that she was Abraham's sister, immediately took her for himself. But, God was sorely displeased with the whole thing and revealed to Abimelech that he was but a dead man if he touched Sarah.

This teaches us that God holds us responsible for the possessions of others that are in our keeping, even if we are ignorant of the matter.

God allowed all these painful circumstances to occur to teach Abraham about the ignorance, darkness, and falsehood that were generated in his midnight will.

When God had spoken to Abimelech, his immediate obedience to God's Voice and his princely kindness and generosity to Abraham proved Abraham's hasty, ignorant opinions to be completely false. Abimelech discovered, through God's visiting him, that Sarah was Abraham's wife, so instead of killing Abraham, the king was kind and generous, giving Abraham a royal license to dwell freely in his country. Abimelech made royal restitution to Abraham for his own ignorant behaviour concerning Abraham's wife.

What peculiar events God allowed to transpire in order to teach Abraham empirical knowledge about the ignorance of his own midnight will. What far reaching effects Abraham's hasty, ignorant opinions created because God had fast closed up all the wombs in Abimelech's household. God further humbled Abraham by making him

pray for the healing of all the ones who were injured because of his hasty, ignorant opinions about the inhabitants of Gerar. This is why all Scripture is profitable to teach us doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16,17).

The thousand pieces of silver that Abimelech gave to Abraham were a precious picture of the Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ! We know from Israel's experience, after they had gone out of Egypt, that silver speaks of redemption because they were required to bring silver to God's Sanctuary for the price of their redemption from Egypt.

God has placed some degree of beauty within every human being, as He did with Sarah. Although man has fallen and lost much of his original beauty, there still are beautiful things that fallen Lucifer, like Abimelech, desires to take and use for his own glory and satisfaction. There is beauty in youth, for example; there is beauty in a fresh, intelligent mind; beauty in talents; and beauty in many kinds of gifts that God has bestowed upon human beings. Fallen Lucifer sees all this beauty and desires to take it for himself, for his glory, and for his satisfaction. But, if we cover ourself in the Redemptive Veil of the Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ, we will discover that we are completely unattractive to fallen Lucifer and the world. They will not want us! All they will see is Christ's Veil of Blood. Jesus Christ and His precious Blood are as unpopular today as He was the day wicked sinners hung Him upon the cruel Cross.

Let us truly cover and veil ourself with Christ's precious Blood, afresh and anew every day, so that fallen Lucifer and the world will not be able to tempt and allure us away from our true walk with the LORD Jesus Christ.

Abraham, by securing the redemptive silver veil as a covering for Sarah's eyes, felt safe and secure with his extraordinarily beautiful wife. After God had accomplished this restful and trustful spirit in Abraham and Sarah, concerning their marriage, God performed a miracle in the very next chapter of their lives by giving them Isaac, the promised Seed or heir to Canaan's Land. Consequently, their lives were filled with joy and laughter.

The redemptive silver veil for Sarah's eyes not only hid her from the lustful eyes of others, but it also hid or veiled Sarah's eyes so that she did not have to look upon the world since her eyes were completely covered.

If our eyes are not covered with the Veil of Christ's Blood, they constantly are drawn to look upon sights that the enemy has designed to attract and lure our attention away from the things of God. This is why Jesus Christ told the Laodicean Church to anoint their eyes (with Christ's Blood) so that they might see their lukewarm condition, on one side, and so that they might see the Stature of Jesus Christ standing in their midst, on the other side.

God's children always need to have their eyes covered, veiled, and anointed with the Blood of Jesus Christ! A person who truly has his eyes covered, veiled, and anointed with the precious Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ finds no temptation.

The eye of the soul, the imagination, also needs to be covered, veiled, and anointed in Christ's Blood. If Abraham's imagination had been covered, veiled, and anointed with the Blood of the LORD, he would not have gotten into trouble by imagining the following things: that the fear of God was not in the place of Gerar; that they were all killers; therefore, he would die if he openly confessed his marriage relationship; and that he must keep his marriage with Sarah a secret.

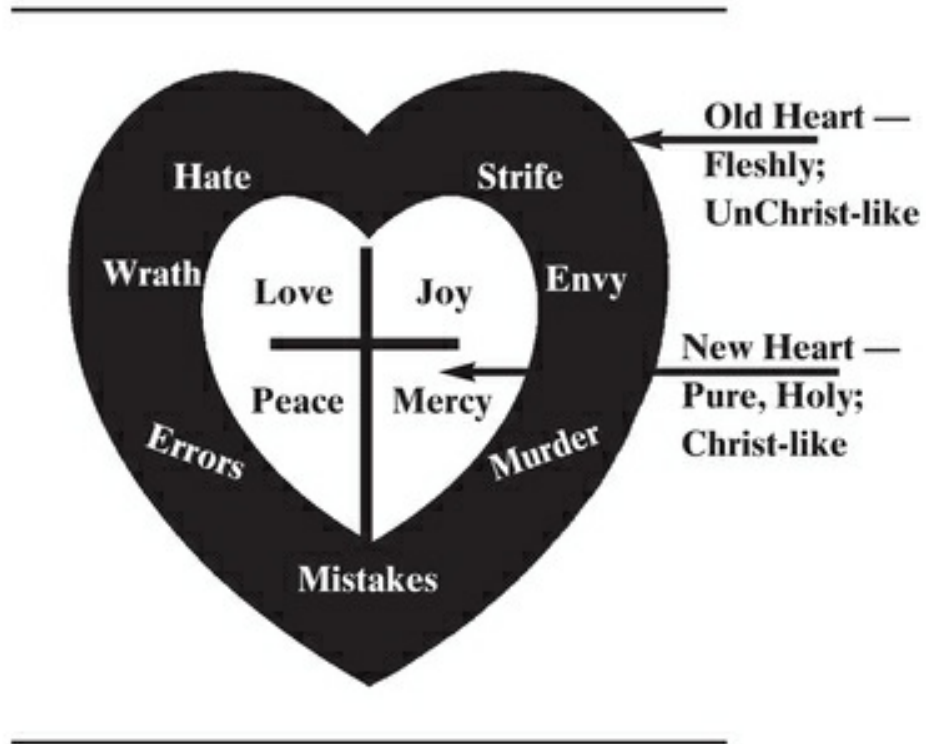
Christians who imagine that they or their particular group are the only ones who really know the LORD soon fall into the enemies' thorn patch of self-righteousness, unjust judgment, and cruel criticism which choke out the Life and Sweetness of Jesus Christ and His Word. They need the cover, the veil, and the anointing of Christ's Blood on the eye of their imagination. Likewise, Christians who imagine that everyone is against them and that they are unloved and unappreciated also need the cover, the veil, and the anointing of Christ's Blood upon their imagination so that they can picture Christ's Stature of Truth in their minds and hearts.

By receiving the thousand pieces of silver from King Abimelech, Abraham and Sarah were reproved; therefore, they admitted their sin of deceiving him.

Until we are willing to be reproved, rebuked, and censured, by God's Word and Spirit, for the errors, wrongs, and mistakes of our flesh, we will not experience the covering of the Veil and the Anointing Blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all these things. Consequently, we will be deprived of a new birth of laughter and joy (Isaac, as it were) in our heart. Remember, God's Happiness follows God's Holiness!

God's Word tells us that we overcome by the Blood of the Lamb, by the word of our testimony, and by loving not our lives unto death (Revelation 12:11). If we are having trouble with the weakness of the flesh, we simply need to accept the "covering veil," as Abraham and Sarah did, for it is a sure means of victory! Never again did Abraham and Sarah have trouble with this part of their fleshly weakness.

Many Christians do not want to humble themselves to accept the Truth that they have an old heart in which abides all kinds of unChrist-like things.



Therefore, they do not lay hold, by faith, of Christ's Blood, afresh and anew, for daily weaknesses of the flesh because, by so doing, they would be admitting that there was a need for the covering of Christ's Blood. Then, they would be reprov'd, and their pride does not want reproof and correction.

Having a sincere desire for the LORD to rebuke and reprove us in our ways that are so unlike Christ's Ways and in attitudes and dispositions that are unlike Christ's Holy Attitudes and Disposition is very precious and wonderful. When we cover, veil, and anoint ourself with the precious Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ, we find Rest, Peace, and Light. Let us learn from Abraham and Sarah what not to do and what to do.

## Chapter Twenty-One

# Jesus Christ Gives Comforting Life In Our Adverse Circumstances, If We Walk In His Purposive Will.

*And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink (Genesis 21:19).*

Hagar, whose name means flight, was an Egyptian woman who lived with Abraham's family as a bondwoman. At Sarah's own proud suggestion, Hagar became Abraham's concubine.

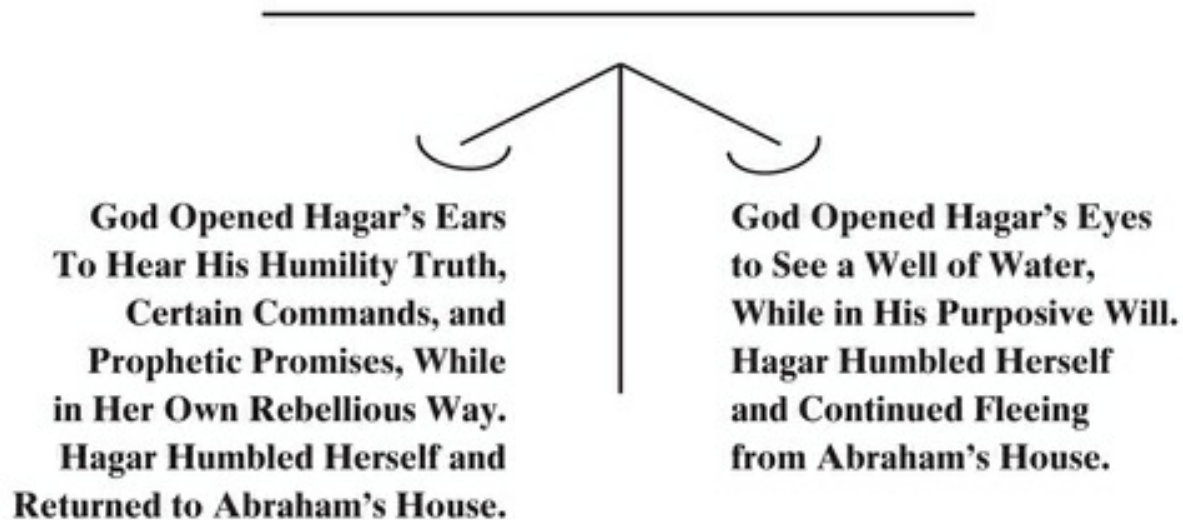
Once Hagar had conceived a son by Abraham, she despised her mistress, Sarah. So, Sarah dealt harshly with her, and Hagar fled from Abraham's house. In making her way toward Egypt, she fled through the wilderness of Shur where she rested herself near a fountain by the wayside.

The Lord Jesus Christ, in Angelic Form, visited her there and opened her ears to His Humility Truth, His Commands, and His Prophetic Promises. Following her encounter with the LORD, Hagar humbled herself and returned to her mistress, Sarah, until after Sarah's son Isaac had been born and was weaned about five years later.

At the time of the festival of Isaac's weaning, Sarah saw Hagar's son mocking and making fun of Isaac. So, Sarah demanded that Abraham banish Ishmael and his mother from their home. Although Abraham was pitifully pained at the thought, he was divinely admonished to listen to his wife's demand.

After rising up early in the morning, Abraham supplied Hagar with bread and a bottle of water and sent her and her son away. Hagar found her way to the wilderness of Beer-sheba. And, when her water was gone, she placed her son under a shrub so that she might not see him die. Then, she mingled her prayers to God with the cries of her son. Because she entreated God, He opened her eyes to see a well of water from which she and her son could drink and live.

Before, when Hagar was walking *in her own rebellious way*, God opened her *ears*. Now, He opened her *eyes*, while she was walking *in His Purposive Will*.



Hagar's second experience with the LORD consisted of His opening her eyes to see a well of water that brought life to her and her son. The well was there all the time, but Hagar was blind and could not see God's Provision of Life before her eyes. Hence, she was filled with sadness and mourning, imagining that they were in a place of death;

hence, death would be their speedy consequence. However, God opened Hagar's eyes to see a present supply of Life.

Likewise, we, too, in our blindness and ignorance, imagine that our situations and circumstances are ones of Death until God opens our eyes to see that Jesus Christ, the Eternal Well of Truth, is there all the time to give us His Comforting Life. Many go sorrowing and comfortless in their adversities of life because their diseased perception of reality blinds them to God's Living Well of Truth, Jesus Christ, the Eternal Comforter and Life-Giver.

Hagar's first experience by the well of *Beer-lahai-roi* was hearing God's audible Word, which revealed His reality as the Living God Who loves and cares for all His creation, even those who are fleeing in their own angry rebellion. God lives and sees, and He is mindful of all His creatures' needs.

Through Hagar's second experience with the LORD, He opened her eyes to see His Provision, which led her to a well of water she had not seen before. The well was there all the time; but in order to see it, she had to have the experience of having her ears opened, miraculously, to hear God's Words of Truth, Rebuke, and Instruction. After she had received God's Words of Reproof, Correction, and Instruction, God showed her the well of water.

This Principle also is true in the spiritual realm for us. After we have heard the Words of Truth of the Living Christ, faith is generated in our heart. Then, we are able to receive His Salvation. Subsequently, we experience Christ's Spirit opening our eyes to see His cool, comforting, and consoling Spiritual Springs and wonderful Wells of Living Truth that He has put within His precious Word.

Ears to hear the joyful sound of Truth and eyes to see, spiritually, the true Image of Truth are two of the greatest needs among Christians in this lukewarm Laodicean Church Age. Jesus always spoke those things He heard from His Father (John 8:26).

Our hearing the Truth is important, for God's Purpose in telling us the Truth is so that we will pay heed to it and give it our attention. If we truly hear the Truth, God's Purpose in having sent it our way is so that we will respect it, obey it, and attend to its teaching, doctrines, and advice. Holy hearing brings the Truth to the heart and will, where the nature of Truth can be embraced. The hearing of the ears prepares the eyes for seeing.

Jesus Christ counseled the Laodicean Church to anoint their eyes with eyesalve so that they might see (Revelation 3:18). The Eyesalve of Christ's Redeeming Blood generates the following things in us: (1) a sincere desire to understand the blindness and corruption of our own worldly wisdom and to see the wells of God's Eternal Water of Wisdom in His Word; (2) a sincere desire to see how to obey the precious Word of Truth as it is revealed to us through our sense of hearing; and (3) a sincere honesty that will reveal to us how to lay aside our carnal reasons, ideas, and traditions and how to receive God's Master Plan and Purposive Will, as revealed in His precious Word, and be a doer of it.

When Hagar saw the well, she did not argue with the LORD about the well and its reality; she simply partook of the liquid Life from the well that God had opened her eyes to see.

Christians sometimes see things in God's Word that they know they should obey and press forward to lay hold of, but they allow their pride and the fear of other people's opinions prevent them from partaking of God's Well of Truth. There is a price to pay in order to follow the LORD's True Word and allow His precious Spirit to lead us to His Revealed Fountains. The price is to overcome our own pride and to prevail over the fear of opposition from others. Remember, Jesus promised that we should suffer persecution *if* we walk as He walked.

Hagar did not stand around passively looking for someone else to fill her bottle with the water that had been shown to her. She actively went to work and filled her own bottle. The Hebrew word for *filled* means to be full, to overflow, to be satisfied.

If we follow the guidance of God's Spirit and Word, He will bring us to the Well of Living Water that Jesus promised in the Gospel of John, when He said, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38).

If you are a Christian, you have this Living River of Life flowing inside you. You can make an active choice in your will, today, to allow Jesus Christ to let it come forth and fill the "bottle" of your spirit, soul, and body to overflowing so that this Living River can satisfy your whole being beyond your highest imagination and your deepest longing. It is a precious reality!

**I encourage you to anoint your eyes with the Eyesalve of Christ's Blood so that your eyes can be healed of their blindness. Then, with open eyes, you can see the Well of the Spirit and the Word that Christ has placed within your heart.**

As we learn to yield more and more to this Well of Living Water, it increases until it becomes a mighty River that flows out through our spiritual garden, bringing forth Life, freshness, growth, and fruitfulness.

Ishmael's very life depended upon the water from his mother's bottle. Because Hagar obeyed the Voice of the

LORD, she also had the necessary provision to impart life to Ishmael. Hagar's act of sharing her newly found water with her son was the most natural thing for her to do, for she was constrained by her heart's natural love for him.

Likewise, in the spiritual realm, the same thing happens when we find precious Wells of Truth in the LORD's Holy Word. We desire to share it with others because we are constrained by the Holy Love of Jesus in our heart for His people.

Life is one continual blessing when we walk with the LORD Jesus Christ. Yes, there are the thorns of trials, tribulations, and persecutions, but, in the midst of all the thorns, God has placed beautiful, fragrant roses of Christ's Truth, if we only will look for them. One way He blesses us is by opening our spiritual eyes so that we can behold new Wells of Living Water of Truth in Christ Jesus. He blesses us with the comfort, growth, and increase of His Spiritual Stature as we drink of His Living Waters of Truth. He also blesses us by filling our vessel with the blessed Holy Ghost and Power. And, He increases our blessings still more as we share with others our newly found Blessings and Truth in Christ Jesus.

Jesus said that it was more blessed to give than to receive. Thus, Life with Him increases more and more in Blessing and Power as we walk with Him in Truth. During the LORD Jesus Christ's Ministry here on Earth, He fed the multitudes with His miraculous loaves of bread and fishes. Now, in His Heavenly Ministry, He is feeding His children with His miraculous Spiritual Bread and Meat of His Holy Body through His Holy Word.

Let us react in the spiritual realm as Hagar did in the natural realm, first of all, by hearing God's Word and allowing God to open our eyes to see Christ's Well of Truth; then, by personally going to His Well of Truth that we have seen and filling the "bottle" of our own spirit, soul, and body with the Waters of Life from His Well; and, last, by sharing the water from our "bottle" with God's sons.

## Chapter Twenty-Two

# God Will Fulfill His Promises To Us In Life Or Death

And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and *I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you* (Genesis 22:5).

Abraham had many wonderful experiences with the LORD. One of his experiences was having God miraculously restore his and his wife's procreating powers in their old age, which made them able to have Isaac, their long-promised Seed.

Yet, after the miracle of Isaac's birth, God commanded Abraham to take his and Sarah's only begotten son, who was a young man by then, and offer him up as a whole burnt offering. The place Abraham was to offer Isaac was upon a distant mountain, which God promised to show him. Without an inquiry or a murmuring word, and with prompt, obedient submission, Abraham obeyed God's Command to journey to God's appointed place.

Abraham's faithful, obedient surrender to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will shows how worthy he was to be called the "father of the faithful."

The directions God gave Abraham were a Command. If Abraham obeyed God's Command to offer up his son, he would be sacrificing the son in whom all the world was to be blessed. This Command seemed to contradict all the wonderful Promises God had made concerning Isaac. Yet, Abraham's unswerving faith in God's Holy Nature and his undeviating loyalty to God's Command to offer up his son Isaac made it possible for Abraham to count God able to raise up Isaac from the dead, if he, indeed, offered him up as a sacrifice.

*By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure* (Hebrews 11:17-19).

Abraham had received his son Isaac as a result of God's resurrecting his and Sarah's bodies from the "dead" because their natural power to procreate had ceased before Isaac was conceived. Hence, their bodies had to be rejuvenated or brought to life again. For Abraham to believe God to put His Resurrection Power in Isaac's body, if he became a dead sacrifice for the LORD's Sake, was an easy act on Abraham's part since he had experienced God's Resurrection Power first hand.

Abraham's faith was visibly displayed when it was under severe test and trial by God.

As he went to obey God's command, Abraham left his servants at some distance from Mount Moriah because he had seen God's Glory on the mount and knew this was the appointed place on which he would sacrifice Isaac. Abraham knew that the offering of Isaac was to be a private experience between God, him, and Isaac. Hence, he did not wish to expose his servants to this strange oblation, lest they should try to interfere with God's Command to offer Isaac.

After God had performed a miracle to give Abraham a son in his old age, and after He had promised that through this son the whole Earth would be blessed, God asked Abraham to sacrifice this son. Therefore, Abraham was not going to take the chance of his servants interfering with God's Purposive Will for him and Isaac since, as father and son, they both were surrendered for God's Will. Abraham preferred to be alone with God during His tempting, testing, trying, and proving of him and his son.

God brought Abraham into a spiritual battle of humility and surrender so that Christ's Banner of Love, Faith, and Obedience could be displayed with all its Beauty and Glory, proving His victory over Abraham's flesh.

Precious is the thought that in our every test and trial, God desires to display Christ's Banner of Love, Faith, and Obedience with its Beauty and Glory, proving the victories He has wrought over our flesh.

Abraham immediately had obeyed the LORD's Voice that had told him to go to the mountain, which he would be shown. This proved to be Mount Moriah, the Temple territory in the eastern part of Jerusalem, which overlooked the Valley of Kidron.

Abraham was able to see the land of Mount Moriah afar off because of God's *Kabode* Glory and the *Shekinah* Glory that rested upon the Mount. God's Pillar of Cloud (*Shekinah*) and Fire (*Kabode*) had led Abraham to the

proper place to demonstrate his faithful obedience to God's Command.

Jewish history also confirms that Abraham saw the *Shekinah* Glory and the *Kabode* Glory Fire burning on top of Mount Moriah where he was to sacrifice his son.

The Principle of God's leading by His Cloud and Fire was also repeated to the children of Israel in the wilderness. In the place where Israel saw the Pillar of Cloud and Fire stopping in the wilderness, they rested and camped.

Since Abraham's servants had neither been called nor prepared to minister before the LORD in such a profound surrender and sacrifice, it was necessary to leave them behind. The same Principle can be seen, again, in the ministry of the Priests in the Mosaic Tabernacle. The Priests who were exceptionally called and especially prepared to minister before the LORD had to leave the common people outside in the Courtyard while they went into the Holy Place to minister before the LORD.

The LORD has called each of us to enter into our prayer closet, our secret place, and minister before the LORD; but, we must separate ourselves in our heart, mind, and will by leaving all people, places, and things in the outer Courtyard, as it were, in order to enter our secret, Holy prayer closet and minister before Him.

Abraham had caught a glimpse of the Glory afar off. However, before he could come closer for a clearer vision and a fuller revelation, he had to leave behind those who were unprepared. Furthermore, he had to be willing to take his most choice possession — his only begotten, miraculous son by Sarah — and offer him before the LORD.

God sometimes gives us a prophetic glimpse of His Glory that is on the mountain height to which He desires to take us, spiritually. He also gives us a revelation of our most choice possession that He commands us to offer to Him. If we will start out, by faith, we will find that the LORD provides Grace for each step of the way. Grace is not provided in advance of a need; only as we take each step in humility, surrender, and obedient faith in His Holy Nature and Supreme, Sovereign Power do we receive the Grace we need.

Abraham knew, by faith, that when he arrived on yonder mountain God's Grace would be sufficient to help him willingly obey His Command to offer Isaac as a whole burnt offering.

What a graphic picture the words "I and the lad will go yonder and worship" paint of Abraham's heart because they reveal the surrender and freewill offering of his heart and his love to God!

Abraham displayed the humility harmony of his spirit, soul, and body by considering the offering up of his most prized possession, his son, as the sweetest form of all worship to Almighty God. Abraham's heart blessed God in worship for the privilege of giving back to Him that which He had given to him. Abraham's tongue worshipped God in Divine Truth that all things belonged to Him, the Owner and the Master. Abraham's will worshipped God in pure surrender and true faith. His entire being worshipped God in harmonious love for His Purposive Will, making a musical concert of delight for God, both in Heaven and Earth.

According to the ceremonial sacrifices in the Old Testament Covenant, the only offering that was placed *wholly* upon the Fire was the whole burnt offering. This whole burnt offering had to be a voluntary, freewill offering on the part of the offerer. Abraham's willing, surrendered heart was reflected in his words, when he said, "I and the lad will go yonder and *worship*." Abraham's heart was firmly set on doing God's Purposive Will. Abraham knew in advance that even in the very act of offering up his most choice possession, his only begotten son of Promise, as a Whole Burnt Offering, he would praise, worship, delight in, and adore the LORD through it all.

Christians sometimes try to offer up their "Isaacs" to the LORD, but they find the act grievous and bitter because their hearts are neither truly trustful of the LORD's Holy Nature nor their wills humbly yielded to do the LORD's Purposive Will. Consequently, there is no concert of harmony and delight in their praise, their worship, and their offering to the LORD.

The only way we can worship the LORD and have the ecstasy and thrill of His Power and Glory in the spiritual act of offering up all our prized possessions of people, places, and things to Him, by faith, is by truly yielding our heart to Him and delighting to do His precious Will by truly surrendering our will to Him. In the offering up of our whole burnt offering, we always discover whether or not our heart and will have been unconditionally and completely yielded to Him.

When our heart is truly yielded to obey the LORD, then we offer joy, peace, worship, praise, and adoration to the LORD, bringing great delight to Him. If our heart and will are not completely and unconditionally yielded to do the LORD's Purposive Will, there will be resentment, bitterness, complaining, strife, and fretfulness in it, bringing disgust and displeasure to Him.

The prophetic banner of love and faith in God's Resurrection Power is displayed through the words from Abraham's mouth, when he said, "I and the lad will... come again to you." Abraham confidently laid aside all his burdensome thoughts and cares, which would divert him from completely worshipping the LORD and left them at the *bottom* of the Mount so that he could attend to worshipping the LORD on the *top* of the Mount. In his prophetic

wisdom and calm confidence, he assured his servants that he and his son would *return again*. Abraham's undivided heart, which worshipped God alone and which entrusted both himself and his son into God's Loving Hands, was lifted above all fleshly anxieties and earthly cares; therefore, his heart was filled with prophetic assurance that he and Isaac would come again to their servants, after they had worshipped the LORD.

Remember, our words always reveal the banner we are flying in our heart, whether we are flying Christ's victorious banner of Love, Faith, and Obedience to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will or the flesh's banner of hate, doubt, and disobedience to God's Plan and Purpose. God puts us in trying circumstances to give us an opportunity to know ourself and to know whose banner is ruling in our heart. God already knows; He is not deceived at all. We are the ones who are deceived by the diseased perception of the carnal mind.

In times of God's blessing upon us, our mind can deceive us into thinking that the LORD Jesus Christ is All-in-All to us and that we love Him with all our heart. However, when adverse circumstances arise and the banner of hate, fear, doubt, and complaining disobedience displays itself in our heart, it is evident that we never truly have given our heart and will unconditionally to the LORD. Consequently, God is not receiving the Glory and the Honour that is due His Holy Name.

Abraham's display of Christ's Banner of Love, Faith, and Willing Obedience to offer his son to his Heavenly Father, as a whole burnt offering to the LORD, brought new spiritual growth in his moral development with the LORD. Abraham knew that if he would give Isaac to the LORD, then the LORD would give Isaac back again because God had promised to bless the whole Earth through Isaac's Seed, Jesus Christ, according to His Humanity. It is no wonder, then, that Abraham is called the "Father of Faith."

## Chapter Twenty-Three

# With His Silver Of Redemption, Which Is His Precious Blood, Jesus Christ Has Purchased A Burial Place For Our Sins

And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: these were the years of the life of Sarah. And Sarah died in Kirjath-arba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.... And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant. And the field of Ephron, which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field, and the cave which was therein, and all the trees that were in the field, that were in all the borders round about, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession in the presence of the children of Heth, before all that went in at the gate of his city. And after this, *Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre: the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan. And the field, and the cave that is therein, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession of a buryingplace by the sons of Heth* (Genesis 23:1,2,16-20).

Of all the women mentioned in the Bible, Sarah is the only one whose age, death, and burial are recorded. She and Mary the Mother of Jesus were two of the most favoured women in the Bible because both women, through the workings of God's Supernatural Power, were given miraculous sons. God miraculously restored procreative power to Sarah in her old age so that, contrary to nature, she brought forth a son named Isaac. And, God miraculously created within the womb of the Virgin Mary a Living Blood Cell and caused her to conceive supernaturally and bring forth the Son of Man, even Jesus, Who was also the Son of God.

Paul the Apostle pictured Sarah as a type of the Church of the Living God. The place of honour that God gave unto Sarah is the reason the details of her age, death, and burial are recorded in Scripture. Sarah, endued with great beauty, even in her declining years, was 127 years old when she died. Certainly, God granted her a rich and full life.

Although Sarah and Abraham had lived comfortably together for many years, Sarah, God's Princess, was not exempt from the stroke of Death. She died in Kirjath-arba; the same is Hebron in the Land of Canaan.

The word *Kirjath-arba* means the city of the four. Some have said that this was the city of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. Kirjath-arba seems to have had two names, and Genesis 35:27 indicates that it surely was a dwelling place of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Later, it also became a dwelling place for King David. The word *Hebron* comes from a Hebrew root word that means to join together, an alliance, or to have fellowship.

It is precious to see how the Spirit of the LORD takes such pains to tell us all these details that paint a spiritual picture so helpful to our understanding. From the name Kirjath-arba, we understand that Sarah died in the place of fellowship, where Abraham, the Prince with God, was dwelling. What greater testimony could any human being leave than the testimony of having died in the place of fellowship with God?

Surely this conveys an important message to us. Since we know neither the day nor the hour that the LORD plans to call us to go to our Heavenly Abode, it behooves us to be dwelling at all times in the place of fellowship with Him so that we can be ready when He calls us.

Abraham mourned and wept for his beloved Sarah in her death. When the mortal body is sown as a seed of the new, resurrected body that is to come, it must be watered with the tears of relatives and friends.

Almost the entire twenty-third chapter of Genesis is dedicated to relating the details of Sarah's burial. Since all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness, and since the Spirit esteemed Sarah's death to be so very important, it is because God has placed within this Scripture some spiritual instruction that will help us in our spiritual education and moral development.

Abraham used silver to purchase the Cave of Machpelah as a permanent and durable place in which to put the flesh and bones of Sarah. What a precious picture! Silver speaks of redemption in the Word of the LORD. Now that Sarah was dead and full of corruption, Abraham needed a place in which to hide and cover the corruption of Sarah's seed-body until the day of the Resurrection.

When Abraham humbly requested a burial place for his dead among the sons of Heth, he called himself a stranger and sojourner among them. However, they called Abraham a lord and mighty prince among them because of Abraham's spiritual behaviour while he was among them. Abraham humbled himself before the sons of Heth; therefore, they exalted him with great honours and sold him the field of Machpelah, which had a cave for a tomb for

his wife Sarah. Abraham's *first possession* in Canaan's Land was a *burial place* for his beloved wife Sarah.

What is the spiritual significance of this? What instruction for us is in this bit of information? Beloved, when Jesus hung upon the Cross of Calvary, He purchased a place in which to bury the corruption of the sins of our flesh. The burial place for our corrupt flesh is the precious Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ. Because Christ's Blood is Eternal, it is a permanent and durable hiding place; it is God's chosen Covering for all sin and corruption of the flesh. The Death of Jesus Christ also is our first inheritance in the LORD.

The word *Machpelah* means to fold or to double. The cave was given this name because of the bend in it which gave it the appearance of having double compartments.

There is a double portion of the Blood of Jesus Christ. We know this because, under the Old Testament shadow and type, the ceremonial offerings fell into two basic categories: (1) the *sin offerings*, which provided the blood for sin and trespasses, and (2) the *sweet savour offerings*, which provided the blood for consecration. These natural blood sacrifices were types of the Spiritual Provisions found in the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ has Sin Offering Blood that can take a poor lost sinner and cover his sins and his penalty of Death and Hell and provide him with a White Robe of Righteousness to cover his spiritual nakedness before God.

The LORD Jesus Christ also has a Whole Burnt Offering Blood and a Peace Offering Blood for complete consecration unto the LORD. Christ's Blood can consecrate true believers as living sacrifices unto Himself, making their lives a sweet-smelling savour unto the LORD. Christ's Whole-Burnt-Offering Blood can separate or set apart man's spirit, soul, and body for His sacred service.

Christ's Peace-Offering Blood can dedicate and devote man's spirit, soul, and body to Himself, freeing him from inner strife, inner disturbance, and inner disorders. Christ's Peace-Offering Blood can fill man's being with spiritual harmony, mental serenity, undisturbed calm, quietness, and tranquility.

This was all wrought for us through the LORD's Death that purchased our spiritual "Cave of Machpelah," in which He buries all our sins, corruption, and death when we repent.

While Abraham used silver to purchase a burial place for Sarah, Christ used His "Silver" of Redemption, His Blood, which He shed on the Cross of Calvary, to purchase our spiritual Machpelah. Jesus has purchased a burial place for our sins, corruption, and death through His own Death on the Cross so that we, being dead unto sin and buried under the Blood of Jesus Christ, should live unto Righteousness and Holiness in Christ Jesus.

## Chapter Twenty-Four

# With His Redemptive Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, And Choice, The Supreme God Of Heaven And Earth Guides Those With A Surrendered Will Into A Bridal Relationship With Jesus Christ

And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, *Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:* (Genesis 24:2,3).

After Sarah had died and after Isaac had arrived at a mature age, Abraham called his servant Eliezer and made him promise to obtain a wife for his son from among his own blood relatives in their native country, not from among the Canaanites. This serious enterprise terminated successfully, and Abraham's every desire in respect to Isaac's marriage was answered.

Abraham's request began with the ceremonial part of the covenant he made with his servant Eliezer. Abraham had Eliezer put his hand under his thigh and make a covenant with him. In the Word of the LORD, the loins and the thighs are considered to be in the same category, which means both are related to procreating power. It was this part of the body that bore the marks of circumcision. Therefore, the ceremonial act of putting one's hand under the thigh, the place of the body that was connected to the area of circumcision, announced before God and each one involved that the two people were bound before God to perform all the Truthfulness and Faithfulness represented by the Covenant of Circumcision.

This was Jacob's experience, many years later, when he wrestled with the Angel of the LORD, refusing to let Him go until the Angel blessed him. The Angel, Who was none other than the LORD Himself in Angelic Form, put his hand upon Jacob's thigh as a demonstration that He was touching the place of the Covenant of Circumcision; consequently, He promised to bless Jacob with all the procreating power provided in the Covenant of Circumcision.

When Abraham's servant Eliezer put his hand upon Abraham's thigh, he took an oath by the Covenant of Circumcision to find a wife for Isaac from among Abraham's blood relatives in Abraham's native country.

Abraham is a picture of God the Father, and Eliezer is a picture of the Holy Spirit. God the Father has sent the Holy Spirit to draw and constrain souls from Christ's Blood-washed relatives in His Church to leave all, to follow the Holy Spirit, and to grow up in Christ until they find His full Stature. Thus, they become a part of the Bride of Jesus Christ by being joined spiritually and completely to Him. How precious to know that God's Spirit and God's Word agree. There has been an Eternal Oath and Agreement made between God's Spirit and God's Word, through the Covenant of the Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ, that a special Bride will be formed from Christ's Blood-relatives in His Church.

Adam the First gave up a Rib from his body of blood so that God could form a natural bride for him. Likewise, the Second Adam, Jesus Christ, has given up a "Rib" out of His Body, the Church, so that God can form a spiritual Bride for Him.

In addition to the ceremony of the oath, taken between Abraham the master and Eliezer the servant, in which there was a joining of the servant's hand with the master's thigh of the Covenant of Circumcision, a new union between the words of the master's mouth and the servant's mouth had to be formed.

The Hebrew word for *swear* is *shaw-bah*, meaning to "seven" oneself, to repeat a declaration, to adjure, to charge by an oath. Abraham had declared by the Name of the LORD, by the God of Heaven, and by the God of Earth that his faithful, converted servant was to go to his blood relatives and take a wife for his son Isaac. Eliezer had to swear, by repeating Abraham's declaration, that he would give himself completely to fulfilling his master's command.

Eliezer had to swear by the LORD of the Covenant of Circumcision. The Name *LORD*, when it is spelled with all capital letters, refers to Jehovah and always is used in connection with God's Redemptive-Nature Work, which consists of His Redemptive Wisdom, Redemptive Understanding, Redemptive Knowledge, and Redemptive Choice.

No wonder the swearer was first to place his hand upon the part of the body that bore the marks of the Covenant of the Redeemer. Jehovah means the Self-existent One Who reveals Himself. Abraham's servant was swearing that he would bring back a bride for Isaac by the help of Jehovah, Who would reveal the way to him and guide him in the way, by His Redemptive Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, and Choice. Thus, the LORD would bring him to the proper bride for his master's son Isaac.

After swearing by Jehovah, the Revealer and the Redeemer, Abraham's servant Eliezer also swore by the God of Heaven — the God Who possessed all Spiritual Blessings and all Heavenly *Kabode* Glory for governing, guiding, protecting, and helping him along the way. Abraham and Eliezer both knew that the God of Heaven would impart His Divine Favour and Blessing to him so that Eliezer could bring back a blood relative as a bride for Isaac. Eliezer, Abraham's servant, swore by the God of Heaven, entering into a Covenant with Him and recognizing Him to be the Master, the Redeemer, the Possessor, the Blessor, the God of Heaven and all things.

Abraham had received a special revelation of the God of Heaven and the God of Earth, so evidently he taught this revelation to Eliezer since Eliezer immediately was willing to *swear* both by the God of Heaven and the God of Earth.

Once when Abraham had returned from a battle, God had revealed Himself to Abraham because Abraham had blessed Him as the Most High God, the Possessor of Heaven and Earth. This was such a great experience for Abraham that when a heathen king offered Abraham riches, Abraham refused to accept even a thread or a shoe latchet. Abraham wanted to be a testimony to the king that the Most High God was Possessor of Heaven and Earth; therefore, God would give him riches according to His Purposive Will. Hence, Abraham taught the heathen king that he had no power to make him rich. Knowing that God was the Possessor of Heaven and Earth, Abraham wanted his testimony to declare that all his blessings and riches came from the Most High God, the Possessor of Heaven and Earth.

Since Abraham taught the Truth to the heathen king, who lived *outside* his house, we know that he also taught the Truth to Eliezer, his faithful servant who lived *in* his house. Eliezer's faithful, righteous deeds confirm this fact.

The words of Abraham's mouth and the swearing of Eliezer's mouth were made one by the God of Heaven.

Abraham asked his servant to swear also by the God of the Earth, the ONE Who is Bountiful, Good, and the Supreme, Sovereign Ruler over the Earth, thus entering into a covenant to bring one of his blood relatives as a bride for his son Isaac. God's great Bountifulness, Goodness, and Supreme Sovereignty is seen in all the earth.

Two people do not enter into a Covenant unless they are one in mind, heart, and will. The fact that God had commanded Abraham to circumcise all males in his house means that Eliezer also was circumcised. Abraham wanted his servant to put his hand under his thigh that was connected to the procreating Power of the Covenant of Circumcision as a demonstration that their two Covenants of Circumcision were joined and that they were entering into a Covenant with the *God of the Covenant of Circumcision*. Abraham and Eliezer his servant entered into the Goodness and Justice of the Nature of the God of Heaven and Earth; therefore, both Abraham and Eliezer were assured that the God of Heaven and Earth would assist Eliezer in going about his master's business, and he would return with a blood relative as a bride for his son Isaac. Eliezer, with fidelity and prayerful trust in the God of Earth, discharged his duty in the serious commission of choosing a wife for Isaac from among Abraham's blood relatives.

The LORD Jesus Christ Himself also said, "I must be about my Father's business." He also said, in so many words, "I came down from Heaven, not to do mine own Will on Earth, but the Will of Him that sent Me."

Jesus Christ allowed His Father to make all the choices for Him concerning His Master Plan and Purposive Will. Likewise, Isaac allowed his father to choose his wife for him through his trusty servant Eliezer. Thus, Eliezer's wooing of Rebekah, a blood relative of Isaac's, and her long journey to Isaac, and their marriage are graphic and beautiful examples of the LORD's Supreme, Sovereign Guidance.

This example in God's Word teaches us to have a meek, humble, and surrendered will to the Heavenly Father, allowing Him to be the Divine Decider in all aspects of our life.

## Chapter Twenty-Five

# Our Great Inheritance In Christ Jesus

*And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac (Genesis 25:5).*

Although Abraham married a second time and had several sons by his second wife, he made Isaac his sole heir, having in his lifetime distributed gifts among his other children who were dispersed to other parts of the world.

Abraham set his house in order with prudence, justice, and righteousness, according to God's Purposive Will. He made Isaac his sole heir according to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will and to honour his beloved Sarah and because of his promise to Rebekah who, by faith, left all in order to marry Isaac (Genesis 24:36).

Because God had made Isaac the heir of the Promise, Abraham made him the sole heir of his estate. Our gift, deeds, and affection should be congruous with God's Purposive Will.

God caused Abraham to send away all his other sons into different parts of the world so that they could not strive and contend for Isaac's inheritance.

Abraham's servant Eliezer testified to Laban and to his household about the LORD's material blessings upon Abraham.

*And he said, I am Abraham's servant. And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly, and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses. And Sarah my master's wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath (Genesis 24:34-36).*

It was customary in those days to give the eldest son the inheritance of all the father's choice possessions. Abraham gave gifts unto the sons of his concubines, but he sent these sons away so that after his death there would be no dispute over Isaac's inheritance.

This is a beautiful picture of the LORD Jesus Christ Who, because He is the only Begotten Son of the Father, received the choice part of the inheritance from His Father.

Among Abraham's choice possessions were his flocks of sheep which became part of Isaac's inheritance. Part of Jesus' inheritance includes sheep. Jesus said, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). God the Father gave spiritual sheep to His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ. God's Word says that Jesus has been made heir to all things. It is a privilege to have the Spirit of the Living God lead us into a saving knowledge of the LORD, thereby leading us into the pasture in which Jesus is the Shepherd.

As our Shepherd, the LORD Jesus Christ assumes the responsibility of providing food and pasture for us. His responsibility is also to provide water to quench our thirst, to provide protection from raging "wolves" and "lions" that go about seeking whom they may devour, and to lead us to the place of rest at noonday, when the heat is too great for us to journey on.

We have been given to Jesus by the Father, and He will provide for all our needs. What a precious thought! We have to meet just one condition and that is to be willing to be led by the Good Shepherd.

God had blessed Abraham with herds of cattle, camels, and asses, which supplied Abraham and his family with meat, milk, and beasts to bear burdens.

God's Blessings of silver and gold provided Abraham with the substance to purchase the necessary things of life. For example, for four hundred shekels of silver, Abraham purchased the field with the Cave of Machpelah, in which he buried Sarah. Abraham sent, by his servant Eliezer, many gifts of gold and silver to Rebekah and her family, which bore witness of the great estate that Isaac would inherit.

Isaac also inherited all the human power he needed to help him take care of the great inheritance he had received from Abraham, his father.

Likewise, God has blessed the LORD Jesus Christ, the Sole Heir of His Kingdom, with all the Milk and Meat of His Word; all the Treasures of Truth in His Word; and all the Power to fulfill His Master Plan and Purposive Will. These things also are our inheritance in Christ Jesus as we grow in Him and His Spiritual Stature.

God had given the Land of Canaan, by Promise, to Abraham and to his Seed. Therefore, Abraham had the right to give Isaac the privilege of possessing the land and enjoying all the wonders, beauties, and blessings God had created

there.

The LORD God of heaven, which *took me from my father's house*, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, *Unto thy seed will I give this land*; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence (Genesis 24:7).

Abraham knew that God's Mercy and Grace had brought him out from his native country and that He had promised to give Canaan's Land to him and to his Seed. Abraham's confidence and trust in God prevented him from doubting that God surely would give Canaan's Land to his Seed. So, by faith in God's Promise, Abraham bequeathed Canaan's Land to Isaac.

Likewise, God's Promises to us in Christ Jesus and our experiences in Christ Jesus are sufficient to beget in us complete confidential trust in God that we can inherit the New Jerusalem in the Heavenly Canaan's Land.

God has given all things unto His Son Jesus. In Him are hidden all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge, all the Beauties of Righteousness and Holiness, and all the Spiritual Springs of Blessings.

All of spiritual Canaan's Land has been given unto Jesus Christ by His Father because He is the only Begotten Son of His Father. Jesus Christ is the Father's Sole Heir. Just as Abraham had the privilege of giving Isaac the right to possess his inheritance in natural Canaan's Land, so also does Jesus Christ have the glorious privilege of giving us, His children, the right to grow to spiritual maturity and possess our inheritance in spiritual Canaan's Land.

In our diseased perception of reality, we may think we have reached the limits of our spiritual education and moral development when we first get saved. However, it only *seems* this way to our immature, obscure vision. One honest spiritual look at the LORD Jesus Christ and His Spiritual Stature and the Infinite Inheritance of His Spiritual Land, which have been given unto Him by His Father, should convince us that we have not begun to lay hold of the Fullness of Christ's Inheritance.

Which one of us can say that we have exhausted the glorious Treasures of Christ's Wisdom and Knowledge? Have we discovered all the hidden Beauties of His Righteousness and Holiness? Have we drunk dry all the Spiritual Springs of His Blessings? Certainly not! This means there is much more of spiritual Canaan's Land to be possessed by us in Christ Jesus.

Yet, we need not become discouraged because we have not yet possessed all the spiritual land of Canaan. We can do the same thing which Paul said he did, which was to press on toward the Mark for the Prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. We lay hold of the Prize through spiritual growth in Christ Jesus, through Holy Ghost praying, and through studying God's Word, and through practicing our moral development in our everyday experiences of life. This spiritual diligence allows us to possess more and more of the LORD Jesus Christ until we are joined to Him in a spiritual Marriage Union, as His Bride. The more we obtain of Him and His Likeness, the greater the Prize.

In the Covenant God had made with Abraham, God gave great Promises of Blessing and Power that would come through Abraham and his Seed, which is Christ (Galatians 3:13-16).

God has made a Covenant with His Son Jesus Christ so that, through Him, His Seed of Blessing and Power would be poured out to the whole earth. Jesus said to His Disciples, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

We are sheep of Christ's Pasture, and He wants to impart His Power to us so that we can go forth as flaming Evangelists, bearing His precious Seed of Blessing and Power to the ends of the earth; then people, in turn, can see and believe. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12).

When Jesus went unto His Father, He sent back the same Holy Ghost Power which had empowered *Him* to labour. He wants His people everywhere to have this Power to go forth in His Mighty Name, conquering and defeating the works of the enemy. God gave Abraham the right to the Promises of God, and Abraham passed his inheritance on to Isaac who, in turn, passed the privilege on to his son Jacob.

The Father has given unto His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, all Power in Heaven and Earth, and His Son, in turn, has a right to pass that Power on to us. Just before returning to His Father in Heaven, Jesus told His Disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with Power from on High (Luke 24:49). It is our right and privilege to be filled with the Holy Ghost and Power. This privilege has been given unto us by the LORD Jesus Christ. The question that each of us must answer is this: How much of my inheritance have I possessed?

## Chapter Twenty-Six

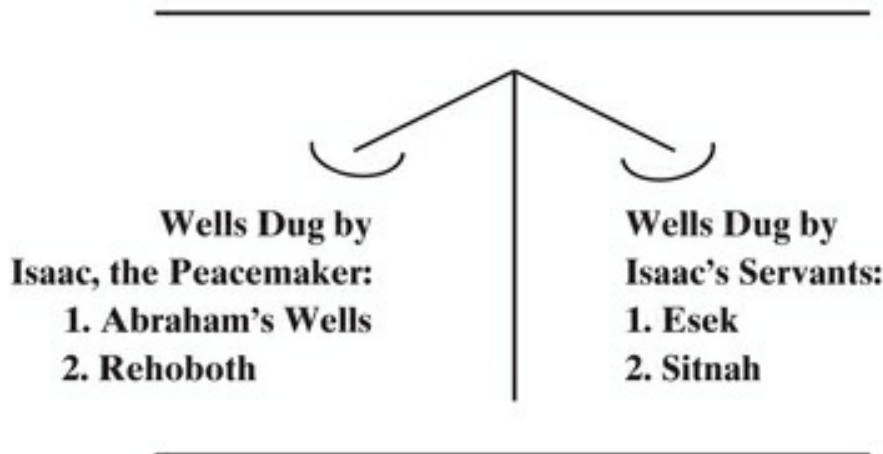
# Living By The Sweet, Peaceable Waters Of God's Word And Spirit Will Enlarge Our Spiritual Stature, And We Will Produce Mature Fruits Of The Spirit

*And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them. And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water. And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well *Esek*; because they strove with him. And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it *Sitnah* (Genesis 26:18-22).*

Isaac, the peacemaker, digged again the wells of his father, calling them by the same names that Abraham had called them.

It is good to dig again the old wells of our fathers. It is good to make use of the discoveries of Living Wells of Truth which have been corrupted and stopped up by adversaries of later times.

Later, Isaac, the peacemaker, digged another well called Rehoboth. Isaac's servants also digged two wells, Esek and Sitnah, which were taken away from them by force.



The wells which were not dug by Isaac the peacemaker, but by his servants, were taken away.

The first well that was dug by Isaac's servants was Esek. The Hebrew word for *Esek*, *Ay-sek*, comes from the root word *Awsak*, meaning to press upon, to oppress, quarrel, strive, treat with violence, injustice, defraud, exhort by fraud, injuries, oppressions, pressure, anguish, and distress.

In this story of the wells is a precious Spring of Spiritual Truth. The first two wells that Isaac's servants dug were a result of their own striving attempts at well digging. Therefore, they were not permitted to keep those wells.

Isaac called the first well that his servants digged Esek, the well of contention, because of the strife between his herdsmen and the herdsmen of Gerar. God did not allow Isaac to keep this well because it had been dug in strife and contention, not in peace. Isaac's servants had not learned to be like their master Isaac, the peacemaker.

This teaches us that whatever wells we dig spiritually through strife and contention will be taken away by the strife and contention of others. We reap what we sow. However, Isaac the peacemaker always allowed the enemy to keep the wells they violently and injuriously took away, and Isaac moved to a new place to begin digging again.

Likewise, we, too, fail to keep things we have laboured for when we have laboured in strife and contention, not in peace, as Jesus Christ, our Peacemaker, would have us do.

Surely, Isaac could not prosper by the well of strife and contention; therefore, God led him to a new place.

Many Christians live by the well of strife and contention; and through their striving and contentious tongues, they bring distress, anguish, and injuries to their fellow Christians. There is no other well that the Devil uses more frequently or more successfully than the Esek well of strife and contention. So many times, Christians drink the bitter waters of criticism and strife, filling their souls with bitter enmity and their mouths with bitter remarks. Thus, they also make others partakers of these bitter waters of strife and contention.

Regardless of how much bitterness is in these Esek waters, they never can be made sweet because the very nature of strife and contention is truly bitter. No one can grow and move on spiritually in the Stature of Jesus Christ until he gives this Esek well of strife and contention back to the Philistines of this world.

Isaac's servants dug a second well, and this one was called Sitnah. The Hebrew word for *Sitnah* is *Sit-naw*, meaning adversary, accusations, hatred and hostility, and ill will. Isaac the peacemaker chose to flee rather than to fight and give up the Principle of Peace by which he lived. Isaac was unwilling to dwell with those who hated peace and were full of ill will and hostility. He chose to flee and be in quietness, in preference to staying, fighting, and taking victory, and keeping the well of Sitnah.

Hatred is that little feeling of hostility that arises within our flesh when we are provoked by someone who is trying to take our possessions in some form. We sometimes think we have no hatred in our heart unless we feel a tremendous desire to murder someone. But, we are wrong if we think that. There are many little drops of hatred that ooze out of this bitter well of Sitnah.

The Epistle of James speaks of bitter water and sweet water springing forth from the same mouth, like a fountain, blessing God but cursing men. James said that these things ought not so to be. As Christians, we come to many wells of bitter water along life's journey, but God does not want us to dwell by these bitter wells, drinking of their sharp disagreeable taste which produces bitter enmity and bitter remarks.

However, we often fail to discern the true nature of our bitter feelings of hatred and ill will that ooze out of the well of our soul. Small forms of hatred in the old heart will hinder even a Spirit-filled Christian from moving upward, onward, and forward in his spiritual education and moral development in his New Heart. We need to wait before the LORD in the Word and in prayer and let Him show us, daily, the ways in which we are living by the bitter well of hatred or hostility.

Hatred also means to be with bitterness. When we feel that people have mistreated us or done us an injustice, we often choose to go and dwell, for a season, by the well of bitterness and hate in our old heart. The Book of Hebrews warns us against allowing a root of bitterness to spring up, for by so doing, many others are defiled.

The consequence of apostasy and defection from God's Grace or Gratitude is that a root of bitterness will spring up, troubling the spirit and soul of the owner as well as others. A bitter root of hate in the old heart produces bitter fruits in believers and spreads to others. Remember, we always share with others the kind of water that we have been drinking. In Ephesians, chapter four, Paul warns us to let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouth, and to let all bitterness, wrath, and anger be put away from us with all malice.

Whenever a minister of the LORD can get his people to depart from the bitter wells of strife and hatred, the entire Church experiences a mighty moving of God's Spirit and Christ's Love flows freely in their midst.

We must remove our dwelling place from the well of Sitnah. Isaac removed from the well of Sitnah, which his servants had dug, and went to Rehoboth.

Rehoboth was the name of the well that Isaac the peacemaker dug. This well was pleasing to the LORD; therefore, He permitted Isaac to keep it. The water in this well was sweet!

The Hebrew word for *Rehoboth* is *Rekh-o-both*, from *Rekh-obe*, meaning a wide avenue or way, enlargement, room, or height. Isaac said, "For now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land" (Genesis 26:22).

After the two wells, Esek (strife and contention) and Sitnah (hate and hostility), had been dug by his servants, Isaac separated himself from them and was led to Rehoboth where he dug a well of enlargement which pleased the LORD. Hence, he dwelt there, growing in God's Principle of Peace.

Remember, we never can be fruitful until we have lived by the sweet, peaceable Waters of God's Word and Spirit, in study and prayer, and have allowed God to enlarge our soul, making room for the growth of Christ's Spiritual Stature within us. Before a tree can bear fruit, there has to be an enlargement of its stature to maturity in order for it to gain enough strength in the root, trunk, and branches of maturity to bear and hold fruit. A tiny bush cannot support big red apples. The weight of mature apples would cause the bush to split and break.

If we desire to bear the precious Fruit of the Spirit, we have to dwell by Christ's sweet Well of Living Water and drink of its Life-giving Substance until we are enlarged in our spiritual education and in our moral development.

Isaac dwelled by the well of Rehoboth for a season. Then, he moved on to Beer-sheba, where he had a mighty

visitation from the LORD. The LORD appeared to Isaac there and confirmed the same Covenant with him that He had made with Abraham, his father.

Isaac separated from Esek and Sitnah because digging these wells had displeased the LORD; then, he separated himself unto the LORD of Abraham's wells and dug a well at Rehoboth. Next, Isaac moved on to Beer-sheba where the LORD appeared unto him, renewing the Covenant of his father with him.

Moving on with the LORD and becoming a partaker of previous revelations that God has given to saints who have walked before us is a precious experience.

So, Isaac built an altar in Beer-sheba and called upon the Name of the LORD. The fact that God already had revealed Himself to Isaac's father, Abraham, did not lessen the joy Isaac felt as he called on the LORD, nor did it dim the delight he experienced when he, too, received a personal revelation of God's Holy Covenant which He had made with Abraham.

Although, down through the ages, God has been revealing Himself to His people, when He comes to us, personally, to reveal Himself in some new way, it is a new experience for us; therefore, we, too, can and should build a new altar of praise and worship to Him.

Part of the Fruit that comes after we have dwelt by the sweet well of water is, in Truth, a new revelation or vision of the Son of God. The Word says that without a vision the people perish. If we will dwell by the sweet Well of God's Truth and not by the bitter wells of Esek (strife) and Sitnah (hatred), we will find an ever fresh vision of Jesus Christ, the Heavenly Bridegroom.

## Chapter Twenty-Seven

# Our Spiritual Birthright In Christ Jesus Will Bless Us With Spiritual And Material Blessings, The Bread Of The Word, Life And Joy, And Others' Respect

Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison; And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; *that my soul may bless thee before I die* (Genesis 27:3,4).

Jacob was the son of Isaac and Rebekah, and he was the twin brother of Esau. Although Esau was born first, God had chosen Jacob as His firstborn from the beginning.

And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, *The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated* (Romans 9:10-13).

Before God had spoken these prophetic words to Rebekah, there had been a great struggle between Jacob and Esau within her womb. The Hebrew word for *struggle* is *raw-tsats*, meaning to crack in pieces, break, bruise, crush, discourage, oppress, struggle together.

From Jacob's conception, he had had to fight for his promised birthright. However, Esau temporarily won the struggle by pushing ahead of Jacob at birth. Nevertheless, at the same time Esau came out of the womb, so did Jacob's hand emerge as a witness that the birthright was divinely his.

Jacob was domestic, so he spent time in his Grandfather Abraham's tent, learning about spiritual things. Because Jacob walked in God's Spirit, he knew *when* and *where* to meet Esau as he returned from his hunting trip, and Jacob knew *what* to have ready for him to eat in order to buy back from Esau the natural birthright which God already had given him.

Lest there be any fornicator, or *profane person*, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears (Hebrews 12:16,17).

Esau was a carnally minded, brutish person who not only had stolen Jacob's birthright in the womb by pushing his way out first, but he also despised the birthright after he was outside the womb. He ignorantly thought it was of no value since he had not reaped any material benefits from it. It meant so little to him that he legally sold it to his brother Jacob in exchange for a single bowl of red pottage.

Esau was so profane that he despised the sacred privilege of the birthright, which would have given him the positions of Prophet, Priest, and King of the family. He preferred the sensual satisfaction of his flesh to God's Birthright and Eternal Blessing. Esau's punishment was comparable to his sin.

In spite of the fact that Jacob was the legal holder of the birthright and, thus, the one in line to receive the Prophetic Blessing as Prophet, Priest, and King of the family, which went with the birthright, Isaac determined to give the blessing to Esau. However, knowing God's Will and having received His Word about it, Rebekah prevented Isaac from making an Eternal mistake by helping Jacob receive the Prophetic Blessing from Isaac, his father.

Rebekah was more concerned about God's Purposive Will in the matter than Isaac because she knew what God had said to her personally. Consequently, when Isaac, fearing lest he suddenly die, desired to give the blessing of the birthright to Esau who was his favorite, Rebekah had other plans.

Isaac did not favour Jacob in spite of what God had said and done for him, both inside and outside the womb. So, Isaac gave Esau, who was a hunter, a command to kill some venison so that Esau could fix him savoury meat; then, Isaac would give him the blessing.

According to the custom of those days, before a covenant was considered binding between the two parties involved, they had to eat together. So, following the accepted tradition, Isaac told Esau, his firstborn, to bring him

wild, savoury meat so that they could eat together before he blessed him.

The word *savoury* refers to something that is pleasing and delightful to the taste and the smell. Isaac wanted the kind of venison or wild meat he loved, the kind that was a delight to his human sense of taste and smell.

Rebekah, in her great wisdom, fixed tame savoury meat from the flock so that Jacob could eat with his father and receive the blessing. Remember that Jacob's hand was born at the same time Esau was born. So the name Esau was upon Jacob's hand, as well. Hence, in one sense, he could say that he was Esau. It is certain that God blessed Jacob as Prophet, Priest, and King of the family, which would not have happened if Rebekah had been out of God's Will in leading her son Jacob to receive the birthright.

The custom of two parties eating together before entering into a covenant is a precious picture of our Heavenly Father and us. In order for us to enter into the Covenant of Salvation with the Heavenly Father through the Blood of Jesus Christ, we must bring Him the "savoury meat" of repentance that is such a delight to Him. Through the savoury sacrifice of the LORD Jesus Christ, the Heavenly Father (the Offended) and the penitent sinner (the offender) can feast together. Afterward, the Father blesses us as a Prophet, Priest, and King.

It is a glorious privilege to bring the meat of repentance to God the Father so that we can eat of the Flesh and drink of the Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ; then we can enter into the Eternal Covenant of His Son. God cannot bless us with Salvation until we have brought Him the meat of repentance. After we have become a Christian, we can bring the meat of doing the Father's Will to Him.

When Jesus Christ's Disciples returned and found Him talking to the Samaritan woman at the well, as He revealed the secret of the Living Water to her, they wanted to give Him natural meat. But, Jesus told them that He had Spiritual Meat that they knew not of. "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me and to finish his work" (John 4:34).

When Jesus brought the Meat of Perfect Obedience to His Father, after His Death, Burial, and Resurrection, He received the blessing of being filled and crowned with Glory and Honour by the Father.

God's children often miss the blessing of the Father because they fail to bring Him the meat of doing His Purposive Will. What is the Will of God? God's Will is for us to believe on the Father of Jesus Christ Who is the Eternal Cause of all things.

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent (John 6:28,29).

The highest of all work is to believe that God is Good, Gracious, Just, and Righteous in all His Governance and Guidance of our circumstances and situations and that in His Omnipotent Power He can accomplish His Master Plan and Purposive Will in our life and that He can bring our New Man in our heart to full Spiritual Stature.

God's Will also consists of making us a witness for Him, making us Holy in thoughts and feelings, and keeping us unspotted from the things of the world.

Before bestowing the Prophetic Blessing of Prophet, Priest, and King of the family on Esau, his Father Isaac desired a fresh experience with his son so that he could enjoy Esau's affection for him and his obedience to him. Although Isaac had to have known that, in God's Eyes, Esau did not hold the legal birthright, he wanted to give it to him anyway. If, indeed, the birthright had not been Jacob's, legally, God never would have blessed him in the new role of Prophet, Priest, and King, making him the founder of the national family tree of Israel.

But, Rebekah, being directed by the LORD God, procured the divinely ordered Birthright Blessing for Jacob, which made him the receiver of the following things from God:

- the Dew of Blessings from Heaven and Earth,
- power and dominion over his brethren, which included Esau and his posterity,
- and prevalency with God since Jacob would be carrying the Promised Seed of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

By obeying the wise counsel and instructions of his godly mother, Jacob was able to receive the prophetic blessing from Isaac because it rightfully belonged to him as the legitimate owner of the birthright, both spiritually and naturally.

And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD hath blessed: Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine: Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that

curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee (Genesis 27:27-29).

The first part of the Birthright Blessing said that God would give Jacob the Dew of Heaven. After Jacob had received the Birthright Blessing from Isaac, this blessing began to be manifested in his life. He received the spiritual Dew of God's Presence while he was on the road to Mesopotamia, for in a dream, in the night season, the LORD God appeared to him, giving him the Dew of His Divine Presence. This also was true when Jacob was working for his Uncle Laban. God blessed Laban's fields and flocks with the Dew of Heaven for Jacob's sake.

The Hebrew Word for *dew* is *tal*, from the Hebrew root word *taw-lal*, meaning to strew over or cover over.

Dew is a dense vapour which falls on the earth during the night. In Israel, the dew fall was so abundant and in such a great measure that it supplied moisture enough to make up for the absence of rain showers. Consequently, dew became a beautiful emblem of spiritual blessings as well as temporal prosperity. Even without rain showers, dew accomplished the same fruitful results.

The heat and dryness of the air in Canaan's Land were such that if it were not for God-given dew, the earth would have been parched, and its fruits would have withered. So, dew is emblematical of the rich, abundant blessings of communion with the LORD and with each other (Psalm 133:3).

Dew refreshes, blesses, and brings fertility and fruitfulness. Natural dew prevented droughts in the Land of Canaan, especially between rainy seasons. The dew revived and quickened the land that had been parched by the burning rays of the sun during the day.

Our souls and spirits may be parched by the heat of trials and tribulations in this present world; nevertheless, if we bring the Meat of God's Purposive Will to Him, He will pour out the Dew of His Presence and Power in our spiritual night season to refresh, quicken, and invigorate us. He will cause His Word to become fertile and fruitful within us as He pours out the spiritual Dew of His Heavenly Word upon our soul.

Next, Isaac prophetically promised Jacob that he would receive the fatness of the earth as a part of his Birthright.

Corn refers to bread. *Corn* is a word used in the Bible to sig all sorts of cereal grains such as wheat, barley, millet, and fitches. Isaac's prophetic promise to Jacob included sufficient bread to make him strong.

Whenever we do God's Will, He is faithful to pour out His Dew of Heavenly Blessings, causing the Corn of the Seed of the Word to grow, which gives us spiritual Bread to grow strong. When there is plenty of the Corn of God's Word growing on our spiritual earth, we have plenty of spiritual Bread to eat.

Many people are spiritually hungry these days because they do not do God's Will by believing in His Sovereign Headship, nor do they spend sufficient time studying His Word or praying in the Holy Ghost. Therefore, they are void of the Heavenly Dew which would water the ground of their hearts and cause the Corn of His Word to grow into Spiritual Bread.

Isaac also prophetically promised that the earth would yield wine to Jacob, not only in the natural realm but also in the spiritual realm. Wine is emblematical of the Resurrected Christ's Life and Joy.

Jacob's life was blessed with an increase of twelve sons and one daughter, and his life was filled with the Joy of the LORD and the joy of his family.

The reason we sometimes feel like giving up and care little whether we serve the LORD or not is that, in our heart, there is a spiritual drought of God's Heavenly Dew that causes the Bread Corn of His Word to grow and the Wine of His Resurrected Life and Joy to fill our heart.

When Jesus bathes our heart with the Heavenly Dew of His Holy Ghost Power in the night season, we find refreshing, new Life springing up in our heart and soul, giving us a great desire to tell others about Jesus and giving us a longing to share His Wine of Life and Joy with others.

Then, Isaac prophetically blessed Jacob, saying the following things: people would serve him; nations and his mother's sons would bow down to him; his brethren would have to accept him as lord and master over them; people would bless him through the Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ; and people who cursed him would be cursed.

These things would not happen because Jacob, in himself, would be great; but people would see God's Presence, Power, Plenty, and Prevalency because of the blessing which God had bestowed upon him. Because Jacob had received the Promised Blessing, people would bow in respect to God's Presence, Power, Plenty, and Prevalency that were in him and upon him. Even Esau's anger was assuaged and turned away after Jacob had wrestled all night long with the LORD Jesus Christ in Angelic form. The LORD had blessed Jacob with His Presence, Power, Plenty, and Prevalency, after which Jacob received his new name, Israel.

If, like Rebekah and Jacob, we trust the LORD to give us our spiritual Birthright in Christ Jesus, according to His Master Plan and Purposive Will, we need not fear that the "Esau" in our life, in the form of fallen Lucifer, will steal God's Presence, Power, Plenty, and Prevalency from us.

It was said of the Apostles that the people took knowledge that they had been with Jesus. And, if we do God's Purposive Will by believing in the Heavenly Father, we will receive His Dew from Heaven upon our soul. Then, because of God's Blessing on us, people will know and respect us as having been with the LORD Jesus Christ.

## Chapter Twenty-Eight

# Jesus Christ Is The *Ladder* That Joins Heaven And Earth So That Man Can Be Connected To God

And he dreamed, and *behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven:* and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth; and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of (Genesis 28:12-15).

After Jacob had received his Birthright Blessing from his father, Esau's hatred for Jacob compelled his parents to send him to Padan-aram where his Uncle Laban lived and where Jacob also could seek a wife from among his blood relatives. Jacob fled in fear, turning his back upon his home and going among strangers.

Since Jacob was the heir of promise, God especially cared for him. Jacob arrived at a place that he called Bethel, where God opened his eyes and ears in the night season to see a glorious vision of the LORD and to hear His Voice. Upon awakening from his night dream and vision and spiritual experience, Jacob vowed to serve the LORD and to give Him a tenth of his living if the LORD would protect and prosper him.

In Jacob's night dream, he saw a Ladder set up on earth, and the top of it reached to Heaven. The LORD knew Jacob's help to produce a means of communicating from earth upward to Heaven; therefore, He allowed a Ladder to come down from Heaven. Seeing this Ladder was Jacob's first experience in his dream.

Jacob's Ladder teaches man that the heights of the LORD's Moral High Calling always is His Heavenly High Goal. Jacob's Ladder did not originate on Earth, but in Heaven.

Jesus Christ declared Himself to be the Ladder that joins Heaven and Earth. Jesus Christ is God's Mediating Ladder. The "Ladder Feet" of His Humility Human Nature are on Earth, and His "Ladder Head" of His Exalted Divine Nature is in Heaven. All God's Divine Beneficence and Favour descends to us who are on Earth through Jesus Christ; and all our praise, worship, and service to God ascends to Heaven through Jesus Christ, God's Eternal Ladder between Earth and Heaven. There is no other Ladder between Earth and Heaven but Jesus Christ. If we try to climb up some other way, we are a thief and a robber.

To Nathanael, Jesus said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man" (John 1:51).

The details of God's Word are an ever-increasing source of joy and amazement. The word *verily* means amen or trustworthy. The double use of the word *verily*, or the expression *verily, verily*, belongs to the Book of John where it is used twenty-four times. Twelve is the number of government; twice twelve is twenty-four. In others words, Jesus has a double portion of Government upon His Shoulder, the Government of Heaven and the Government of Earth. Thus, His use of the term "verily, verily" is legitimate because He is worthy of a double portion of our trust. He is the Amen of God's Word, both in Heaven and in Earth!

In the first chapter of John, Jesus was asking Nathanael for a double portion of his trust and pointing his attention to the fact that He was the Ladder. As the Son of Man, Jesus stood upon the Earth as the Mediating, Foundational Link between Earth and Heaven and between man and God. The distances between Heaven and Earth and between God and man were too great for fallen man to span. There was a need for a Living Ladder that would reach from Earth to Heaven.

In the beginning of man's history, God showed him that he, in his human energy and through his human efforts, could not build a ladder or tower that would join Earth and Heaven, connecting or joining man to God (Genesis 11:8). Oh, what a glorious privilege was to be Nathanael's! He was going to see the reality of what Jacob had seen by vision.

The lowest rung of Christ's Ladder or Cross can be mounted anywhere and everywhere on Earth. The top or heights of Christ's Ladder or Cross reach to God and Heaven where His Throne is.

Jesus declared to Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John

14:6). Thus, Jesus revealed Himself as the only connecting link between Earth and Heaven and between man and God. As the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ came down from Heaven and was set in the Earth and made Flesh and Blood and was clothed with Humanity. With Christ's Divine Nature, He could touch Heaven. As the connection between Heaven and Earth, He opened up the Way through Whom the very Angels of Heaven might descend to man on Earth, thus making it possible for the child of God to have the privilege of being ministered to by the Angels of Heaven.

This is the same Truth which the writer of Hebrews con. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14). Angels came and ministered to Jesus when He was being tempted by the Devil (Matthew 4:11) and, again, when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43).

Paul told the Corinthian believers that a woman who had long hair would have the power of humility on her head because of the presence of Angels. (If only God's people could see the power of humility.) Angels are sent from God to minister to His people, and the sight of Christ's Humility Power upon us moves God's Arm to release the ministry of His Angels in our behalf.

Those who want to see a picture of Jesus Christ's Power of Humility need to look at the Cross of Calvary. Through the Power of His Humility, Jesus purchased our Salvation. No greater Power ever has been demonstrated in Heaven or on Earth than the Power of His Humility that was exhibited on the Cross. It is no mystery that God created the Heavens and the Earth, for He is God. But, that He could humble Himself and come to Earth and take on Flesh is the greatest demonstration, in all the Universes, of His Power (Philippians 2:5-8).

Jesus is the "Ladder Way" to God and Heaven. In Jesus, we can walk on, climbing ever higher on the rungs of His Spiritual Ladder or Stature from day to day.

Jesus is the "Ladder Truth." We can keep climbing higher and higher in the Knowledge of Him, for He is the Truth. We do not have to be satisfied to stand and look back at the rungs of the Ladder upon which we already have stepped, but we can ask God for a vision of new Heavenly Heights and new Moral Goals which can be attained in Christ Jesus.

Paul said that he forgot those things which were behind and pressed on to the things which were before him. We need to forget the rungs which were a blessing to us yesterday and press on to new rungs of Truth in Christ Jesus, today.

Jesus also is the "Ladder Life." We can keep moving up in His Living Stature which brings new power and victory over our flesh and over the Devil.

As God spoke from Heaven, from the top of this long Ladder that reached down to Jacob on Earth, He revealed Himself as being the Way, the One Who would lead and go before Jacob. All Jacob had to do was follow Him.

Then, God revealed to Jacob that the increase of his natural Seed was to be spread abroad on the face of the Earth. Thus, God was going to be the Truth to Jacob so that Jacob could learn the reality of the Truth of His Promises.

God also promised Jacob that in his Seed should all the nations of the Earth be blessed. This Promise was God showing Himself as the Life to Jacob. Through the Seed of Jacob was to come the Seed of Jesus Christ according to the Flesh. Jesus was the Seed Who was going to give His Life for the nations of the Earth so that all who would believe on Him would be saved.

God records His coming to Jacob in his solitary, lonely night season so that we, today, also may learn that the LORD Jesus Christ is the same for us as He was yesterday for Jacob and as He always will be tomorrow.

**Oh, precious Jesus, Thou art the same yesterday, today, and forever!**

## Chapter Twenty-Nine

# Jesus Christ Is The Well Of Living Water That Waters Our Heart With Truth, And He Is The Stone That Will Cover Our Mouth And Keep The Truth Clean In Our Heart

Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. And *he looked, and behold a well in the field*, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: *and a great stone was upon the well's mouth*. And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place. And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we. And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know him. And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep.... And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them. And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother (Genesis 29:1-6,9,10).

After Jacob's experience in Bethel, he cheerfully and willingly went on his way to Padan-aram. He was burdened neither with cares nor fears, being assured of God's Presence with Him.

An everyday incident in Rachel's life introduced Jacob to her and to Laban's family. God's Divine Governance and Guidance had brought Jacob to the very field where his Uncle Laban's flocks were watered.

A well usually was the central watering place for many different owners' flocks of sheep. Wells were very essential in the hot, dry country of Palestine, and generally a great deal of labour went into providing a well at each place of pasturage. The wells were deep and difficult to dig, as well as to preserve. Consequently, they were a valuable part of the owner's property. Sometimes, wells were owned in common, as was the well in the field that Jacob saw.

Natural wells are used throughout God's Word to picture the deep Wells or Reservoirs of His Spiritual, Living Water in His Word. The well Jacob saw in the field was a literal, visible source of natural water, yet the example of Jacob's well imparts a fresh Spring of Spiritual Truth to us, showing us that, if we direct our spiritual eyes and attention to God's Word in the midst of the heat of our trials and temptations, He will direct us to the very place He wants us to be. Since all Scripture is given for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness, it is possible, always, to find a lesson in God's Word that will enlighten our heart and mind in the midst of every circumstance and situation of life.

Jacob's well reminds us of God's ministers and servants who are placed in the field of this world to give forth His Life-giving Waters from His Word. No man can be a true servant or minister who has not had a Well of Water planted within his being by the Spirit of the Living God. Neither a college nor a seminary can make a Well of Spiritual Water in a human heart; only the Spirit of God can create a Well of Living Water in the heart and, then, send that individual forth to give out His Truth.

*Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation (Isaiah 12:3).*

Our natural life and our spiritual life depend upon God's Wells of Water in both realms.

First, God's servants must enjoy drawing Water out of God's precious Well of Truth, personally; then, they will have His Spiritual Water to share when they go forth to instruct others, telling them how to let down their buckets of faith and draw with their cords of love out of God's Life-giving Well.

Jacob was a weary traveler in need of some natural refreshment when he arrived in Padan-aram. The presence of three flocks of sheep lying by the well made it easy for Jacob to discern there was indeed a well nearby. The presence of three flocks of sheep also revealed that their shepherds had led them to the well. A good and faithful shepherd in the natural realm, and also in the spiritual realm, always knows where the wells of water are; hence, he will lead his sheep there for refreshment.

Three is the number of Divine Perfection; it tells the story of the Perfection found in Christ. Sheep also are a picture of Christ's sheep that have partaken of His Perfection, by faith. As sheep of His Fold and sheep of His

Pasture, they always experience His good and faithful Guidance to spiritual refreshment from the Well of God's Word.

A well capable of refreshing three flocks of sheep and all the other flocks that would arrive later on had to be a deep well with an abundant water supply. Unquestionably, the well would have plenty of water to refresh Jacob, a weary traveler.

The precious Water of God's Word not only refreshes Christ's own sheep, but it also furnishes refreshment through His servants for other weary travelers whom they meet in their journey through this life.

During His Lifetime here on Earth, Jesus met a weary traveler, a Samaritan woman, at Jacob's well, and He gave her His Spiritual Water of Life that He had given his own sheep, His Disciples. The woman returned to her home with Christ's new Water of Life bubbling in her soul, which she, in turn, shared with others.

While Jacob was asking the shepherds at the well if they knew his Uncle Laban, Rachel, Laban's daughter, came to the well. The shepherds had closed the mouth of the well after watering their sheep, but with great, miraculous strength, Jacob rolled the covering stone from the well's mouth and humbly and energetically watered his Uncle Laban's flock that Rachel, the shepherdess, had brought to the well.

Wells in Palestine usually are excavated from solid limestone; then, the large stones that have been hewn out are used to cover the mouth of the well. The stone that covered the mouth of the well was very important for the following reasons:

- It prevented the dirt on the outside from entering the well and defiling the water on the inside.
- It prevented the well's waters from being damaged by the heat of the sun.
- It prevented the well's waters from being poisoned by any spiteful hand.
- It prevented the lambs and sheep from being drowned in the well's waters.

Jesus Christ is God's Living Water in His Well, and Jesus Christ also is the precious Living Stone Who protects the Mouth of God's Well. It was the things from outside that would have entered the natural well's mouth, defiling the water inside, if the stone had not protected the well's mouth. Contrariwise, it is the things that we allow to come out of our mouth, from within our old heart, that defile the precious Waters of God's Word and Spirit which live in our New Heart. Daily, we should pray to Jesus to cleanse our old heart and invite Jesus to become the Stone on our mouth so that the Waters from God's Word and Spirit in our New Man may be used for watering the LORD's sheep and for refreshing weary sinners who travel on this life's earthly road.

The Apostle Paul exhorted us to prevent corrupt words from coming out of our mouth, but to allow good words to proceed out of our mouth.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you (Ephesians 4:29-32).

It is important to allow Jesus Christ to be the "Protecting Stone" of the well of our mouth so that we may give forth good, sweet water to the use of edifying the receiver.

Oh, that all God's children would allow Jesus Christ to be the Stone to cover their mouths, but especially God's servants who are responsible for watering Christ's flocks of sheep.

When God's servants fail to let the Living Stone, Christ, become a Seal for their mouths, then the corruption of bitterness, anger, clamouring, and evil speaking proceeds from the wells of their old hearts, defiling God's Water from His Well of Truth. Consequently, they are unable to draw out pure water for Christ's flocks of sheep to drink.

Many times God's servants, wrongfully and with great malice and bitterness, use the liberty they have in the pulpit to get back at some brother or sister in the congregation who has done some wrong to them. Instead of lifting up Christ and His Holy Name and giving Christ's flocks of sheep the pure Living Water of Truth to drink, they use their pulpits as an occasion for clamouring against other Christian brothers and sisters who do not see things in the same light as they do. Thus, they serve Christ's Well Water with a bitter taste; then, Christ's flocks of sheep are not watered with the pure Water of His Word. Because this is so often true, the Apostle Paul told the Church at Ephesus to speak the Truth in love. "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" (Ephesians 4:15).

Speaking Christ's Truth in God's Love and not in fleshly contention is a Divine Requisite to being a minister and servant to others. These two — Truth and Love — should go together so that Christ's flocks of sheep can be watered with *pure* Water that will cause them to grow up in the Mature Spiritual Stature of Jesus Christ.

Fallen Lucifer is anxious to defile the heart "wells" of God's servants because he knows that by so doing he can defile many of Christ's flocks of sheep. Whatever we allow fallen Lucifer to put into our heart-well will come out again, defiling whoever listens to us.

After Jacob had watered his Uncle Laban's sheep, he returned the stone to the well's mouth. So must we let Jesus cover our mouths after He has watered us with His Living Waters of Truth. Only then will impurities and defilement be kept out of our heart.

**Precious Jesus, please be the Stone on the mouth of our old heart and soul so that the Water of Your Spirit and Word always will be kept fresh, pure, and living for Your flocks of sheep.**

