"Give Me Back My Wife!"

~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

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from the pen of a ready writer,

CHRISTINE BEADSWORTH

DEDICATION

~To the One Who gave me eyes to see, and ears to hear, and a heart to understand...

All Scriptures used are from the Amplified Bible, unless otherwise stated in specific instances.

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"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter" ~ Rev 1:19

Let there be light

A word to the reader:

This book was not written in an attempt to find fault with the Church, but as a result of experiencing the pain and heartbreak of the Bridegroom and His intense longing for face-to-face relationship with those He loves so fiercely. My prayer is that you hear His fiery jealous heart in every line... and be unable to resist it.

Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
Chapter 1 ~ A BRIDE FOR THE SON	23
Chapter 2 ~ WHO IS REALLY GOD?	35
Chapter 3 ~ CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOOR	81
Chapter 4 ~ TWO CITIES, TWO WOMEN	109
Chapter 5 ~ ONE TRUE GOD OR ONE WORLD RELIGION	131
Chapter 6 ~ THE UNFAITHFUL WIFE	145
Chapter 7 ~ BANK OF EARTH OR BANK OF HEAVEN	175
Chapter 8 ~ BRINGING IN THE WHOLE TITHE	201
Chapter 9 ~ AN EARTHLY OR A HEAVENLY SOUND	231
Chapter 10 ~ HOUSE OF SAUL OR HOUSE OF DAVID	243
Chapter 11 ~ THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW	275
Chapter 12 ~ HEBRON, HOLY HIDEOUT	287
Chapter 13 ~ FRUIT FIT FOR A KING	307
Chapter 14 ~ ALIGNING WITH THE ROAR	321
Chapter 15 ~ FRAGRANT COALS OF FIRE	335
Chapter 16 ~ TOWER OR TOMB	363
Chapter 17 ~ DIVISION BEFORE MULTIPLICATION	373
Chapter 18 ~ POSTSCRIPT ~ VISIONS AND DREAMS	397

INTRODUCTION

The Spirit of God has always spoken to me in riddles – pithy, short phrases spoken just when I least expect them, and with enough of an air of mystery to send me on an excited journey of discovery into the depths of just what He meant, when He tossed out the sentence like a scribbled clue placed in plain view on a child's treasure hunt. Perhaps it is connected to my desire as a young girl to be an archaeologist... The thought of a sequence of serendipities leading to a casket of ancient, deeply buried jewels, captured my imagination early on. Little did I know that this fascination would characterise my walk with the Spirit of Truth. I did not want to just see His acts, but to know His ways. Oh for eyes to see and ears to hear... and a heart that understands!

Of course, in my usual naive fashion, I did not realise that being given eyes to see and ears to hear would necessitate a number of painful 'operations' upon my heart. As you can imagine, it is imperative for a daughter of Zion to be able to clearly see what the Spirit of Truth is painting before her eyes, and to accurately hear the words which are spoken, explaining its nuances. Perhaps you have heard of the reporter who rushed off to interview a farmer who had suffered disaster during recent flooding? The next day, a huge headline appeared in the local newspaper, 'Three Thousand Piglets Washed Downstream!' Imagine her embarrassment when the farmer called into the office and patiently explained that what he had actually said was, "Three sows and a piglet were washed downstream!" Haha...

I laugh at that every time I read it, because I have fallen into the same hole many times!

Pro 25:2 *It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a thing.*

In 2008, I published a book called 'Beauty Treatments for the Bride' which delved into the journey the Bride of Christ is taken on by the Holy Spirit, to prepare her fully for her face to face moment with the Bridegroom. (It is available as a free download on www.lulu.com and also from my website.) So much water has passed under the bridge since then (and probably a few piglets too).

In 2014/15, the Lord began to download revelation for this present book, but, as is always His modus operandi with me, just when I thought it was time for me to begin to put it all together for publishing, He then took me out of my secular job and instituted an intensive (and painful) year of personal, internal preparation in order to make me a vessel fit to release the Truth He had planted in my heart. Yes, I was booked in for some ear and eye operations, although I had no clue of this fact as I skipped into the free-range chicken world with my writer's quill tucked jauntily behind my ear! I remember rejoicing in my car as I drove along during that first week, thanking the Lord that I was no longer a 'battery chicken' (yes, I am prone to theatrics!). I hardly stopped to absorb His quiet retort, "Yes, My dear, but I didn't make you to be a chicken. I made you to be an eagle..."

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Of course, hindsight is 20/20 vision and as I look back at this preparation period, which closely mirrored Esther's treatments before meeting the King, I have to chuckle, because what the Spirit was doing was putting me through a fast revision course of all I had shared in my first book! Actually, it was more like a boot camp! He woke me very early each day and put me through spiritual exercises that had my flesh screaming for mercy! My daily diet of spiritual food was also severely adjusted and any 'junk food' completely removed from my plate. Some of the websites which I was forbidden to visit really surprised me as I had not discerned that there was anything harmful in them. He was keeping me on a 'strict diet'. Over and over, He reminded me of my appointed calling in the Kingdom economy and chastened me whenever I lost focus on the end-goal. "You can be a reader or a writer; you don't have time to do both!" This straightforward rebuke echoed back and forth in the chambers of my heart from the moment He gently chided me with the phrase. I was going to have to pull in my belt and get with the program. (Yes, Beloved, we are in a season where it's no longer business as usual and the Spirit is speaking specific instruction to each holy vessel; no more generic one-size-fits-all recipe. It's time to hone in fully on your part in the big picture.)

At times, I felt quite sorry for myself, as some of my fellow Believers did not seem to be subject to anywhere near such a stringent training regimen... and then of course, my next visit to the '(Head)Master's office' would involve a rebuke for entertaining Self-pity at my dinner table... and I would then go through the process of evicting that uninvited guest from Numerous other mv inner chambers. unwelcome 'bedfellows' received the same treatment during the first six months of the preparation year. I can smile now but at the time, I prayed the words of psalm 51 so often that it felt as if I had actually written them myself..."Against You only have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight...Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be clean...Take not Your Holy Spirit from me." Granted, I had asked for a visitation of the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord early on that year, but little did I realise what it would entail. However, as the Scriptures clearly stated this was the first step to true wisdom, I was determined to get well acquainted with this particular sector of the seven spirits of God before the throne.

Over and over, the Lord washed the inner chambers of my heart; every secret corner and every basement cupboard. It was shocking, exhilarating and exhausting, in equal quantities - and all the time I wondered when He would finally release me to write this book that was burning like a fire in the hearth of my heart. Yet the purging process went on. So many planks were removed from the eyes of my heart that I could have built a log cabin with them! The smallest straying from the standard laid down in the Word would strike me with such deep conviction that, at times, I was loathe to get out of bed in the morning, or open my mouth as I was sure to err in some way as soon as the day began.

Very slowly, the scales of complacency were lasered off my eyes layer by layer and I began to see the state of the Bride through the Father's eyes. It broke my heart. Firstly, I felt this way because of what I had discovered still lurking under the surface of my own heart, after walking with the Lord for close to forty years. I was appalled that such unedifying tendencies still swam around in the bottom of my heart pond. It wasn't so much my deeds that were being dealt with, but my ways. The sword of the Spirit was dividing between the thoughts and intentions of my heart – the difference between which, I had absolutely no clue about at the beginning of the process.

VISIONS OF GRANDEUR

Then suddenly, halfway through the eighth month, I had a dream that I was working for a woman who was republishing my first book and when I told her that my book had already been published before, she was very surprised. When I awoke, I asked the Lord if He was telling me to republish this first volume, as I had recently come across a Publishing Company which had outlets throughout the continent of Africa. (This was the one continent that had not really been exposed to the content of Beauty Treatments for the Bride and I had received a growing burden from the Spirit over the months to call the Bride of Christ in Africa to arise and take her place in Kingdom purposes.) In response, He gave me a verse from Proverbs 27:25-27 which seemed to indicate that provision for the winter would come in through what had been done in the summer - enough to provide for my whole household. In addition, my Daily Devotional reading that day was about enlarging and spreading out to right and left; two different directions, and not being limited by your narrow understanding of what God wants to do

through you. It quoted the scripture from Isaiah 54:2&3. Although I could not understand why the Lord would want me to start the whole process again, this time using a commercial publishing channel, these two confirming scriptures, plus the recently discovered Publishing House, all seemed to indicate this was His will.

I reasoned to myself that perhaps the outlets in the far northern reaches of Africa would reach people whom my freely available internet downloads could never get to. Of course, there were stringent requirements in the application for acceptance for publishing and I found it quite frustrating to have to go back to my original manuscript 8 years later and adjust it to meet the set standards. It felt that I was wasting valuable time, which should have been devoted to tackling the new book manuscript. One night, I was wrestling over these questions with the Lord and He suddenly said, "It's not an interruption. It's an introduction!" Suddenly, I saw before my eyes a short movie clip of the first book preceding the second book and paving the way for it to follow. It seemed to make total sense. I stopped questioning and got on with the application. The website assured I would hear a response within a month. I felt sure that the Lord was going to open wide doors of favour for this project.

Thirty five days later, after an email query from me as to the progress of my application, I was informed that the company was restructuring and was not accepting any new manuscripts. I was completely floored! How could this be? Had I jumped to conclusions and heard Him wrong when He said, "This is not an interruption but an introduction"? I fell before the Lord, asking why the door had been shut. Ever so quietly, I heard the reply, "So that you will know there is no place for you in the institutions of man. The door to that is closed. My Bride will follow in My footsteps, outside the gates of the city." That hit me right between the eyes – right in the place where I had been picturing my ascent in the ranks of the Church... what vain imaginations!

Heb 13:12 Therefore Jesus also suffered and died outside the [city's] gate in order that He might purify and consecrate the people through [the shedding of] His own blood and set them apart as holy [for God]. Heb 13:13 Let us then go forth [from all that would prevent us] to Him outside the camp, bearing the contempt and abuse and shame with Him. Heb 13:14 For here we have no permanent city, but we are looking for the one which is to come.

Let us go forth to Him outside the camp... The camp of what? I had a blurry understanding of what He might be saying to me in this instance. But how would this be accomplished? And where exactly was 'outside the camp'? Such short questions... such big answers... But let me not get ahead of myself! He had clearly said to me, "Republish" which, on pondering the word later, the sudden realization dawned that it is just another way of saying, "Say it again" or "repeat yourself", but I had jumped to conclusions and approached the 'Publishing House'....and He had let me go on the whole 5 week journey to show me what leaning on the arm of flesh and my own soulish understanding looked like. disheartening! After all that long purging How and preparation period, the foundational inclination within my

heart was still to 'go to Egypt for help'; to look to the readybuilt organizations of men as a vehicle to fulfill what the Lord had put in my heart to do. He had said something very simple –"Say it again" - and I had leant on my own understanding and made it something large and difficult and grand and time-consuming. And worst of all, I had come face to face with the root of every costly wrong decision in my spiritual walk....and I have no doubt, probably in yours too! It is called 'The Pride of Presumption'. And I had spiced it up with a lovely little mental movie clip produced by my vain imaginations, instead of submitting every thought to the

Lord, and then waiting until He explained fully.

If you would like a word picture to help get to grips with what I am saying, imagine you see a snout coming around the corner at below knee level. "Oh, there is a piglet coming," you say to yourself and picture it, all pink and chubby, trotting round the corner. Imagine your surprise when a baby aardvark shuffles into view! (For those of you who don't know what that is, this strange creature is a mediumsized, burrowing, nocturnal mammal native to Africa). The moral of the story is: 'Don't write a book, until you have waited for the whole story to come into plain view by daylight!' Actually, come to think of it, the Lord had whispered to me at some time during that preparation year, "You have to read the whole page, before we can be on the same page...." Say no more.

So here we have it folks; the grand introduction to my book – my journey to the closed door! That's bound to keep you reading avidly to see what blunder I made next... And, as

you may have already discovered in your own lives, a closed door is very often a huge blessing from a protective, kind Father, who wants you to wait until you come face to face with what He has really prepared for those who love Him! Actually, in retrospect, I am glad it happened, because it irrevocably changed the way I understood the foundational scripture I had been nourished by, throughout the preparation process:

Pro 3:5 Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and <u>do not rely on your own insight or</u> <u>understanding</u>. Pro 3:6 In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths. Pro 3:7 <u>Be not wise in your own eyes</u>; reverently fear and worship the Lord and turn [entirely] away from evil.

Beloved, it is the very trap of leaning on your own insight and understanding that goes deeper than any other thing that we struggle to shake off in our journey to spiritual Simply because maturity. Why? we do it quite subconsciously most of the time... We complicate what was always intended to be simple, because we do not put the word 'maturity' and 'simplicity' in the same row on our mental bookshelf. When one has walked with the Lord for many years, through valleys and over mountain tops, there is laid down in our thought processes a thick foundation of experiential understanding. This has the effect of giving us some sort of 'girdle'; a perceived undergarment of inner support and comfort when we face any new situation. It forms the basis from which we view and interpret any issue

that arises. It is as if we feel we have mastered the 'ABCs' and see no need to re-examine the cement which holds them together as we launch forth like a battleship in full sail towards new spiritual heights and greater revelations. We subconsciously breathe a sigh of relief and say to ourselves, "Thank goodness I have my foundational undergarment on. I am sure I look totally streamlined to the outside world! I have been here before and I know exactly what works!" and we plunge into the waves like the proverbial bathing beauty. What need is there to consult the Lord when we have already learned this particular swimming lesson?

Unfortunately, we do not fully realise that the new season that is breaking out upon us is like no other we have ever encountered. There are some huge waves coming... and a tsunami or two. In the same way as the Israelites who finally left the wilderness to experience the Promised Land, WE HAVE NOT BEEN THIS WAY BEFORE. It may look like the same beach and you even may be wearing the same costume (you know - the one that hasn't worn out since you left 'Egypt', when you donned it for your baptism through the Red Sea). However, the spiritual weather patterns are behaving in a most unpredictable fashion and there's a rip tide out there that is designed to suck you under once and for all. Even though you have swum on this same beach for years, this time you really need to pause; tape over the know-it-all mouth of your fleshly understanding that babbles endlessly within, and really approach each day like a little child. It's the only way to experience the fullness of the Kingdom that's appointed you – and it is also the only way

to escape the things that are coming on the earth and to stand in His presence in the turbulent season ahead.

UNCHARTED TERRITORY AHEAD

We have not been this way before. Therefore, all our previous experience in the journey is useless to us. I am convinced we have yet to fully comprehend this truth. The sentence bounces off the ironclad confidence of our inner man and leaves us woefully vulnerable to plunging forth situations that we have neither the spiritual into understanding nor the right weapons to tackle. And the prospect for bloodshed and loss is frightening because the way of conducting warfare in the land (or sea) ahead of us is very different to everything the church has taught for so many years... We are returning to the simplicity of simple childlike obedience to every small instruction of the Spirit of Truth. And this is not a way of living which sits well with those who are smug in their assessment of their own advanced spiritual maturity.

The pride of presumption... what exactly does that mean? Presumption means jumping to conclusions; presuming something without being fully in possession of the facts. David prayed, "keep me from presumptuous sin' in psalm 19:

Psa 19:12 Who can discern his lapses and errors? Clear me from hidden [and unconscious] faults. Psa 19:13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion

over me! Then shall I be blameless, and I shall be innocent and clear of great transgression.

Presumptuous sins can rule you AND have dominion over you – now, that's a scary thought! Not the enemy; not some demon somewhere out there, but something within your own heart can rule and subjugate you – and it's called presumption. The Hebrew translated here as 'presumptuous sins' actually says 'out of arrogance'. So presumption is the poster child of Mrs Pride and Mr Know-it-All; the ugly product of their fleshly union. It is plain old pride that causes us to jump to conclusions; to presume we understand a situation before us so clearly, that we have no need to go to the Lord and ask for understanding!

This is exactly what I did when I took the two scriptures I received that morning and added them to my discovery of an African Publishing House - and built myself a neat little concerning the instruction conclusion to 'republish' (beautifying it with a vivid illustration conjured up by my overactive imagination! Yes, I even had background music playing!) I mean, honestly, I am fluent in English, have a wide vocabulary and had no trouble understanding that single word 'Republish' - especially when it was spoken on the very day the other 3 'confirmations' crossed my daily path! Why on earth would I go to the Lord and say, "what do You mean 'republish'?" It was as plain as a pikestaff to me as I viewed it through the cataracts of spiritual pride. It didn't occur to me for one minute to apply Proverbs 3:6 'in ALL your ways acknowledge Him' to the understanding of such a simple word! After all, I have been the scrabble champion in

my family for decades! ...and so Heaven appointed me five weeks of labouring unnecessarily, and waiting for an answer that would only serve as a mirror to show me the true condition of my heart. Ouch, that really hurt – but I needed it!

Actually, the real African Publishing House is the House of God in Africa, the African Bride of Christ, through whom He will release a sound that shakes the earth and the heavenlies. How important it is to see things from God's perspective – we are more earthly minded than we realise!

Just the other day, I was chatting away to the Lord as I wandered round my garden, and we were discussing the concept of Bucket Lists. I commented strongly that I would never in a million years bungee jump off a bridge or sky dive! "Why ever not?" the Lord replied, "You do it all the time!" I couldn't for the life of me understand this statement and asked what He meant. "You're always jumping to conclusions!" He retorted! I burst out laughing because it was perfectly true, although I would never have admitted it until that moment of unmasking! I suddenly saw myself going on a tandem skydiving jump with the Holy Spirit, but I was determined to be the one in front and plunged out of the plane before the Holy Spirit could issue any instructions in my ear! Thank the Lord for the anesthetic effect of laughter – it served to allow Him to open up an area which really needed an urgent operation by the Great Physician. After some repentance and realignment to Proverbs 3:6 &7, I marveled at how many times in my life, the Lord had

somehow protected me from utter disaster unfolding, as a result of my presumption.

GENERIC OR SPECIFIC

Spiritual pride is an insidious cloak which has crept weightlessly and undetected over the shoulders of most of us, as we successfully conquered attacks and spiritual obstacles over the past seasons. Yes, there were times of feeling like one would never break through. But then there were also moments of quiet satisfaction as the enemy was forced to retreat seven ways. These instances have spawned any number of 'Five Steps to Victory' books in church circles, and made Christian authors overnight successes. And of course, their testimonies were true. They had tasted victory. However, in some cases the God who had brought them to this place of victory may have never intended them to bottle and label the process and peddle it like snake oil salesmen, as a generic remedy for any and every spiritual malady. And those who have struggled to find lasting breakthrough, have filled their bookshelves with these very books and conference DVDs year after year; faithfully going through all the steps indicated and jumping through every hoop imaginable...and yet, still find themselves broken and full of hope deferred. And the world laughs, and the Pharisees in the Church point fingers and diagnose sinful inner heart conditions, using their assessment of the outer lack of visible blessing in a saint's life. They obviously have not read the first verse of the book of Job recently; 'that man was perfect and upright, and one who feared God and turned aside from evil.' (Job 1:1)

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All the while, on the sidelines is a God Who weeps and longs for His people to accept the invitation to come to HIM and drink - personally and privately in the secret place, in order to receive uniquely crafted solutions to every problem they and their loved ones face in life. Every single snowflake is unique, and every member of the Body of Christ is fearfully and wonderfully woven together into a completely unique individual. There is no such thing as a generic prescription in Heaven's Pharmacy. Only Father God who can see into the human heart, can prescribe exactly the right 'medicine' at the right dose for each problem we face - and only the Holy Spirit can apply the ointment deep inside our hearts. Yet, like the instance of me seeking out a Christian Publishing House, we continue to prefer to lean on the arm of flesh; to ask for help from another member of the Body of Christ that seems more educated or trained or gifted than we see ourselves. It unnerves us to contemplate that we might have to depend upon God alone...what if we can't hear His voice clearly?

...and end up consuming the wrong medicine? Well, fortunately, His whole Word is medicine and there are no side effects from swallowing down other 'pills' from the Word on the way to the right prescription.

Let me clarify a question you may have. Am I suggesting that members of God's family should not give input to one another? Of course not! God does give gifts to the Body, so that every joint can supply, but He never intended the input of other people to supersede your own time of receiving intimate, private input from the Holy Spirit and the Bridegroom Himself. It is like eating out at restaurants every night, when you have an in-house Cordon Bleu Chef in the kitchen! It's madness! Actually, it's worse than that... It's Religion. Any time you require another human being to be a constant intermediate between you and Jesus, you have returned to the very practice He intended to bring to an abrupt end when He allowed Himself to be mutilated and killed on our behalf.... Multitudes of Believers have made

'Christian Celebrities' out of those with prophetic gifts, following them like groupies, waiting for daily dainties to drop from their lips; until these 'oracles' begin to function at the demand of the people and not at the prompting of the Spirit of God and open themselves up to familiar spirits masquerading as bringers of truth. And the water gets muddier...and the sheep get more thirsty and hungry.

Decade upon decade of 'Church' functioning has built a modus operandi where members of the very family God formed for relationship with Himself, instead seek out solutions, input and counsel from other parts of the Body, assuming they are all properly connected with the Head. Worse still, when things are not running smoothly in the fellowship, they seek out those who have been successful in the world for Business Models and then, like Constantine, they dress it up in good little 'Christian clothes' and present it as a spiritual seminar to 'find your best self!' (Just a question here – how many selves do you have? For goodness sake, God didn't bring forth a 'multiple personality' child when you were born again!) Why do people get sucked into these charlatan charades? I surmise it is because the wisdom of man dressed in 'Christianese' can pass itself off fairly well as the Wisdom of God – only problem is that it doesn't solve

the problem, as what is born of the flesh ministers only to the flesh; and then one searches for yet another book/DVD/Conference/saint who may have the answer.

What a painfully long journey we give ourselves back to square one... "They have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters and hewn out for themselves broken cisterns which hold no water."(Jeremiah 2:13) Many church leaders have leaned on their own understanding and turned to the world in order to boost the coffers and bring the jaded younger generation through their doors. And they do come - but it is because they encounter the entertainment and smoke and mirror tactics of popular worldly music concerts. They feel quite at home sipping cappuccinos in the upmarket in-house coffee shop and leave charged up and seemingly empowered for the week ahead... yet very often having not even been exposed to one word that would bring direction or discipline to their fleshly lifestyles.... Heaven forbid that the Word of

God be used for reproof, correction or training in righteousness like 2 Tim 3:16 describes!

No wonder that the heart of God burns with jealous zeal for the purpose of dealing with all the garbage that has been passed off as the 'normal Christian life' for so many years. Most people who currently consider themselves part of the Body of Christ, were grafted in to a culture already severely watered down, infiltrated and compromised, and have absolutely no idea that Father God had something infinitely more simple and beautiful in mind when He set about putting together the grand blueprint of what we call 'the Gospel'.

ARE WE REALLY READY?

I have had a passionate interest in everything involving the Bride of Christ since I first knelt and surrendered to Jesus at age 15. Yet, I was also somehow able to daily conduct a relationship with the Lord for a large number of years, without ever being remotely aware that there were some rather serious basic issues in the foundations of my heart, which needed to have the axe laid to the root. So too, the current sector of the Body that refers to itself as 'the Bride' is appointed an eye-opening encounter with the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord. We have tried to the best of our ability to 'make ourselves ready' and yet, just as a young girl would find it difficult to prepare for her wedding within the confines of a brothel, so too it may be advisable to come out of this place where we can't see the wood for the trees, and receive some personal input from the seven Spirits of God. After all, we have been promised that the Spirit of Truth will lead us into all truth. If only we had time to turn off the other blaring spiritual 'radio-stations' and really listen.

Personally, I have found that the quieting of one's own soul is a learned art and solves much of the problem of struggling to hear His voice. I also believe part of the reason we so often cannot hear the voice of the Spirit for ourselves is because there is such a barrage of 'voices' being constantly released in the ears of the Body of Christ. Any perusal of internet prophetic or teaching sites and forums result in an astonishing number of messages being released daily, all of

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which claim to be words 'hot off the press' from Heaven. Excuse my cynicism, but judging by these myriad claims, it seems either the Spirit has a severe case of verbal diarrhea or is bordering on mental confusion... Believers are able to sign up for their particular preference of Prophet and unsubscribe the minute something is sent out that slightly upsets their delicate self-esteem. We have taken 'seeker-friendly' to a whole new level in this current age. One is reminded more of a housewife choosing her particular favourite supermarket chain and keeping an eye out for weekly bargains than a saint daily visiting the Fountain of Life and receiving his or her appointed portion of manna and living water... and I firmly believe the Father is sickened by what has become of His precious Body. This God Who is a consuming Fire has paid too much and invested too deeply, to silently watch it continue for much longer. He is about to stand up and act. And the world is going to shake to its foundations in the process.

BREAKING INSTEAD OF BUILDING

Just this morning, I was taking communion in my study and as I ate the cracker, I became acutely aware of my teeth breaking and crushing this cracker, which represented the Body of Christ, into pieces. Knowing that the Hebrew word for 'teeth' also means 'teachings', I was suddenly pierced to the heart with the knowledge that a large portion of the current teachings being released in the Church of Jesus Christ are breaking and crushing His Body... and the partaking of the bread currently on offer is causing the Body to bring judgment upon themselves. It is the reason so many are sick and weak and some have already passed into death (I Cor 11:29,30) The spiced wine being offered willy nilly from pulpits in multiple places does not have its source in the fruit of the True Vine.

Deu 32:31 For their rock is not like our Rock, even our enemies themselves judge this. Deu 32:32 For their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah; their grapes are grapes of [poisonous] gall, their clusters are bitter. Deu 32:33 Their wine is the [furious] venom of serpents, and the pitiless poison of vipers.

When the Lord first spoke these particular words through Moses, He was not speaking about a pagan nation who had never heard Truth. He was referring to His very own calledout people. And sadly it is true of large sectors of those who call themselves the Body of Christ today. One could lose heart gazing upon the scene of such spiritual carnage for too long. The only solution is to come up higher, above the din of the clamouring voices of the prophets of Baal who have eaten at Jezebel's table; higher and higher to the place where the eagle soars and the still small Voice can be heard on the edges of the wind.

BE STILL AND KNOW...

Here, one rediscovers perspective and can begin to find true North again. Here one's heart can become quiet; so still that one becomes aware of a distant roar. It's a roar too deep, too ancient, to be a passing storm. It seems to be coming from somewhere in the uncharted depths of the universe and carries some sense of déjà vu – as if the strains have been

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heard somewhere before by another taskmaster, in another time... A decree released by a bondslave messenger, on behalf of a people bound by chains for generations. People like us, entangled in a system we inherited from those before us, who also saw in part and yielded to the insistent pressure of the world pushing its way into the Church, rather than appear contentious. It's a roar that carries an authority that makes mountains melt like wax and seas flee - and the sound cannot be silenced by papal decree or deaconate decisions. It wreaks havoc with programs ('broken cisterns') and neat diarised church calendar appointments and holds no respect for the pomp and ceremony of personality cult Christian culture. It shatters prison doors and awakens the sleeping and resounds in both palaces and pauper's shacks. It is not a request, nor a gentle suggestion. It is the righteous demand of the Conqueror; the Lion of Judah Bridegroom King; Who comes to claim the one who is rightfully His. He addresses the manmade structures, the spirit of this age and the octopus tentacles of demonic doctrines that have wound themselves insidiously around the limbs of His Beloved and He doesn't beat around the bush or employ diplomatic negotiating strategies!

It's quite simple. He is REPUBLISHING; He said it in Egypt through His mouthpiece Moses - and He is saying it again! And once again 'Egypt' is going to acquiesce... through great personal loss and with the birth pangs of wave upon wave of judgment. The Bridegroom WILL have what He purchased with the Bridal Price of His precious Blood! And so, with a bone-rattling, earth-shattering roar from the depths of His fiery jealous heart, He bellows:

"GIVE ME BACK MY WIFE!"

Chapter 1 ~ A BRIDE FOR THE SON

There is a fundamental truth which has largely been omitted in the preaching of the Gospel and this error has led to generation upon generation of saints being born into the Kingdom and believing the sole purposes of the crucifixion are payment of debt for sin and the adoption into the family of God. However, our transference into the Kingdom of His dear Son was fundamentally for the goal of providing a Bride for the Son from among His own people. The pattern laid down in Genesis when Abraham sought a bride for Isaac, the son of promise 'from among his own people' shows us the spiritual principle that light can only be yoked (or brought into true union) with light. In fact, if we go further back to the very beginning, we find that fruitfulness can only result when there is a joining into 'one' with another who is of the same kind of DNA. Seed produces after its kind. So of course, if God is Light, then a Bride must be found in the Kingdom of Light.

The payment enacted through the precious Blood of Jesus was in fact the required Bridal Price paid to the Father of the Bride. In ancient Jewish wedding custom, once the would-be groom had paid the price set by the father of the woman he desired to marry, the lady herself was given the opportunity to say whether she accepted this man as her future husband. She did this by accepting the cup of wine he offered her. From that time on she was known as this man's wife and he went away to prepare a room for them in his father's house. The betrothed woman then began to get herself ready for his return, which would be at a time she had no clear knowledge of - although in most cases it took about a year before the father of the groom was happy with the progress of the preparation and released his son to go and fetch his wife and bring her to the wedding. In contrast to western custom, the Jewish betrothed woman was only referred to as a 'bride' on the day of her wedding. From the moment of betrothal, she was called the wife of the man who had paid the bridal price for her. This gives us clearer understanding when we read the terminology used in the Book of Revelation:

Rev 19:7 *Let us be glad and rejoice and we will give glory to Him. For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has prepared herself.*

Here the betrothed woman, the 'wife' has prepared herself and the wedding is about to take place. In contrast, the following verses indicate that the day of the wedding has come and she is on her way to the ceremony, because the fully prepared woman is called 'the bride':

Rev 21:9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, Come here, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife. Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God, Rev 21:11 having the glory of God. And its light was like a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. How glorious. What began as a single cell, has multiplied into a 'great city'! One has become many, a many-membered Body prepared for the Bridegroom to be fully intimate with!

In Joel 2, we see the call to declare a fast takes place on the day of the wedding because the woman in her closet is referred to as 'the bride' and the bridegroom is coming out of his chamber to fetch his bride. Her closet is the place of preparation:

Joe 2:16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation; assemble the elderly people, gather the children and the nursing infants; let the bridegroom go forth from his chamber and the bride out of her closet.

When Jesus paid that bridal price in His own Blood, what He was really saying is, "Will you marry Me? I know you dwell in the kingdom of darkness, but I love you so much that I will die for you and if you will say yes to Me, I will be the door through which you can enter My kingdom of Light. Then you will be bone of My bone and flesh of My flesh and we can become betrothed". This is the most lavish and glorious marriage proposal ever made. It is designed to melt the hardest of human hearts... if only we could understand what the love letter of Son of God on the cross is saying.

When he cried out, "It is finished" on the cross, the word 'tetelestai' is used in the Greek. However, Jesus spoke Aramaic and Hebrew; the word in these languages for the same English phrase being 'kalah'. It means 'to finish, complete, prepare, make perfect, and consume'. And it is the root word for another Hebrew word 'kallah' which means 'bride'. More than paying for the sins of the world; more than just cancelling out our debt, Jesus, the Bridegroom was decreeing that the full bridal price had been paid. He didn't just have God's children on his mind as much as He was thinking of His Bride! He had completed and made perfect the price required by the Father of the Bride. So too, the wife becomes the Bride of Christ as she ascends from a place of being completed and made perfect, lacking nothing thanks to the fiery trials she has undergone, as James 1 and 1 Peter 4:2 describes.

'Kalah also means 'consummation', the act of becoming one'. So Jesus was declaring the end from the beginning. He said, "It is finished – the marriage is consummated, we are one". Yes, He was calling things that were not as though they were because He could see the wedding and, more than that, the wedding night! He could see in his mind's eye the fruit that would come forth from this oneness with His Bride. For this joy set before Him, He endured the cross! Because He knew that if someone would just say, "Yes" to His amazing lavish marriage proposal, Father would be faithful to complete the good work begun in them.

Isa 53:11 He shall see [the fruit] of the travail of His soul and be satisfied;

Tragically, because this aspect of the work of the cross is not presented at the altar of salvation, people say, "Yes, I accept you" but only consider themselves as having become

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

children of the Father. In reality, when a Jewish bride accepted the cup offered her, what she was also doing was setting herself apart as holy to this man. From this time on, she would be veiled in the streets, so that all others would know that she was not available for any other proposals – or even a casual flirtation. That veil before her own eyes also reminded her with every step she took in the outside world, that she belonged to her bridegroom and she was no longer her own. She had been bought with a price that was acceptable to her father. Any separation of the couple required a legal divorce from this point on. She was not free to wander off after others if she lost interest. She was legally set apart for him alone.

Every time we partake of communion, what we are actually doing is renewing our vow to the Bridegroom, to be set apart and holy for Him. We drink the cup repeatedly, and by so doing, are actually indicating that we remember our acceptance of His offer of marriage and the bridal price paid to make us of the same 'kind' as Himself, and we set ourselves apart afresh for the journey to consummation and full oneness. We also gain access to His lavish betrothal gifts and His incomparably great power through this marriage covenant - and our faithfulness to it. If only the eyes of our heart would be enlightened to know the hope to which we are called! Can you hear the yearning passion in the prayer of Paul in Ephesians chapter 1:

Eph 1:16 I do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers, Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, Eph 1:18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, Eph 1:19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us,

In the realms of modern Christianity, because there is absolutely no revelation of the holiness of this betrothal stage of the marriage covenant with the Son of God, newly saved saints begin to be unintentionally unfaithful to their Bridegroom almost at once.

1Co 6:19 Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own, 1Co 6:20 You were bought with a price [purchased with a preciousness and paid for, made His own].

Not taught that they are no longer their own, in many cases, new believers are immediately fed with the fleshly teachings and demonic doctrines of the compromised Babylonian church system. Here much emphasis is placed on gifting, position and function, instead of on relationship and learning to recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit for oneself, in order to be able to obey Him as He leads each on a journey into the heart of God. In a sense, there are vast swathes of the current Church, especially in the West, who have been 'born again' into an Orphanage, where they are denied any knowledge of the fact that their Father is alive and well and that their Bridegroom wants to constantly communicate with them via the trusted Holy Spirit, so that they can be ready for their face to face meeting.

Instead, they are introduced to Religion; a man standing in place of their Father and interpreting every aspect of His writings (often supplanting them with the doctrines of demons) because Father's voice is 'not able to be heard individually by each child, due to their 'spiritual immaturity'. Along with this heinous travesty comes the concept of performing to get into favour with those in levels of leadership, who stand in as 'fathers'- in spite of the fact that Jesus said, "Call no man Father for you have one Father...". Newcomers are 'given the once-over' and inspected as to their potential worth to the organization in terms of bringing expansion, through the use of their giftings. They are harnessed into the voke of 'making bricks' in order to build the vision of the person behind the pulpit. In so many places which declare themselves to be houses of God, the slavery of Egypt is again being perpetuated in jazzed-up clothing palatable to this current, jaded, experience-crazy adrenalinaddicted generation.

How unspeakably sad that, in most cases, the Blood-bought Bride is immediately trafficked into prostituting her Godgiven gifts for the coffers of the Spirit of Harlotry that currently presides over much of the organised church system. Rewards in terms of the praises of men, promotion and mention from the pulpit are given at times in order to provide motivation and saints who have an earnest desire to be pleasing to the Lord often find themselves suffering burnout, after volunteering for every single program on offer (the 'willing horse' syndrome).

If only we had been taught this profound revelation of being set apart in holiness as the wife of the Lamb at the moment of salvation, the much needed focus of 'making ourselves ready' would be part of our 'normal Christian life' from the start. Instead, we were put through 'spiritual gift tests' and told it was imperative to 'find our place in the Body' and begin to function as soon as possible. Having studied Psychology and administered similar personality tests, it is clear to me that results will vary for the same individual at different periods of their life and depending on their life circumstances at the time of writing the test. They are far from conclusive and it is quite embarrassing that the church has moved from the 'old-fashioned' method the early disciples used to find their place in God's plan, instead preferring to make use of plumblines designed by people devoid of the Spirit of Christ:

Act 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Separate now for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.

So, instead of worshiping and fasting to seek the Lord's will, acting on the basis of these thinly veiled psychological test results, we are assigned to different church departments and told to serve faithfully, attend every prayer meeting and aspire towards achieving one of the 'greater' positions in the business of winning souls and 'growing' the church . And decades later we find ourselves still unsure as to whether we

can really recognise the voice of the Holy Spirit. How unbelievably tragic when He is the principal One sent to help us make ourselves ready for the coming of the Bridegroom. And how cruel to take a new-born babe in Christ and quench the fiery zealous flame of their first love by bucket upon bucket of the doctrines of men, until the Word of God made flesh is completely flattened to rules on a page, and the feeling of the wind of the Spirit on the face of their hearts a distant memory...

Mat 15:6 So for the sake of your tradition (the rules handed down by your forefathers), you have set aside the Word of God [depriving it of force and authority and making it of no effect].Mat 15:7 You pretenders (hypocrites)! Admirably and truly did Isaiah prophesy of you when he said: Mat 15:8 These people draw near Me with their mouths and honour Me with their lips, but their hearts hold off and are far away from Me. Mat 15:9 Uselessly do they worship Me, for they teach as doctrines the commands of men.

ARE YOU THIRSTY?

The Bridegroom stood up on the seventh day of the feast of Tabernacles, when everyone was viewing the water pouring ceremony, and issued an invitation:

Joh 7:37 Now on the final and most important day of the Feast, Jesus stood, and He cried in a loud voice, If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink!

"Come to Me"! What an offer - made to those who were faithfully year after year fulfilling the instructions to

celebrate the feasts, yet not comprehending that they were but a black and white version, a shadow. And right in front of them stood The Door to the 4 Dimensional full colour experience of the same feast. And now, once again, to vast swathes of believers caught up in the well-known yearly rhythms of 'Church life' and wondering why the thirst inside them never seems to be satisfied, a cry shatters the status quo of the predictable. It doesn't come in muted tones from a hidden source. It comes from One who realises the signs of the times and, more importantly, the pivotal moment of the fullness of times! AND THE URGENCY OF THE HOUR.

"Come to ME" - not to a conference or a Bible study, or a marriage seminar, or any other choice in the spiritual smorgasbord on offer in the present day Church system. Come not to a fellowship gathering, or a coffee evening, or anything else that carries the sound of warmth and companionship and comfort! Come not to a counselor, or a teacher, or a pastor, or even a prophet - just COME TO ME! Certainly, gatherings of fellow Believers carry an expression of the character of Christ, but this is not what Jesus said. First and foremost, before we come to the Body, we must individually come to the Head of the Body, alone - just Him and us, before we can have any hope of becoming rightly aligned and positioned. And this is not a once-off coming, as if to say we have then arrived at our destination. In the same way as the human body requires water daily in order to survive, so too must we come, at the minimum, daily to the Source of Living Water. And bearing in mind that the day that burns like an oven is upon us, it behooves us not to just pause for a brief moment to slake our thirst, but to settle

down and dwell as close to the source of this life-giving water as we can. Our very survival indeed depends upon it.

"Come to Me". An invitation certainly, but in this day and age of church history, it is again issued 'in a LOUD voice' as a shout of the LIFESAVER in the moment before the violent, destructive flood out of the Dragon's mouth sweeps away every Believer in its path. The word used in the Greek is 'crazo', which actually means 'to scream, exclaim, entreat'. The cry urging you to come out is in order to protect you. I hear it now in my spirit with the very same urgency as the call is sounded in the book of Jeremiah when God decrees He is about to judge the god Bel of Babylon:

Jer 51:45 *My people, come out of the midst of her! And let every man save his life from the fierce anger of the Lord!*

Chapter 2 ~ WHO IS REALLY GOD?

Consider the state of God's people in the days when Ahab and his witch wife Jezebel reigned. All true prophetic voices silenced or hidden in caves; the only mouthpieces purporting to speak for God in the Church arena are actually prophets of Baal and Asherah, who are being nourished at Jezebel's table. Such is the current state of much of the western Church - and the people of God are none the wiser. Every Sunday, there is a lovely word brought in the service and they leave feeling so good that it must have the Spirit of God that brushed past them, giving them goose-bumps in the worship! Total drought in the natural realm of the land mirrors the actual spiritual state of the Church, yet they are oblivious. The man-made concoctions with chemical additives that serve as spiritual energy drinks keep them going week after week; unaware of the internal eroding of their storehouse of the Word as a result.

For two full years in Elijah's time, this horrendous defilement of the people of God continued, yet the demonic beguilement ensured they were completely unaware of their true state. And all the while God was busy forming a deliverer on the back side of the desert; bringing this one man into complete dependence upon Him, even for daily food and water, God carved away at the pride of life in Elijah. Fed by morsels of bread and meat torn from carcasses by the beaks of birds considered unclean, Elijah was purged of leaning on his own understanding of the Torah scrolls. It must have been a painful process for one who knew he was called as a mouthpiece of the One True God. There had to be more than just a surface-level implementation of the Torah. Who was this God who would harness a man for His purposes and then deliberately confine him to a place of unclean provision, which would ensure condemnation from the Pharisees if they ever found out?

Brook Cherith, the temporary source of water until the preparation time was completed, was the perfect place to forge a deliverer. 'Cherith' means 'to cut a covenant'. It also means 'to destroy or consume'. At this place of preparation, God destroyed all Elijah's natural understanding of how a man of God should be fed; He dealt with the concept of uncleanness before God and what really causes it. ..."It is not what goes into your mouth that makes you unclean..." as the Word made flesh would explain many years later.

No doubt He spoke to Elijah about what was making His people unclean – being fed with meat torn from the carcass of Jezebel's doctrines. Bread is considered a clean food but served up with carcass morsels, it gives an entirely different picture. How clever of God to serve up a breakfast of mixture, the mixing of the clean and the unclean, and instructing the prophet to eat of it – just like God's people were being forced to swallow mixture at the hand of the prophets of Baal. They had no option – there was nothing else on offer; no authentic prophetic voice! Elijah thankfully had the voice of the Lord ministering to him during this seeming disobedience to the Torah and resulting defilement of his earthen vessel. God's ways are not our ways, nor are

His thoughts our thoughts, and during the season of forging of a vessel, there is much that jars the mindsets of the religious! All the while, a message was being forged deep in this obedient man's spirit – a volcano of God's fiery jealous love for His renegade people, a wife who had strayed into harlotry.

Son 8:6 Set me like a seal upon your heart, like a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy is as hard and cruel as Sheol (the place of the dead). Its flashes are flashes of fire, a most vehement flame [the very flame of the Lord]!

He must have spoken to His bondservant of separation and holiness, of being utterly set-apart for the Lord. In this place Cherith, God cut covenant with Elijah; He bound him to Himself; this season of face to face with God painting a prophetic picture of all those who would later be called as friends of the Bridegroom; appointed to help the Bride to make herself ready. These ones are always prepared far away from the defiled environment of mixture and the prophets of Baal; total separation from the spiritual diet which the people of God had access to, was imperative for Elijah. He had to be shut in with God for a preparation season, a season of being utterly dependent upon God for daily spiritual nourishment.

God's instruction to Elijah is a prophetic puzzle piece in His careful choice of phrase:

1Ki 17:4 And it shall be, you shall drink of the brook. And I have commanded the ravens to feed you there.

'You shall drink of the brook'... there is another mentioned who drinks of the brook in psalm 110 which speaks of a Melchizedek Priest functioning in the earth and slaughtering kings in the day of His wrath (just as Elijah slaughtered the prophets of Baal):

Psa 110:5 *The Lord at Your right hand shall strike through kings in the day of His wrath...*

Psa 110:7 He will drink of the brook by the way; therefore will He lift up His head [triumphantly].

It is the Elijah company that shall drink of the brook! And because of the drinking of the brook, they lift up their heads triumphantly. The word translated '*brook*' also means 'mine shaft', and comes from a root word meaning 'to divide or distribute inheritance'. It is 'drinking of' or consuming the rich treasure of our inheritance in Christ; actually mining it under the leading of the Spirit Who searches the deep things of God, which brings victory.

When Elijah had drunk all the available water of the mine shaft of covenant (Cherith) and the covenant was complete, he was instructed to arise and dwell with the widow and her son. Out of this deep well of revelation truth which he had personally experienced in that time when he was alone with God, came continual nourishing provision for that household. The Spirit of Elijah is the Spirit of Christ, in a manifestation or form which has the assignment of arresting the people of God and awakening them out of religion (and the demonic delusion that paralyses them) and teaching them the difference between the clean and the unclean. The Spirit of Elijah also restores the heart of the father to the son and the son to the father, to prevent the land being cursed. Elijah is the rift-healer; bringing that which is dislocated back into position, relocating them in the bosom of the Father (see Malachi 4).

Such is the life story of the Elijah company; the bringing of a word that brings a drought upon the whole nation - and then the whisking away to obscurity and some difficult teaching experiences. Meanwhile your reputation is torn to shreds by a thirsty multitude who can't understand why the prophets of Baal's prayers for rain go unanswered. And then finally, the source of provision dries up and that season of the forging of a vessel is over...

And the next stop is a season with the widow of Zarepath and her son. Zarephath means 'refinement'; so this place of miraculous provision for all three is the place of the Refiner's fire. First the cutting of covenant and then dwelling in the place of being refined; this is God's pattern in preparation of one who will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers. Here, the food is no longer unclean morsels from black raven's beaks – but oil and flour, and it is enough to sustain the widow and her son and guest until the rains come. This widow and her son are a picture of those who walk righteously in an unrighteous generation and, as a result, are promised bread: Isa 33:14 ...Who among us can dwell with that devouring fire? Who among us can dwell with those everlasting burnings? Isa 33:15 He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises gain from fraud and from oppression, who shakes his hand free from the taking of bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes to avoid looking upon evil. Isa 33:16 [Such a man] will dwell on the heights; his place of defence will be the fortresses of rocks; <u>his bread will be given him</u>; water for him will be sure.

How the people of God have longed for the heavy latter rain in this day, but until the prophets of Baal have been exposed for who they are, and the people of God delivered from their beguilement, the latter rain is not appointed to be released. And, more importantly, first on God's priority list for provision is the widow and her son who dwell surrendered at the place of the Refiner's fire. Remember when famine came to Bethlehem, Naomi and her husband fled to Moab to dwell amongst the enemies of God's people. This widow could have fled Zarephath in order to satisfy her stomach, but she didn't. She remained meekly in the place of burning, the crucible.

The visitation of the Refiner's fire is appointed the Church who cries out for the presence of God (Malachi 3), yet it will not be easy to embrace it when it comes in full intensity. Because of the prevailing atmosphere of compromise in the Church and the smorgasbord of Jezebel on the menu, a change will be difficult to swallow. Those used to being stroked by the beguiling doctrines of self-realisation, will find Truth a shock to the system. Yes, the Truth sets you free, but first it confronts you!

Yet, those who have been willing to welcome the visitation of the Spirit of Judgment and Burning are those whose hearts burn with passion for their absent Bridegroom. A widow is a woman who no longer has the voice of her husband audible under her own roof. She has the fruit of their intimacy in the form of a son, but her husband's presence is sorely missed. He was her provider and here they are, at the point of death, but still abiding at Zarephath. This is the home her husband provided for her, and here she is endeavouring to keep their son alive during the nationwide famine.

Then suddenly and unexpectedly, she has an encounter with the prophet and the presence of God enters her situation! In a town where every other home is lacking bread, she experiences supernatural provision - and the company of Elijah for lively conversation over supper! Beloved, for those who have been willing to submit meekly to dwelling with the everlasting burnings, there is appointed a visitation and a miraculous daily supply of anointing, light and fresh bread a veritable feast of the revelation of Christ. Will this provision be spiritual food alone, in the time of famine the world is entering? I don't believe so. When we seek first the Kingdom, Jesus promised that the God Who knows our bodily needs will supply them in just such miraculous ways! Note that the miracle does not provide grain kernels, but meal; ground wheat or barley. In other words, there is no crushing and winnowing to be done in order to obtain

nourishment. The Spirit of Elijah provides grain already prepared. The preparatory phase is short-circuited and the nourishing inner substance of the Word is freely given. The feeding of these 3 souls in one house is a picture of experience of the 3-fold things, full Sabbath Rest, a time of coming fully into the secret place of the 3-in-1 God. And this all-sustaining place of dwelling endures for as long as the famine continues. The shelter of God's wings is the place of feasting on the abundance of His house and drinking of the stream of His pleasures. And from this house of Sabbath Rest comes forth bread to nourish others during this famine of the hearing of the Word.

The woman and her son are in Zarephath still, but no longer of Zarephath, in terms of undergoing the fire of refining. They are experiencing a visitation of the fiery love of God which supplies their every need. And out of this house, bread of Truth goes forth to others still in the Refiner's fire. It is as if the widow's house has been transformed into the bridal chamber which ministers to the rest of the Body of Christ experiencing intense refining and purging.

Why was she chosen, amongst all the widows in the town? Probably for the same reason Mary was chosen amongst all the virgins of the house of David – because of her willingness to open the door of her heart and life to a visitation ordained by Heaven, without even having full knowledge of its ramifications. Think of Ruth, who receives a free download of 6 measures of grain into her widow's mantle, during a secret tryst while others slumber. Then she takes it home to feed her widowed mother in law.

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God THE REMNANT PANTRY

The widow willingly gave Elijah not her firstfruits, but her lastfruits; the remnant of her flour and oil – a picture of the remnant who are yielded up, fully surrendered, to satisfy the hunger of Elijah for a cake of fresh bread. Because the remnant of flour and oil is given to Elijah to consume, this depicts the remnant being taken fully into being hidden in Christ, satisfying his hunger as he has not had a whole cake to eat since he can remember. Who will surrender all? Only the bondslave; only those who say with all their heart and lifestyle, "I am not my own. Use me to feed the hungry"...

From the remnant will issue forth fresh oil and meal to sustain the whole household completely until the rain falls and next wheat harvest comes in. The house where Death was knocking at the door in the morning, instead had a visitation and download from Heaven and became the house of bread later that same day; What a difference a day makes! Bethlehem...House of Bread! From this place, looked down upon in society because there was no man at the helm, will be brought forth bread of the revelation of the One who was born alongside the inn (where business was booming due to Caesar's census). Its seems God likes to appear off the beaten track!

In the same way, Jesus, the pattern Son, died and was placed in the tomb, to bring forth a rich harvest. The Hebrew word for 'tomb' means 'a stack of sheaves". The place which Death had sealed became a place of untold fruitfulness. The tomb became a womb because of the resurrection power released in a body wholly surrendered to the will of God. Jesus, the Bread of Life, was placed in a tomb temporarily, but out of that place, fresh bread of the revelation of Christ has been feeding generations ever since. The tomb became a 'Bethlehem', a house of Bread on the 3rd day.

We are told by Doctor Luke that the drought actually lasted for three and a half years, directly alluding to the period when the woman in Revelation 12 is fed and kept safe:

Luk 4:25 But in truth I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were closed up for three years and six months, so that there came a great famine over all the land;

A great famine for the hearing of the Word will be sweeping the earth and the babbling of the prophets of Baal will lead most of the Church into deep delusion. Only the company of 100 prophets hidden and fed in the cave by Ahab's righteous servant (no doubt putting his own neck in danger) and Elijah hidden at the brook Cherith are not susceptible to the strength of this witchcraft, because they are HIDDEN and their ears are not infiltrated by the strong delusion. How pivotal the miraculous supply at the widow's house is – bread from heaven which is untainted, pure teaching made with fresh oil. Remember that the manna which fell in the wilderness for the Israelites also tasted like cakes made with fresh oil. The provision for the widow and her son mirrors this miraculous provision. When satanic attack later snatches the widow's son from her, the resurrection power of Christ dwelling under the same roof repels it and gives the child back to his mother. Yes, beloved, the enemy may be seeking to destroy the fruit of your intimacy with the Bridegroom - and remove the influence of what has come forth from your life (through your dwelling in the Refiner's fire) from the earth, but the spirit of Elijah whom you have made room for, will restore what has been stolen. It will be given back to you whole -and this will be tangible proof to you that all you have heard during those conversations over the breaking of bread is Truth:

1Ki 17:24 And the woman said to Elijah, By this I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.

The word in your mouth is Truth – I know this because resurrection life and power manifests before my eyes! Who is the One Who said He is '*the Way, the Truth and the Life*'? The Son of the Living God! This Elijah Company will carry an impartation of the revelation of Christ, Who is the ONLY Way to the Father. Resurrection power will accompany the release of this Word called Truth through these earthen vessels, who come fresh from the place of cutting a holy covenant with God.

The Hebrew word used for 'bread' comes from a root word meaning 'to feed, make war, overcome and prevail'. It is the ready-ground revelation and fresh oil ministered by the remnant cruse (the manchild) that cause the woman to overcome and prevail during the 3 and $\frac{1}{2}$ yr tribulation period, when the dragon is spewing out a poisonous flood.

During the famine which occurs when the black horse rides in Revelation 6, there is instruction not to harm the oil and the wine. Wheat and barley may be crushed and become a rarity, but oil and wine are to remain untouched. Herein is a picture of divine protection for some during a time of intense onslaught.

Rev 6:6 And I heard what seemed to be a voice from the midst of the four living creatures, saying, A quart of wheat for a denarius [a whole day's wages], and three quarts of barley for a denarius; but do not harm the oil and the wine!

Wheat, oil and wine are always a reference to the prophetic type of the feast of Tabernacles, as this is the season when these harvests are brought in. It was during Tabernacles, that Jesus made the offer for people to come to Him and drink. The prophetic fulfillment of Tabernacles will see '*Immanuel*, *God with us*' again, God dwelling in the midst of His people and providing for them during the period when the woman flees to the wilderness after her son is caught up to the throne. Caught up and then given back, dead and then embraced again filled with resurrection power, this widow's son is also a picture of the manchild who nourishes the woman in the wilderness through heavenly Truth and the meat of the Word during the dragon's rampage. What is taught during this time will complete the final preparations

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

of the wife of the Lamb so that she may be fully ready for the wedding.

Dan 12:10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be tried, smelted, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but the teachers and those who are wise shall understand.

BRING FORTH THE BREAD OF HIS PRESENCE When god gave Moses instructions for the furniture in the Tabernacle, He instructed that the showbread must always be before Him. The Hebrew phrase for 'showbread' is literally 'the Bread of His Presence'!

Exo 25:30 *And you shall set the showbread* (*the bread of the Presence*) *on the table before Me always*.

The fresh Bread of His presence has been sorely lacking in the tabernacle of His Body for a long season. Counterfeit loaves full of additives and manmade doctrines have replaced them, but in this time when the Spirit of Elijah comes, He brings with Him a supernatural supply of the bread of His Presence and the house of widowhood is transformed into the House of the Bread of His Presence.

There were twelve cakes of showbread made, speaking of apostolic authority, and they were made of fine flour:

<u>Lev 24:5</u> And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with *it;* two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake [of the showbread or bread of the Presence].

The showbread was brought forth on the Sabbath and set in order and it was representative of an everlasting covenant between the Lord and His people:

<u>Lev 24:8</u> Every Sabbath day Aaron shall set the showbread in order before the Lord continually; it is on behalf of the Israelites, an everlasting covenant.

The real bread of His presence that was laid out by godly men who walked with Jesus in the last season has lasted a whole 'six days', but it is now growing stale and hard to digest. It is time for its removal and, on this 7th day from Creation, the fresh hot bread of His presence must now be laid in order. It is served through vessels who come as flames of fire, fresh from a face to face encounter with the God of the Mercy Seat. Fresh revelation of the depth and height and length and width of the love of God in His marriage covenant must be shared with the widow woman.

The flour and the oil provided by the Spirit of Elijah in the House of Sabbath Rest, IS the bread of covenant, carried by those who have come forth from His presence – just as the communion bread is bread of the marriage covenant between the Son of God and His wife. It is the bread made with fresh oil, shared with a wife who longs for the presence of her Husband in the house. The oil brought forth also lights the lamps in the house so that this house has light in it during a season when dense darkness is upon the earth. Other houses have run out of oil and are in darkness during this time, but where room is made for the Spirit of Elijah to be fed; there is oil enough for many long dark nights!

<u>Num 4:7</u> And upon the table of showbread they shall spread a cloth of blue ...and also the continual showbread.

Notice that the showbread was continual; always available; revelation always flowing to nourish the priests every day of the new week.

In the Tabernacle, the bread of His presence is served on a blue tablecloth, depicting a foundation of revelation truth. Blue (or purple) was also the colour worn by royalty and as the dye came at great cost, depicts the price paid by those who bring it forth.

<u>Num 4:7</u> And upon the table of showbread they shall spread a cloth of blue and put on it the plates, the dishes for incense, the bowls, the flagons for the drink offering, and also the continual showbread.

The Hebrew word for this blue or violet coloured dye is 'shekeleth', the root of which means 'to peel off by concussion of sound' and is connected to the word 'roar'. The bread of His presence which will be served embodies the roar of the Lion of Judah, as He decrees, "Give Me back My wife". The doctrines of man and demons which have covered over the understanding of the Bride, will be peeled off by the concussion of sound released in the spiritual realm. Blind eyes will be opened. Ears once deaf will suddenly hear and minds dulled by strong delusion will understand. And the wife of the Lion of Judah will arise; shackles falling powerless at her feet, as she steps out of the prison of deception into the light. She will join her voice with that of the Spirit as they call out together, "Come, Morning Star! We are ready. Our hearts long for You".

Once again, in the day of spiritual famine in which we live, it is time for fresh showbread to be set in order before the Lord and made available to the priesthood, laid on a foundation of revelation that reverberates with the roar of the Lion of Judah, as He comes for His Bride.

GARDEN OF WHICH GOD?

After two full years of drought, there is an official gathering of both the people and those who minister to them - and the location is Mount Carmel. 'Carmel' means 'fruitful field, garden or vineyard'. What a perfect location for this showdown! What a wise God we serve! '*You will know them by their fruits (Luke 6:4)*'. Depending on the DNA of the plant, different fruit results. Do not expect figs from a thorn bush. Out of a storehouse of wickedness come the strains of dark sound - because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. All hearts are fruitful fields or vineyards; the matter Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

to be determined is the source and therefore the quality of the produce.

Many tongues are spouting out eloquently flowing prophetic words in the present season, but from which spring do they flow? What kind of sound is being released? Is it aligning with Heaven or Hell? Sound produces light; 'And God said, let there be light' and there materialised light. Yet we are warned there are also those who masquerade as angels of light. So, that would make them the releasers of dark light (if you will excuse the oxymoron) or counterfeit light – that which masquerades as light; delusion. Do not expect a true word from a false prophet. Do not expect to be served the wine of the Spirit from the chalice of the mother of harlots!

Isa 5:1 Now I will sing to my Beloved a song of my Beloved concerning His vineyard. My Beloved has a vineyard in a very fruitful hill. Isa 5:2 And He fenced it, and gathered out the stones of it, and planted it with choice vines, and built a tower in its midst, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and He looked for it to produce grapes. And it produced wild grapes.

The word translated 'wild grapes' here, actually means 'poison berries' and comes from a root meaning 'stinking, offensive'. Poison kills the imbiber, no matter how sweet it tastes!

Deu 32:16 They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger. ... Deu 32:17 They

sacrificed to demons, not to God--to gods whom they knew not, to new gods lately come up, whom your fathers never knew or feared. Deu 32:32 For their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah; their grapes are grapes of [poisonous] gall, their clusters are bitter. Deu 32:33 Their wine is the [furious] venom of serpents, and the pitiless poison of vipers.

This is a description of those who call themselves the people of God. These are not pagans who know no better, yet somehow they have been beguiled into doing what the pagans do; bowing their knee to demons and producing vats full of the poison of the serpent! Where is the location of the poisoned wine? Not down the road at the pagan temple but exactly where God established His vineyard. No wonder Elijah was called to deal with the prophets of Baal and Asherah at Mount Carmel. And what a showdown it was, just one holy, prepared prophet against 950 false prophets – talk about defying the odds!

TAKING BACK WHAT BELONGS TO HIM

When Elijah strode into that arena teeming with the despicable prophets, both of Baal and Asherah, and the beguiled people of Israel, he *was* the freshly baked, hot showbread of fine flour and fresh oil coming forth from the presence of the Jealous Bridegroom, Who IS the House of Bread from Heaven. This messenger of the God who is a consuming fire released a roar that produced a concussion of sound into the spiritual realm during that pivotal day; "Give Me back My wife". There was no seeker-friendly, gentle persuasion employed. Elijah just sounded out his challenge:

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

1Ki 18:21 Elijah came near to all the people, How long will you halt and limp between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him! But if Baal, then follow him. And the people did not answer him a word.

Notice he came near to all the people. He did not draw near to some and not to others. God is just. All of his people will hear what the Spirit of Elijah has to say before the great and terrible day of the Lord fully arrives. They will hear AND they will see, in order to bring a breaking of the delusion! All who belonged to the Lord witnessed the showdown that day. All saw with their own eyes which prophet God endorsed when He answered with consuming fire from Heaven! But in the beginning, they were speechless, so bewitched that they could not even speak. Such is the level of delusion which will be evident in these dark days of the famine of the Word. It took the fruitless yelling and performance of the false prophets for a good deal of the day (3 whole watches, from 6am until 3pm), for light to begin to dawn in people's deluded minds.

1Ki 18:29 Midday passed, and they played the part of prophets until the time for offering the evening sacrifice, but there was no voice, no answer, no one who paid attention. 1Ki 18:30 Then Elijah said to all the people, Come near to me. And all the people came near him. And he repaired the [old] altar of the Lord that had been broken down [by Jezebel].

In the beginning, Elijah came near to the people to issue his ultimatum – "stop living in mixture, calling yourself people

of God, but swallowing doctrines of demons and eating what is unclean! Be holy, serve God with all your heart. Separate yourself from what is unclean. Flee from deception" – but he wasn't as longwinded as this! The sermon was short and to the point, no flattery or psychobabble thrown in to amuse the crowd. He just spoke the plain unadorned truth – "If the Lord is God, serve Him" - simple clear instruction before the demonstration of which deity indeed was the right choice, played out. He was moved by their deluded condition and came close to them, so they could all hear. He released a sound which would reverberate in their inner ear all the time they were watching the spectacle that played out.

Elijah stood and watched the spectacle unfolding before his eyes, throwing in a comment now and again. But, at the time of the evening sacrifice, when it was time to really teach the people how to return to their God, he said, "Come near to me". By this time, after they had witnessed with their own eyes the lying prophets' words that had brought no confirmation from Heaven for 3 watches of that momentous day, there was required a personal response from the people of God. Just as Jesus said, "*Come to me, all who are thirsty...*", so too, Elijah said, "*Come near to me*". In an era when there has been no rain from Heaven and a famine for the authentic prophetic voice, the people of God are extremely thirsty. Come near to the spirit of Elijah and receive the Truth which is living water.

Jezebel had broken down the altar so that the people had no way to return to their God fully as required. But the prophet Elijah was considered worthy and fit by Heaven to teach them through his actions. He was a living parable, displaying how to rebuild the altar of sacrifice in one's own heart. Twelve stones, not hewn with human hands; depicting layer upon layer of understanding released through this holy servant of the One True God. Until finally, the rebuilding of the altar was complete and the sacrifice placed upon it.

REBUILDING FROM THE FOUNDATIONS UP

1Ki 18:31 Then Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be your name. 1Ki 18:32 And with the stones Elijah built an altar in the name [and self-revelation] of the Lord. He made a trench about the altar as great as would contain two measures of seed.

Note the mention that the tribes of the sons of Jacob would be called 'Israel'. Some translators say this means 'straightened of God' and some say it means 'prince with God'. Whichever it is, the Name of God is part of their name

- not Baal or Asherah. Remember Hosea 2 where the Lord says, "And it shall be in that day, says the Lord, that you will call *Me Ishi [my Husband], and you shall no more call Me Baali [my Baal].*" (Hos 2:16) This is a clear depiction of the return to Covenant of an unfaithful wife (one who has had love affairs with the world as James describes).

Hos 2:17 For I will take away the names of Baalim [the Baals] out of her mouth, and they shall no more be mentioned or seriously remembered by their name.

No longer will the people of God defile their mouths with the names of idols and dally in their spiritual adultery.

Hos 2:19 And I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. Hos 2:20 I will even betroth you to Me in stability and in faithfulness, and you shall know (recognize, be acquainted with, appreciate, give heed to, and cherish) the Lord.

Here is the reconvenanting, the renewal of wedding vows that have been broken - and it is a covenant that abides forever. Hosea lived it out this parable, step by step, becoming a living prophetic word that still resounds in our day. The question is, will we heed it?

The will of the flesh or soul and the will of the Spirit are always at odds. Ahab was motivated by the lust of the eyes in desiring the vineyards of Naboth. The appetite of the flesh is never satisfied. After two years of drought had passed, King Ahab had sent his governor Obadiah out to search every known spring of water and brook to see if any water remained, because he was looking for pasture for his animals. He did not want to *'lose the beasts'* (1 Kings 18). Elijah, on the other hand slaughtered the beast and doused it with copious amounts of water. Part of returning to God and being conformed to the sound of Heaven is putting to death the beast nature within us; those fleshly impulses which, if followed, will reap corruption – we do this by applying the water of the Word copiously to our lives.

Obadiah means 'in bondservice to the Lord' and we are also told he feared the Lord greatly. When Ahab and his governor parted ways to search for water, Obadiah suddenly had an encounter with Elijah, who stepped into the pathway he was taking. Beloved, when we greatly fear the Lord, there is an appointed personal encounter with the Spirit of Elijah awaiting us – even in a time of a spiritual drought in the church. It may be a challenging interaction, which includes the scary assignment of summoning those in compromise to an appointment with the Spirit of Elijah, but the time of national rebuke does not include you.

Ahab, on the other hand, though officially sitting on the throne and searching desperately for Elijah for two years, was second in line for a glimpse of the prophet and would receive a harsh rebuke from him for exchanging the worship of God for Baals. In the season of the visitation of the Spirit of Elijah, there will be many leaders who have allowed Jezebel to function unhindered in their congregations, who will receive strong rebukes!

Both Ahab and Obadiah were out looking for pasture - and Obadiah found Elijah – in other words, he found what he was looking for; sustenance in a time of drought. In the time when there is a famine of the water of the Word on the earth and people run to and fro searching for a word from God, the spirit of Elijah meets those who fear the Lord face to face. When the Lord is our shepherd, He leads us beside still waters and makes us lie down in green pastures – no matter the drought existing all around us. Thos who walk in the fear of the Lord will lack no good thing, even though the young lions may suffer hunger.

Psa 34:9 O fear the Lord, you His saints [revere and worship Him]! For there is no want to those who truly revere and worship Him with godly fear. Psa 34:10 The young lions lack food and suffer hunger, but they who seek (inquire of and require) the Lord [by right of their need and on the authority of His Word], none of them shall lack any beneficial thing. Psa 34:11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you to revere and worshipfully fear the Lord. Psa 34:12 What man is he who desires life and longs for many days, that he may see good? Psa 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Psa 34:14 Depart from evil and do good; seek, inquire for, and crave peace and pursue (go after) it! Psa 34:15 The eyes of the Lord are toward the [uncompromisingly] righteous and His ears are open to their cry. Psa 34:16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. [I Pet. 3:10-12.] Psa 34:17 When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their distress and troubles.

SEPARATION AND SATURATION

It is important to notice there are two bullocks being dealt with in this location. One is the portion of the false prophets and the other is under the hand of Elijah. Here we see the false church and the true Church; the Bride and the harlot. One is chosen and picked out according to the assessment of the demonically human mind and comes under the ministrations of those tutored by Jezebel. This bullock is described as being 'cut to pieces' or dismembered. In contrast, Elijah is happy to have the remaining bullock and is going to 'dress' it once they have done their futile performance!

1Ki 18:23 Let two bulls be given us; let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it. I will dress the other bull, lay it on the wood and put no fire to it.

Do you remember how the strange woman in Proverbs 7 goes out searching and then attaches herself to the young man who is devoid of good sense? She showers him with flattery and says, "diligently I sought your face, and I have found you" (Prov 7:15). She is a talent scout, out looking for those who are hungry for the praises of man. Her sales talk goes something like this: "You are exactly what we need in our ministry. You are so gifted and God has sent you to us." Yet her paths lead to death, so this young man has just become part of the bullock of choice that has yielded to the allurements of the prophets of Baal. And a great deal of dancing, shouting and performing is going to be taking place around this sacrifice - but all of it has a form of religion, but denies the power... and there is no manifestation from Heaven, only the sweat and blood of defiled earthen vessels releasing their deluded sound at mount Carmel.

THE BRIDE HAS MADE HERSELF READY

Let us watch how Elijah carries out the actions that result in the Bridegroom getting His wife back! And then see him going through the process of preparing her as a Bride made ready for her Husband. Remember the word for bride is 'kallah' and comes from the word 'kalah', meaning 'completed, a perfect or completely consumed burnt offering'.

1Ki 18:33 He put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood and said, Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and the wood. 1Ki 18:34 And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. 1Ki 18:35 The water ran round about the altar, and he filled the trench also with water.

The sound Jesus released as He breathed His last was the equivalent of 'kalah'; 'it is completed'. So in this prophetic action of Elijah, we can see the complete preparation of the Bride depicted. Strangely, the sacrifice must be drenched with 12 jars of water. Twelve is the number depicting governmental rule and apostolic authority. It was only after a replacement was found to join the 11 disciples, that the ones in the upper room were described as being '*in one accord in one place*' (acts 2:1). In this sense, 12 represents the restoration of all that has been lost in the area of understanding the Word and the purposes of God; the complete filling with apostolic revelation and understanding in order for those in the upper room to be fully ready for the promised outpouring.

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

The English word 'accord' is 'a harmonious union of sounds' and it comes from the Latin word for 'heart'. In other words, those in the upper room had come into alignment firstly with the Father and Jesus (Remember Jesus had prayed that they would be 'made perfect in one' John 17:21-23). The upper room company were now in harmony with Heaven; there was spiritual nothing discordant in their posture or understanding. The sound to be released from their rightly postured hearts would be clear and in heavenly alignment. A harmony of two sounds from different sources does not jar the ear, because the sound waves do not cross over or compete with one another. They flow together, presenting a fuller sound.

The hearts and minds of the newly enlightened and adjusted company were now in perfect alignment with Heaven and because of this, a breakthrough was triggered in the spiritual realm, and what had been stored up for that moment in history in the form of heavenly impartation was released – there came 'a sound like a mighty rushing wind', bringing with it flames of fire (Acts 2:2). Notice the impartation was in the form of sound waves. It was not a wind that ministered to their sense of touch, it was a sound that imparted a download to their earthen vessels and the accompanying sign was a visible flame of fire upon each head, confirming He was making His messengers flames of fire. The impartation was not to the natural man or the body, but to the spirit within the earthen vessel. The Kingdom of God comes inwardly. In the same way as the upper room members were made perfect in one, Elijah '*put the wood in order*'. Wood always represents humanity in Scripture. Man's life has to be put in order; become rightly aligned with God's order and then on top of that foundation, he must become a living sacrifice – "Not my will, but thine be done". In the upper room, Matthias had to surrender and agree to be counted as one of the apostles in order for the next step to take place. He could have refused, citing responsibilities at home. But he did not. He stepped into the empty space and created a fullness of readiness by his surrender to the will of God.

A CONCUSSION OF SOUND

Sound waves cause a vibration on water and impart energy and a human being is made up largely of water. The sound released into the atmosphere of the upper room was the sound of the voice of God upon the waters of His separated, fully prepared people. The voice of the Lord is very powerful. It has a transformative effect. How we must cry out for the Lord to utter His voice and release a heavenly sound over us. Let us take a look at the effect of the voice of Heaven acting upon the earthly realm:

Psa 29:3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon many (great) waters. Psa 29:4 The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. Psa 29:5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; yes, the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. Psa 29:6 He makes them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion (Mount Hermon) like a young, wild ox. Psa 29:7 The voice of the Lord splits and flashes

forth forked lightning. Psa 29:8 The voice of the Lord makes the wilderness tremble; the Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. Psa 29:9 The voice of the Lord makes the hinds bring forth their young, and His voice strips bare the forests, while in His temple everyone is saying, Glory!

The voice of the Lord breaks down and brings forth; it shakes and it releases; it brings to birth and fruitfulness and it strips bare. Some cedars are broken and some skip like a calf, alluding to Malachi 4 and those released from the stall in the day that burns like an oven. How do we know what effect His voice will have upon us? The word for 'wilderness in verse 8 means 'organs of speech' and the Hebrew word for 'Kadesh' can either mean a sanctuary or a male prostitute. If we are surrendered to the Lord, there is a time of release and outpouring appointed; a birthing and propelling into all that heaven has prepared. If one is not separated to the Lord within, and therefore not a sanctuary but rather a temple filled with idols, indulging in harlotry and abominations, then breaking and stripping bare is appointed.

When the Lord utters His voice, all that is stored up within us for the time we are stepping into, is activated by the heavenly vibration. In the upper room, the sound caused a breaking open of inner treasuries and rivers of living water began to pour out, accompanied by other languages. It was these languages that were needed to communicate to the crowd from many nations milling about in the streets below. The sound released the river of life within – and within that river is everything needed for every occasion of ministry. When God answered Elijah's prayer, the sacrifice was consumed with flames of fire from Heaven – a sign of acceptance and approval. However, the other sacrifice prepared by the prophets of Baal lay cold and raw and dismembered; visibly rejected by Heaven as unacceptable, in spite of the performance put on.

VESSELS POURED OUT

It is significant that in a time when drought is crippling the land and living water was very scarce, Elijah drenched the fully prepared pieces of the sacrifice with 12 jars of water. God's kingdom does not operate according to the economy of earth or the fear of man. No-one objected when Elijah called for such a lavish outpouring. Who would argue with a man who could pray and shut up the heavens for 3 and ¹/₂ years! Not even Ahab protested.

Elijah did not personally pour the water from above but rather instructed bondservants to do so. Here we see the involvement of men and women working with the Spirit of Elijah in the administering of the heavy latter rain of the pure water of the Word to the placed, dressed portions of the Body of Christ, who are in a place of surrender and ready but unable to kindle the heavenly fire within themselves.

Three sets of four jars of water – akin to three applications of revelation of the three feasts of the Lord. Each set of four jars is the washing with water and revelation concerning one feast. The husband washes his wife with the water of the

Word and gives himself up for her according to Ephesians 5 but as Paul emphasises a few verses on, the full application of this truth is referring to Christ and the Church becoming one. Everyone who is a part of the true Bride must experience a personal fulfillment of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles in order to become a being totally filled with fullness of the stature of Christ, and thus an equal marriage partner for Him.

It is not enough to just have understanding of salvation. One must be part of the firstfruits company who have absorbed and aligned themselves to the gospel of the Kingdom and received the infilling of the Spirit. Yet still there is another set of water jars to be upturned. The fall feasts and the shadows and types they contain must become a reality to the Bride making herself ready for it is these fall feasts that depict the coming of the Bridegroom, face to face intimacy and the season of our joy when the fruit harvest comes in and God is in the midst, with an accompanying outpouring of water and wine from gold and silver vessels. There must be revelation of the threefold things. There must be return and setting apart in holiness for the Bridegroom and a forsaking of all other gods. Having borne the image of the earthly, the image of the heavenly must come forth in them. And for these finishing touches to be put to their readiness, they need the ministrations of the spirit of Elijah - especially in an age where delusion and demonic doctrine have defiled the church at large. The last harvest of those who form part of the Bride of Christ is in need of this deluge of washing with the Word to cleanse and wash away the stench of demonic

doctrine which has clogged their earthen vessels for the past 3 and ½ years while all true prophets were silenced.

1Ki 18:28 And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with knives and lances until the blood gushed out upon them. 1Ki 18:29 Midday passed, and they played the part of prophets until the time for offering the evening sacrifice, but there was no voice, no answer, no one who paid attention.

A babble of sound was released and knives were used, but it was a sound of darkness and definitely not the Word that is sharper than a two-edged sword being wielded. These were counterfeit workers at their best, 'playing the part of prophets'. How tragically true of many quarters of the Body of Christ today. But resounding performances do not cause sound-waves that change lives. It is not enough to bear a soulish image. The prophets of Baal ministered in the realm of the soul and the five senses. They put up a frenetic show of fervent devotion to their gods for two watches of the day and succeeded only in spilling their own blood. Their dismembered bullock lay cold and dry upon their makeshift altar. And the God who is Spirit waited until after the counterfeit had proved itself ineffectual. He did not try and put on a competing performance alongside this charlatan sideshow. Timing is everything and the deluded people of God needed to see the humiliation and lack of power of their pagan prophets. Then His servant prayed in a way that unleashed Heaven's answer and broke the hold of the spirit of harlotry on their minds. When the real shows up, the slaves are set free. The Bridegroom wants His wife back,

even if she has been unfaithful to Him, and He knows exactly how to clean her up.

Eze 13:20 Therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against your pillows and charms and veils with which you snare human lives like birds, and I will tear them from your arms and will let the lives you hunt go free, the lives you are snaring like birds. Eze 13:21 Your [deceptive] veils also will I tear and deliver My people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted and snared. Then you shall know (understand and realize) that I am the Lord.

Let's look at how that happened and what we can learn from Elijah's obedience.

1Ki 18:36 At the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet came near and said, O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and that I have done all these things at Your word. 1Ki 18:37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You, the Lord, are God, and have turned their hearts back [to You].

First Elijah called the people to come near as he rebuilt the altar and prepared the sacrifice. Then finally Elijah himself drew near and asked God to manifest Himself in fire and prove his authenticity as God's servant. He did this at a specific time. The time of the evening sacrifice is 3pm. It is the hour of prayer and it is the time when Jesus called out, "It is finished". It is the time of completion. As I mentioned before, the Greek word 'tetelestai' is akin to the Hebrew and Aramaic 'kalah' which means 'a completed burnt offering, wholly consumed' from which the Hebrew word 'kallah' for 'bride' comes. Elijah's prayer at this specific time was in effect asking for a visible demonstration of 'kalah', once all the preparatory steps had been completed as God had directed. "Show your people that it is finished; that the work is complete".

Elijah did nothing by himself according to his own understanding. In fact, in the natural what he was doing made no sense whatsoever. It looked like he was sabotaging his chance in his own challenge. The natural man does not understand the things of the spirit because they are spiritually discerned. The twelve jars of water which doused the sacrifice completely separated the scene from the natural. Only the God Who is a consuming fire could consume or complete that sacrifice. God's ways are high above our ways. It defies the intellect of man and the doctrines of man to totally saturate something with water as preparation for it to be ignited. The heavy latter rain of spiritual revelation is necessary in order to prepare the Bride of Christ for the baptism of consuming fire.

REBUILDING WHAT JEZEBEL HAS BROKEN DOWN

When something has been dismantled and destroyed by Jezebel in a church context, it has been done in order that there be no visible point of reference for worship of God in the way that is acceptable to Him. Whatever cannot be seen

is soon forgotten – out of sight, out of mind! Jezebel knew this. She also silenced and effectively removed from the vicinity any prophet of God who could call the people to repentance and return. There were 100 prophets hidden in a cave, but coming into open view meant losing their heads too! Intimidation is as effective as murder when people value their own lives more than the cause of God.

But Elijah was not your everyday prophet. He had experienced firsthand the God of the supernatural for the whole 3&1/2 years in which there was drought and famine in Israel. His experience was not everyone else's experience and he knew God was alive and well in spite of evidence to the contrary in the natural realm. Whenever there is spiritual harlotry and wifely unfaithfulness amongst the people of God, the heavens become brass...and if it continues, then it spills over into the realm of natural provision. But those who fear the Lord lack no good thing, even in the midst of famine. It took a bondservant walking in the experiential truth of this fact to rebuild what was broken down, and reconnect the people of God to Him.

Just as Elijah bridged this gap with his heavenly counsel, understanding and obedience, so too, many years later, John the Baptist, operating in the spirit of Elijah, also bridged the gap and 400 year silence between God and His people. He did this by laying a foundation and teaching God's people through precept upon precept what really serving God looked like. And he also did this outside the confines of the temple of the day. Sometimes, it is necessary to come outside of a forest, in order to 'see the wood'.

In John's instance, he addressed the people at the very river where their ancestors had crossed over miraculously into their Promised Land – all because of four priests who obediently stood bearing the presence of God upon their shoulders, while the people crossed over on dry ground. Four earthen vessels carrying God's presence opened up the way... and much later, stone vessels carrying living water bridged the gap between what had been heard and what was seen; between desert and manifestation.

GETTING BACK TO THE GARDEN

In Elijah's case, he called them to assemble at Mount Carmel. 'Carmel' means 'garden or vineyard'. The first case of infidelity to God also took place in a garden. What was broken down through that encounter necessitated a divine intervention that took 4000 years to unfold fully. We are God's garden, vineyard and building, according to Paul (1 Cor 3:9). And Jezebel, together with the prophets of Baal and Asherah still have the mandate to infiltrate, break down and lay waste everything God has planted. It's time to return to the garden; to walking in His presence and hearing His voice. And it takes a bondservant who has already been dwelling in that place to demonstrate the way to get there. It takes someone operating in the spirit of Elijah to demonstrate step by step how to return to being a holy people, and how to become a bride who has made herself ready. Firstly, let us look at the construction material for the altar.

1Ki 18:31 Then Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be your name. 1Ki 18:32 And with the stones Elijah built an altar in the name of the Lord. He made a trench about the altar as great as would contain two measures of seed.

'The word of the Lord came' and bestowed a new name! But Israel was only given as Jacob's new name after he had wrestled with God at Peniel. From this launching pad of a realigned character, new spiritual position and resulting new name, twelve tribes came forth under the power of that Godgiven name. Of course Jacob's sons had already been born by the time he left Laban and wrestled through the night, but the collective name of the tribe, sons of 'Jacob' meant 'sons of the supplanter' – not a very auspicious reputation to have; taking a position that is not yours and the attached birthright.

The birthright of the double portion rightfully belongs to the firstborn son because he is expected to take over his father's business. For this to be done effectively, one needs the heart of the father and a proven character. Israel means 'prince with God' or 'straightened of God' – very different to his given name. A supplanter is always trying to reach higher, to take what is not rightfully his; always looking over his shoulder for the people he has stepped on in his pursuit of power and position, sending others ahead into the firing line because he is more interested in self-preservation and exaltation than laying down his life. Lucifer is a supplanter,

hankering after the throne of God and desiring the praises of men. The wrestling before the face of God at Peniel removes the vestiges of spiritual ambition lurking in the wings of the hearts of God's people. Satan must have nothing in us; no ground that he can lay claim to because of impure motive and fleshly ambition. When we next look at our brothers and sisters in Christ, we must not see them as someone in the way of our spiritual ambition, possessing gifts and mantles we want for ourselves. Rather, the lasering of the eyes of our hearts during the wrestling has granted us clear vision, and we see as Jacob saw Esau and our heart motive is to give rather than take:

Gen 33:10 But Jacob replied, No, I beg of you, if now I have found favour in your sight, receive my gift that I am presenting; for truly to see your face is to me as if I had seen the face of God, and you have received me

The stones Elijah used for the altar were not hewn by human hands; not shaped by the doctrines of men but by the hand of God. We would do well to leave the hewing and shaping of our brothers and sisters in Christ to the One appointed to build the true temple of the Lord. He alone can see the jewel hidden in the rocky exterior.

Jesus was the total opposite of a supplanter. He left Heaven and descended to a human plane because of love. He did not come to be served but to serve. He knew Who He was, where He had come from and where He was going and then

took a servants towel and washed His disciple's feet. Those same disciples who had been jostling for position were granted a part in Jesus because the King of Kings humbled himself and washed the dust of the journey from their feet. Spiritual ambition disguised as a pressing into one's calling and ministry is a hallmark of a church whose god is self; who worships the creature rather than the Creator.

The prophets of Baal and Asherah brought takeaways from the table of a woman who used force and manipulation and murder to take what was not rightfully hers. Out of the abundance of her dark heart, she tutored her lackeys to lead Israel into spiritual adultery; so much so that they forgot totally the heritage of the name they bore, or that their collective lives were meant to be an altar of worship and sacrifice to the Living God. They needed to be shown again the first principles of holiness for a holy God.

It took a holy bondservant of this holy God; a living message in an earthen vessel, demonstrating layer by layer and step by step what a life looks like that is found fit to receive the heavy latter rain and become a messenger who is a flame of fire. There is always a protocol to follow to ensure Heaven's rain and Heaven's fire. God knows what is needed to rectify a situation of demolition amongst His people. And He has His prepared vessels that He brings onto the scene at the right moment, to ensure Heaven's purposes are fulfilled. When He commanded that His people be gathered to Mount Carmel, it was not with the possibility of humiliation for His obedient servant. The Lord Almighty knew the outcome ahead of time. Yet, He remained silent for two watches filled with frenetic fleshly religious activity. The only sounds coming from God's camp were the mocking questions Elijah posed halfway through the charade – *"either he is musing, or he has gone aside, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened"*.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Then finally, in the 4th watch of the day, four stone vessels were also brought on the scene. They were filled repeatedly with water in order to thoroughly saturate all that Elijah had built. These vessels were set apart for this purpose for this short season. In like manner, the Father has a company of vessels waiting and prepared for this hour in history. They are empty of self and meek, submitted to the Lord's timetable and the Spirit of Elijah's call for them to come on the scene and pour out the waters with which they have been filled. In a rhythmic dance according to the music of Heaven, they are filled and poured out, refilled and poured out and then finally, the third outpouring in accordance with Heaven's explicit instruction. Then they are laid to one side and the tableau continues. There is no undue attention given to the vessels, for it is the water they pour out that is of importance - and ultimately, the consummation of the sacrifice. All is done in order for the veils to ultimately be torn from the hearts of the people under the bondage of delusion and stupor. No glory goes to man. The cry released by the people at the end is not an ode to the glory of Elijah as God's servant, but a mighty sound of return and realignment to Him Who alone is worthy of glory!

The water Elijah commanded to be poured out washed over the dressed sacrifice, but that was not all. It also covered the twelve stones, symbolizing all the people of God, and then, finally, it filled the trenches. Israel, the wayward adulterous people of God must be washed under the spirit of Elijah's tutelage to return to being princes with God. Yes, the husband washes his wife with the water of the Word and cleanses her of all her uncleanness. And then the overflow of these twelve measures of outpouring by the bondservants under the command of the spirit of Elijah is enough to fill a trench the size of a double portion of seed. This symbolizes the double portion, right and inheritance of those who come forth after the pattern of the Firstborn from Among the Dead

– and it is only released once realignment to God's prescribed order is fulfilled. Everything that Jezebel has broken down must be rebuilt. Then the fire falls and the hand of the Lord is seen to be with His servants and against His enemies!

1Ki 18:38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice and the wood and the stones and the dust, and also licked up the water that was in the trench.

Notice that even the water was consumed by the fire of the Lord; such was the baptism of fire! It is as if the jealous fiery love of the Bridegroom and His Father are released in such a roar of approval, "YES! This is My order for My altar, My way of doing things, My servant, My way of fully preparing the sacrifice! And I set My fiery seal of approval upon this messenger and THIS message!"

1Ki 18:39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and they said, The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!

Immediately the people's eyes were opened and their understanding and right minds returned. The choice was now simple. All paralysis of will was broken. And the seed of Jacob was released to serve God with their whole hearts again. But what of the second measure of seed? Remember the 100 prophets who had been hidden and fed by Obadiah? They too were now free to come out of hiding and begin to speak on the Lord's behalf again because the people of God now needed true messengers serving real food for the spirit. These prophets had been sustained in hiding by the water of the Word and the Bread of Life in daily portions.

The water that was licked up by the fire actually evaporated due to the heat, and then moved about in a different form in the atmosphere, released from the constraints of gravity and the earthly plane. I see in this a great dispersing of seed all over the earth, energised and elevated by the anointing of fire that falls. The final outworking of the spirit of Elijah is a harvesting of harvesters and a thrusting of labourers who carry living water into the harvest field. Such is His Word that goes out of His mouth. The water in the trench ignited and transported by the heat of the baptism of fire becomes the rain that falls on the harvest fields and brings the harvest to full ripeness, that it may be gathered in. The water poured out on the sacrifice, representing the Bride made ready, does not return to Him void, but accomplishes the purpose for which it was sent: Isa 55:10 For as the rain and snow come down from the heavens, and return not there again, but water the earth and make it bring forth and sprout, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, Isa 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return to Me void [without producing any effect, useless], but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

FACE TO FACE PRODUCES FRUIT

Only intimacy produces fruit - and only union results in a release of seed. When the God who is a consuming fire becomes one with His Bride who has made herself ready, the result is a release of a double portion of the seed of Christ, the Word, into the harvest field. The season when the prophets of Baal were the only sound in the arena of church life brought nothing but empty promises, fruitless performances, captivity and an increasing hunger. The ministry of the bondservants of God operating in the spirit of Elijah brings heavy latter rain, true intimacy with God and fruitfulness. Until God has His wife back, there will be no seed of God released in the earth.

Psalm 110 tells us that God's people will offer themselves willingly in the day of His power. Yet, just as it took One who was willing to lay down His life as the Pattern Son, so too, God needs fire-starters; those willing to be consumed with zeal for His House and the cause of the Kingdom. It took one servant son in the form of Elijah, who was willing to lay down his own life and own interests, die to self and be obedient to whatever God showed him in all the preparatory seasons, for all the people of Jerusalem to be set free from the witchcraft of Jezebel and her prophets of Baal and Asherah. If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest. Even those who have been defiled by eating food sacrificed to idols can return to the One who paid a betrothal price in His own Blood for them – if someone is willing to surrender and be led by the Spirit wherever He leads.

Notice that once the people were returned to their right minds, the false prophets were immediately put to death!! No more opportunity to seduce the people of God with their allurements. Judgment is coming to those who have led God's people astray with doctrines of demons, dishing up recipes they learned at Jezebel's table. Their access to the pulpit is removed and their names blotted from the list of guest-speakers. God is tired of those who defile His wife for the sake of a fat bank balance and the praises of men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness.

Rev 2:22 Take note: I will throw her on a bed [of anguish], and those who commit adultery with her [her paramours] I will bring down to pressing distress and severe affliction, unless they turn away their minds from conduct [such as] hers and repent of their doings. Rev 2:23 And I will strike her children (her proper followers) dead [thoroughly exterminating them]. And all the assemblies (churches) shall recognize and understand that I am He Who searches minds (the thoughts, feelings, and purposes) and the [inmost] hearts, and I will give to each of you [the reward for what you have done] as your work deserves. In this day, God is searching the minds and innermost hearts of all who claim to represent Him and each will reap the reward they deserve. The prophets of Baal and Asherah were killed at the brook Kishon, whose name has a root meaning 'to lay a snare'. Not one escaped of those 850 counterfeit workers who had trapped and snared the people of God with their wiles. And as a result, the natural drought was broken.

Elijah had dealt with the spiritual problem, brought realignment, and the natural realm was also released. Elijah could hear in the spiritual realm that the storehouses of rain were being opened up for a mighty release of heavy rain and he announced this to Ahab. Then he went up to the top of mount Carmel and got into the birthing position until the first cloud was formed in the earthly realm. The size of a man's hand – what an interesting description of the seed cloud that heralded the coming of the heavy latter rain! And which man's hand is it? The strong right hand of the mature Man; the manifestation of the full stature of Christ through the sons of the right hand!

1Ki 18:45 In a little while, the heavens were black with wind-swept clouds, and there was a great rain. And Ahab went to Jezreel. 1Ki 18:46 The hand of the Lord was on Elijah. He girded up his loins and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel [nearly twenty miles].

Ahab had to use a chariot and horses to get to Jezreel. Elijah just needed the supernatural power of the Spirit of the Lord!! Some men trust in chariots, and some in horses but we will trust in the Name of our God! Jezreel means 'God will sow'. It comes from a root word 'to conceive seed'. Seed conceived is a reference to fruitfulness of the womb. Once the prophets of Baal and Asherah are silenced, the heavy latter rain and a visitation of the Spirit of Elijah brings fruitfulness to our lives. And there is a heavy latter rain of the seed of Christ all over the earth.

Chapter 3 ~ CHOOSING THE RIGHT DOOR

Joh 10:9 I am the Door; anyone who enters in through Me will be saved (will live). He will come in and he will go out [freely], and will find pasture. Joh 10:10 The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows). Joh 10:11 I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep. [Ps. 23.]

In the natural, the act of passing through a doorway, by its very motion, enacts a leaving of one area and an entering of another space. With the Son of God, Who is The Door, however, the stepping over the threshold involves something far more profound. In the brief moment where the person is positioned IN the actual Door Way, there occurs a translation from one dimension into another; from an arena of darkness into a kingdom of Light, from death to life. This Door is the boundary line between darkness and light.

Gen 1:3 And God said, Let there be light; and there was light. Gen 1:4 And God saw that the light was good (suitable, pleasant) and He approved it; and God separated the light from the darkness.

The Hebrew word translated 'separated' here actually is far stronger in intent that that English word conveys. It means 'to sever utterly, to divide asunder'. This more accurately describes the intended result of the acceptance of the Son of God's marriage proposal. It is also very important to remember that this division that God effected has nothing to do with natural light emitted by the sun. The solar body that gives the earth natural light was only set in the heavens on the fourth day.

2Co 4:6 For it is God who said, "Out of darkness Light shall shine;" who shone in our hearts to give the brightness of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

It is utterly impossible in the natural to cause light to shine out of darkness. No human being is able to duplicate this action. It is the realm of the Divine; the territory of the One who can make something out of absolutely nothing. And it is this kind of light that your Bridegroom is intending you to not only experience, but dwell in – and become filled with. It is described with lyrical beauty as Isaiah explains the vast difference between living by natural light and spiritual light:

Isa 60:19 The sun shall no more be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you, but the Lord shall be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory and your beauty. Isa 60:20 Your sun shall no more go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself, for the Lord shall be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.

Isaiah says this is a message for '*the City of the Lord, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel*'. Did we not read earlier, in Revelation 21, that the Bride of the Lamb is this 'great city' descending out of heaven, fully adorned and prepared for her Husband? And once again, we are told that this Bride needs no natural light, because she is lit from within by the glory of God:

Rev 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to give light to it, for the splendour and radiance (glory) of God illuminate it, and the Lamb is its lamp.

In a world that is growing densely darker by the day, how unbelievably beautiful and powerful this marriage proposal offered by the Sun of Righteousness is! And how it has been unintentionally trodden underfoot - by a Church who is blind and deaf to the depth of the true intentions of the message of the Cross. We are not born again into the Kingdom just to be put to work for a Master. We are intended to become the holy set-apart wife of the Lamb of God, completely and utterly severed from the darkness of this world system by response to the invitation of the Godhead to be wedded into the Divine Family; once and for all grafted in to a Kingdom of Light, where there is no darkness; divorced and removed from any relationship with the devil and given full rights of inheritance by adoption into Abba Father's Bloodline.

IDOLATRY, ADULTERY AND SPIRITUAL CATARACTS Is it any wonder that Paul remonstrates with the Corinthian church as to their associations?

2Co 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship does righteousness have with lawlessness? And what communion does light have with darkness? 2Co 6:15 And what agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever? 2Co 6:16 And what agreement does a temple of God have with idols? For you are the temple of the living God, as God has said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

The words translated 'unequally yoked' means 'to associate discordantly'. Picture an ox and a dog yoked together in front of a plough. They are not of the same 'kind'; different seed! There is absolutely no chance of ploughing a straight furrow and depending on the size of the dog, one may have a fatality on one's hands!

Does light have any 'communion' or fellowship with darkness? It is actually impossible because God utterly severed them in Genesis 1. Likewise, spiritual light and spiritual darkness can have no common ground. The only way they can co-exist briefly in the same space within us, is if the other retreats at the other's one or advance. Unfortunately, in the Church today, the so-called children of Light has been tripping over backwards in order to accommodate the encroaching spiritual darkness, which is weaseling its way in under the guise of religious tolerance, unity and 'love'. If anyone can view the current state of much of the Body of Christ in western nations and not hear the broken-hearted weeping of the Father, I question whether there exists a heart of stone rather than flesh within. Babylon is appointed for judgment and destruction, but there is an urgent call for those whose hearts are truly seeking Him to once and for all choose Light and come out of all association with the system that is described as becoming the habitation of demons and every foul spirit (Rev 18:2).

Even in Paul's day, the unfaithfulness of the betrothed wife of the Lamb was an issue and the call to 'COME OUT' was being sounded:

2Co 6:17 Therefore COME OUT from among them and be separated, says the Lord, and do not touch the unclean thing. And I will receive you 2Co 6:18 and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

It is way beyond the time to straddle the doorway; one foot in darkness and the other in the kingdom of Light. 'Not fully out' is equal to 'not fully in' and I would urge you to reexamine the day you chose to 'accept Christ'; 'be born again'; 'let Jesus into your heart' or whatever terminology was used to encourage you to become a member of the Body of Christ. If you only had partial understanding of what kind of transaction you were involved in that day, please take a 'moment' to carry yourself back to that encounter - and with greater illumination and full understanding of what you are being separated from and being joined to, bow your head and bend your knee and renew your Bridal covenant with the Sun of Righteousness. Let go of, turn away from and cast aside every understanding or teaching that has minimised or denigrated this holy exchange of vows that is your entry point to a marriage covenant and the kingdom of light.

Then soberly, and with growing realisation of not just the church at large's guilt in this matter, but your own casual treatment of this marriage proposal that is beyond price, break bread with only the Godhead present. In response to the ancient question, "Will you take this Man to be your lawful wedded Husband, forsaking all others?" give your whole-hearted answer. Then take the cup which symbolises the incredibly expensive Bridal price paid for you and let your heart rejoice at the thought that you are betrothed to the King of Kings. Renew your original Bridal Covenant with the words of your mouth in the presence of Witnesses...and then 'veil yourself', both by a decree in prayer and in whatever other symbolic way the Spirit leads you at that holy moment.

This return and reconvenanting, and partaking in the symbolic communion ritual instituted by the Bridegroom Himself on the eve of His going to pay that brutally severe Bridal Price, marks the beginning of a journey back to complete inner holiness of heart and mind. Rome wasn't built in a day - and it will take you and the Holy Spirit a while to clean out the cupboards of wrong understandings and cast away every vestige of idolatry in thought and deed. But be encouraged - He who wept with joy at your return to the Marriage Covenant, will empower and help you every step of the way. And you will feel the chains of slavery to Babylon falling powerless at your feet, as you walk forward with all your heart, soul, mind and strength into the Door in which you are destined to live and move and have your being.

Remember Lot, who was remonstrating with the men of Sodom in the square outside his house? There came a moment where the angel messenger pulled him into the house and shut the Door and blinded the men of Sodom so they could not find the door. The important thing is that you

find the Door yourself with full comprehension of it being the severing line which forever parts you from discourse on the doctrines and beliefs and practices of Sodom. It is time for the wicked to continue in their wickedness and the righteous to be righteous still; time to come out and be separate. You are the wife of the Lamb, recently returned to comprehending the fullness of responsibility you bear for upholding your part in the marriage covenant. It is not time to argue with the wicked as to their wicked ways. Don't let the Religious Spirit keep you busy with that.

There is unleavened bread available in your own 'house', just as there was some laid on the table in Lot's house, because the Spirit of Truth resides within you and will lead you into all truth. Not coincidentally, 'Lot' means 'veiled'. What a profound prophetic picture of the betrothed wife of the Lamb in this day, who has been dwelling and transacting Christian 'business' and eating whatever can be found in Sodom. But praise God, because of the unbreakable covenant God made with Abraham, He is sending one last round of angels or messengers before the appointed judgment falls upon this unclean city which revels in their abominations.

These messengers have been prepped beforehand as to their assignment. They come fresh from their appointment before the face of the Father and they are not wasting time on pleasantries. They know the urgency of the hour and that those who are truly relatives of Abraham by faith must be brought out. Hebrews 11 tells us that righteous Lot's heart was grieved daily by the goings on where he lived and goodness knows why he did not get up and move out before this; perhaps he had too much invested financially or had organised two weddings and had prospective mothers-in – law to appease. Whatever it was, he was unaware of the urgency of the hour before the messengers were sent. He had no understanding that the time of separation was upon him. Nor did he realise the closeness of judgment (even though he had told himself for years that it must surely come, if God was still God).

So the sent ones were tasked with not just delivering a message, BUT actually REMOVING Lot and family from the city limits of Sodom, thrusting them out, before the sun rose over the horizon. And now in this day, we see the scene being repeated. To His Son's righteous veiled, betrothed wife residing (and agonising daily) in a Church that has become like Sodom, the Father is again organising a rescue mission. How merciful the Father is to His Son's compromising covenant partner.

But first, God had to find willing messengers. They have to be ones not intimidated by the prophets of Baal prophesying in the broad square of Sodom, or the level of sin and deception in Christian City; ones who are willing to follow the Lamb wherever He goes – even if the assignment seems to be to a hellish place. They can only be those who come forth from His presence; from spending much time before His face; the forerunners who have already done their desert time and emerge as overcomers. These messengers will come operating in the spirit of Elijah, saying, "If the Lord is God, serve Him!" They will remind the watching crowd of the words of God, "Be holy as I am holy" and separate the veiled ones from those prophets of Baal who have entertained the people of God with morsels from Jezebel's table. Those hirelings operating through familiar spirits will be blinded, because of their unrepentant hearts, by a lightning bolt of supernatural light and will no longer be able to access the Door which is Christ, or influence the veiled ones any longer. The jealous fiery love of the Bridegroom will separate light from darkness; Himself standing in between and warding off access to those hidden within the house of separation. And the prophets of Baal will grope blindly - and their merchandising ministries be cut off.

These warriors are on a mission to rescue the Beloved of the Lord, who are still trapped in the castles of counterfeit Christendom. They will come, riding furiously like Jehu and shouting, "if you are with me, throw her down"- and the saints made eunuchs by Jezebel will be galvanised into action and cast down the very principality that has lorded it over them. And go forth to embrace an inheritance among the sons and daughters.

Isa 56:4 For thus says the Lord: To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths and choose the things which please Me and hold firmly My covenant-- Isa 56:5 To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial and a name better [and more enduring] than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off. It is time to bring revelation of the true state of affairs and the nail biting urgency of the hour. Then, once one can 'see' again, it is time to separate and sever utterly between the light and the darkness of moral and spiritual depravity, using the Door as an impenetrable line in the sand. And lastly, it is time, during the early morning watch, to THRUST the veiled light-bearers OUT to a place of safety, so they are protected from the looming judgment.

Lot's father was called Haran, which means 'mountaineer'. How tragic that the seed of a mountaineer came to be living in the plains of Sodom and not following in his father's footsteps. And how on earth did that come about? Well, Uncle Abraham gave Lot the first choice of a place to settle – and Lot walked in the footsteps of Eve and judged by the sight of his natural eyes, instead of following the footsteps of his father to higher climes.

Gen 13:10 And Lot looked and saw that everywhere the Jordan Valley was well watered. Before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, [it was all] like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, as you go to Zoar. Gen 13:11 Then Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley and [he] travelled east. So they separated. Gen 13:12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the [Jordan] Valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom and dwelt there.

Did you see that? This valley looked like Eden. This part of the vineyard seemed fertile and pleasant...and comfortable...and easy! Lovely alluvial soil, not much hard digging required; no sweat and tears here; no well-digging necessary, water on tap – the perfect place for other lazy, fleshy lovers of sensual pleasures to settle and build a city...

Much like the broad road that leads to hell... Actually, much like the present-day worldly, compromised Babylonian church! Lovely decor, up to the minute technology, in-house coffee shops and endless self- actualisation courses; so intensely seeker-friendly that the world feels right at home within the four walls... No wonder! These mega churches are the 'cities of the Jordan Valley' and any one of them bears a remarkable resemblance to Sodom. But if you are spiritually blind and beguiled, you cannot see it.

Perhaps you found a place called the 'house of the Lord' and it seemed like Eden to you. Surely you could walk with God in the cool of the day here... But as the years have gone by, the atmosphere and spirit permeating the activities each week seem to have changed. Something is just not right, but you can't put your finger on it... and any attempt to ask relevant questions gets you into trouble. Perhaps you have put down your roots exactly like Lot did. You have invested so much in building into the vision of the leaders and now the thought of uprooting seems too much to face. Too many friends to say goodbye to; too many explanations to give, too much to lose ... that is until God sends someone to point out to you that your own survival is dependant of turning your back on this chapter for the sake of Christ, and there is no time to lose in coming out of here! Turn your back on compromise and move towards the light of a new day. You will find that there are others with kindred spirits ready to link arms and walk with you on the journey.

I had a dream, some years ago now, (which is discussed in more detail in the Postscript). In this dream, I was standing on a high mountain which was bathed in light, and I was using binoculars to view a series of wooden galleons out on the sea. It all looked quite idyllic, except for the fact that there was a full moon rising at the edge of the horizon – and it was completely black! Suddenly, from the right hand side, a speed boat appeared and in it was a man, standing up with a flaming torch in His hand. Then I saw there was a line of oil on the water, between the wooden vessels and the bottom of the mountain. This man lit the line of oil and suddenly I saw pirates board and take over the wooden galleons and a horde of people began streaming from the water line up to the top of the mountain where I was standing.

After waking, I knew that the mountain represented mount Zion bathed in heavenly light and what I had seen was a demonic takeover of ministries, which resulted in many people leaving and fleeing to mount Zion and the light which was found there. I believe now that the one who held the flaming torch is the Bridegroom, the Son of God and that flaming torch is a corporate company who will be used to demarcate a dividing line between what is good and what is evil – a Zadok priesthood, if you will, who will again teach God's people how to be holy vessels.

Eze 44:23 *The priests shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the common or profane, and cause them to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.*

Much of the Body is unaware that the Lord has had a hidden remnant that He has been preparing, far from the madding crowd of pop-culture Christianity. Generally unknown, (or forgotten, because they slipped out of the ranks of organised religious service so long ago), they are tucked up His sleeve, like the proverbial stone before it is placed in the sling shot, He has been shaping and polishing His hidden weapons for the Day of the Lord....and they are going to rain upon the

earth like arrows shot from the bows of a thousand archers. Positioned at the 'brook Cherith' for the whole time in which the drought for the true Word of the Lord has been upon the Church, they have been fed and watered daily a measured portion of revelation, to build them internally for the task ahead. 'Cherith' means 'to cut covenant' and this is what they have been busy doing with God. In much the same way as God cut covenant with Abraham, there has been a lot of cleaving asunder of holy cows, coupled with the experience of the burning oven and dealing with a flock of demonic vultures trying to interfere with the process. Then one day, the process of covenant is complete and the heart lies meek in the Father's hand. And the next stage of the assignment is set in motion – there is a widow Church, who has lived long without the sound of her Husband's voice in the house, and she has a son who is starving for true bread. But there is no provision of oil and flour for even tomorrow. Mercifully, Father has appointed a visitation from the spirit of Elijah!

And yes, the Church has been crying for mercy and for a visitation, but do they really realise what they are asking for? The messenger whom they seek will come – but He is

accompanied by the fire and the soap! (See Malachi 3) Like the whirlwind assignment of John the Baptist from the wilderness preparation time, the religious system of today will find themselves hearing of goings-on beyond the Jordan; a corporate fiery Man meeting that will make the New Age burning man festival look like the cheap imitation it is! Speaking words that pierce the heart with fiery darts of revelation truth learnt at the feet of the Spirit of Truth, these messengers pull no punches. Taking scriptures read for years and rightly comparing spiritual things with spiritual, they tear the religious veils from the eyes of their hungry listeners, and the people's hearts are enlightened to know the hope to which they are called again.

REMOVING EGYPT FROM THE CHURCH

Paul's harsh warning to Timothy, his 'true son in the faith' about the atmosphere in the last days was not describing pagans, but people who held 'a form of godliness' (in other words, they had an outer appearance of being Believers). His description is truly shocking:

2Ti 3:2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane. 2Ti 3:3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. 2Ti 3:4 [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with selfconceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain

amusements more than and rather than lovers of God. 2Ti 3:5 For [although] they hold a form of godliness, they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them].

Notice the counsel to 'avoid' or separate from such people – sounds to me like light being separated from darkness right in the ranks of the Church. 'Come out and be separate so that you do not share in her plagues'. Regarding plagues, God says a very interesting thing to Pharaoh, through His bondservant Moses:

Exo 9:13 And the Lord said to Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, So says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, Let My people go, so that they may serve Me. Exo 9:14 For I am going to send at this time all My plagues upon your heart, and upon your servants, and upon your people, so that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth.

How interesting – He is sending His plagues upon the heart of Pharaoh. Obviously this cannot be referring to a heart attack or anything similar. I believe God was informing the ruler of Egypt that everything that was dear to his heart would be affected. All his idols would be toppled, whether wealth, world influence, popularity, health and his family. There is nothing worse to a father who is king than to have no successor. All he has built and accumulated will go to outsiders and he has no power to prevent it. The Egyptians believed that whichever Pharaoh sat on the throne, by assuming that office, he in essence became a god. So audacious was this worship of self, that it was no longer merely religion, where a man represents a person before God and acts as an intermediary. Pharaoh worshipped himself as one of the many gods of Egypt and his firstborn son was a god-in-waiting. This must be the epitome of the desire to ascend to the throne and be God – so we know just who is behind this particular brand of pagan worship.

Revelation 9:18-20 recounts the lack of repentance for idolatry that occurs amongst the survivors of the 'plagues' of fire, smoke and brimstone during the end times. It seems the judgment was meted out for this very reason, as an attempt to bring them somehow to repentance. Two chapters previously, the bondservants of God were sealed on their foreheads as protection against what was coming. Couple these two facts with Revelation 11:8, which tells us that the Lord calls the city where His Son paid the bridal price 'Sodom' or 'Egypt', and one has to be blind and deaf not to understand that God's severe discipline is appointed to come on the city that names itself by the Name of the Lord, but continues on in its harlotry and idolatry.

Yes, the Bridegroom is coming, but only for the ones who are veiled and continuing in faithfulness to their marriage covenant, during the time of betrothal. There is very little time to return to holiness and renewal, or perhaps resurrection of the marriage covenant believers entered into with the Son of God at some point in their lives. It will take real repentance, with accompanying fruit, to stay the

looming judgments appointed. If one has sown to the flesh, one reaps corruption. It's a spiritual Law. So how does one tip the scales toward mercy rather than judgment?

What does true repentance and reconvenanting look like, in the Christian city that has become Sodom? It looks like Lot separated by the Door and eating unleavened bread within. It looks like Lot and his wife and daughters permanently severing their relationship with the two sons-in-law who were of the DNA of Sodom. It looks like Lot continuing to take step after step away from Sodom, even after his wife had turned back to her own destruction. By cleaving to the Light in thought, word and deed, one automatically becomes 'utterly severed and divided asunder' from anyone who chooses to stay in the darkness. You just don't have anything to talk about any more.

The Door that is Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, Who, by His very supernatural nature, becomes the veil which divides His Betrothed from the rest of Sodom. And even after this division has taken place, there is further sifting which occurs within Lot's heart and house. Jesus warned that He did not come to bring peace, but a sword:

Mat 10:35 For I have come to part asunder a man from his father, and a daughter from her mother, and a newly married wife from her mother-in-law-- Mat 10:36 And a man's foes will be they of his own household. Mat 10:37 He who loves [and takes more pleasure in] father or mother more than [in] Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves [and takes more pleasure in] son or daughter more than [in] Me is not worthy of Me; Mat 10:38 And he who does not take up his cross and follow Me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conforming wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also] is not worthy of Me.

These are hard words to digest, but they are the words of a Man looking for a wife who will be faithful to Him above all others. They are the words of counsel in psalm 45 to a woman approaching her wedding day, saying, "Forget your people and your father's house, for the king desires your beauty". The words of Jesus in Matthew 10 are the words of a King who offers life in a Kingdom of Light, in which no darkness can reside. The only way one can share intimacy with One Who is all Light, is to be constantly walking in the light yourself, ever on guard to keep yourself free from sin, or anything that would offense to Your Beloved. And yes, there will be those who begin the journey out of Sodom and then turn back to have one last look. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. We are in the time in which God is making manifest the counsels of men's hearts... and even the wife of your bosom may turn back in this day. What will you do if she does? Where is your treasure – above or below? To take it further, what are you currently 'married to'? Is it something connected in some way to Sodom? If so, separation is coming and the veiled one must keep moving forward regardless.

THE WAY TO FULLNESS OF JOY

In His presence there is fullness of joy. John explains so clearly how a life with darkness of heart and deed, by its very nature, excludes one from fellowship with the God of Light. He says the reason he is sharing this truth is his earnest desire that we would experience the supreme joy of fellowship with both the Father and the Son:

1Jn 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare unto you, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 1Jn 1:4 And we write these things to you so that your joy may be full. 1Jn 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. 1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

7 of the above passage has so often Verse been misinterpreted and taken out of context, and then misappropriated to apply to relationships with other people in the Body of Christ. Yet verse 3 so clearly explains what fellowship John is talking about - relationship with the Godhead. There is a very dangerous doctrine of demons currently popular in some Church circles, teaching that it is no longer necessary to repent after one's initial conversion. What utter drivel! And what a preposterous idea; that a Holy God would tolerate the continual adultery of His wife during her betrothal time, just because He paid a bridal price for her! In ancient Jewish culture, adultery by the Betrothed was grounds for divorce! James tells us clearly that friendship

with the world and its ways is considered adultery in God's eyes!

Jas 4:4 You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God]! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God. Jas 4:5 Or do you suppose that the Scripture is speaking to no purpose that says, The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcome] with a jealous love?

Have you ever heard of a 'harlot's forehead'? It is a term used by God to describe an utter lack of conviction of the error of one's ways and a stubborn insistence in not only continuing in that adulterous or idolatrous behaviour but justifying and explaining it away in the process. It is the wide-eyed, "Who, me?" and the protesting 'innocence' of Pride!

Pro 30:20 *This is the way of an adulterous woman: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, I have done no wickedness.*

Jer 3:3 Therefore the showers have been withheld, and there has been no latter rain; and you had a harlot's forehead, you refused to be ashamed.

Ah, now there is a key right there – the latter rain is withheld because of the adulterous behaviour of God's people. Oh how the present-day Church loves to announce that God is about to restore the years the locust has eaten and send the latter rain, a fact clearly stated in Joel 2. But why, oh why, do we stubbornly refuse to cast our eyes further up the page and see why the locust was allowed to march on our fields in the first place? Joel chapter one is addressed to sleeping drunkards; those who have quenched the thirst of their flesh while the enemy marched on their fields. The Lord patiently explains to His wayward adulterous people how to get Him to lift the sentence they brought upon themselves; how to access the place where the latter rain is released. And it involves a deep heartfelt repentance, a leaving of an unfaithful idolatrous lifestyle and a return to the marriage covenant:

Joe 2:12 Therefore also now, says the Lord, turn and keep on coming to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning [until every hindrance is removed and the broken fellowship is restored]. Joe 2:13 Rend your hearts and not your garments and return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness; and He revokes His sentence of evil [when His conditions are met].

God is incredibly merciful – the cross shows that. There is not one of us who is righteous, not one! And yet, He came up with an incredible plan to satisfy His Justice and His loneliness at the same time, through one 3 day plan. It would send the hearts of His disciples plunging up and down like a rollercoaster, but afterwards it would produce a marriage contract completely unshakable by all that hell has to throw at it ! That is, if we would keep ourselves set-apart and holy – in other words, VEILED! And for those of us, who have had our eyes opened to our own shoddy treatment of our marriage covenant with the Son, His mercy is still waiting at the other side of the altar of repentance.

Jas 4:8 Come close to God and He will come close to you. [Recognize that you are] sinners, get your soiled hands clean; [realize that you have been disloyal] wavering individuals with divided interests, and purify your hearts [of your spiritual adultery]. Jas 4:9 [As you draw near to God] be deeply penitent and grieve, even weep [over your disloyalty]. Let your laughter be turned to grief and your mirth to dejection and heartfelt shame [for your sins].

FIRST THE HEART, THEN THE FEET

King David, the one who fell into adultery, can teach us so much about now to come back into right relationship with God. He was known as a man after God's own heart, in spite of his disastrous fall from grace with Bathsheba. Physical adultery in only indulged in long after spiritual adultery has entered the heart of a man or woman who loves God. One becomes a person who honours God with one's lips, but one's heart wanders far from Him. The idol of our own opinions and reputations before men prevents us from walking in the fear of the Lord and acknowledging and repenting of our sins. David covered up his sin at first, rather than bring it into the light. Perhaps it was because he didn't want to lose face before his subjects. He was widely known as a king who loved God deeply. Pride is a deadly enemy. When we think we are rich and have need of nothing, we are in terrible danger, as spiritual arrogance causes spiritual blindness.

It took a visit from the prophet Nathan and a cleverly worded parable to show King David his own heart in a mirror. And when he saw it, he knew that his fundamental sin of heart was against God Himself. Why? Because King David was in an intimate relationship with God and knew he had been unfaithful, firstly in his thoughts and then afterwards, when he walked out those wrong desires in the flesh... And out of his heart, broken with sorrow for sin, flowed psalm 51; one of the most naked and honest heart cries you can find from a man who has betrayed his covenant with God. Elsewhere, David's contrite attitude of heart is also expressed:

Psa 25:8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore will He instruct sinners in [His] way. Psa 25:9 He leads the humble in what is right, and the humble He teaches His way. Psa 25:10 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and steadfast love, even truth and faithfulness are they for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. Psa 25:11 For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity and my guilt, for [they are] great.

In my own life, a request for a visit from the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord vastly improved my eyesight, when I looked in the mirror at the state of my spiritual walk. For so many years, I had desired to walk with the Spirit of Revelation and Wisdom. I ignorantly assumed that I already walked in the fear of the Lord to an acceptable extent! How foolish and blind I was. Outwardly I looked every bit the part, but that is really not what Abba Father is interested in. During the early days of the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord's visit, I stumbled across a verse in Jeremiah:

Jer 6:19 Hear, O earth: behold, I am bringing evil upon this people, the fruit of their thoughts (their schemes and devices) because they have not listened and obeyed My words, and as for My law, they have rejected it.

It hit me like a bullet between the eyes – the fruit of their THOUGHTS! My thought life only has an audience of two; me and the Holy Spirit. And suddenly, standing in the searchlight of the Spirit of Truth, I knew that if I reaped the fruit of some of the thoughts that ran around in my head, I was in big trouble! There, in the inner sanctuary of my mind, I routinely justified my own wrong actions, pointed fingers at others and had heated conversations with people who had just left the room! Of course I didn't dare voice those sentences out loud, because they would have got me into a lot of trouble with the people around me....not to mention the

fact that my reputation as a godly woman would be severely compromised! And that would be a blow to my spiritual pride... Somehow, I didn't seem to care too much that God Himself was subjected to my less than sanctified inner verbiage! ...that is, until I received the Visitor...

Psa 25:12 Who is the man who reverently fears and worships the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way that he should choose. Psa 25:13 He himself shall dwell at ease, and his offspring shall inherit the land. Psa 25:14 The secret [of the sweet, satisfying companionship] of the Lord have they who fear Him, and He will

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

show them His covenant and reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning.

What a reward for walking in the fear of the Lord – the sweet satisfying companionship of the Lord. Reading the Word is as different from His pleasant company as the experience of reading a love letter differs from sitting talking face to face with the beloved person who wrote it... and it is the latter intimate fellowship that Abba God desires to have daily with you, His Beloved. Don't let hidden pockets of pride keep you from that. In psalm 36, David beseeches the Lord concerning his access to the fountain of Life:

Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light. Psa 36:10 O continue Your loving-kindness to those who know You, Your righteousness (salvation) to the upright in heart. Psa 36:11 Let not the foot of pride overtake me, and let not the hand of the wicked drive me away.

Two things keep us from the fountain of life – walking in pride and the acts of the hands of wicked men, which affect our peace of mind and heart. The elevated platform of Pride is a dangerous place to find oneself:

1Jn 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.

The Pharisees continually protested their innocence and in so doing, proved who their father was. There is such a

phenomenon as the Word finding no entrance in us. Jesus observed it in these arrogant men:

Joh 8:37 [Yes] I know that you are Abraham's offspring; yet you plan to kill Me, because My word has no entrance (makes no progress, does not find any place) in you.

Beloved, unfortunate as it may be, there are those who call themselves God's children, yet the Word has no entrance in them, and in the days that we are stepping into, our enemies are going to be in our own household – both in our natural families and in the Church. There are tares sown in amongst the wheat and their hearts are already being plainly manifested in the days we live in. Some of them even wear religious robes, or stand behind pulpits, leading their flock over the cliff into hell by their sermons. When we share the things we have seen and learned at our Father's side during sweet communion with Him, their response is going to be the same as the Pharisee's response to Jesus:

Joh 8:38 I tell the things which I have seen and learned at My Father's side, and your actions also reflect what you have heard and learned from your father.

Joh 10:30 I and the Father are One. Joh 10:31 Again the Jews brought up stones to stone Him. Joh 10:32 Jesus said to them, My Father has enabled Me to do many good deeds. [I have shown many acts of mercy in your presence.] For which of these do you mean to stone Me? In these days, people will hate those whose lives are set apart and holy for the Lord, because by our very lifestyle, the ways and thought patterns of the ungodly are exposed. If they hated Jesus, they will hate those who truly represent Him. Hopefully YOU will be among those hated and not those hating...

Chapter 4 ~ TWO CITIES, TWO WOMEN

'*Come out of her, My people'*. Coming out is an urgent necessity, as is coming into the shelter of the Most High. But first, we need to have a clear understanding of what 'mystery Babylon' constitutes. It has everything to do with what we really believe and live out. Paul addresses the concept so well in Galatians when he uses Hagar and Sarah as illustrations – ultimately, the difference between Religion and Relationship.

Gal 4:22 For it is written: Abraham had two sons, the one out of the slave-woman, and one out of the free woman. Gal 4:23 But, indeed, he out of the slave-woman has been born according to flesh, and he out of the free woman through the promise; Gal 4:24 which things are being allegorized; for these are the two covenants, one indeed from Mount Sinai bringing forth to slavery, which is Hagar. Gal 4:25 For Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answers to Jerusalem which now is, and is in slavery with her children. Gal 4:26 But the Jerusalem from above is free, who is the mother of us all.

Sarah was the legal wife of Abraham, the father of faith. Hagar was the slave. They lived in the same household, ate from the same pot - yet they were poles apart in relation to the head of the household. So many sermons have been written about God's people bringing forth Ishmaels because of impatience in waiting for the purposes of God. Yet, fundamentally, if we are truly functioning and living in our ordained position as the wife instead of the concubine slave, we may be barren for a season or six, but in the household of Faith, it is impossible for us to bring forth Ishmael. Consider this: Hagar was an Egyptian. She lived in the household of Abraham, served in the household from which the House of Israel came forth generations later, but she would never sit in the privileged seat which the wife Sarah lived from. Yes, she *had* been bought with a price but it was not a bridal price her DNA exempted her from any chance of becoming a bride of Abraham. Why? Because God had ordained that His people must only take brides from among their own people, in order to keep the bloodline and DNA of the seed pure. Egypt represents the world, soulish power and the flesh, as opposed to that which comes forth from the Spirit.

The wife of the Lamb has also been bought with a price, but it is a bridal price. The Son of God did not die to purchase slaves from the world to be servants and concubines in His house. He came with the express purpose of purchasing a people who would become betrothed to Him, grow to maturity and function as His wife, bringing forth His purposes in the earth. He comes to wed a Bride who has made herself ready, not a concubine who is the mother of Ishmael. Galatians 4 tells us that everything that comes forth from Hagar is born of the flesh or soul power. It is the product of a covenant producing slavery. Verse 25 tells us that Hagar 'answers to' the Jerusalem that now is. The Greek word used here for 'answers to' is sustoicheo, which means 'to march in rank with as soldiers'. It alludes to being enlisted in an army, yet it is an army of slaves; an army of slaves connected to an earthly city. Ah, so not only are there two

women; there are also two armies! An earthly-minded army versus a heavenly-minded army; earthly as opposed to heavenly; this is the crux of the matter - the arena of soul power as opposed to the power of the Spirit. That which is born of earthly covenants will only produce that which is fleshly.

Col 3:1 If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

'Set your affection on...' - focus your heart and mind on that which is above the earth – that being 'the Jerusalem above' (Gal 4:26). Would you consider focus on power, position and the praises of man to be behavior of the army that is earthlyminded? Mystery Babylon is grooming an army of people that which gratifies the flesh; enslaved to soulish entertainment in place of offering oneself as a living sacrifice to Elohim. It is an army which is focused upon the royal "I"; my needs, my rights, my privileges, my ministry, my gifting. And what a subtle counterfeit it is – after all, didn't Hagar also experience intimacy with Abraham? Didn't she bring forth a son? Was she not the fruitful one in the house of Abraham for fourteen long years? Was she not considered part of Abraham's household? Yet, what was produced was not connected in any way to God's intended purposes in bringing forth a peculiar people in the earth; one who would foreshadow the Blood-bought Bridal company by emerging from slavery in Egypt, after consuming the lamb that was

slain. Being a Israelite slave in Egypt is very different to being a slave with an Egyptian bloodline.

Given the excess of fleshly pursuits masquerading as 'the normal Christian life' in today's Church, particularly in the West where Mammon is one of the idols served with gusto, it is no surprise that very little impact is being made in surrounding worldly society. A form of religion is practiced, but it is devoid of the power of Heaven backing up its claims. There is a lot of activity generated by soul power, but the resurrection power capable of transforming lives is conspicuously absent.

1Ti 4:1 BUT the [Holy] Spirit distinctly and expressly declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, giving attention to deluding and seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach

Seducing spirits are henchmen who carry out the assignments of the Spirit of Harlotry in order to beguile believers back under the skirts of the mother of harlots. In just the same way, Abraham's descendants ended up in slavery – and where was it that they were harnessed as slaves? In the very place which had provided their forefathers with food during a famine! Beloved, there has been a famine for the pure milk of the Word of God in the pulpit for a considerable time and the Body of Christ has turned to Egypt (or the world and its ways) to provide them with food during the famine. Generations of the family of God have been fed with the corn of Egypt and finally have come to the tragic position, centuries later, of being slaves to

Egypt; under the control of the spirit of this age – with scant knowledge of the real ministry of the Spirit of Truth.

Eph 2:2 *...following the course and fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], ...Eph* 2:3

...lived and conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh [our behavior governed by our corrupt and sensual nature], obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind

A baby born into the household of a slave is brought up with the mentality of a slave. There is no other option or lifechoice. In the same way, many years of the entrenching of fleshly doctrines of demons in the Church's belief system has produced the environment of the world within the Church. What fellowship can light have with darkness and what agreement can there be between Christ and satan? Yet, the infiltration of the darkness of the worldly ways, with error masquerading as truth and light, has produced a twilight zone in church circles. Those destined to be sons of the Light are bowed down under a yoke of slavery to the world. Those bought with the Blood of the Lamb before the foundation of the world, as a wife for the Bridegroom, are entrapped in a system of brothels run by the mother of harlots.

EXTRICATING SLAVES FROM THE SYSTEM

In Genesis chapter One, God separated light from darkness and once again it has become necessary. God's people are so enslaved by the mind-bending doctrines of the Spirit of Harlotry, that deliverance is required. However, it takes one not raised with a slave mentality to face a Pharaoh. Not only that, but it takes one in whom the flame of pride of life has been quenched once and for all. Therefore it seems time on the back side of the desert is an essential requirement. Not only that, but a face to face encounter with the Burning Bush seems to be the approved method of release for these ministers. Did you get that? In order to deliver His people from slavery in the religious brothel of Egypt, God sends someone who has not been officially approved by the presiding 'church board' of the day; someone without the necessary Seminary papers and no impressive list of 'influential Christian buddy' references on his CV!

We talk blithely of God using murderers and adulterers, but how will the present-day church react to God-ordained 'Moses' company that stride in, bellowing, "Let My people go". No doubt there will be frantic googling to dig up background information on these who dare to have a face to face stand-off with the 'anointed and appointed' who currently stand behind the pulpits. And they will eventually find dirt to broadcast on the gossip channels (the internet never forgets anything), because these ones do have blood on their hands from ancient attempts to deal with the enslavement of God's people in their own strength. Yet this Moses company will be unmoved by the wrath of these leaders. They will endure '*as gazing on Him Who is invisible*', fulfilling their assignments as their role model did before them:

Heb 11:27 [Motivated] by faith he left Egypt behind him, being unawed and undismayed by the wrath of the king; for he never

flinched but held staunchly to his purpose and endured steadfastly as one who gazed on Him Who is invisible.

Hosea, the amazingly obedient man who lived out this daring brothel rescue many centuries ago, so we could learn from his eloquent example, writes of the results of this daring rescue mission from the whore of Babylon:

Hos 11:10 They shall walk after the Lord, Who will roar like a lion; He Himself will roar and [His] sons shall come trembling and eagerly from the west. Hos 11:11 They shall come trembling but hurriedly like a bird out of Egypt

How wonderful; the Bridegroom is roaring, "Give Me back My wife" and the hell-shaking sound-waves so affect the spiritual atmosphere, that those once captive are galvanized into rushing out of that filthy brothel environment, trembling with the fear of God. This is only possible if the power of the demonic delusions which held their minds captive have been broken! This is the power of the roar of the Lion of Judah over His enslaved wife in these days! A sound tsunami is sweeping away the iron gates and locked doors of the brothels and setting the wife of the Lamb free. 'You will know the truth and the truth will set you free'! When light and sound from the One who is Light bursts upon the twilight zone of the Babylonian brothels where His precious Blood-bought wife is shackled, darkness has to flee!

Isa 42:13 The Lord will go forth like a mighty man, He will rouse up His zealous indignation and vengeance like a warrior; He will cry, yes, He will shout aloud, He will do mightily against His enemies. Isa 42:14 [Thus says the Lord] I have for a long time held My peace, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry out like a woman in travail, I will gasp and pant together. Isa 42:15 I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their herbage; I will turn the rivers into islands, and I will dry up the pools. Isa 42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way that they know not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known. I will make darkness into light before them and make uneven places into a plain. These things I have determined to do [for them]; and I will not leave them forsaken.

Only the God Who is Light can make darkness light before those who have had their spiritual eyes blinded by the poison of the serpent. Only the sound from the Jerusalem above can remove the earplugs and deliver those bound as slaves by the counterfeit army by angels of light. It is a rescue initiated by Heaven, powered by Heaven and launched from Heaven. There is nothing manmade, fleshly or involving the wisdom of man involved. This is what got the people of God into this state in the first place - the hybrid wisdom of fallen angels sharing intimate secret trysts with the daughters of men! Oh yes, giants are produced, giant ministries, huge congregations, mega book sales; every indication of success and surely evidence of the favour of God... or is it? Perhaps the fact of the success of Hagar's offspring gives one an indication that the flesh and all produced from its strength can create great empires and considerable wealth and world influence. The only difference being what is peddled; the source of oil on offer! Black oil pumped from the depths of the earth is the product of the death of millions of organisms

and produces black smoke, whereas the oil of the olive is clear and golden and produces light in a clay lamp.

In Egypt, when the plagues were unfolding, the Israelites were instructed to come into their houses before the plague of hail with fire. Being found in the broad roads of Egypt that day resulted in destruction. The only place of safety was implicit obedience to God's clear instruction. The plague of hail was part of the process of separating the people of God from the nation of Egypt. They were in Egypt but they were not of Egypt. God's people were enslaved to the Pharaohs for 400 hundred years but when God's clock ticked over to a new dispensation, it was time for separation. And separation happened *within* Egypt before separation from Egypt took place.

There are sincere saints trapped within the Babylonian religious system at present, but they are not part of the system. Their hearts long after the Lord. But they don't know anything else except this way of life. Just like the children born into slavery in Egypt -their parents were slaves and they were born into the same system. It is just the way it was! Their first steps were taken amongst the straw and clay pits where the bricks were fashioned. They knew nothing else. At night, when they gathered around meager meals in their homes, stories were told of the Great God and His promise to Abraham, their forefather. Yet their daily existence showed no evidence of those promises. In the same way, generations of believers have been born into a way of doing Church that has been handed down for many years. Books are read of moves of God and saints of old that walked with God like Enoch; who spoke to God and partnered with Him in working mightily in the earth – and yet daily Christian experience cannot be compared. The meager rations of the Babylonian religious system only provide enough nourishment to get up the next morning and make more bricks for the pyramid vision they have been harnessed to.

In recent years, judgment has begun at the house of God in the form of exposure of fraud, pedophilia and adultery and any number of fleshly sins. It was the beginning of the birth pangs; the first couple of shakings that warned of an impending expulsion from the womb of the worldly church system. Ministers joining hands with those of other faiths and renouncing the Truth of the Word of God in the name of 'unity' is just another sign of the judgment that is at the door. Those who do not choose the fear of the Lord and tremble at His Word are being handed over to strong delusion, as Isaiah 66 so clearly describes. Separation is the order of the day. Stand with Egypt i.e. the world and her filthy, idolatrous ways, and receive the penalty - or separate yourself unto Him Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life and put your welfare into His hands. Align yourself with the Light and be brought out through a series of violent birth pangs - or align yourself with the darkness and find yourself at war with the Lamb, while you live in an atmosphere described as 'a resort and dwelling place for demons, a dungeon haunted by every loathsome spirit, an abode for every filthy and detestable bird' (Rev 18:2).

There are plagues coming upon Babylon. The pattern is already clearly laid out in Exodus in God's dealings with

those who enslaved His people once before. In the Revelation of Jesus Christ, again the urgent shout is issued forth:

Rev 18:4 I then heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out from her, my people, so that you may not share in her sins, neither participate in her plagues.

So it makes sense that one has to understand what 'her' is before one can successfully 'come out of her'. Some say modern Babylon is the nation of the United States of America. Perhaps on one level, it is true – but it is much more than that, people of God. We have to go further than applying the deep truths in the eternal Word only on a natural earthly or national plane. Before ever Adam and Eve were created or Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees to follow the Voice of God to a place that would be given to him, principalities and powers existed. Before Babylon the nation was established, there were a spiritual powers of darkness which worked to deceive mankind and ultimately manifest the entity described in Revelation 17 as 'the mother of harlots':

Rev 17:5 *And on her forehead there was inscribed a name of mystery* [*with a secret symbolic meaning*]: *Babylon the great, the mother of prostitutes (idolatresses) and of the filth and atrocities and abominations of the earth.*

Did you see that? Babylon is a '*mother*' who conceives and brings forth 'women' who advertise and use their attractive attributes to make money both for themselves and their 'pimp'. When a body becomes a business, it is called a prostitute. That sentence on its own needs to be meditated on for a good while for the truth standing right before our eyes to sink in...

So many people have tried to understand what the angel clearly explains to John. Verse 1 of chapter 17 tells us she is *'seated on many waters'*, which are later explained as being *'peoples, multitudes, nations and languages'*. That sounds to me like it pretty much describes the whole world population. Next, John is taken to a desert or wilderness and shown more. He sees a woman seated on a scarlet beast. Wait a minute...wasn't there a woman in Revelation 12 who fled to the wilderness to be kept safe and fed? So it seems there are two women in the wilderness – one who brings forth the manchild and one who brings forth filth, atrocities and abominations. That's quite a difference. And you have to come out of the one in order to be a part of the other!

Rev 17:18 And the woman that you saw is herself the great city which dominates and controls the rulers and the leaders of the earth.

This idolatrous woman is a city! How interesting! Remember the Bride descending out of Heaven is also a city – made up of living stones. The difference is the place of preparation – one is seated on a beast in the wilderness and has been fornicating with the rulers of the earth and the other city descends from place of the throne of God, where the cloud of witnesses and the seven lamps of the Lord are her attendants. Paul tells us that this second woman is the heavenly Jerusalem, the church of the Firstborn: Heb 12:22 But rather, you have come to Mount Zion, even to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless multitudes of angels in festal gathering, Heb 12:23 And to the church (assembly) of the Firstborn who are registered [as citizens] in heaven, and to the God Who is Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous (the redeemed in heaven) who have been made perfect, Heb 12:24 And to Jesus, the Mediator (Go-between, Agent) of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood which speaks [of mercy], a better and nobler and more gracious message than the blood of Abel

One city is radiant with the Lamb as its light, and the other holds a cup of abominations which is having a terrible effect on the people on the earth.

Rev 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

All nations have drunk of this cup, Revelation 18:3 tells us. This is why it is so significant that we drink the Communion cup of the Blood of the Lamb. Paul warns us that we cannot drink of the cup of Christ and demons (1 Cor 10:20). This provokes the Lord to jealousy. We are of a different Kingdom. Are we not a royal priesthood and kings unto our God, ambassadors of the Kingdom of Heaven? Is He not the King of kings? But which kings is He the Supreme King of? Those who have come out and are separate; who are set apart and holy to the Lamb, ready to follow Him wherever He goes. Earth always speaks of the flesh and soulish activity. Esau was a man of fleshly appetites and sold his birthright. We cannot be a part of anything the kings of the earth are involved in. Yet here we see that the inhabitants of earth are drunk with the contents of this woman's cup.

Rev 12:12 Therefore be glad (exult), O heavens and you that dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in fierce anger (fury), because he knows that he has [only] a short time

Those who dwell in the heavens can rejoice. But those on earth will experience horrors. So here is a hard question – are you an inhabitant of earth or heaven? 'To inhabit' means 'to dwell'. Where are you dwelling? In the secret place of the Most High; in heavenly places, fixing your mind and your focus on things above? Or are you focused on earthly things, satisfying soulish appetites? If the answer is the latter, it's quite likely you have been sipping of the cup of the harlot.

The Hebrew word for 'dwell' means 'to settle down and marry'. Who are you settling down with and marrying? Is it the world and its carnal flesh-stroking ways or are you dwelling beneath the shadow of the Bridegroom's wings, in the shelter of the Almighty? Self is one of the most pandered-to idols of the present-day Church system. Self-realisation, self-satisfaction, my ministry, my destiny, my gift, my calling. "I, I, I" is the litany of the original one who wanted to ascend and sit on the throne of God. Count the number of times 'I' appears in these two verses:

Isa 14:13 And you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit upon the mount of assembly in the uttermost north. Isa 14:14 I will ascend

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.

Spiritual ambition in the church environment and personal ambition to rise to the top of the business world often look alarmingly alike. If we are really serious about coming out of Babylon, we have to deal with the idol of self because this is what makes us vulnerable to her wiles. The spirit of harlotry always appeals to one's ego and the desire to be elevated among men and flattered. A desire for the praises of men will lead us into a snare and many a young impressionable soul has been led into spiritual chains by the flatteries of the spirit of harlotry. Personal prophesies that promise great acclaim and position and power are not likely to emanate from the Spirit of Truth. Remember my journey to the closed door in the Introduction? If we truly want to be a part of the company that follow the Lamb wherever He goes, our first leg of the journey takes us 'outside the camp'; to the place where there are no spotlights or tv cameras, to the mount of Olives, the place of the garden of Gethsemane and the place of the olive press. Yet, for those who persevere, the reward is an outflowing of the anointing of Christ from a yielded vessel.

A prostitute provides her body to satisfy the lust of a man she does not know. He uses her as an object to satisfy his own fleshly appetite. He has her permission because it is a business transaction – services rendered for monetary gain. In the Bible, harlotry and idolatry are very closely linked. In God's eyes, offering yourself as a living sacrifice for any other purpose than the worship of the One True God is harlotry. James says we are having love affairs with the world and need to get our hands clean. The present-day Church has so much of the world and its ways in her that it is very difficult to tell the difference. Remember what Moses said in the speech he gave just before he died:

Deu 32:5 They [Israel] have spoiled themselves. They are not sons to Him, and that is their blemish--a perverse and crooked generation! Deu 32:6 Do you thus repay the Lord, you foolish and senseless people? Is not He your Father Who acquired you for His own, Who made and established you [as a nation]?

Deu 32:31 For their rock is not like our Rock, even our enemies themselves judge this. Deu 32:32 For their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah; their grapes are grapes of [poisonous] gall, their clusters are bitter. Deu 32:33 Their wine is the [furious] venom of serpents, and the pitiless poison of vipers.

Mystery Babylon is offering people a cup of harlotry and idolatry, filled with the venom of serpents and Rev 17:4 tells us she is clothed in garments which, at a glance, look similar to the description of the city from Heaven. Pearls, gold, scarlet and purple, precious stones – what a good counterfeit to deceive the simple! Especially as she is found in the wilderness.... Could she in any way be connected to the flood

that comes from the mouth of the dragon to destroy the other woman in the wilderness? Is it Mystery Babylon that is the instrument of the dragon to try and wipe out the woman who brought forth the manchild with the poisonous words of His mouth? Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of

God Babylon is a demonic octopus-like spiritual system that extends its tentacles into every sector of society; religious, governmental and commercial. In the Old Testament, Babylon was where God's disobedient children were taken into captivity as judgment for their unfaithfulness to their Maker; their Bridegroom. And it still is... a spiritual and mental place of slavery, where free will is quickly subjugated. Unfortunately, the tentacle-like reach of Babylon infiltrated the church early on, perhaps as far back as Constantine's 'Christianization' of pagan religious festivals....

There have been many good books written on the topic, including Hyslop's 'The two Babylons'. What is of utmost importance now, is that those who have not yet heeded the call to 'come out' would have their ears opened to hear – and respond urgently. Every little demonic henchman of the Religious Spirit works feverishly to stop Believers hearing and obeying the Spirit that leads one into all Truth... and the more a saint presses on toward the high calling, the more he feels the franticly organised invisible resistance emanating from the powers of darkness.

Within yourself is the power to loose yourself from the chains Babylon has put about your neck. Repent for your spiritual adultery, come near to God and He will come near to you. Remove yourself from the dust of fleshly religious endeavors which bring you no closer to your Bridegroom and arise and take your proper place as the set-apart wife of the Lamb. Command everything that attempts to keep you in harlotry to leave you and flee the place of compromise before the plagues hit Babylon. *Isa 52:2 Shake yourself from the dust; arise, sit [erect in a dignified place], O Jerusalem; loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion.*

The important difference between these two women who are cities, is the timing and setting of their unveiling! Have you ever noticed the heavenly city with the precious stones and gates of pearl descends into plain view AFTER the harlot city is judged and cast down? Before that, she is being fed and kept safe in the place prepared for her. So don't assume the one parading round at present decreeing she is the Bride of Christ on every platform to be found, is necessarily the genuine article.

MAKING MANIFEST HIDDEN COUNSELS

What happens during a court case where a judgment is to be passed, is that the true condition of the one in the dock is made apparent. Evidence is brought forth of deviation from what is good and right and true and then, on the basis of that evidence, a judgment is passed and then carried out. The Word tells us that the time to judge is when the Lord makes manifest the counsels of the heart (1 Cor 4:5). Beloved, we are presently in a time when the worms are coming out of the woodwork as never before in Church circles. Evidence of previously unknown inner heart conditions is being hung out for all to see. Some, once considered trustworthy and stable ministers of God, are now joining hands with those in error and drinking the cup of abominations together - and the sheep are in disarray as a result. Ministers who have been held in high esteem and often idolized in Church circles are turning out to have feet of clay and the Body of Christ is

being severely shaken. And God is allowing it all because the true spiritual parentage of each saint must become evident in order for all to have opportunity to separate themselves unto the God of Truth. If the light in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! In these days we cannot cleave to any person but only to the Lord Jesus Christ. Then when we are one with Him, we find fellowship with those who are in a similar position. All other 'unity' engineered on a horizontal level is ultimately a soulish endeavour.

Do you remember when Moses came down the mountain with Joshua and discovered the people cavorting before the golden calf? Here is what Moses cried out :

Exo 32:26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Whoever is on the Lord's side, let him come to me. And all the Levites gathered together to him.

A separation occurred between those who chose God and those who chose idolatry. It was a choice between life and death, because those who chose not to be identified as standing with God Almighty were slaughtered! The word 'Levi' means 'to unite, to entwine or to cleave'. When God says to come out of Babylon, He is calling for a separation between those who are truly joined and united as one with Him and those whose hearts are joined to Babylon and its ways. The call to come out from the midst of the filth and abomination of worshiping the work of men's hands precipitated a visible dividing line in the crowd. A choice and action following it was required - and it meant leaving friends and fellow revelers and being counted as one who stood with the Word.

DARKNESS WITHOUT, BUT LIGHT WITHIN

The plague of thick darkness in Egypt was the ninth plague in the birth-pangs that thrust God's people out of Egypt. It was a darkness which could be felt. In these days, there is a darkness which can be felt creeping over the nations. It is sickening to watch the news channels and see what is unfolding in a demon-riddled godless society and yet, at the same time, there are a people who have light in their homes and hearts. Those who have come out from the throngs of the mixed multitude and chosen to stand and be identified as servants of the Most High God, have access to Him Who is the Light of Heaven and the World. And obviously, in a world which is enveloped in deep darkness, they stand out like lighthouses.

Are you one of these? Is it obvious that you are not partaking of the cup of the great harlot? Are you finding a separation coming between yourself and some who you once considered friends in the Lord, just because you are choosing to align yourself with the unchanging standard of the Word of God? Your embracing of light and truth will bring an automatic sword of separation from those who prefer compromise, fleshly pursuits, temporal rewards and the praises of men. It is very painful but inevitable. Jesus warned that He did not come to bring peace but a sword and that even in a family, there would be two against three! What causes this division? The choice to be a lover of Truth and to come out of idolatry and compromise does it every time. People who you were previously on good terms with will turn away from you in the street in the days ahead, and your only fellowship will be with those whose hearts burn with passion for the Bridegroom – a remnant who love Him more than their own lives.

Revelation 18 describes Babylon being thrown down and her subsequent judgment by fire - and the weeping and wailing of all who were connected with her. Notice that they were weeping because they could no longer trade with her. It was their bank balances and earthly comforts that were going up in flames! Those who sow to the flesh will reap corruption but those who sow to the Spirit will reap life eternal. And then in Rev 19, great jubilation breaks out:

Rev 19:2 For true and righteous are His judgments. For He has judged the great harlot who defiled the earth with her fornication, and He has avenged the blood of His servants out of her hand.

Wherever the ways of the great Harlot have infiltrated the Church, judgment is coming. God will bring a purified holy Bride, but He cleanses the threshing floor with fire and every bit of chaff is consumed by it. When men controlled by demons have defiled the Church through their flatteries and demonic doctrines, the hand of God will bring swift judgment. He will not have a harlot for a Bride.

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

Chapter 5 ~ ONE TRUE GOD OR ONE WORLD RELIGION

Birthing is a messy, bloody business and by the time the plagues have finished falling on Babylon, referred to as the haunt of every foul spirit, there will be a complete separation between the wife of the Lamb and the One World Religion. They will have nothing in common. The wife of the Lamb, who carries the seal of God on her forehead, will depend totally on Father God to provide for her both spiritually and in the natural – just as the Israelites were fed, given water and protected in the wilderness. And the persecution that comes from the mouth of the harlot city will be used to purify and prepare the wife of the Lamb.

Dan 11:32 And such as violate the covenant he shall pervert and seduce with flatteries, but the people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm and do exploits [for God].

Note that it is those who violate the covenant who succumb to flatteries! There is protection in being completely faithful to Christ. Unfaithfulness to the marriage covenant with the Lamb makes one vulnerable to the flattery of seducing spirits. Does it not bring to mind the youth sauntering to the house of the strange woman in Proverbs?: *Pro* 7:21 With much justifying and enticing argument she persuades him, with the allurements of her lips she leads him and forces him along.

descent into harlotry always involves The enticing arguments to overcome any resistance and the current movement in church circles towards the One World Religion is laced with much justifying and enticing arguments on the part of those leaders already deceived into embracing the trend. Our righteous deeds are as filthy rags before God, yet the parading of religious good deeds by those in religious robes has deceived many into thinking they are messengers of God. These ones call evil good and good evil and throw all manner of abominations under the umbrella of 'love', while discarding the unshakeable plumbline of Truth. Only the robe of righteousness purchased by the bridal price of the Blood gains us entry to the Kingdom and our inheritance. Beloved, do not violate the covenant. You were bought with such a great price by your Bridegroom. Return to your marriage covenant and do not swallow the mixed wine of Babylon. It will lead to your destruction.

1Co 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot be partakers of the Lord's table and of a table of demons.

Salvation is a free gift but it is a costly thing to follow the Bridegroom with all your heart. A woman who became betrothed was no longer her own. She had been bought with a price and she surrendered her surname and was focused on preparing to leave her people and her father's house to

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

become one with her groom. In the days that stretch before us, we have to prepare our hearts to be willing to lose everything for the sake of embracing the pearl of great price. Remember that those who overcome, do so by the Blood of the Lamb, the word of their testimony AND loving not their lives unto death. The modern-day Church has come to this juncture wholly unprepared for the ferocity of the tempest that is about to strike. Not one stone will be left upon another

– that is a description of the destruction of the temple built with hands. The church structure built by the soulish efforts of man and the doctrines of demons; all that Religion has built, will be torn down. And the dragon will attempt to do the same with the temple built with living stones.

Dan 11:33 And they who are wise and understanding among the people shall instruct many and make them understand, though some [of them and their followers] shall fall by the sword and flame, by captivity and plunder, for many days. Dan 11:34 Now when they fall, they shall receive a little help. Many shall join themselves to them with flatteries and hypocrisies.

Why does it mention the many joining God's people with flatteries? Because this is a deliberate strategy of the enemy to infiltrate the ranks in order to cause the wise to be weakened and fall!! Remember, the violators of the covenant are seduced with flatteries!

Dan 11:35 And some of those who are wise, prudent, and understanding shall be weakened and fall, [thus, then, the insincere among the people will lose courage and become deserters. It will be a test] to refine, to purify, and to make those among [God's people] white, even to the time of the end, because it is yet for the time [God] appointed.

What could cause the wise and understanding to fall? Could it be encroaching blindness due to spiritual pride? Beloved, deal with any tendency you have to be controlled from the outside by the praises or rejection of man. Those who are governed from without, will respond according to the prevailing winds of earth and be shaken by the rejection and persecution that is going to come from the ranks of the harlot church. Ask the Spirit of Truth to help you become completely free from the fear of man. Ask for a visitation of the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord and repent for any instance in which you have trembled before man who is flesh and not trembled at the Word of the Lord. Ask Him to cut every strand that ties you to outward governance, manipulation and control, and become a being fully surrendered and controlled from within by the Spirit of Truth.

It is not going to be easy watching some of those who have walked together with you losing courage and becoming deserters. Worse still will be the experience of seeing old friends in the Lord desert the Faith and embrace doctrines of demons, no matter how you plead with them. Purpose in your heart now to cling to the Lord with all your heart and to love the Truth, above all else. Be faithful unto death and He will give you the crown of Life. The infiltration of the Body of Christ by the flattering hypocrites will be allowed by God because it is designed to purify and refine the wife of the Lamb. People who once walked in fellowship with you will turn against you and hate you because of your stand for Truth. It will be very painful, but God will give you the grace to return good for evil and love for hatred. Remember what your Bridegroom said:

Luk 6:22 Blessed are you when men shall hate you, and when they shall cut you off, and when they shall reproach you and shall cast out your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. Luk 6:23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy. For behold, your reward is great in Heaven. For so their fathers did according to these things to the prophets.

It is a strange circumstance described; being fed and kept safe and yet at the same time being in an era when you are hated for your stand:

Mat 10:21 Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child; and children will take a stand against their parents and will have them put to death. Mat 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake, but he who perseveres and endures to the end will be saved

Beloved, if we are susceptible to the praises of man, then being hated by all for His Name's sake will be the thing that causes us to be weakened and fall. How desperately we need a deeper fuller revelation of the greatness of His love for us – the length, height and depth of that love for when we are made perfect in love, fear is cast out, no matter what we may have to face. You are the Beloved of the Lord. Saturate yourself with this knowledge. If God is for you, who can be against you?

This is not a popular topic, but one that should have been brought up in pulpits many years before now. Look at these two almost contradictory sentences describing the time the Church has stepped into:

Luk 21:16 You will be delivered up and betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and [some] of you they will put to death... Luk 21:18 But not a hair of your head shall perish.

Prepare your heart for betrayal, Beloved. Yet know He will be with you in it all. You will be put to death but not a hair of your head shall perish? How can that be? Simply because when we are transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light at salvation, we have already passed from death into life. Remember too that a hallmark of true Believers is their love for one another :

1Jn 3:13 Do not marvel, my brothers, if the world hates you. 1Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brothers. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

Let true love that is birthed in Truth be the hallmark of your life and you will find your heart protected from the fiery darts of those who hate the light in you. The sons of Zion and the sons of Greece will be at war in these days, but our weapons are not carnal, as theirs are. The beloved disciple John, imprisoned on the isle of Patmos for his testimony, was treated to an absolute feast of the revelation of Christ – what a privilege! (Yes, solitary confinement can actually be a blessing!) In his record of the experience, right in the last chapter, once again the invitation is issued to COME and DRINK of the water of Life freely. But this time, both the Spirit and the Bride are heard issuing the invitation together!! She is no longer referred to as a 'wife'. That means it's the day of the wedding and the Bride is equipped with living water within to minister to the thirsty!!

Rev 22:17 The [Holy] Spirit and the bride say, COME! And let him who is listening say, COME! And let everyone come who is thirsty [who is painfully conscious of his need of those things by which the soul is refreshed, supported, and strengthened]; and whoever [earnestly] desires to do it, let him COME, take, appropriate, and drink the water of Life without cost. [Isa. 55:1.]

It is an echo of the invitation issued forth through the faithful Isaiah, an invitation that will not rob you of your money nor leave you still hungry and thirsty. Why would anyone refuse this invitation? We all delight in receiving something free in this vastly expensive world we live in. And this feast is intended to feed the hunger in our hearts and souls that nothing in Babylon has ever begun to satisfy. Can you hear the entreaty in the repeated word 'COME'?

Isa 55:1 Wait and listen, everyone who is thirsty! COME to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Yes, COME, buy [priceless, spiritual] wine and milk without money and without price [simply for the self-surrender that accepts the blessing Isa 55:2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your earnings for what does not satisfy? Hearken diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness [the profuseness of spiritual joy]. Isa 55:3 Incline your ear [submit and consent to the divine will] and COME TO ME; hear, and your soul will revive; and I will make an everlasting covenant or league with you, even the sure mercy (kindness, goodwill, and compassion) promised to David.

How many 'Come's does the Father have to say before His beloved people will respond from the heart and turn away from their idols and the self-promoting doctrines of Babylon? How much more does the Bridegroom have to do to warn His unfaithful betrothed wife of the judgment issued forth upon all connected to 'Babylon' and of her urgent need to 'get the hell out of there' (if you will excuse my French)?

Two cities, diametrically opposed to one another in ways and deeds; both being built in this season - but by different hands. One is prepared as a Bride before the throne of God and the other dresses herself as a harlot and brews mixed wine to seduce with flatteries. It's very late and the simple have wandered unawares into the wrong city, but the Bridegroom has arisen and is roaring and the roar is an earsplitting, soul-separating final call to check your bearings and reset your compasses because wherever your treasure is, there your heart will be also! Last year, I had a vision in which I was on the wooden deck of a ship and before me was a large old-fashioned compass. I could see the shore not far from the bow of the ship. The Lord said, "It is time for my people to check that their inner compasses point to true North". In the next scene, I was still on deck and it was suddenly night and the sky was covered in stars. Then He said, "A time is almost upon you when you will no longer be able to see the shore and any natural landmark. You will need to chart your course by the Heavens as you will be surrounded by darkness on the earth."

A compass needle does not point to true North but rather to magnetic North. Using the compasses of men will not lead you to true North. As one knows, a small angle off the plumbline at one's starting point becomes wider and wider the longer one travels and if one mistakenly continues along that path, one ends up at a destination other than your intention. I believe what the Lord was referring to in His mentioning of true North, is the way to Zion, the city of the great King.

Psa 48:2 *Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*

The sides of the North is where God's throne is. This is the appointed destination of all who travel guided by the Holy Spirit and the map of how to get there should be imprinted on our hearts.

Psa 84:5 Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. Psa

84:6 Passing through the Valley of Weeping (Baca), they make it a place of springs; the early rain also fills [the pools] with blessings. Psa 84:7 They go from strength to strength [increasing in victorious power]; each of them appears before God in Zion.

I believe that in this time just before dense darkness falls, the Lord is warning that perhaps some of His people have unknowingly had the maps on their hearts altered by someone other than the Holy Spirit, in order to lead them astray. Watching in the news and seeing the Pope link hands with Kenneth Copeland and collectively declare the protest of Luther to be over; observing the march of Chrislam in its quest to infiltrate the Church of Christ, I am convinced that believers are in great danger of finding themselves led like sheep to the slaughter by increasingly deceived leaders. It is time to urgently check our hearts and belief systems to make sure that the gospel we are contending for is ACTUALLY the one of which Jude speaks; that one handed down to us.

Jud 1:3 Beloved, my whole concern was to write to you in regard to our common salvation. [But] I found it necessary and was impelled to write you and urgently appeal to and exhort [you] to contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints

The second vision I want to share expands this theme. I saw an identity parade; a row of bearded men who all looked similar, and there was someone peering intently at these men in an effort to pick the right one. The Lord said to me, "how many of My people can pick the real Jesus?" Beloved, Paul contends with the Corinthian church under his care because they are eager to accept another Jesus:

2Co 11:2 For I am zealous for you with a godly eagerness and a divine jealousy, for I have betrothed you to one Husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 2Co 11:3 But [now] I am fearful, lest that even as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be corrupted and seduced from wholehearted and sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2Co 11:4 For [you seem readily to endure it] if a man comes and preaches another Jesus than the One we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the [Spirit] you [once] received or a different gospel from the one you [then] received and welcomed; you tolerate [all that] well enough!

In the days in which we have the privilege of being alive, the level of demonic deception and seduction unleashed against the Church has increased dramatically. When Jude exhorts us to 'contend' for the true faith, this should give us the idea that there is a fight at hand. Jesus warned us that our enemies would be members of our own house and that there have been tares deliberately sown amongst the wheat by the enemy. These tares will manifest the DNA from which they spring, only at harvest time. Until then, they appear to be one of the brethren. Recent developments on the church front tell me that we stand right at the beginning of the great harvest Jesus spoke of. The tares are being gathered into bundles – birds of a feather are flocking together – and when we get over the shock of discovering that someone we were particularly fond of is actually a tare and preaching doctrines of demons, we have a crucial choice to make. Will we adjust our course to true north and travel on under the leading of the Holy Spirit or will we choose instead the temporary comfort of men and follow those masquerading as angels of light over the edge of the cliff? The way to Life is narrow and it is a minefield in the ditch on either side but if you choose the highway to Zion, you will go from strength to strength and appear before your Father God in Zion, to hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

The third vision I wish to share was brief but sums up the message I feel the Holy Spirit is bringing. During worship, I saw the Milky Way against a black night sky and the Lord whispered, "the milky way is the only way!" and the verse below popped into my mind:

Heb 5:12 For even though by this time you ought to be teaching others, you actually need someone to teach you over again the very first principles of God's Word. You have come to need milk, not solid food.

For some time in the church, God's people have been offered chocolate milkshakes, cappuccinos and any other milk-based (or otherwise) drink which would satisfy their taste-buds. However, there is very little of the PURE milk of the Word being served up in the seeker-sensitive Church. Without realising it, one can find oneself getting addicted to the extra 'sugar' and other additives but really, Bride of Christ, only the pure milk of the Word will nurture you. Isaiah exhorts us to come and buy milk without price. Song of Songs tells us honey and milk is found under the tongue of the Bride. The 'milky way' is the highway to Zion. The real Jesus is the One who said, "If any man would follow Me, he must deny himself, pick up His cross and follow Me". It is Lucifer who had an ambition to sit on the sides of the North and receive the worship due to God and tragically, he seems to be very busy beguiling many in the Body of Christ to walk the road to the counterfeit Zion that he has constructed.

Mar 13:22 False Christs (Messiahs) and false prophets will arise and show signs and [work] miracles to deceive and lead astray, if possible, even the elect (those God has chosen out for Himself). Mar 13:23 But look to yourselves and be on your guard; I have told you everything beforehand.

Check your inner compass, Beloved. It's about to get very dark and only the true Light of Heaven and the map the Holy Spirit downloads onto the hard drive of your heart, will lead you to where your heart longs to go. Devour the Word while you can and pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you into all Truth. Put on the whole armor of God and get ready to defend the gospel which was handed down to us. Evil men are going from bad to worse. Pray for a greater level of discernment and a sharper sense of spiritual hearing and test all things. Don't embrace teaching that strokes your flesh and makes you 'feel good' and talks of love but does not focus on Him who is Love and His Holy standard. Hold onto that which is good and flee all that contains darkness. We are children of the Light, not fluorescent light but the true Light of the Sun of Righteousness. And now, I think it is fitting to end with the exhortation of our brother lude who

understood clearly the danger the Church is in. If we follow his counsel, we will all arrive safely in Zion!

[ud 1:20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit; Jud 1:21 Guard and keep yourselves in the love of God; expect and patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)--[which will bring you] unto life eternal. Jud 1:22 And refute [so as to] convict some who dispute with you, and on some have mercy who waver and doubt. [ud 1:23 [Strive to] save others, snatching [them] out of [the] fire; on others take pity [but] with fear, loathing even the garment spotted by the flesh and polluted by their sensuality. Jud 1:24 Now to Him Who is able to keep you without stumbling or slipping or falling, and to present [you] unblemished (blameless and faultless) before the presence of His glory in triumphant joy and exultation [with unspeakable, ecstatic delight]-- [ud 1:25 To the one only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory (splendor), majesty, might and dominion, and power and authority, before all time and now and forever (unto all the ages of eternity). Amen (so be it

Chapter 6 ~ THE UNFAITHFUL WIFE

Early on, I discussed the elements contained in the making of a marriage covenant, including the paying of a bridal price acceptable to the father of the Bride and the mutual drinking of a cup of wine which signified the acceptance of the prospective groom by the bride-to-be. Once this had occurred, she was known as his wife and the engagement or betrothal was complete. From this point on, she was off limits to any other man's approaches and was veiled in public, signifying her set-apartness to her groom. She had begun the journey to bridehood and her old life was left behind. From this time on, she would be known as his wife and all focus would be on becoming ready for the great day when he came for her.

When Jesus shared a Passover meal in the upper room the night before he was crucified, He elevated the symbolism of that Passover meal from being just a remembrance of deliverance from Egypt for a whole people group many centuries previously. From that shared moment on, the bread and the wine no longer referred back but forward to the paying of an acceptable bridal price in His own sinless Blood later in the same day, for that firstfruits bridal company and the many that would join them.

That night was a pivot point, in exactly the same way as the night when the betrothed couple shared a cup of wine

together and she began the process of leaving her father's household to become fully one with her groom. The 12 disciples represented the first Bridal company covenanting with the Bridegroom. When he removed their sandals and washed their feet, He was enacting a separation from the old life and associations and a re-sandling with the covenantal inheritance that he as the Bridegroom would supply. He was beginning the process of setting them apart as holy for their Messiah Bridegroom. This is why He had to wash their feet. Omitting this would mean they would have no part in Him.

Remember that in the Hebrew calendar, the day begins at 6pm. So when this cup was shared between Jesus and His disciples, the evening of the day of the crucifixion had begun. The Bridal price was poured out in Blood on the same day as their feet were washed and the cup was shared between the covenanting company – as is required in Jewish custom. Until the price had been paid and accepted, the covenant could not begin. Jesus cried "It is finished" or 'kalah' at 3pm on that same 24 hr day and was in the tomb before the day was over. His declaration announced the completing of the betrothal process.

All twelve disciples shared the covenantal cup with Jesus, indicating their acceptance of the new covenant in His Blood. However, by the end of that day, two of them were already exposed as being unfaithful to that covenant. Peter and Judas both scorned their covenant but in different ways and we will look at them separately as they represent two different Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

groups of people who partake of the betrothal cup in an unworthy manner.

MY BELOVED IS MINE, BUT AM I HIS?

After drinking of the cup of covenant, Judas left to complete his part in the drama and they went to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus informed his remaining 11 disciples that a severe shaking was coming to them and they would betray their Bridegroom and be scattered. This would happen during the day when the Heavenly Betrothal process was on its way to being completed. Such is the satanic opposition to a Bridal covenant between the Son of God and man made in His image that no sooner is it initiated, then the violent attempts to separate the betrothed couple begin. And what is used to do so? Roman soldiers operating under orders initiated because of false accusation and witchcraft! How do we know that witchcraft is involved? Simply because the Word tells us:

Mar 14:1 After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him **by craft**, and put him to death.

The spirit of Religion is intent on putting to death the Christ in you and with that goal in mind, witchcraft, false accusation and the offering of an alternative marriage covenant is laid on your path. Jesus knew when He held out that covenantal cup to His disciples, that He was going to be betrayed by one in the group and that all of them would have their allegiance to this betrothal covenant challenged. The shaking would reveal the inner hearts of those partaking in this covenant. All of them denied vehemently that they would ever betray their beloved Lord, but Peter was specifically warned by Jesus that he was about to be sifted as wheat. Instead of being sobered by this information, Peter, still confident in the content of his own heart, repeated his declaration. Upon which Jesus informed him that before the end of the morning watch, he would deny the Bridegroom 3 times.

This is an important point to note – those with pride and the fear of man in their hearts will go through a great test in the morning watch of this 3rd day. Doesn't Daniel warn us that some of the wise will be similarly shaken in the end times:

Dan 11:35 And some of those who are wise, prudent, and understanding shall be weakened and fall, [thus, then, the insincere among the people will lose courage and become deserters. It will be a test] to refine, to purify, and to make those among [God's people] white, even to the time of the end, because it is yet for the time [God] appointed.

Peter's denial of Jesus and subsequent heart-searching were for his refining and led to a reinstatement in his calling. Until he saw his own heart in the mirror, he did not realise he had the potential to betray this betrothal covenant. After Jesus' arrest, Peter followed '*at a distance*' (Matt 26:58). His first instinct was self-preservation which indicated that self was still on the throne of his heart. He still had an interest in his Betrothal partner but not at the expense of his own safety. He then sat at the fire with the roman guards. Where will we be found when the rubber meets the road in the morning watch, Beloved? Warming our flesh and seeing to our bodily needs amongst the very ones who brought Body of Christ in chains before the religious authorities? Will we be blending silently into the courtyard crowd, not willing to stand up and be counted when persecution and imprisonment is a strong possibility? If so, we will find ourselves part of the unfaithful wife company, vehemently denying any intimacy with the Bridegroom in order to save our own necks.

And the look we receive from our Bridegroom at that moment will not be one of accusation but of compassionate love, knowing that this is a test to reveal the depths of our own unfaithful hearts to us – in order that we may be made white; ready for marriage, with all the stains removed from our bridal linen garment.

It is no coincidence that it was also in the morning watch that Jesus stood on the beach, reaching out to His struggling betrothed Peter and initiating a miracle moment when the unfaithful wife could completely restored to covenantal position and purpose as the wife of the Lamb. The fish Jesus already had roasting on the fire as Peter swam to shore depicts the refining fire working upon Peter himself, in order to make him into a vessel that could minister not milk, but meat to the Body of Christ. There is a prophetic picture wrapped up in the message Jesus spoke to Peter that reconvenanting day.

Joh 21:18 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, when you were young you girded yourself [put on your own belt or girdle] and you walked about wherever you pleased to go. But when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will put a girdle around you and carry you where you do not wish to go. Joh 21:19 He said this to indicate by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. And after this, He said to him, Follow Me!

The Greek word for 'follow' carries within it the sense of becoming one or in complete union with the path. We must become fully one with Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Partial betrothal does not exist. You are either fully in covenant or not all. Jesus was fully given to Peter, fully invested in that betrothal covenant, fully set-apart as a covenant Partner. However, until that breakfast on the beach, Peter was not fully His. Self had got in the way.

When Peter was young, he had been led by his own whims; done his own thing, girded himself with his own version of truth and walked wherever he pleased. His own pleasure and comfort was foremost. But now, as he was redeployed as part of the wife of the Lamb, he would become a bondservant, led of the Spirit and dead to self. His own desires would be left on that beach and the cause of the Kingdom would be uppermost from now on. The unfaithful wife of Jesus was now fully His, set-apart and wholly belonging to the Bridegroom, not available for the approaches of other suitors. Leviathan, the king over all the children of pride (Job 41:34) would have nothing in him; no ground to lay claim to. Peter was not His own; the Blood poured out as a complete and acceptable Bridal price now sealed the betrothal. He would glorify God as a living sacrifice both in life and, finally, in his death.

Some of us, too, have accepted the covenant cup, but our hearts are not fully His and we have had lesser lovers; self-preservation, being part of the crowd, comfort, protecting our name and reputation in the community. During the time in which pride and the fear of man have had ground in our hearts, every time we have taken communion, we have drunk of the cup in an unworthy manner because we have with our mouths reconfirmed our betrothal covenant, when all the while our hearts have been bowing in allegiance to Leviathan, the king of all who possess pride. We have therefore drunk judgment upon ourselves and so it is no surprise we are weak and sick. Unfaithfulness to the betrothal covenant with the Son of God at any level is sowing to the flesh and from it, we reap corruption. If Leviathan is our king, he will extract his pound of flesh from us in payment.

We must break covenant with this spiritual strongman who rules all those who have pride in their hearts. The Lamb was slain before the foundation of the world and it is to this marriage covenant which we were called to before we were even born. It is a 3rd Heaven covenant and therefore holds more power than any other covenant we have entered into

unwittingly, through pandering to the sins of our flesh. But we must cast away the inferior lover and the competing suitor, and divorce them once and for all. We must take a different path; the path of the cross and ask the Spirit to lead us in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. Jesus alone must possess our whole heart.

Jas 4:4 You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God]! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God. Jas 4:5 Or do you suppose that the Scripture is speaking to no purpose that says, The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcome] with a jealous love?

The jealous fiery love of the Bridegroom allows us to experience the Refiner's fire, in order to cause the hidden dross of the pride of life to come into full view. And when it does, it will cause us to weep bitterly at our betrayal of the One who we drank the covenant cup with. But how great is His grace toward the humble:

Jas 4:6 But He gives us more and more grace (power of the Holy Spirit, to meet this evil tendency and all others fully). That is why He says, God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [continually] to the lowly (those who are humble enough to receive it). Jas 4:7 So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you. 'Be subject to God' – this is the first step in return to the marriage covenant, the first step in reinstating ourselves as the Betrothed in full covenant privileges. It is no good trying to resist the devil without being fully submitted to God – and yes, that does indicate surrender, not a mere lip-service to the word 'Lord'. Who do you bow your knee to? Is it on occasion to your own intellect; your own understanding or assessment of situations, people or the Word?

DRINKING DOWN ALL GOD'S MEDICINE

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim (household good luck images). Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king. 1Sa 15:24 And Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 1Sa 15:25 Now, I pray you, pardon my sin and go back with me, that I may worship the Lord.

Note that king Saul confessed his sin of deliberate rebellion against God's order, but stubbornly held on to his pride, even when he had just been informed in plain words what his faults were in God's sight. Stubbornness is as idolatry in God's eyes. And idolatry is spiritual harlotry....oh dear, there that unfaithful wife concept pops up again.... So if we cling

stubbornly to our own assessment of situations, lean on our own understanding and stiffen our necks when the Spirit of God nudges us to lay down our pride in order to receive input and correction, then we are unfortunately firmly in the camp of having a love affair with the idol of our own opinion of ourselves! And if we look a little further down the plumbline, we find that an idol is ultimately something we bow our knee to in worship. In other words, our own intellect or understanding is then our god. And we are straying into the camp of those who worship the creature rather than the Creator!! This comes as rather a shock to the system, but thank the Lord, James does not leave us without the next step to putting things right with our Bridegroom:

Jas 4:8 Come close to God and He will come close to you. [Recognize that you are] sinners, get your soiled hands clean; [realize that you have been disloyal] wavering individuals with divided interests, and purify your hearts [of your spiritual adultery].

Come close to God. You made the first move away from your marriage covenant and you must take the first step back. And the minute you do, He moves close to you. When one has been unfaithful to a marriage covenant, it is pointless to wail and weep about the fact that God feels so far away. Your spiritual harlotry has brought a separation between you two. And it requires the casting away of our idols and the turning of our hearts in wholehearted repentance toward the One we have so wronged, before the covenantal intimacy can be restored.

We are so prone to thinking that spiritual adultery takes place with people or things outside of our own earthen vessel's boundaries. However SELF is the most pernicious of

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all idols in our lives and the very monster that hides so diligently from detection. We have all manner of excuses which keep it hidden in the wings - with its crown firmly wedged upon its swollen head. But we do this at the expense of our quest for spiritual intimacy and fruitfulness. Until we come fully to the place of being able to say with deep conviction and understanding, "I am not my own. I was bought with a price" and "It's no longer I who live…", we never enter into experience of our full covenantal inheritance as the wife of the Lamb. Neither do we have unimpeded access to the incomparably great power available to us as believers, which Paul mentions in Ephesians 1.

Pride and the fear of man are brothers in arms. King Saul feared the opinion of the people, if they saw that Samuel no longer accompanied him. He wanted private confession of sin but public acclaim. He cared more for his reputation in the eyes of man, than the realignment of his heart to God. No wonder God rejected him. Humility comes before honour. Let us always care more what God thinks of us than what man does!

And let us take a moment and truly absorb the possibility that we have walked in Peter's shoes more than we realized, and our instincts of self-preservation in a multitude of situations (many of which involve an attempt to preserve our reputations or social standing in the eyes of man) have in fact been just that – an ill-concealed effort to keep self firmly seated upon the throne; controlling our lives with it's "I want", "I think", "I feel", "I don't want…" and so it goes on. How significant that after telling His disciples that they would be shaken and scattered, Jesus knelt down in the garden of Gethsemane and prayed, "Not My will but Yours be done". A short, sweet key to evicting self once and for all from the throne and putting an end to its attempt to sabotage our Bridal covenant with the Son of God.

Romans 1 is a very powerful chapter which traces the steps to total delusion, bondage and defilement – and it begins with exchanging the truth for a lie and results in worshipping the creature (or self) rather than the Creator. Read it again and realise that these words are written for so many more situations than they have traditionally been attributed to. Lucifer was the first to desire to be worshipped and to consider himself a worthy replacement for God. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to make us so sensitive to every moment when we move even slightly out of the place of living out the position 'I am not my own'.

It is one thing to take part in communion and ask forgiveness for sinful acts, but it is another level altogether on the path to holiness to ask to cleansed of sinful ways of being and intentions. This goes right to the foundations of the heart of man – a place which Self does not like to be evicted from. AS the Holy Spirit took me on this journey in preparation for writing this book, the following scripture was engraved deeply in my heart:

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

Pro 3:5 Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. Pro 3:6 In all your ways know, recognize, and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths. Pro 3:7 Be not wise in your own eyes; reverently fear and worship the Lord and turn [entirely] away from evil.

I was actually appalled to discover how many times in just one day I leant upon my own understanding in taking action, speaking or even following through on a thought process. The Holy Spirit would gently prod me and I would ask forgiveness and take a few steps back and acknowledge my Bridegroom's headship over me and ask for His insight and understanding to be released. To my horror, I very quickly became aware of just how 'wise in my own eyes' I unconsciously considered myself. It was an uncomfortable but extremely profitable time spiritually for me, as I dealt with the idol of my own wisdom and understanding and experienced a corresponding increase in the fear of the Lord in my deepest thought processes. If we are leaning on our own understanding, we are not leaning on the Lord - it is as simple as that. If we are wise in our own eyes and treating our own judgment as if it is 'lord', we are not surrendered fully or committed to our betrothal covenant and therefore stepping into the shoes of the unfaithful wife! A few flirty moments with another over a crowded room is still unfaithfulness to our marriage partner... and once we begin to justify this small step, we are on the way to full-blown harlotry.

MAKING SPACE FOR WEALTH

Isa 33:6 And He will be the security of your times, and strength of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is his treasure.

The Hebrew word translated 'treasure' here actually means 'a depository, an armoury, a treasure house'. The fear of the Lord is his treasury. So, to the extent that we walk in the fear of the Lord and turn away from the evil of leaning on our own understanding, we create a depository for the Spirit to pour in the treasures of wisdom and knowledge which are hidden in Christ. I don't know about you, but I want full access into the privileged position of being the wife of the Lamb! Daily as I get up, I renew my betrothal covenant by breaking bread and thanking my Bridegroom for the bridal price He paid and decreeing over myself, "I am not my own. I belong to You. I will honour You with my earthen vessel." I ask for cleansing for each time I walked in pride or leant on my own understanding and forgot to acknowledge Him in all my ways during the previous 24 hours. I don't want to drink of the cup in an unworthy manner and bring judgment on myself. I thank Him for the incomparably great power available to me as His wife and ask the Holy Spirit to search the deep things of God and fill my depository with the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And I am daily grateful for the washing of the water of the Word which prepares me.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom - and is a quality greatly lacking in many circles of the modern-day Body of Christ. When contemplating which of the seven Spirits of God we want to have poured out within us, there is a common pattern that emerges. People seek to be filled with revelation and knowledge and might from above. We also ask for the counsel of the Lord. The Spirit of the fear of the Lord receives very few invitations to visit the saints. How tragic that we allot it the lowest rung on our invited guest list...

Pro 1:28 Then shall they call upon me (Wisdom), but I will not answer; **they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:** Pro 1:29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not <u>choose</u> the fear of the LORD: Pro 1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Pro 1:31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

The fear of the Lord is not something that comes upon us from above. Rather, it is something we must **CHOOSE**! This scripture is very sobering because it shows us that if we do not consciously daily choose the fear of the Lord, then when we seek the wisdom found in Christ, it will elude us.

Practically, choosing the fear of the Lord means receiving His counsel and accepting and responding to His reproof. In other words, we must maintain tender hearts which allow His Spirit-quickened Word to gain entrance and bring change. When the first prick of the Sword of the Word comes, we so often push it away because it is painful. It is easier to keep doing what we are doing than to allow conviction to really penetrate our hearts. Beloved Bride of Christ, let us cry out for a visitation of the Spirit of the fear of the Lord, for it is this Spirit that will keep us from all the allurements of the spirit of harlotry.

We must become those who tremble at His word. For it is only these ones for whom the Lord has regard (Isaiah 66:2). We must be fervent lovers of truth and welcome the convicting nudge of the Spirit who leads us into all truth.

2Th 2:9 The coming [of the lawless one, the antichrist] is through the activity and working of Satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of [pretended] miracles and signs and delusive marvels--[all of them] lying wonders-- 2Th 2:10 And by unlimited seduction to evil and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing (going to perdition) **because they did not**

welcome the Truth but refused to love it that they might be saved.

PURGING PRIDE

If Peter had embraced the loving warning of the Lord concerning his sifting, instead of pridefully protesting his own unshakeable faithfulness, he would have been better equipped to deal with the temptation to deny his association with Christ. We must heed the warning to be careful when we think we stand, lest we fall (1 Cor 10:12) If you are unsure of where you stand on this issue, ask the Father for forgiveness for any time in which you have loved your own opinion rather than His Truth (even if you can't recall an instance, there is bound to be one if you are human). Ask Him to open your eyes to the true state of your heart. Remember His call to the Laodicean church and thank Him Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

that it is because He loves you so very much, that He shows you your faults.

Ask God to give you a love of Truth and then when a word of chastening comes, don't push it away as you feel the first prick on the surface of your heart. Humble yourself and consider the possibility that the log in your eye has prevented you seeing an area that needs addressing. Thank the Spirit of Truth for loving you enough to reveal truth and humbly receive the Word sent to cleanse and save you from destruction and deception. David, a man after God's own heart, cried out to the Lord on this matter:

Psa 139:23 *Search me* [thoroughly], O God, and know my heart! *Try me and know my thoughts! Psa* 139:24 *And see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

REALIGNMENT AND REDEPLOYMENT

Remember also to forgive yourself. The residue of Peter's pride would not allow him to let himself off the hook for denying the Lord. He wrote off his own future in the kingdom and went back to what he could do in his natural strength – except that now there were no results... Once you have been called as a fisher of men, there can be no going back to the way it used to be before you walked with Jesus. He does not let His erring Bride go that easily.

Job 23:10 But He knows the way that I take [He has concern for it, appreciates, and pays attention to it]. When He has tried me, I shall come forth as refined gold.

His resurrection power can bring up your calling from underneath the gravestone you have placed over it - and He will intercept your path when you least expect it. What you had no power to do in your own strength, He will do by speaking just one word, "Cast your nets on the other side". A piece of advice contrary to natural reasoning but a word of breakthrough if you will throw caution to the wind and heed it. Actually, you have nothing to lose – you have already lost your reputation in the eyes of the others in your boat!

The morning watch of denial will be transformed into the morning watch of redeployment, because Jesus knows the depth of your sorrow over your own foolish choices. If you have walked in Peter's footsteps, the work of the refining fire makes you into a breakfast for any fellow believer who has toiled all night and caught nothing. Your reinstatement into the Kingdom economy is in order to feed His sheep. Your surrendered life will do just that as you humbly share all He has done in your life. Welcome back to the fold, Bride of Christ. Your Beloved is yours - and now you are His!

THE POTTERS FIELD COMPANY

I had occasion recently to visit a local fellowship and during the worship, we sang the song 'I am a friend of God, He calls me friend'. Immediately the Holy Spirit began to speak to me

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

on the topic of this word 'friend'. This is what Jesus called Judas as he came to betray Him with a kiss. Are we this kind of friend to Jesus? Do we go straight from confirming our betrothal covenant during communion, to dalliances with the spirit of Religion for the gains it offers us in material terms?

30 pieces of silver was the set price for a bride in ancient times. Jesus fulfilled the first parts of the betrothal covenant, sharing a cup of wine and bread with His disciples and Judas was amongst them and partook of that covenant. Yet, in the back of his mind was the promise of the chief priests to reward him handsomely for handing Jesus over. Its hooks were already fastened fast in his heart. Even when Jesus mentioned He would be betrayed, Judas's hardened heartfelt no conviction of sin. His unfaithfulness and flirtation with the religious system had already taken ownership of his heart. In fact, he brazenly said, "Surely it isn't me?" and Jesus, knowing all hearts, handed him the piece of bread dipped in oil.

In effect, at this point Judas was handed over to satan. Then immediately he went out and was again intimate with the chief priests, accepting their bridal price also, even though it was paid in completely inferior earthly currency. The Blood and the power it contains is Heaven's form of currency. There is no comparison and yet how easily one can be lured into harlotry by a lesser suitor. Judas represents the unfaithful Bride who accepts the bridal price of another who is competing for the heart of the Beloved. There is such a thing as another spirit, another Jesus. Paul mentioned this danger:

2Co 11:2 For I am zealous for you with a godly eagerness and a divine jealousy, for I have betrothed you to one Husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 2Co 11:3 But [now] I am fearful, lest that even as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, so your minds may be corrupted and seduced from wholehearted and sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2Co 11:4 For [you seem readily to endure it] if a man comes and preaches another Jesus than the One we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the [Spirit] you [once] received or a different gospel from the one you [then] received and welcomed; you tolerate [all that] well enough!

Did you see that – 'betrothed to one Husband'? Judas, however, had a heart which was turned by mammon...and the chief priests knew that! He had been the keeper of the mutual purse for the disciples and had dipped into it regularly for himself. Even though he walked with Jesus for 3 &1/2 years, money had a greater hold on his heart than Jesus and the words of Life did. And it was the key which unlocked the door to him being unfaithful to his betrothal covenant. Judas drank of the cup in an unworthy manner, with the thoughts of betrayal already firmly rooted in his heart. In effect, he gave lip service to this betrothal covenant but his heart was far from Jesus. The love of money had firm hold of this man. We know this because it was the lavish outpouring of the perfume that cost a whole year's wages on the head of the Beloved Lord that triggered his decision to aid and abet the chief priests in their craft. Judas effectively stepped up and began to participate in the witchcraft that was being plotted.

When we examine the movements of Judas in the two days before Passover, we find an even more troubling thing. Firstly, let me explain more about Jewish marriage custom. The choosing of a marriage partner was initiated by the father of the groom. We see this occurring with Abraham when he sent his faithful servant, Eliazer, to look for a bride for his son from among his own people. The Holy Spirit is depicted by this servant and we did not choose God but God chose us before the foundations of the world. Yet, in Judas's case, we find him, two days before the Passover, approaching the chief priests to broker a deal:

Mat 26:14 Then one of the Twelve [apostles], who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests Mat 26:15 And said, What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you? And they weighed out for and paid to him thirty pieces of silver

Now, seeing as Judas was well aware of his native customs, when the chief priests paid him 30 pieces of silver, it would have rung a bell of some sort in his head. Why did they decide on that figure? Not only was it the customary bridal price, but also the recompense payment for the death of a bondservant by violent means, namely the goring to death by an ox (Exod 21:32). An ox is a castrated bull; one who is unable to sire calves. Religion is a castrated bull, unable to produce the fruit of which it boasts. No wonder Jesus quoted

from psalm 22 while on the cross. He no doubt knew that it also mentioned Him being surrounded by the mutilating horns of such beasts:

Psa 22:12 *Many* [foes like] bulls have surrounded me; strong bulls of Bashan have hedged me in.

Horns are a symbol of power. The chief priests used their power and position not for good, but for evil. The Hebrew word for 'horn' also means 'a ray of light'. The light in them was darkness. They were clothed in religious robes, as 'angels of light' but the dark light within them was invested in destroying the Son of God. And one in Jesus' inner circle had unrelinquished ground in his heart that could be a launching pad for the attack. Beloved, how important it is to cleanse our hearts daily, so that we do not find ourselves used by the enemy to destroy a brother or a sister that walks trustingly beside us.

Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Aleph and the Tav. The pictograph for the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet is an ox or bull with horns. Jesus is the chief of God's strength, His Firstborn and yet here is Judas, secretly brokering a marriage covenant with the chief priests, the bulls of Bashan who were conspiring to see Jesus gored to death on a cross. Jesus, the Word of Life had walked with Judas, faithfully washing him with the water of the Word as a faithful Suitor, and yet Judas was having an affair with the chief priests and not only that, he brazenly initiated the deal, prostituting his Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

soul for the sake of gain; saying "Here I am, send me to betray the Son of God".

After Jesus was arrested, light suddenly entered Judas' darkened heart and he realized that he had betrayed an innocent man. Now here he was, a partner in two betrothal covenants and the second one doesn't want to take the bridal price back. Religion will attempt to hold you to your unclean covenant. Remember Jesus called Judas friend as he came to betray him with a kiss. The Hebrew word for 'kiss' comes from a root word meaning 'to catch fire, to equip with weapons'. Was it the work of the Refiner's fire as his unclean lips touched the skin of the perfect Son of God that brought just enough dross to the surface for Judas to recognise his sin?

More pointedly, are we kissing Jesus with a heart full of betrayal and a pocket holding 30 pieces of silver? Have we had love affairs with Religion and its chief priests for the benefits it has offered us, said 'yes' to the Bridegroom, while all the while holding the attractive offer of financial gain in our back pockets? Is there disappointment in our hearts with Jesus because of His endorsement of those whose actions in worshipping Him we deem an unnecessary waste of finance and resources? In our bitter state, have we gone into the halls of religion to be bought by unscrupulous men parading as ministers of Christ? Have we allowed the lure of financial gain to be our entry way into a betrothal covenant with Religion and its craft and manipulations? Job tells us there is a way to true power in the spiritual realm and it involves the leaving of the god of mammon:

Job 22:23 If you return to the Almighty [and submit and humble yourself before Him], you will be built up; if you put away unrighteousness far from your tents, Job 22:24 If you lay gold in the dust, and the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brook [considering them of little worth], Job 22:25 And make the Almighty your gold and [the Lord] your precious silver treasure, Job 22:26 Then you will have delight in the Almighty, and you will lift up your face to God.

Is the Almighty your gold and the Lord your precious silver treasure? Or are you expecting houses and lands and the riches of Egypt as recompense? The religion of Babylon always emphasises money and its importance in the extension of the Kingdom. Yet it was the lure of money that caused Judas to betray his betrothal covenant with the Bridegroom.

It is not the lack of money that hampers the extension of the Kingdom, but the lack of surrendered vessels who are willing to say, "I will go". Hirelings require gold and silver in order to function in a position of responsibility. A bond servant serves out of love for the master. True shepherds tend the flock and bar the gateway of the sheepfold with their own bodies, just as Jesus said, "I am the door of the sheep".

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

In Jewish custom, when a bride wanted to annul the marriage covenant, she had to return the bridal price to the father of the groom. Jesus had often told the Pharisees and chief priests that they were of their father, the devil. Judas was attempting to annul his covenant with darkness when he wanted to return the 30 pieces of silver and sever his connection with the chief priests, but they would not cooperate. Satan loves to keep you from intimacy with your rightful Bridegroom. He has no interest in setting you free. The Spirit of Religion and Harlotry will not help you clean your hands or relieve you of your guilt.

So Judas used the money to purchase the Potter's field and hanged himself there. The Law demanded a life for a life. He had handed Jesus over to death and he knew his own life was the only payment acceptable to God. The only thing to do in order to return to your betrothal covenant with the Lamb of God is a total severing of the betrothal covenant with Religion and the Spirit of Harlotry by death.

The Betrothed of the Lord, wholly set apart for Him, cannot be bought by men or silver and gold. Admit to yourself that your heart has been divided and fickle. The Field of Blood, Akeldama, is where the Judas in us dies. This is the Potters field where clay for new vessels is dug by the Potter. Out of a vessel that has been marred in the making, a broken vessel cast onto Akeldama's red soil, the potter can make a new vessel with the addition of living water and the ministrations of His hands. Die to all religion can offer you, the praises of men, the pomp, the ceremony, the applause, the fancy cars and big houses. Die to the doctrines of demons that say you deserve to be elevated and pampered in a position of power. These are the wages of harlotry. Sever that connection so completely that the old you cannot be resurrected. Come out of the city where souls can be bought and sold with the currency of earth and lay your life down in Akeldama, the Field of Blood. And let the Potter make a new vessel out of you from the broken pieces of your life.

Remember that Judas also had his feet washed by Jesus. This too was part of the marriage covenant. A bridegroom would take off his bride's sandals, wash her feet and place new sandals on her feet during the wedding ceremony. This symbolized the sharing of his inheritance and covenantal provision with her. Jesus said that unless He washed their feet, they could have no part IN Him.

What Jesus was demonstrating was the part of the Kinsman-Redeemer. He Himself removed the disciple's sandals which represented their connection into the Adamic covenant, the covenant of dust to dust and the Levitical priesthood. They had borne the image of the earthly. Now it was time to bear the image of the heavenly. He took off the sandals of the earthly priesthood and washed the dust of all that connected them to their father's house, their natural blood lineage and an earthly temple built with hands. Then He placed sandals back on their feet again, because they were now moving into betrothal and the Melchizedek priesthood, from the 1st Adam to the 2nd Adam; from the earthly to the heavenly. They had to be divorced from the 1st Adam before they could be betrothed to the 2nd Adam. In effect, Jesus was saying by His actions "Give Me back My wife. I annul the betrothal covenant she is in to the first Adamic line, Let My wife go!" and the sound of the Blood at Calvary shouts the same message, "It is finished. She is Mine!"

Melchizedek had no father or mother or ancestral line (Heb 7:3). He was not connected to the first Adam. He functioned from the power of an indestructible life! The Bridegroom is a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, not Aaron. He does not carry out his duties in a temple built with hands but is responsible for the city whose Maker and Builder is God. The bloodline of betrayal that began with Adam had to end with Judas. And the vacuum left by his death created an opportunity for God to institute Heaven's choice to take his place.

RESTORING THE NAME OF THE DEAD TO HIS INHERITANCE

The washing of Judas' feet apportioned him a part in the Betrothal covenant and consequently the inheritance of Christ. Yet Judas killed himself and could not take up the inheritance awarded him. This is why Peter stood up in the upper room and indicated that someone needed to be chosen to fill his place. It is part of an ancient custom called 'restoring the name of the dead to his inheritance'. We see the practice in the book of Ruth. An inheritance is locked up until a kinsman-redeemer steps in and buys the land of the widow and marries her. Only once they have become one, does the name of the dead get restored to his inheritance (Ruth 4:10) and the inheritance released.

So the portion of the revelation of Christ and resurrection power set apart for Judas was locked up and couldn't be accessed until the price had been paid to purchase that 'field', Akeldama. This is why Judas' place could only be filled once Jesus had died and paid with Blood for His Bride. On the cross, Jesus was purchasing a 'field' which would bring forth a rich harvest once it had been bought back. Paul says 'you are His field, you are His vineyard, you are His building'(1Cor 3:9).

All of us who have been unfaithful to our betrothal covenant, because we have accepted the allurement and financial gain offered by the spirit of Religion, are the 'field' Akeldama. Thirty pieces of silver is the price paid for a bondslave. You can move from being a bondslave to Religion to being a bondslave of the Lamb!

If you will lay down your life, your rights, your connections to the chief priests and all worldly gain – and count it all as dung for the sake of knowing Christ, then the hands of God will fashion out of you a new vessel which will be filled with the outpouring of the Spirit and fire. Paul, a vessel marred in the making, was married to Religion and zealously persecuted the Body of Christ, BUT became transformed by his encounter with the Lord and becoming conformed to His death!

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God SENTENCING YOURSELF TO DEATH

You may be well aware that you have betrayed the Lord by backsliding and living in a way that you know is not what He called you to. And so you have fled the halls of Religion and 'taken' your own life and hung yourself using your own tongue; continually declaring over yourself that there is no hope for you and you are past help. I want you to read the following verses from Ephesians:

Eph 4:8 Therefore He says, "When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men." Eph 4:9 (Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

You may consider yourself such a Judas that there is no coming back for you... but I want you to remember that after He died, Jesus went and preached to the souls in prison; those who were disobedient during the days of Noah. They were held in the place of death because of a refusal to heed the warnings of Noah who was a preacher of righteousness. But Jesus also went to share the Truth with them. As long as there is breath in your body, there is time to return to your betrothal covenant. You can break your covenant with Death. Jesus led captivity captive. That means every lie that you believe about yourself has no more power to hold you in the place of death. The resurrection power of the Bridegroom is able to raise up the inheritance in Christ that lies dormant and unclaimed within you. The original Judas was the only person who was destined to go to perdition. The role is not available to anyone else who decides that they fit the part.

The Blood of the Lamb of God has been paid as a redemption price for you. Do not let self-hatred and self-bitterness rob you and do not let that rich inheritance in Christ within you lie dormant any longer.

There were two men put forward as possible choices for a replacement in the upper room – Joseph Justus and Matthias. Joseph means 'He will add' and Justus means 'justice'. From the outward appearance, one would imagine that this would be the man God would add to the apostle's ranks! After all, surely his mother was prophesying over him when she called him 'He will add'!! But God, who knows all hearts, chose Matthias (meaning 'gift of God) to replace Judas. A second chance is a free gift - if you can forgive yourself for your failings and surrender to the Potter's hand. The Spirit of God once came upon Saul and turned him into another man; and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and fire will also transform you. Vessels once marred in the making through their spiritual harlotry, become gifts to the world in the hand of the Potter.

Jer 18:2 Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words. Jer 18:3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and behold, he was working at the wheel. Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he was making from clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so he made it over, reworking it into another vessel as it seemed good to the potter to make it.

Chapter 7 ~ BANK OF EARTH OR BANK OF HEAVEN

Ancient Babylon was a place of trade and traffick, a city of merchants, and as such, depicts the unclean place from which God's saints are called to flee from. Yet, let us look at how they ended up there in the first place. Ezekiel tells us that when God's people will not let go of their idols, He allows them to go into captivity in Babylon:

Eze **17:4** *He broke off the topmost of its young twigs and carried it into a land of trade [Babylon]; he set it in a city of merchants.*

The above verse refers to the young king of Israel, Johoiachin, being carried captive to the land of trade. This king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, also took all the king's children and the mighty men amongst God's people and forced them to live in a place of trafficking and trading. Are you one of the King's children living in the place of trafficking? Are you one of the captive mighty men?

Eze 17:12 Say now to the rebellious house: Do you not know what these things mean? Tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon has come to Jerusalem and has taken its king and its rulers, and brings them to himself to Babylon. Eze 17:13 And he has taken of the king's seed and has made a covenant with him, and has taken an oath from him. He has also taken the mighty of the land, Eze 17:14 so that the kingdom might be low, that it might not lift itself up, but that by keeping his covenant it might stand.

He formed a covenant with them in order to keep them subjugated and in his power. And they were content to keep this covenant because it meant they lived and were not put to death. Pretty harsh punishment for being rebellious and idolatrous! And it showed where their priorities were. Selfpreservation was more important than faithfulness to the God of Heaven and earth. No doubt, they settled into life in Babylon and began to trade and barter like the natives. Unfortunately, in the Church of today, the mighty men and the King's seed have also gone into captivity to Babylon. And the covenant made with her is intended to preserve them, even if it is in a low state of trafficking and trading in the currencies of earth. Saints of God, you will never rise to your intended potential in the kingdom of God as long as this covenant with the land of trade is standing! Its very existence is with the intention of keeping you down and focused on the things which Babylon deems important. And God's priorities are not Babylon's priorities!

Ezekiel 28 is an interesting chapter because it mentions both a prince and a king of Tyre. The prince or commander of Tyre, Ithobal, is described as being filled with pride as a result of gaining wealth – and this have been accomplished by leaning on his own understanding:

Eze 28:4 With your own wisdom and with your own understanding you have gotten you riches and power and have brought gold and silver into your treasuries; Eze 28:5 By your great wisdom and by

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

your traffic you have increased your riches and power, and your heart is proud and lifted up because of your wealth;

Your wisdom; your understanding; your traffic, your wealth....

there are a lot of 'your' in those two verses – a lot of focus on Self! And its end result is an increase in the pride of life. Pride and wealth seem to go hand in hand. Gold and silver are brought into bank accounts through trading, which is the offering of a service or a product in return for currency. This commander of Tyre worshipped at the idol altar of his own wisdom which had accumulated his great wealth. Judgment was meted out to him as a result of his pride. In contrast, King Solomon asked God for wisdom from above to rule his people

- and God gave him wealth as well. The focus upon wealth in many sectors of the church reveals the heart of those involved. Proverbs tell us that when Wisdom is sought, what one obtains is better than the riches of this earth:

Pro 8:10 Receive my instruction in preference to [striving for] silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, Pro 8:11 For skilful and godly Wisdom is better than rubies or pearls, and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Pro 8:18 Riches and honour are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness (uprightness in every area and relation, and right standing with God). Pro 8:19 My fruit is better than gold, yes, than refined gold, and my increase than choice silver. Pro 8:20 I [Wisdom] walk in the way of righteousness (moral and spiritual rectitude in every area and relation), in the midst of the paths of

justice, Pro 8:21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit [true] riches and that I may fill their treasuries.

'...that I may fill their treasuries.' The question is this, people of God – firstly, what do you consider to be your treasury? Is it your account at the local bank... or is it your heart? Do you want fat bank balances on earth or do you want the Spirit of Wisdom to fill your real treasury within? Perhaps we should listen to the words of Solomon, the wisest and probably one of the wealthiest men who ever lived:

Ecc 5:10 He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver, nor he who loves abundance with gain. This also is vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility)! Ecc 5:11 When goods increase, they who eat them increase also. And what gain is there to their owner except to see them with his eyes?

There is an alarming emphasis on the expectation of an outpouring of wealth in today's Charismatic circles. Personally, I believe the Lord is weighing hearts on this issue. Many of His saints have been in dire financial straits as part of their allotted portion of the Refiner's fire. When we have precious little in our wallets, is the Lord still our treasure? Where is our daily focus? Do we resort to fear and leaning on our own understanding, in order to think up some form of trade that we can ply to get money? Or do we remember what Jesus said about seeking first the Kingdom because your Father knows you need food and clothing?

The portion in Ezek 28 describing the king of Tyre obviously refers to Lucifer and it seems he was the principality ruling

over the commander of Tyre. No doubt, he helped him to attain his vast wealth. We also discover that Lucifer, the covering cherub, was also involved in trafficking, which defiled the sanctuaries and as a result, a fiery judgment was poured out in the midst. In fact, the Word describes traffick as iniquity:

Eze 28:18 You have defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of you, it shall devour you, and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that are looking at you.

Does that mean that there is no financial blessing coming to those saints waiting for it? No, that is not what I am saying, but perhaps the long delay is a period in which we need to examine our hearts as to whether we think that money is the answer to our problems or the way to fulfill our Kingdom purposes – or perhaps, just maybe, it is not the might of a hefty bank account, nor the power of a gold credit card, but the outpouring of the Spirit of God that will accomplish the fulfillment of God's Kingdom purposes!

The judgment poured out on Mystery Babylon in the book of Revelation, chapter 18, brings her trading and trafficking to an end in one day! I wonder how many endeavours connected to the modern-day Church will also be brought to an abrupt halt that fateful day... One of the things this harlot city had been trading in is the souls of men:

Rev 18:13 *Of cinnamon, spices, incense... and of slaves (the bodies) and souls of men!*

Remember King Nebuchadnezzar and his snatching of God's people to populate His own land with serfs? Or in more recent history, remember the slave trade funded with souls from the continent of Africa and Asia? And the ongoing human trafficking dilemma, which is heartbreaking. Not to mention the leaders in multitudes of church groups who enslave their congregations to the god of Mammon by continuously focusing on money as being a way to access the power of God. Obviously, the same spirit that ruled ancient Babylon is still rampant both in secular and religious society.

Satan is the original being who began to trade and traffick souls in the garden of Eden and he is still doing it through the antics of the religious spirit in the church system. The Bride of Christ is still lending her ear to the doctrines of men and demons from the wrong tree in the garden, and as a result she cannot partake of the Tree of Life, Jesus, as God intended. It is that very ancient and vile fallen angel and his partners in crime who instigated the original liaisons with the daughters of men, trading angelic secrets for the wombs of women made in God's image.... And yes, fallen angels are still trading

angelic secrets with church leaders, in order to use those fellowships as rented spiritual wombs for bringing forth their abominations in the earth... but I will speak more of this in another chapter!

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God COMING OUT AND ENTERING IN

God calls for His people to come out of Babylon as He doesn't want us to share in her plagues. Part of coming out of this harlot city is coming out of a buying and selling mentality and entering into a giving and receiving mentality. Freely we receive and freely we must give. The kingdoms of this earth operate by buying and selling. The Kingdom of God operates by giving and receiving. One system uses currency crafted by the hand of man and allotted value by him. Currency is traded for goods or services required. The other system has vessels of gold and silver and wood and stone; some for noble purposes and some for menial purposes, and what is given from within each vessel has first been received from above, given by the hand of God.

All good gifts come from above from the Father of Lights in whom there is no shadow of turning. Heaven's bank never runs dry. In contrast, earthly stock markets are easily shaken and the god of Mammon is a hard taskmaster. The borrower is servant to the lender and when you are borrowing unrighteous mammon in order to prop up a lifestyle beyond one's means, it becomes a tight noose around one's neck. No wonder, God cautions us to owe no man anything, except the debt to love him.

Trading and trafficking are hallmarks of a Babylonian culture and the love of money is the root of all evil. Jesus warned us that it is very difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom because the more money one accumulates, the harder it is to stop your money owning you. As I mentioned concerning the prince of Tyre, an increase in wealth and success often go hand in hand with an increase in the pride of life. The Father warned his people coming into the Promised Land that their prosperity would be occasion for temptation to forget Him:

Deu 8:12 Lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses and live in them, Deu 8:13 And when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all you have is multiplied, Deu 8:14 Then your [minds and] hearts be lifted up and you forget the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage... Deu 8:17 And beware lest you say in your [mind and] heart, My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. Deu 8:18 But you shall [earnestly] remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Hos 4:7 The more they increased and multiplied [in prosperity and power], the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame.

And yet, as discussed, the modern Church still looks to the day when vast amounts of wealth roll into the coffers of the Church. They use the scripture 'the wealth of the wicked is stored up for the righteous' (Prov 13:22). Of course each one assumes that they are the righteous whom this promise refers to! However, in this day, it is no longer acceptable to just walk around declaring that we are wearing the robe of Righteousness that Jesus gave us, and think this will ensure that the jackpot is headed our way. A truly righteous man in God's sight is one who has clean hands and a pure heart. And are we sure our hearts and hands are clean in the area where money is concerned? Pure religion is this: to care for the widows and the orphans and keep oneself from being unspotted by the world (James 1:27). Unfortunately, the modern-day Church is severely 'spotted' or defiled by the world and its value system.

WEEDING OUT THE BALAAMS

The whole prophetic movement also needs to take an urgent and serious look at the life of the prophet Balaam. He began as a genuine prophet, seemingly not willing to be swayed by a bribe, in Numbers 22, when he was first approached by the servants of the king:

Num 22:18 And Balaam answered the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more.

He earnestly declares his own uprightness to those who approach him. However, his own willingness to accompany and participate in the religious offerings of a man who wanted God's people cursed, revealed his hidden greed, despite his protestations. He knew that the king would richly reward him for services rendered. And here we have the essence of trafficking in the prophetic movement – to provide a 'word' from the Lord that strokes the soul of the recipient in return for a monetary transaction. It is also clear that although Balaam was known as a prophet of God, he was also tapping into other sources of power: Num 24:1 When Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not go as he had done each time before [superstitiously] to meet with omens and signs in the natural world, but he set his face_toward the wilderness or desert.

The phrase 'omens and signs' is translated 'enchantments' in the KJV. Joshua 13 describes Balaam as a 'soothsayer'. Another word for this is 'auger' – a modern day version being a reader of signs through tea-leaves, throwing of bones or other omens in the natural world! Obviously Balaam, like many so-called prophets today was tapping into unclean sources of spiritual input and speaking from omens and signs in the natural world. He was not connecting with the Spirit of God at all. Even after God had opened his eyes and brought truth and real revelation to him, further on in Numbers 24, Balaam did not afterwards protest or issue a rebuke when the people of God began to go after the Midianite gods and all their filthy sexual religious practices in the next chapter. In other words, Balaam became a corrupted vessel, sometimes moved by the Spirit of God and at other times being guided by a spirit of divination. He was a people's prophet, rather than a prophet of God. When the moment of light and truth came as God opened his eyes, he did not cleave wholeheartedly to that truth and walk in faithfulness to his God-given office of Prophet...

and his corruption led to judgment on God's people, because he failed to warn them of the consequences of spiritual harlotry:

Num **31:16** ... caused the Israelites by the counsel of Balaam to trespass and act treacherously against the Lord in the matter of Peor, and so a [smiting] plague came among the congregation of the Lord.

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Peter also warns the saints about those who walk after the flesh in their midst, and this would seem to be a direct rebuke concerning those who consider themselves to have prophetic giftings, seeing as they are likened to Balaam:

2Pe 2:14 They have eyes full of harlotry, insatiable for sin. They beguile and bait and lure away unstable souls. Their hearts are trained in covetousness (lust, greed), [they are] children of a curse [exposed to cursing]! 2Pe 2:15 Forsaking the straight road they have gone astray; they have followed the way of Balaam [the son] of Beor, who loved the reward of wickedness.

Hearts trained in covetousness – what a sad picture of people of influence amongst God's people. And these are responsible for training God's people to believe that covetousness is a form of godliness – how despicable! In fact, they probably cloak their greed with spiritual sounding explanations and misuse and twisting of scripture in order to manipulate the people of God to feather their leader's nests with their own hard-earned salaries. Balaam's life choices also got him used as an example of how not to conduct oneself as a prophet in the book of Jude; and he was further listed as one who was implicit in leading the people of God into defiling themselves with idolatry, in the warning given to the church at Pergamum:

Jud 1:11 Woe to them! For they have run riotously in the way of Cain, and have abandoned themselves for the sake of gain [it offers them, following] the error of Balaam, and have perished in rebellion [like that] of Korah!

Rev 2:14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: you have some people there who are clinging to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to set a trap and a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, [to entice them] to eat food that had been sacrificed to idols and to practice lewdness [giving themselves up to sexual vice].

Eating food sacrificed to idols is a description of people feeding on a message extracted from the Word of God in order to procure their allegiance to the god of Mammon. The "spirit of Balaam" is at work when the love of money overtakes a prophet. How do we discern when this is the case? One only has to visit websites or receive newsletters from a number of those called 'prophets' today. One is bombarded by advertisements for products which must be purchased, both flanking and inserted between paragraphs of the current 'word of the Lord'. In fact, it is seldom that one is provided with the whole text of a message claimed to be from God, Usually just an 'appetiser' is given, but one is assured that one will receive the full benefit of the revelation upon purchasing a 'complete set' of CDs or DVDs... and of course, without them, one is unlikely to achieve the longedfor breakthrough. Very few of these modern-day 'prophets' make their revelations available free of charge. Yet, did we ever see John the Baptist saying, "This was He of Whom I said...." This is followed by an insert with a hand-written sign

in Aramaic on leather to look authentic, reading: "Find out everything I see by putting your coins in my money bag, and you will be given a front-row seat outside my cave for the whole private revelation session tonight! Get your own anointed locust and jar of wild honey to release a prophetic dream as you sleep!" Laughable? Maybe... Tragically close to reality though - and it makes our jealous God furious.

Food intended to nourish the spirits of God's people is sacrificed to the idol of Mammon in this way. The prophets are trading the Word of the Lord for gain – and weaving in the latest mix of anointing oil in a specially shaped bottle as part of the equipment needed to fully benefit from the latest bread from Heaven. How disgraceful. The problem is that the practice has become so widespread that the people of God assume it is perfectly normal business as usual in the Body of Christ. Actually, it is exactly that – business as usual, and when a body becomes a business, it is called a harlot!

The great prophet Elisha refused to accept a gift from the grateful Naaman, after he was healed:

2Ki 5:15 Then Naaman returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and stood before him. He said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel. So now accept a gift from your servant. 2Ki 5:16 Elisha said, As the Lord lives, before Whom I stand, I will accept none. He urged him to take it, but Elisha refused.

His unscrupulous servant, Gehazi, did not have the same level of integrity and he saw the opportunity for gain. So he raced after Naaman and made up a story about Elisha having changed his mind and requesting a thanksoffering. He received a sound rebuke from Elisha when he returned – a rebuke that the modern-day so-called prophets would do well to study, as his actions resulted in a curse which affected the generations that followed in his family:

2Ki 5:25 He went in and stood before his master. Elisha said, Where have you been, Gehazi? He said, Your servant went nowhere. 2Ki 5:26 Elisha said to him, Did not my spirit go with you when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money, garments, olive orchards, vineyards, sheep, oxen, menservants, and maidservants? 2Ki 5:27 Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cleave to you and to your offspring forever. And Gehazi went from his presence a leper as white as snow.

Micah the prophet was used by God to address these wicked goings on and to spell out the judgment that comes to those who prophesy for gain, and who will only bless those who bless them financially:

Mic 3:5 Thus says the Lord: Concerning the false prophets who make My people err, when they have anything good to bite with their teeth they cry, Peace; and whoever gives them nothing to chew, against him they declare a sanctified war. Mic 3:6 Therefore it shall be night to you, so that you shall have no vision; yes, it shall be dark to you without divination. And the sun shall go down over the false prophets, and the day shall be black over them. Mic 3:7 And the seers shall be put to shame and the diviners shall blush and be confounded; yes, they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God.

The consequence was a silence from God and an inability to access the spiritual realm of Light for answers. God also has

the ability to also cut off access to the spirit of divination, so that the false prophets are left with a mouthful of teeth and egg on their faces.

Mic 3:11 Its heads judge for reward and a bribe and its priests teach for hire and its prophets divine for money; yet they lean on the Lord and say, Is not the Lord among us? No evil can come upon us.

God has been watching the decades of these goings on in the modern-day Church; the teaching for wages and the prophesying for reward. Because He is slow to anger and incredibly patient, waiting for His people to come to repentance, it is assumed that judgment for this false representation of His Name and Character will never come. This is not true! Ezekiel receives a similar message concerning those who are prophets amongst God's people, but are hirelings who prophesy for wages:

Eze 22:25 *There is a conspiracy of* [Israel's false] prophets in the midst of her, like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured human lives; they have taken [in their greed] treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in the midst of her.

The Father tells His true prophet that these men are tearing His Body apart like a lion tears his prey and feeds himself. These men disconnect the wife of the Lamb from her Heavenly Husband and make her a widow! How horrific to have men cannibalizing the Body of Christ for the sake of gain! In fact the word 'cannibal' comes from two words; 'Canaan' and 'Baal'. It was the pagan tribes of Canaan that Joshua conquered who were prone to eating those they had taken captive as part of their demonic religious practices. A righteous Father must move in judgment against these who claim to work for Him but fleece his sheep, so that they themselves may be warm. And what does God say of those among His people who have made Mammon their salvation and strong tower?

Eze 7:19 They shall cast their silver into the streets, and their gold shall be [discarded] like an unclean thing or rubbish; their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord; they shall not satisfy their animal cravings nor fill their stomachs with them, for [wealth] has been the stumbling block of their iniquity.

And of course, we have already looked into the slaying of the prophets of Baal. Unfortunately, the antics of those prophets for two watches of the day in Elijah's time are being mirrored by the modern day prophetic movement in many ways. Beloved saint of God, it is time to leave ALL the gods of the pagans, and to break every covenant we have unwittingly entered into with them, even by our purchase of items plied by those who prophesy for reward; because by doing it, we have participated in the trading and trafficking that Babylon is famous for.

WHO OWNS YOUR HEART?

Personally, I am convinced that it is possible to give God lipservice, put money in the offering every week, and yet be far from Him. God does not want our money – He wants our whole hearts! The Creator made the gold, copper and silver

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that is mined to produce our coinage; and the trees which are the raw product for our paper currency. Why on earth would our man-made currency be of any value to Him? The thing that is of inestimable value to the God of Heaven is the souls of men – the very thing that vile Babylon trades in! This is why He sent His Son, a forerunner after the order of Melchizedek, to gather in the tithe and freewill offering of the souls of men and women. The only thing of value to God you can put in the offering is YOURSELF! There is no greater wealth to the Kingdom of God than someone who is willing to surrender all and begin to operate according to Heaven's value system. Where are those who will say, "Here am I, Lord. Send me!"?

And please don't put yourself in the offering plate of the Babylonian Religious System masquerading as the Church of Jesus Christ, because you will only find yourself enslaved, working day after day to build the empire of a man of the flesh (perhaps even lending your time and strength to ensuring the success of the trading endeavours and helping to deliver the 'snake oil' to those paying their hard-earned money.) It sickens me to hear the offering sermons of these charlatans, intent on fleecing the sheep, who ask for a 'faith seed' to be sown into the offering basket in order to receive a similar anointing/healing/financial blessing to that which they claim are walking in.

In a similar way, fundraising telethons are held on TV stations bearing the name 'God', but one is not quite sure, when viewing the charade, exactly which god, this money is being raised for. Did Moses build a wall of brass plaques with the names of people who gave materials for the building of the tabernacle in the wilderness? Does God endorse the stirring up of the fleshly desire of man for one's good works to be seen by men, as a carrot to move the unwilling 'donkeys' in the worldwide audience? Did Moses have a giant picture of a thermometer, with its level being daily raised, to visually urge and manipulate the people to come up with yet more of their savings to achieve the target? No he didn't. Only the Spirit of God moved on people's hearts, after one simple request, to give generously. There was no month of teachings on finance in order to soften up the target audience before passing out the offering plate.

For Heaven's sake (and I mean that!), ask yourself a question: when did Jesus ever ask anyone in need to sow a seed in order to reap a healing, a family member's salvation or a boomerang monetary gift? Jesus Himself was the Seed that was sown in order to reap a harvest – and that harvest is YOU! He was intent on reaping a kingdom of priests after the order of Melchizedek; a mighty army functioning in the power of His indestructible life! Sowing a seed into a ministry in order to reap 'some of what they have', whether it be their anointing or their portion of glory or harvest, is nonsensical. A man's anointing is his own and perhaps if you knew more of the source of some of those 'anointings' you would be more reticent about connecting yourself to them!

We are all supposed to be sowing ourselves, as the 'many brethren' from among the dead, of whom Jesus was a forerunner of, for the cause of the Kingdom. There is no more valuable offering in Heaven's Accounting Department than a life which is a living sacrifice, bound to the altar, washed in the Blood of the Lamb and cleansed of personal ambition, the love of mammon and a desire for the praises of men. The earthen vessel that kneels before God in their own personal Gethsemane (the oil press) and says, "Not my will, but Yours be done. Let your Kingdom come on earth through me"; the saint who trembles at His Word and lifts his or her life as a fragrant, walking prayer is the one that moves the hand of God in provision. The double door of favour opens for the saint dwelling at the altar of incense, oblivious of the condemning stares as the alabaster box contents of their heart are lavished on the Beloved and His Body.

The Church does not need more finance in order to work the works of God. The Church needs to come out of Babylon and then to offer themselves willingly in the day of His power. Heaven is well able to bring to the table every resource needed to accomplish God's objectives in the earth - but what Heaven is in sore need of, is Heavenly currency - vessels of honour fit for the Master's use, who have cleansed themselves. It is not the might of earthly mammon that will establish His will on earth as it is in Heaven. It is not the power of the arm of flesh and the business strategies of earthly wisdom that will reap this harvest and build His Church. God will do it by His Spirit through His fiery anointed vessels overflowing with the 7 Spirits of God. These will dispense Bread and wine for the sons of Abraham; the revelation of Christ poured out in a downpour of heavy latter rain, which brings the harvest to full ripeness.

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

Jesus said, "Wherever your treasure is, there you heart will be also". It's a profound statement on many levels and it was given in His discourse on worrying about provision. His solution to breaking the hold of the god of Mammon on ourselves was radical:

Luk 12:33 Sell what you possess and give donations to the poor; provide yourselves with purses and handbags that do not grow old, an unfailing and inexhaustible treasure in the heavens, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

How interesting - sell and give! It's that simple to break a covenant with Mammon. And then give to the poor - not to the offering plate! There needs to be no middle man in breaking the shackles of Mammon off your neck. Act in the opposite spirit to the city of trade. Don't put your money in an offering with the view to receiving something in return. The poor are unable to give anything back to you. This is why it breaks the cycle of trafficking in your life. Sell and give donations to the poor. Recognize that those who are poor in the eyes of the world can be rich in faith. Recognize their worth in God's sight and lavish your love and blessing upon them as a representative of Heaven. Give without taking anything in return and experience the washing away of years of slavery to Mammon. Care for the widow and the orphan and know your Heavenly bank account and stock market shares are rising.

Break your alabaster box that cost you a year's salary and give it freely to anoint the Body of Christ – and the fragrance will fill the whole house! The alabaster box is, in a way, a picture of

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a treasure chest. Where is your treasure? Is it in the bank, waiting for retirement? Is it gaining interest so you can go on a round the world cruise? Or do you convert it regularly into something that can be given lavishly to the poor in the Body of Christ, be they missionaries in some foreign land or a teacher in a Christian school needing exercise books and pencils for her poverty-stricken students? There are so many ways of opening a Heavenly safe deposit box.

Do the maths – is there more in the account upstairs or the one in your own name in an earthly bank, gathering coins forged by men? Practically, one's heart is struck with terror at the thought of doing something as outlandishly generous as pouring out the proceeds of a year's labour on others, instead of Self. And it is right here at this laser-sharp pivot point, that we must search our hearts. Just who or what is really our treasure? Are people made in God's image of more value to you that a wad of bank notes? Is their salvation of greater importance than your financial security?

Job 22:24 If you lay gold in the dust, and the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brook [considering them of little worth], Job 22:25 And make the Almighty your gold and [the Lord] your precious silver treasure, Job 22:26 Then you will have delight in the Almighty, and you will lift up your face to God. Job 22:27 You will make your prayer to Him, and He will hear you, and you will pay your vows. Job 22:28 You shall also decide and decree a thing, and it shall be established for you; and the light [of God's favour] shall shine upon your ways. Did you see that? Make the Almighty your gold and the Lord your precious silver treasure! The Levitical priests had no inheritance in the land. The Lord was their inheritance. How much more so, the Melchizedek priesthood! We do have a spiritual inheritance stored up beyond the reach of change or decay and it consists of a measured portion of the revelation, anointing and power and wisdom of Jesus Christ. But it is only released fully to those whose hearts are fully His. An inheritance on paper is one thing – an inheritance paid out is quite another, and it is usually done at the coming of age. Our inheritance is paid into our Heavenly treasury account and is released to us as needed as we come to maturity and take over our Father's business in the earth.

Jer 9:23 Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise and skilful person glory and boast in his wisdom and skill; let not the mighty and powerful person glory and boast in his strength and power; let not the person who is rich [in physical gratification and earthly wealth] glory and boast in his [temporal satisfactions and earthly] riches; Jer 9:24 But let him who glories glory in this: that he understands and knows Me [personally and practically, directly discerning and recognizing My character], that I am the Lord, Who practices loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord. Jer 9:25 Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will punish all who though circumcised [outwardly, in the flesh] are still uncircumcised [in corresponding inward purity].

Do you want the Lord to delight in you? Then be like Paul and count everything else as rubbish compared to the priceless privilege of knowing Him ever more intimately. Press on to take firm hold of that for which Christ took hold of you. Don't be distracted by the flashy advertisements of the god of Mammon. You are of greater worth than all the money the richest man on earth possesses... and so is the orphaned child without shoes or breakfast in his stomach...

In his chapter on love, Paul says that once he thought and talked like a child (1 Cor 13:11). A child is completely selfcentered. His or her own needs, be it food, comfort or attention, are always foremost in his or her mind. Paul says that the coming to maturity is marked by putting away childish ways. It seems to me that the immaturity and selfcenteredness of the Body of Christ; its endless propensity to self-gratification and sowing to the flesh, has been what has made it vulnerable to the god of Mammon... and also what has kept it from reaching maturity in Christ; 'the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ' as it is so beautifully described in Ephesians 4. The five-fold ministry was intended to bring the Body to this glorious place for a very good reason:

Eph 4:14 So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey of] the cunning and cleverness of unscrupulous men, [gamblers engaged] in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead.

Perhaps it is because scattered amongst the present five-fold ministry, there are just such unscrupulous men, whose knee has already bowed secretly to the god of Mammon, and caring more for the level of their personal bank balances than the souls of those they lead, they harness the lives of those in their congregations in order to finance their materialistic lifestyles and support their personal spiritual ambitions. And all the while, the people of God remain children, susceptible to manipulation and tossed about by every wind of doctrine.

Is this the way God intended His Body to be behaving? Of course not! Let us lose ourselves from the bond about our necks and arise and be all that Christ died for us to be!

Isa 52:2 Shake yourself from the dust; arise, sit [erect in a dignified place], O Jerusalem; loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion. Isa 52:3 For thus says the Lord: You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money.

Did you see that? You will be redeemed and set free without money. It is not going to take your participation in an offering to set you free or heal you. You must arise and loose yourself from the bonds about your neck. Remember who you are and Who bought you from the slave market of this world system in the first place.

1Pe 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers, 1Pe 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot;

If God didn't use the currency of earth to set you free, why should the Church give it such a place of importance in its value system – and why on earth would He use money now to set you free? Silver and gold is corruptible and James says they will become rusted as one heaps them together for oneself:

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Jas 5:1 COME NOW, you rich [people], weep aloud and lament over the miseries (the woes) that are surely coming upon you. Jas 5:2 Your abundant wealth has rotted and is ruined, and your [many] garments have become moth-eaten. Jas 5:3 Your gold and silver are completely rusted through, and their rust will be testimony against you and it will devour your flesh as if it were fire. You have heaped together treasure for the last days... Jas 5:5 [Here] on earth you have abandoned yourselves to soft (prodigal) living and to [the pleasures of] self-indulgence and self-gratification. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

Beloved, don't serve Mammon. It has no power to deliver your soul or heal you or bind up your broken heart. Reset the compass of your spiritual value system and understand the value of just one soul to God. Let your life become a living expression of that truth. Don't be a part of the body that has become a business. The Bride of Christ is no harlot. Learn to recognise the counterfeit and model your daily existence on the blueprint given for the Body whose Head is Jesus, rather than Mammon!

Eph 4:15 Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

Chapter 8 ~ BRINGING IN THE WHOLE TITHE

No doubt what I have to say here will be highly controversial, yet I am pressed to share it. We are living in the 3rd Day and the threefold things must be brought to light. We are also in the 7th Day since creation. The seventh day was the day God rested from His labors and the people of God must be brought to a place of rest from their fleshly labors, that they may work the works of God. The Church of Jesus Christ has long been held at gunpoint concerning the subject of tithing and it is my personal opinion that this has contributed in great measure to the inability of the Church to move fully out of Religion and into the full light of the kingdom of the Son of Righteousness. It is time to move from operating in an earthly John-the-Baptist mindset concerning the tithe and to be seated in a heavenly revelation of what God intended the tithe to portray.

Remember that Jesus came to fulfill all that had been instituted before His birth. He came to complete and wrap up and bring to an end the practice of Religion, and to institute in its place, a new covenant of restored relationship with the Godhead. All the religious obligations of the Jews were never intended to be continued in the new dispensation. Only the prophetic fulfillment of the feasts of the Lord are still being brought to fullness in the Body of Christ. Jesus came to announce and set in motion a heavenly Jerusalem, not just to slightly adjust the earthly Jerusalem's way of worship and add a few extra benefits. *Col* 2:17 *All those things are mere shadows cast before what was to come; the substance is Christ.*

Everything that preceded Christ was a shadow, intended to lead up to the real thing, the SUBSTANCE, which was Christ. A shadow joins the reality at the feet. A shadow lies horizontal; the reality is upright. The shadow is behind the reality, following it; in the past. It only moves when the person casting the shadow begins to move. A shadow is onedimensional, flat and colorless. The human body is threedimensional and colorful. If you build according to the shadow, you create a flat, lifeless representation of what was intended, for a shadow only appears to have life when the real substance is in motion. It is time to stop fixing our eyes upon the shadow and rather lift our vision and understanding and fix our eyes on things above in heavenly places. Only then can we begin to portray the heavenly Truth we gaze upon.

As I said earlier, money is an earthly substance, made by the hand of man and is used to run an earthly system. It has no value in heavenly places, except when it is given freely to the widow and the orphan. Therefore, the kingdom of God which originates in heavenly places cannot be dependent upon earthly currency in order to function successfully, because it is a spiritual kingdom. The heavenly Jerusalem descends out of heaven from God. It does not arise from the earth towards God, built by the sweat of men and using bricks and mortar and money. This statement bears repeating: the church does not need more money to carry out the works of the Kingdom – what there is a great lack of is people who offer themselves willingly because they are no longer their own! What the earth needs is the power of Heaven, not the riches of earth or the wisdom and strength and currency of earth.

John himself declared to his disciples that his revelation was earthly and that Jesus brought a higher dimension of revelation (John 3:31). Paul also explains:

1Co 15:47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 1Co 15:48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 1Co 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

People of God, the Church has born the image of the earthy; of the flesh, for far too many years. The Word promises a transition to bearing the image of the heavenly. Christ's Church is being built on heavenly revelation by Him, in order for it to bear the image of the heavenly. When one structures Christianity according to the shadow and not the reality, we end up with a Church that has the image of the earthly, of a religious system that is merely a 'shadow' of what God intended the Body of Christ to look like.

We cannot structure our fellowships on the Levitical system because Jesus instituted a new order of priests. The Levitical temple system was kept running by tithing. So many struggle with the Church's seeming inability to break out of the clergylaity mentality, which is merely a modernized depiction of the Old Testament system of a Levitical priesthood serving the natural nation of Israel, sans the slaughtering of bulls and goats. When one builds something using the wrong pattern, one ends up with the wrong model.

So let us take a look at how Jesus fulfilled and completed man's necessity to tithe through his death and resurrection. The earthly or one-dimensional understanding is that the tithe belongs to God. All income comes from God and therefore His portion must be returned to Him. This is in order to have one's page in God's account book up to date and balanced. If this is not so, then there can be no blessing and the devourer moves in because you owe God money! The scripture that is used to support the system of tithing is this:

Mal 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

This instruction was given to the nation of Israel, Jews who practiced a system of religion under the Old Covenant. We must keep in mind that everything that preceded Jesus was a shadow, intended to portray in some measure the reality of Christ. The practices of the Old Testament, together with the people who served God until the coming of the Promised Son, ALL served as a prophetic picture in some way, to demonstrate an aspect of the Christ that was to come. The tithe is no different. Jesus knew that His death and resurrection would be fulfilling all the requirements of Jewish religious practices. We read in the passage where he washed the disciples' feet;

Joh 13:3 Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God.

Did you see that? He came from God and was returning to God. The tithe by definition is holy, separated and belonging to the Lord. Jesus WAS the Tithe in the flesh, wholly separated to the purposes of God the Father. He came from the Father and returned to the Father, thus fulfilling the accounts ledger for all mankind. The tithe has been paid by Christ Himself in His own blood. Our page is up to date in the ledger. Just as He settled all outstanding accounts regarding sin, so too He settled the outstanding debt any had concerning tithes owed. It really <u>is</u> finished, all of it!

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, Col 2:14 <u>blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us</u>, which was contrary to us, and has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.

The handwriting against us saying that we have robbed God in tithes is blotted out. It is not necessary for us to return a set portion of our income to God – instead, as we have freely received, we are to give. The temple system and the Levitical priesthood have been abolished. We are His temple, a Melchizedek priesthood. Jesus as the Tithe made flesh was the first-born of many brethren, the first-born of a Tithe company, who would be holy and set-apart for God's purposes, born of God and returning to Him. The Body of Christ is supposed to be the Tithe Company!

So then, if these verses in Malachi are a shadow, what spiritual reality do they teach us about? What are the threefold principles which we must see with our spiritual eyes? Firstly, we must note that there is a difference between a storehouse and a house. People do not live in the room in which supplies are stored. The storehouse is a depository for food and weaponry, according to the definition of the Hebrew word used here. The Church has been taught that the storehouse is the place where you get your spiritual food, the local fellowship which you regularly attend. However we are also told that this is called God's house. Well, that is confusing - do we think God dwells in a pantry? Unfortunately, this is what occurs when one uses an earthly mindset to try and interpret a heavenly principle. We depict God as someone like us, who says, "Oh, one last thing before I keep silent for 400 years, you owe Me money." We also appoint men to be our spiritual pantries, from which we withdraw weekly supplies of nourishment, which is far from what God had in mind in creating a Body for His Son.

So we need to understand what the storehouse refers to, in order to rightly divide the Word. If Jesus brought many sons into glory (Heb 2:10) by being the first-born of many brethren, then the spiritual place which He brought them into must be the storehouse, because that is where the Tithe company must Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

be brought. We see that the storehouse is a place of glory in Hebrews 2:10.

Jesus was transferring men out of a Levitical priesthood into a Melchizedek priesthood, which was sustained by the power of an endless life (Heb 7:16). If this is so, if *this* is the <u>reality</u> or substance, what was the shadow depicting this in the Old Testament? Let's go to the very first mention of a tithe in Genesis 14:

Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought forth bread and wine. And he was the priest of the most high God. Gen 14:19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of Heaven and earth. Gen 14:20 And blessed be the most high God, who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Abram gave a tithe of all in his possession to Melchizedek. What was he doing? He was bringing the whole tithe to the storehouse! Melchizedek depicts the storehouse. What did this tithe of all consist of? – spoils, people and possessions taken from the enemy in the battle he had just fought. When Paul was writing to the Hebrews, he discussed this incident:

Heb 7:2 To him Abraham also gave a tenth of all. He was first by interpretation king of righteousness, and after that also king of Salem, which is king of peace, Heb 7:3 without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest continually. Heb 7:4 Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. Heb 7:5 And truly they who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priest, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the Law, that is, from their brothers, though they come out of the loins of Abraham.

The spoils Abraham tithed from was plundered from Sodom and he refused to touch even one shoelace of the other 90 percent in case the king of Sodom claimed that he had made Abraham rich. So much for those who quote that the wealth of the wicked is laid up for the righteous in order to justify their desire for money. The father of faith, Abraham wanted none of the wealth of Sodom for himself. WE are the spoils which our Bridegroom plundered from the enemy at the cross and His intention was to deposit US in the storehouse of the Melchizedek priesthood, where there is glory. He paid in blood for the whole tithe of His Bride to be brought into this storehouse and yet some are still presenting their lives as offerings in the old temple system, where the Levitical priesthood operated. Once again, the Lots need to be freed from slavery to the king of Sodom in order to be handed over to the Melchizedek order (Lot means 'veiled'; an allusion to the Bride trapped in Sodom).

Here, in Hebrews 7:5, we see that the sons of Levi were commanded to take tithes from the people *as part of the Law*. There is a big difference between taking or demanding a tithe from your brothers in Christ (who are intended to be part of the whole tithe themselves) and giving yourself as a spoil of battle to the hand of Melchizedek, our High Priest, the true storehouse for the weapons of God. We are not part of the

Levitical priesthood enacting the Law and taking money and produce for an earthly storehouse. WE do not offer grain and meat offerings in a building made with hands. We are not under the Law. In fact, when a minister of the bread or Word of God sets himself and his bank account up as a storehouse, he is presenting himself INSTEAD OF Christ, the Melchizedek storehouse. The Greek word for 'instead of or in place of' is ANTI, as in antichrist. What a sobering realization!

Heb 7:6 But he whose descent is not counted from them <u>received</u> <i>tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

Melchizedek released a blessing and, in return, received tithes from Abraham. Blessing first, freewill offering second. This is the same blessing spoken of in Malachi 3 – the whole tithe of spoils from battle was given freely from the hand of. We are also told in verse 9 of Hebrews 7, that Levi paid tithes in Abraham. So we see there was a transfer of substance from Levi through Abraham to Melchizedek. Obviously, this again is an Old Testament shadow, depicting a reality. Out of the system of Levitical priesthood there was a transfer of a Tithe Company through Abraham to the Melchizedek Order. Right back in Genesis 14, the shadow of the Tithing transaction was completed – a people who would be kings and priests unto God were made part of the Melchizedek Order. The Melchizedek priesthood does not pay tithes, they receive tithes

– they receive into their company others who are holy and setapart for the Lord, who through water-baptism enter into the death and resurrection of the Forerunner Priest after the Order of Melchizedek, Christ. Note that the bread and the wine were brought forth <u>before</u> the tithe was put in Melchizedek's hand. It triggered the moving of the tithe from Abraham's hand to Melchizedek's hand. It is the Melchizedek priesthood who are the storehouse, dispensing the bread and wine of the revelation of Jesus to the sons of Abraham, in order that this transaction may continually take place; in order that the WHOLE Tithe Company may be brought into this spiritual position and a blessing that is uncontainable can be released in the earth. If you haven't fully surrendered yourself and come into the revelation of being part of the Melchizedek Priesthood, then you are with-holding yourself, as the Tithe and are robbing God of the fullness of what is His because of the cross! ...and finally, robbing the earth of the incredible blessing of your life poured out for many.

The bread and the wine are a type of the heavenly revelation of Christ. This is the blessing that is uncontainable – which has no end or limit. Remember Jesus said:

Joh 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

The tithe must be brought into the storehouse 'THAT THERE MAY BE <u>MEAT</u> IN MY HOUSE'. The bread and wine dispensed by the Melchizedek priesthood/storehouse IS the meat dispensed in the house. The heavenly revelation of Christ is meat for the mature. And it is through those who become the sluice-gates of Heaven, that the outpouring of the revelation of Christ comes. The earthly revelation of Christ is milk for those whose senses are not yet trained. John the Baptist came before Jesus. He revealed Jesus, the Son of Man, who walked the earth. However, Christ is no longer the Son of Man. He transitioned from this identity to being called the Son of God – with power - when He rose from the dead:

Rom 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; Rom 1:4 <u>And declared to</u> <u>be the Son of God</u> with power, according to the spirit of holiness, <u>by</u> <u>the resurrection from the dead</u>

It is time for the Church to receive heavenly revelation of Jesus, the Son of God, so that we may grow to full stature and no longer be tossed about by all sorts of teaching. If we only have a revelation of Jesus as the Son of Man, we will never experience the fullness of Christ:

Eph 4:13 And this until we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of <u>the Son of God</u>, to a full-grown man, to the measure of the stature of the <u>fullness of Christ</u>; Eph 4:14 so that we no longer may be infants, tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, in the dishonesty of men, in cunning craftiness, to the wiles of deceit.

A FAMINE FOR THE WORD OF THE LORD Furthermore, there exists a specific shadow regarding the tithe for this 3rd Day in which we live:

Deu 14:28 At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy

gates Deu 14:29 And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.KJV

The tithe of the third year went to the Levite, stranger, fatherless and widow and they ate of it within the person's own gates. In the 3rd Day since Christ came (3rd thousand year period), the Tithe Company are to give themselves for the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow. They are allotted to go to these groups of people. These poor are to be fed WITHIN our gates. Our gates are our eyes and ears, and in this case, the eyes and ears of our hearts which receive the revelation of the riches of Christ. Out of the storehouse of the revelation of Christ, the Son of God, within, we are to satisfy the hunger of the needy.

Those who are of the Levitical mindset need to be fed with the meat of the revelation of Christ. Those who are alienated from God, strangers, need to receive a revelation of the manifest love of God through us. Those orphans who have never connected with Father but been yoked to a religious system, need to be ushered into the presence of the Father of Lights. The Church who sits as a widow, without her Husband's presence, needs to taste and see that He is good and in her midst again. Out of the rich deposit of the revelation of Christ within us, the hungry will be satisfied in the 3rd Day, the day/year of the tithe. And as this blessing is poured out upon them, the Lord rebukes the devourer.

In the first and second year, according to Deuteronomy 14, the tithe was eaten by the person tithing in the designated place, the sanctuary. What does this shadow and type depict? Beloved, for the past 2000 years, the Church has been feasting off the Tithe, Christ, in the sanctuary. Now it is time for us to access and share the deposit of Christ within us with those in need. We can only manifest as the sons of God to the measure that we partake of the heavenly revelation of the Son of God ourselves and then minister bread and wine as part of the Melchizedek priesthood.

MOVING FROM MILK TO MEAT

The milk comes before the meat. Milk is a liquid; it takes the shape of the container it is poured into. It is easily swallowed and only suitable as nourishment for babies and will never bring the Body of Christ to maturity. Meat is solid; it has a 3-dimensional substance of its own and is therefore representative of the experiential reality of Christ. It must be divided, chewed and digested by the person to whom it is served.

Heb 5:13 For everyone partaking of milk is unskilful in the Word of Righteousness, for he is an infant. Heb 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, even those who because of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The teaching of the tithe prevalent in the Church today is milk. It is second-day revelation which only sustains infants who have not developed the teeth necessary to chew meat. It is part of that which was completely fulfilled by the death and resurrection of Jesus and tragically, its perpetuation keeps the old Levitical order functioning in the old temple service pattern. The word 'tooth' comes from a Hebrew word meaning 'to teach'. As long as the Church continues to imbibe this milk teaching, it will never grow to maturity and experience the fullness of its inheritance in Christ. It is time for the Church of Jesus Christ to lose their milk teeth and receive and embrace teaching which is true bread and wine. In this third day, we must move in our understanding from a Levitical mindset to receiving strong meat, dispensed by Christ who is seated in heavenly places. He is the Minister of the heavenly tabernacle and it is only as we begin to feast on the threefold things that we will be filled with resurrection power and life.

Paul tells the Galatians that when they seek to be justified by the Law, they have come under a yoke of slavery again (Gal 3:10-14). We know tithing was a part of the Law because Hebrews 12:7 told us that earlier. Paul also said:

Gal 1:11 And, brothers, I make known to you the gospel which was preached by me, that it is <u>not according to man</u>. Gal 1:12 For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it except <u>by a revelation of Jesus Christ</u>.

If we continue to receive and operate in a gospel which is according to man, we will continue to produce a religious system which does not contain the power of an indestructible life. We MUST receive a revelation of Jesus Christ as Paul did, straight from the Spirit of Truth, so that we can truly receive the blessing released to Abraham. This blessing of the fullness of our inheritance was an outcome of the promise of God, <u>so</u> that we could be a blessing to all the nations of the earth.

We must also redeem ourselves and our finances from under this yoke of slavery, so that we can begin to operate in the heart of the Father - for God so loved, He gave. God instituted a dispensation of giving because of love; thus ending a dispensation of paying of debt because of Law. When the tithe system within the Church is abolished, much of what we presently call Church, will no longer function. However, that which is a genuine deposit of Christ will remain. The earthly temple was destroyed in 70AD, signifying a complete end of the old religious order. It could no longer function without the actual temple building. There was nowhere to bring tithes and offerings to. In the same way, the religious system undergirding and enslaving much of the present expression of Christianity in the earth, will be brought to an end when the Body of Christ is released into the full freedom of the sons of God. It is time for the chaff, which has obscured and restricted the true grain within us, to be threshed and removed, that the grain may come into the storehouse. Christ, expressed within the Melchizedek priesthood, stands with His winnowing fan in His hand;

Mat 3:12 whose fan is in His hand, and He will cleanse His floor and gather His wheat into the storehouse; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

You may ask what will become of the paid ministers of the gospel if tithes are not paid. Well, certainly there will be much change in the way the Body functions. Paul worked with his

hands as a minister of the gospel in order to not be a burden on anybody, yet found time to teach and share from the Word. We are all full-time ministers of the gospel, wherever we labour. We are all kings and priests, appointed as ambassadors of a heavenly kingdom. Should the love of God direct us to give to someone who shares the Word with us, we are to do so as generously as He instructs. However, God never intended the fivefold ministry to take the place of the Levitical priesthood as paid servants of the temple. To do that is to perpetuate an obsolete system brought to a close by the Blood of Christ. We have so many entrenched religious mindsets, that only the light of Truth can release us from these shackles and wrong understandings of the Word. And the enemy loves to keep the Church frantically busy fulfilling the shadows, so that we cannot experience the fullness of the present reality of Christ in us!

May our spiritual eyes become the windows of Heaven, as we gaze into the perfect law of liberty displayed in the resurrected Christ. Then, out of our lives, there will be poured a blessing that is uncontainable - the blessing of the revelation of Christ in all His glory.

So, will the whole tithe come into the Storehouse, please? They are calling for meat in the House. Can you hear the roar of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah over the present Levitical priesthood operating illegally within His Body, "Give Me back My wife. Return My tithe to Me. You have robbed Me! You have called my wife to offer her substance in your offering plates. But I call her to offer herself as a freewill offering to Me" We see the principle of a tithe of people being called for in Nehemiah, the book in which the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt, and the people returned to serving God the way He had asked.

Neh 11:1 And the rulers of the people lived at Jerusalem. And the rest of the people cast lots, to bring **one of every ten** to live in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine parts in other cities. Neh 11:2 And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to live at Jerusalem.

Here was a tithe of the *people*, a tithe of the whole people, a tenth part of those who had come back and who had engaged in this work of rebuilding the wall, and that tenth part became a peculiar freewill offering to the Lord. This is a really important point because the Levites took tithes from the people, but this tithe of people who were willing to dwell in the heart of the land, in the city called 'Founded peaceful', was a freewill offering. It connects us to Psalm 110 where 'the people offer themselves willingly in the day of His power'.

Remember, the people of God had been captive in Babylon for 70 years and then a company had voluntarily elected to return and rebuild. Some were so happy in Babylon, they elected not to return. Then later there was a call to return again and a second sifting of people's hearts and a few more moved back to their own land. However, finally, there was a third sifting and once again, it was a freewill offering, yet there was a cost attached to it. Moving to Jerusalem meant leaving behind your home, your allotted tribal land, your fruit trees -and probably a lot of your friends and relatives. Jerusalem was not well defended in those days and so this tithe were called to present themselves as living sacrifices; as part of the company who would dwell right at the heart of the land, where the ark of God (called the ark of testimony) was. Their presence defended or kept the testimony and they remind me of those in the church of Philadelphia who were praised for 'keeping' or 'guarding' the Word. Do we not also overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our 'testimony'? These people had held onto nothing in the way of possessions or relationships and had offered themselves willingly as part of the tithe company, the one in ten to live in the 'holy city'. Their concern was the defence of that which was most holy - the ark of His presence, the table of showbread ('the bread of His presence' in the Hebrew) and the menorah. They thought of defending the Name of their God more than holding onto their everyday lives. This third sifting produced those who offer themselves willingly in the day of His power. Where would you dwell, Beloved? In your allotted portion of inheritance in the Promised Land, having separated from Babylon and its ways? Or are you willing to surrender all and be part of the holy city? Will you become part of the Tithe company, those who dwell in the New Jerusalem that descends out of Heaven from God as a Bride arrayed for her husband?

Not everyone at a wedding is the Bride. There are family members and there are invited guests, but the focus of the day is the Bridal couple. All eyes are on them. A Bride on her wedding day loses her own surname and becomes known by her husband's name. By doing this, she is leaving and forgetting her father's house and people – because the king, her bridegroom, desires her beauty (psalm 45). She becomes part of a different household.

The Bride of the Lamb dwells in His living quarters and is fed and protected by Him. She is no longer her own; bought with the Bridal Price of the Blood. She no longer looks back and refers to her past and her natural associations when considering her identity or standing in the community. She is His and she shares His wealth and His bedchamber. Others in the Promised Land catch glimpses of the King on special occasions as His entourage passes through the streets - but the Bride gets to experience intimacy and sweet communion with her Husband every day. Psalm 45 tells us she stands at his right hand in gold of Ophir. The Bridal company are vessels of gold, like the golden pot filled with manna in the interior of the ark of the Testimony. From Jerusalem go forth all the Royal decrees and the righteous judgments, as the King extends His scepter from Zion. Nehemiah 11:1 tells us that the rulers and governors dwelt in Jerusalem. This tithe company dwells among them.

Nehemiah 9 details the reconvenanting of a people with their God after acknowledging that their father's unfaithfulness led directly to the Babylonian captivity. However, only one tenth of those who participated in this reconvenanting were willing to fully surrender all and become a permanent part of the holy city. Remember what Jesus said : Joh 12:25 Anyone who loves his life loses it, but anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. [Whoever has no love for, no concern for, no regard for his life here on earth, but despises it, preserves his life forever and ever.] Joh 12:26 If anyone serves Me, he must continue to follow Me [to cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying] and wherever I am, there will My servant be also. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honour him.

In Nehemiah 11, all the names of those who offered themselves willingly as part of this tithe company are recorded. This is a book of remembrance down the generations, just like the book which the Lord kept containing the names of those who feared the Lord and thought on His Name in Malachi 3. These are His jewels, His peculiar treasures, those who are willing to surrender all – and here in Nehemiah 11, this firstfruits type are honoured as dwellers in the holy city. The Hebrew word 'dwell' also means 'to settle down and marry'. Would you like to be part of this holy city that descends out of Heaven looking like a precious jewel?? Then become part of the tithe company!

Rev 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven final plagues (afflictions, calamities) came and spoke to me. He said, Come with me! I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife. Rev 21:10 Then in the Spirit He conveyed me away to a vast and lofty mountain and exhibited to me the holy (hallowed, consecrated) city of Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God, Rev 21:11 Clothed in God's glory [in all its splendor and radiance]. The luster of it resembled a rare and most precious jewel, like jasper, shining clear as crystal. The Bridegroom is roaring over Babylon, "Give Me back My wife! Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse" and as that roar reverberates, the sifting of hearts continues...until there is a remnant; a Tithe company, who are fully willing to forsake houses and lands and mother and father, and offer themselves willingly, as the fully prepared Bride of the Lamb.

TWO STOREHOUSES GATHERING GRAIN

It is vital to remember that the counterfeit is running concurrently with the gathering into the storehouse of God. The storehouse of the god of Mammon is also gathering its tithe of souls (all those who love and serve money) and their lives will be opened as portals of darkness, to unleash the devourer through their sluice gates. What is a sluice gate depicted by in the human body? Our mouths are the portal through which a river of sound is released either for or against the Bride of Christ. The god of mammon hates those who will not give themselves as living sacrifices to its altar. This includes those who stand against abortion and, those who give and receive rather than buying and selling in Kingdom circles

– especially those who will not buy and court favour with leadership through monetary 'offerings', nor sell their souls in order to gain the praise of men! These know they are not their own, they have already been bought with a price far above the paltry currencies of earth – the precious Blood of their Bridegroom, who returns for them. They will never take a mark in order to buy and sell for they understand just who they are bowing their knee to by doing this. Jehovah Jireh is their provider – from their every breath to daily food and clothing. *Psa* 23:1 *A Psalm of David. THE LORD is my Shepherd* [to feed, guide, and shield me], I shall not lack.

I shall not lack! When Mammon is your shepherd and guide, you will lack. You will focus on money and finance and counting your money – but there will be leanness in your soul. The good Shepherd will see you have everything you need. Seek first the Kingdom and His righteousness and fix your mind on Him and He will keep you in perfect peace.

ENTERING THE GATE BEAUTIFUL

There is an account rich with hidden counsel in the third chapter of Acts, and it starts with a request for earthly coinage:

Act 3:1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour (three o'clock in the afternoon), Act 3:2 [When] a certain man crippled from his birth was being carried along, who was laid each day at that gate of the temple [which is] called Beautiful, so that he might beg for charitable gifts from those who entered the temple. Act 3:3 So when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them to give him a gift. Act 3:4 And Peter directed his gaze intently at him, and so did John, and said, Look at us! Act 3:5 And [the man] paid attention to them, expecting that he was going to get something from them. Act 3:6 But Peter said, Silver and gold (money) I do not have; but what I do have, that I give to you: in [the use of] the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk! Act 3:7 Then he took hold of the man's right hand with a firm grip and raised him up. And at once his feet and ankle bones became strong and steady, Act 3:8 And leaping forth he stood Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

and began to walk, and he went into the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

From the day of his birth, this unfortunate man looked to others to supply his daily money. In his eyes, earthly currency was what he needed to survive that particular day and all that followed. Yet, no matter how many coins were placed in his hand, he was unable to enter through the gate he sat at. This Gate Beautiful was the eastern gate to the temple and through it walked every person who came to worship and bring their offering to God. It led into the court of the women, which contained the metal trumpet-shaped offering baskets; 7 for doves, wood, etc and 6 for freewill offerings. It was also the area where the Nazarites performed their vows and one had to pass through it in order to get the rest of the temple. In addition to this, every year at Tabernacles, 4 huge lamps were lit by the priests in this area, which gave so much light that the whole of Jerusalem was lit up by its rays. In fact, this is why it was called the City of Lights at this time.

This beggar watched guilty men walk in with their offerings, heads hanging in shame, and he also saw them come out justified. He watched healed lepers coming to show themselves to the priests and leaving rejoicing, once they had been pronounced clean. He watched those who came to celebrate the feasts rejoicing as they went in and fellowshipping together as they returned home. He may have sung a few lines along with them as they disappeared from view...But he was unable to enter that huge gateway, because he was deformed and forbidden to enter the temple, no matter how much money was channeled his way.

This gate was called the Gate Beautiful because it was decorated with a huge Corinthian bronze relief of the city of Shushan. Of course, Shushan was the city where Esther entered into the court of the King and emerged a year later, after extensive purifying and beautifying treatments, as queen. Corinth was the city with which Paul dealt extensively concerning sexual sin, when he wrote his two letters to the church there. Strange that this was the place where very high quality bronze came from – but then again, maybe not. When the refiner's fire has purged the spirit of harlotry and idolatry from the heart of the church, then He is left with a workable metal, fit to be sculpted to become part of the Gate Beautiful. The church's harlotry with the world and its value system places it outside the gate; its obsession with money as the answer to all its needs to extend the kingdom makes Mammon its god. In a sense, we are that beggar, lame from our birth into the Kingdom, daily thinking that if our hand could be filled with finance, it would meet our need. And we have no ability to help ourselves out of this plight, because our focus is wrong.

Jas 4:3 [Or] you do ask [God for them] and yet fail to receive, because you ask with wrong purpose and evil, selfish motives. Your intention is [when you get what you desire] to spend it in sensual pleasures.

What we need is connection with those who have walked with Jesus; who are full to the brim with His resurrection power. No wonder Peter said, "Look at us". The currency of earth is not what we need. They had been with Jesus. We need the power of God. We need to stop looking at the purses of people and look to the source of all power, Heaven itself. We need to take the hand of one who has come forth from His presence and arise from the dust and be freed from the shackles which a Mammon-serving doctrine has put upon us.

Shackles used to be made of brass and the Hebrew word for 'brass' is also the word for 'coin'. The coins you hold out your hand for continually, have put shackles on your spiritual progress. Are you looking for the wealth of the wicked to be released to you, so that you can do what you feel God has called you to do? Do you check the stock markets constantly and fix your mind most of the day on what to invest in? And yet, no matter how much money is put in your hand, it has not empowered you to stand and walk through that Gate Beautiful to the place of the freewill offering caskets; to the place where the giant lamps give brilliant light and the priests leap for joy...

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Mat 6:22 The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is sound, your entire body will be full of light. Mat 6:23 But if your eye is unsound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the very light in you [your conscience] is darkened, how dense is that darkness! Mat 6:24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions, or whatever is trusted in).

Is your eye focused on money to solve your problems and open the way to fulfill your purpose in God? Then your eye is unsound. That sounds harsh, but the truth usually confronts us before it makes us free! The laser beam which removes your cataracts does cause some pain - but then you can see clearly! And I have wonderful news for you - you were never intended to be the wife of Mammon; you were bought before the foundation of the world with the bridal price of the Blood of the Lamb and so any subsequent marriages are invalid and all you need to do is walk away and renounce that unholy covenant. Mammon will not be your Lord, for you call only One, "Lord". You are aligning yourself with the first commandment and will have no other gods before Him - not even 'Self'. You are able to loose yourselves from the bonds about your neck and arise and return to being the wife of the Lamb. If 'Self' is not one of your gods, then Mammon has a more difficult time getting onto the throne of your heart. So deal first with 'I' and get to a place of being able to say from the bottom of your heart, "It's all about You, Lord."

The physical temple is a picture of the spiritual temple of the Lord, built not with hands. We are living in the day of His power and it is time to join hands with the resurrection power of your true Bridegroom and be strengthened to stand and enter through the gate Beautiful, in order to offer yourself as a freewill offering in one of those 6 trumpetshaped treasure chests. Hebrews 12 says that when our Father God chastises us, it is for our certain good, that we may share in His holiness. We are urged to cut through straight paths for ourselves so that our feet may no longer be lame:

Heb 12:12 So then, brace up and reinvigorate and set right your slackened and weakened and drooping hands and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees. Heb 12:13 And cut through and make firm and plain and smooth, straight paths for your feet [yes, make them safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction], so that the lame and halting [limbs] may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured.

Make straight paths for your feet so that you may no longer be lame. But your feet will follow where your mind goes! First, you have to make a new pathway for your thoughts. Renew your mind in this area. Repent for looking to Mammon as your provider. Repent for the continual sin of self-gratification in whatever form you are inclined to practice it. Is your stomach your god? Do you spend every cent that passes through your hands on meeting your own needs and appetites? Realign your heart and your thought pathway and you will no longer be spiritually lame. The treasure of Heaven is the souls of men. Instead of looking for a handout, give *yourself* as a treasure into the Hand of God and cleanse yourself of the lust for material things (the lust of the eyes and the lust of the flesh). Count them as dung compared to the incredible treasure of knowing Christ. It is not the presence or absence of money that stands in your way to entering into the fullness of all God has planned for you. It is your wrongly aligned dependence that keeps you lame. When your heart is undivided and you are fully God's, then His abundant supply awaits you in every area of need.

Rom 8:32 He who did not withhold or spare [even] His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely and graciously give us all [other] things?

Each offering brought through the Gate Beautiful, was thrown into one of those 13 chests – and it made a sound as it fell to the bottom. I hear the Lion of Judah roar at the god of Mammon, saying, "Give Me back My wife" and I see in this day, a mighty wave of former slaves to Mammon, leaping and praising God as they enter through the Gate Beautiful into the true temple not made with hands, offering themselves willingly in the day of His power as psalm 110 speaks of – and the resulting sound released in the earth from that treasure chest or storehouse will shake the nations, as men and women who are holy bond-slaves cover the earth like dew, released to their end-time assignments.

Psa 110:3 Your people will offer themselves willingly in the day of Your power, in the beauty of holiness and in holy array out of the womb of the morning; to You [will spring forth] Your young men, who are as the dew. No longer looking to the god of Mammon to fill their coffers, so they can build for themselves fancy houses and fill them with lavish material possessions, these ones have been delivered from the grip of Mammon and no longer serve two masters. They want nothing other than to bring God glory as they represent His Name in the earth:

Isa 4:1 And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread and provide our own apparel; only let us be called by your name to take away our reproach.

These 'women' or churches want to be known as the 'wife'; they want to be carriers of His Name. They are not looking for lavish provision. They are even prepared to make their own bread and garments in order to be allowed to be part of those called by HIS NAME. Knowing that to be known as His means every need supplied, they no longer fix their minds on earthly things, but seek first the Kingdom and its purposes. They themselves have become part of that Gate Beautiful, introducing others to the joy of being 'Nazarites', set-apart ones who are truly not their own. And daily, the sound of those who offer themselves willingly increases in the earth; this holy trumpet sound tearing apart demonic strongholds which have stood for generations, and loosing those who were held bound.

2Ti 2:21 So whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart

and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.

And the whole tithe comes in, soul by soul; vessels of silver and gold who have cleansed themselves and are fit for the Master's use! The power of the Blood is their currency; the face of Jesus their only focus and they love not their own lives even unto death. They will not bow their knee to Mammon; they will not sell their souls in order to receive a mark enabling them to buy and sell. Their foreheads have already been sealed with a mark that says 'holy to the Lord'. They will belong to no other. What can Death do to them when they have already passed from death to Life?

Chapter 9 ~ AN EARTHLY OR A HEAVENLY SOUND

God spoke and there was light. A sound which originates with God produces light. God's light brings truth and freedom. When vessels are disconnected from the throne of God, the only sound they are able to release is fleshly and has its origin in the soul; a weak counterfeit without the power to transform lives. We are told that harlotry and wine and new wine take away the heart and mind and spiritual understanding (Hos 4:11) Adultery with the god of Mammon and the things of the world has polluted the pitch and tone of the church of Jesus Christ. Eventually, a lack of clear sound released by anointed leadership has resulted in confusion and apathy amongst God's people.

Jdg 5:7 The leaders ceased in Israel, they ceased until I, Deborah, arose; until I arose, a mother in Israel...Jdg 5:12 Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, utter a song!

Notice there was no leadership in Israel at that time UNTIL Deborah arose. The severity of enemy oppression had decimated leadership amongst God's people. Then Deborah stood up and took her appointed place. The phrase that struck me was 'a mother in Israel'. The name Deborah comes from the word 'dabar' which means 'to utter or decree'. It's time for the prophetic mothers in the Body of Christ to arise and speak; to utter or decree. It is time for those with a heart for the children of God (those who have not yet grown to mature manhood) to wake up and issue forth the God-given sound within their spirits. The Church is in disarray and like sheep without a shepherd and the Father wants to raise up those with His 'mother' heart to 'utter a song' that brings clarity and light and direction. It takes those with understanding of the times to know what the people of God ought to do. Jesus judged no situation with His own understanding but explained that as He heard what the Father was saying, He judged.

Deborah was the first female Judge of Israel and she symbolizes the endtime Bride, a straight and regal palm tree amidst the bent and misshapen trees in the Church, who have been influenced and shaped over the years by the strong winds of the spirit of this age. For so long the message of tolerance and accepting a less than godly standard in the name of love, has been blasted from secular media outlets, that many leaders in the church have exchanged the pure life-giving water of the Holy Spirit for the seeker-friendly lukewarm water of the spirit of this age - and as a result have become bent and conformed to the way the winds of the world system are blowing. In contrast to this, those who wear on their foreheads the seal that says 'Holy to the Lord' have sunk their roots deep into the Rock of Ages and draw their water source from the uncompromising pure Word of the Water of Life. They are the psalm 1 corporate man, not walking in the counsel of the ungodly, but delighting in the law of the Lord. They are an upright tree in a crooked world.

Song of Songs 7:7 calls the Bride a palm tree; the verse number speaking of perfect balances, double completion or 20/20 vision. Deborah, a prophetess and a mother in Israel, arose to her appointed place as a judge after Israel had been under severe oppression for 20 years:

Jdg 4:4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, judged Israel at that time. Jdg 4:5 She sat under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment.

Her husband's name, Lappidoth, means 'fiery flame'. Who is the One who has eyes like a flame of fire? He is a depiction of the Son of God, our Bridegroom (Rev 1:13). So Deborah is a prophetic type of the wife of the Lamb. How significant that she sat under a palm tree to rightly judge issues...and where was this palm tree situated? Between Ramah, an idolatrous high place and Bethel, the house of God. The people of God in those days were steeped in idolatry or spiritual adultery and visited both places, worshipping both God and demons. And there, between the two, like a pivot point on a pair of balances, sat Deborah, rightly dividing issues and resolving moral conflicts under the shade of the large upright tree's shade. She eats of the fruit of the palm tree -dates, symbolizing receiving understanding of the times (or dates) herself and then dispensing it to whoever comes to sit under her shade. She represents the Bride, who follows the Lamb wherever He goes; she doesn't judge by the sight of her eyes or the hearing of her ears but with righteousness and justice she decides for the poor and the oppressed - and like the

Isaiah 11 pattern of the Son, she strikes the earth and the oppressor with the rod of her mouth. Some of the things she decrees are not easily swallowed. They sound harsh in this pillow-soft soothing atmosphere which the spirit of compromise has filled the Church air with. Yet the Bridegroom has something to say about the water that comes from the mouth of His Bride:

Son 7:9 And the roof of your mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goes down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak.

How interesting! This palm tree Bride who has been positioned in a place to release right judgments has water turned to wine coming forth from her mouth! And where is the wine coming from? The Hebrew word for 'roof of your mouth' comes from a root word meaning 'flint'. A flint stone is the tool used to circumcise a child on the 8th day or, in the case of the Israelites, on the day they entered the Promised Land – a rather painful experience! It's one thing to exit the wilderness and cross the Jordan because other holy vessels carrying the presence of God are holding back the waters, but after that, each man must recovenant with God just as the father of Faith, Abraham did. Until they went through circumcision, they could not fully experience Passover and its benefits or take Jericho. Unless you are in covenant with El Gibbor, the Lord of Hosts, you will have no victory over the enemy in this new land you have entered into.

So we see that the words and sound issuing forth from this Deborah Company have the ability to circumcise the hearts of those who are fresh from their wilderness of preparation and equipped for war. And it is mature men that are being circumcised, before receiving their allotted portion of inheritance in the Promised Land!

When one is in battle, it is vitally important to be able to see clearly who your enemy is and in this day it is crucial that the eyes of our hearts have their astigmatism and shortsightedness lasered before entering into the endtime battle. 20/20 vision is of paramount importance. We must be able to humbly receive correction from the Spirit of Truth and also rightly divide the Word of Truth because the level of demonic doctrine and deception issuing forth from some pulpits is so high, one can almost smell it.

Son 7:9 And the roof of your mouth like the best wine for my beloved, that goes down sweetly, causing the lips of those that are asleep to speak.

And how desperately important it is for the best wine to be released in this day. As Song of Songs 7:9 says, it goes down sweetly – but, more than that, it has the ability to awaken those who are asleep in the Church, so they too can speak or do what God has called them to do!! Deborah had to release a sound in order to call Barak to awake and come and stand in his place of leadership, before the battle could be fought and the enemy defeated. The time is here for the Bride to release a trumpet sound that awakens the sleeping in Zion. Firstly, she herself must be a freewill offering cast into the trumpet-shaped casket, so that her own vessel's sound is pure. Then she can release a sound that awakens others. The wine of this world will put you to sleep, but the best wine from the mouth of the Bride awakens the sleeping!

It's time to wake up the mighty men (Joel 3:9), as we are headed into the Day of the Lord and the battle of all spiritual battles. Multitudes are in the valley of decision and the Lord Jehovah will roar out of Zion. Job tells us He has a storehouse of hail reserved for the time of war. Hail is hard chunks of frozen water, portions of the Word placed on ice until this particular time in history – hard words that sting when they make contact with flesh - and cause significant damage to man-made vehicles! The hail released during the plagues in Egypt was so horrendous that every Egyptian who did not heed the Lord's warnings to come under cover, died. Only those who feared the God of Israel escaped destruction. Thunder and fire accompanied the hail. There was only one place in the whole land where no hail fell:

Exo 9:23 Then Moses stretched forth his rod toward the heavens, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire (lightning) ran down to and along the ground, and the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt. Exo 9:24 So there was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the weighty hail, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. Exo 9:25 The hail struck down throughout all the land of Egypt everything that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail beat down all the vegetation of the field and shattered every tree of the field. Exo 9:26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were, was there no hail.

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

Goshen means 'to draw near'. Only those who have drawn very near to the Lord and are dwelling in the secret place of the Most High will not experience the effects of the hail being released in the coming days. Only those worshipping at the altar of incense escape the trampling that is described in the outer court of the temple in Revelation 11:2. Those who are part of the temple of the Lord (His Body), but know Him only afar off and continue in their fleshly compromised lifestyles, will feel the sting of the hail and experience the fire of righteous judgment and destruction as they reap what they have sown.

Joe 3:16 The Lord will thunder and roar from Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shall shake; but the Lord will be a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the children of Israel.

The valley of decision is a place of choosing where to run to for shelter. Do you separate fully from the lifestyle of Egypt and run into the safe shelter of Goshen or do you despise the covering of the Heavenly Bridegroom and continue in spiritual harlotry with the world and the most damaging of all idolatry, the worship of Self? The Hebrew word for (valley of) 'decision' means 'threshing sledge'. The valley of decision is the place of the separation of the wheat from the chaff; the removal of all that is fleshly and the preserving of what is truly nutritious and lifegiving. The valley of decision is the place where your whole walk before God is threshed, to remove the chaff. Don't cling to that which God is trying to remove from your life – it is the very thing preventing the true nutritional value of your life being accessed by the hungry. As long as the chaff remains, the treasure of the kernel of Christ contained within you cannot be consumed. Yield to His winnowing fan.

Luk 3:17 His winnowing shovel (fork) is in His hand to thoroughly clear and cleanse His [threshing] floor and to gather the wheat and store it in His granary, but the chaff He will burn with fire that cannot be extinguished.

The word for 'winnow' in Greek also means 'to thoroughly cleanse and purge'. God has begun a final process of threshing His Church; of separating light from darkness and calling a spade a spade. The Latin word for 'threshing sledge is 'tribulum' from which we get the English word 'tribulation'. Yes, Beloved, it is through much tribulation and threshing of our hearts that we enter the Kingdom – and ultimately, it is the time of the Tribulation which is the instrument God uses to separate and clearly demonstrate those who are truly His from those who masquerade as children of God, yet have hearts full of darkness.

Only those who tremble at His Word and walk in the fear of the Lord will set themselves apart as holy vessels, fit for the Master's use. When a tsunami comes, people flee to high ground for safety but in the tsunami of the words about to be released from Heaven toward a fleshly compromised Church, the only high place that will be safe is 'Mount Zion', to become part of the company of those who wear the seal 'Holiness to the Lord'. So Deborah must utter her sound in the earth and release her song to trigger the next chapter. It is the sound that raises up and positions leaders for the battle ahead and transitions the people of God out of a time of severe oppression under Sisera, the commander of the army of the Canaanite king. Twenty years is a long time to sit under the sound of a demon-worshipping unclean culture. It is hardly surprising that the fear of man had usurped the fear of God in the hearts of God's people.

When a call went out to rally and fight for freedom, some tribes did not respond, but stayed sitting where they were positioned. They were either completely paralyzed by the oppression, or they preferred the comfort of the status quo because they at least had their lives, even if they were oppressed. In the same way, there are many believers in this day, who prefer not to step up to the plate; who prefer to stay hidden and silent rather than attract unwelcome attention and persecution (or even death)for declaring truth.

The reason the Lord is doing such a thorough cleansing of His temple is this: He desires to release a pure sound from His temple to wage war against the enemy. Therefore every hiding place of darkness within, which will negatively impact that sound, must be dealt with. God is light and there is no darkness in Him. His Bride must look the same and release the sevenfold light and sound that routs the enemy.

Isa 66:6 [Hark!] *An uproar from the city! A voice from the temple! The voice of the Lord, rendering recompense to His enemies!*

The voice or sound released from the temple must be the roar of many waters from holy vessels. This is the spiritual sceptre extended from Zion, ruling in the midst of His enemies (psalm 110); the sound of His people offering themselves, not their wallets but their lives, willingly in the day of His power. Then He will strike through kings and reap the harvest of many souls in the nations of the earth. The harvest is ripe but the harvesters are checking their bank accounts and bowing their knee to the god of Mammon. So let the Deborah's who are rightly seated, release a call along with the Bridegroom. He wants His wife back!

The sound Deborah releases to the people of God should cause them to return to right alignment with Heaven, rather than continue past her to the high places of Ramah and all the idolatry involved there. It is an incisive sound; a cutting sound, dividing between bone and marrow and soul and spirit – a word in total union with the spirit of the Living Word of Truth. It is a sound which separates the Betrothed from all that defiles her and sends her back into the arms of Him Who paid in full for her with His own Blood.

At present, the Church of Jesus Christ is making an earthly sound; a sound polluted by the love of money, selfish ambition and the doctrines of men. We have borne the image of the earthly. It is time to bear the image of the Heavenly. And as the image of Jesus comes forth within His set-apart vessels, the sound of Heaven is emitted from their earthen vessels. For God so loved, He gave of Himself; He sent His firstborn Son, a Seed of Light, to penetrate a dark world. And now, in this day, once again, we give ourselves willingly for the cause of Heaven, sons and daughters born of that Seed, flesh of His flesh, one spirit with Him and we too are sent to penetrate the darkness with His heavenly light, carried within. His light has a sound and a fragrance that drives back the darkness and makes the demons tremble. The entrance of His Word brings light and His Word made flesh in you also brings light and the fragrance of Jesus.

Chapter 10 ~ HOUSE OF SAUL OR HOUSE OF DAVID

Have you noticed that the Lord presents two choices over and over again throughout the Word; and they are poles apart from one another. In Deuteronomy, He says, "I set before you life and death. Choose life that you and your children may live". Then we are called to make the choice between light and darkness, Christ and Belial. They have no common ground. The choice of the one, by its very nature, moves one away from the other. There are essentially only two voices in the earth; that of the faithful High Priest, Jesus and that of the accuser of the brethren, satan (the one who is the father of lies). Lending your ear to the one will move you further and further into his territory and away from the other. He even goes so far as to urge us to trust in the Lord and to place no trust in man, to sow to the Spirit and not to the flesh. When one examines it, the notion of straddling the fence in any one of these choices is actually a myth. By our very refusal to choose that which promotes Heaven and Kingdom purposes, we are advancing the cause of Hell. A fish that does not actively swim upstream toward the source will find itself being carried downstream.

What complicates matter is the presence of counterfeits. Not only are there real angels of light; there are also those who masquerade as messengers of righteousness. Those who do not walk closely with the Lord, studying to show themselves approved as those who can rightly divide the Word, are vulnerable to the persuasive doctrines of demons. Because demons thrive on flesh and all its manifestations, the fellowship that incorporates doctrines of demons and the commandments of man into its belief system, will display clearly the fruit thereof. What is borne of the flesh is flesh. What is borne of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:6). Unfortunately, when flesh masquerades as spirit for long enough, people become used to its presence and forget what a true manifestation of the Spirit is like. Such is the tragedy of much of the modern-day Church, particularly in the Western nations.

We can characterise what is presenting itself as being the House of Saul as opposed to the House of David. Both were kings in their time but the difference between them was like night and day. And it was the heart of the man who was king that made all the difference. God has not promised to raise up the tabernacle of Saul in these end times; nor did He bring forth a messiah from the house of Saul. It was the house of David that produced the Son of God made flesh. Matthew traces the genealogy of Jesus according to the flesh and it is important enough to be recorded for all generations of Believers to read. God was very specific concerning His choices for both Mary and Joseph, in spite of the fact that Joseph contributed no DNA to the conception of Jesus. God knew that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree and that the atmosphere of the home Jesus was brought up in was vitally important. This is largely determined by the godly leadership of the Husband.

Obviously the DNA of a family is the blueprint used to bring into the light every visible manifestation of that hidden code, as generation after generation of children are born. Whatever seed is sown into the womb determines the characteristics of the fruit brought forth. In the same way, fellowships or church groups have 'DNA' which produces within their ranks certain manifestations or types of bodies. In essence however, all fall into one of two categories – they either a house after the House of Saul or a house built on the DNA of the original House of David. So where am I sitting every Sunday? Sometimes it is difficult to discern in just which house we find ourselves in our present fellowship circles. So let's take a look at the differences between the two to shed a bit of light on the matter.

HOUSE OF SAUL

Firstly, Saul was the first king which the Israelites had. Before this time, they had been a theocracy. In other words, God Himself ruled them, through His prophets and judges. It was the pagan nations who had kings which ruled them. Yet the elders among God's people demanded that Samuel give them a king *'like the other nations'*. Right here is the picture of the people who are supposed to be God's set-apart and distinct treasure, craving to be like the world... and that desire is still running strongly in the modern church's veins. Terms like 'seeker-friendly' whitewash the real issue.

The Body of Christ still desires to be like the world around it; to fit in and be part of the in crowd, *'like the other nations'*. Back then, this demand broke Samuel's heart. He loved Abba Father with all his heart and felt the sharp betrayal, because essentially the people were no longer satisfied with the Prophet who heard God's voice (and it was said of Samuel that none of his words fell to the ground ie.100% accuracy) – they had to have a man with a golden crown on a throne instead. Yet God acquiesced, coupled with an instruction to warn His people what the granting of their request would bring.

1Sa 8:10 So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who asked of him a king.1Sa 8:11 And he said, These will be the ways of the king who shall reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. 1Sa 8:12 He will appoint them for himself to be commanders over thousands and over fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest and to make his implements of war and equipment for his chariots. 1Sa 8:13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. 1Sa 8:14 He will take your fields, your vineyards, and your olive orchards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. 1Sa 8:15 He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. 1Sa 8:16 He will take your men and women servants and the best of your cattle and your donkeys and put them to his work. 1Sa 8:17 He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves shall be his slaves. 1Sa 8:18 In that day you will cry out because of your king you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not hear you then.

Beloved, here is the best description we could ever ask for of the activities of the House of Saul. Notice how many times the word 'take' is mentioned. Not once does Samuel say that this king will give. It will be all about him; his vision, his ministry, his calling. Everyone else is there to be of use to

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

him! Your sons and daughters will no longer be your own; they are taken into service to this king, to reap his harvest and fashion his instruments of war. Not only that, but your own beautiful fields and vineyards and orchards, which you have sown and carefully tended, will be taken away from you and given to his servants. Talk about land appropriation! You have a small ministry going and the moment this king sets eyes on it, he decides he knows someone much more spiritually equipped to run it and you find yourself bereft. This king is not interested in your vision or your calling. It's all about him. He is God's man of the hour. You serve him!

He will also take a tithe from you and give it to those who are high-ranking in his employ! Sound familiar? Beloved, this is the spirit of Saul and it means that all those under such a 'king' become slaves to his enterprise. All he is focussed on is the extension of his kingdom, the building of his palaces and the feathering of his nest. The best of everything you have will be requisitioned in service of this House. If you have a gift or talent, you will be required to bring it to the table to edify and build up this House and its occupants. This is exactly how David came to be playing his harp for Saul!

1Sa 16:15 Saul's servants said to him, Behold, an evil spirit from God torments you. 1Sa 16:16 Let our lord now command your servants here before you to find a man who plays skilfully on the lyre; and when the evil spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well. 1Sa 16:17 Saul told his servants, Find me a man who plays well and bring him to me. 1Sa 16:18 One of the young men said, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who plays skilfully, a valiant man, a man of war, prudent in speech and eloquent, an attractive person; and the Lord is with him. 1Sa 16:19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, Send me David your son, who is with the sheep.

"Send me your son!" Not, "Is it possible...?" but a command, with no explanation attached. If you have a son who has something I need, he is mine! Of course sometimes in church circles, this is couched in more flattering terms so that one almost feels it is God Himself who is requesting your performance. However, any attempt to use that talent outside the boundaries of the House and you will be pulled back in line.

One would think that after this description, the people would be horrified and cancel their request for a king. But no, they thought this king would represent them and fight their battles for them! What short memories they had! Remember all the great victories God had given them without any earthly king at their head!

The Lord showed Samuel who to anoint as king and so Samuel privately anointed Saul as God had showed him. Then he told Saul to be among his people when everyone was called together to announce who was king. It was an incredible honour to eat with the Prophet of God and afterwards, the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon Saul, so that he prophesied. Yet, when the gathering of the people occurred, Saul was nowhere to be found. He had an appointment to keep on God's calendar and yet, when it was time to stand up and take responsibility for his appointed role, he hid.

1Sa 10:22 Therefore they inquired of the Lord further, if the man would yet come back. And the Lord answered, Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage.

Not only did he hide, but the place he chose was among the baggage. The spirit of Saul is always connected to spiritual baggage. Saul's own emotional baggage, desire to be kingpin and smouldering jealousy led eventually to being harassed by an evil spirit, behaving like a lunatic and throwing spears and, finally, to dabbling in witchcraft and losing his throne.

Beloved, if you are situated in a house with the DNA of the House of Saul, you will find jealousy and competition is rife. There will also be backbiting, slander and an attempt to take out of the way by any means, the one who seems in more favour or carry more anointing. It is a very dangerous place to be if you have a heart after God's own heart, like David. You may be there just to serve and to fulfil whatever duty is required of you, but your life is in danger. The enemy knows that God is going to raise up the tabernacle of David and that the Messiah who took his keys was of the House of David...

and anyone who behaves remotely like him will be added to his hit list. No matter how good you are at dodging spears, eventually you will have to flee like David did. Why? ...Because the king of the House of Saul does not carry the DNA of David.

Saul also had not regard for spiritual protocol or for the different giftings in the Body. In 1Sam 13, he was impatient for things to happen and did what Samuel alone was supposed to do. And why? ...because people were leaving him!

1Sa 13:11 Samuel said, What have you done? Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines were assembled at Michmash, 1Sa 13:12 I thought, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord. So I forced myself to offer a burnt offering.

Saul cared more about his own victory and troop numbers than he did about God's commandments. He wanted things to move along and so he leant on his own understanding and went beyond the measure appointed him. How often do we find men in places of authority in the Church impatient for success, panicking because people are leaving, and moving in the flesh to prevent it. Sadly, as we shall read now, it cost Saul his kingdom and his crown.

1Sa 13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, You have done foolishly! You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God which He commanded you; for the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever; 1Sa 13:14 But now your kingdom shall not continue; the Lord has sought out a man after His own heart, and

the Lord has commanded him to be prince and ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.

There is a key verse which gives us insight into the spiritual atmosphere whenever there is a Saul on the throne and it also shows us his heart:

1Sa 14:52 There was severe war against the Philistines all the days of Saul, and whenever Saul saw any mighty or [outstandingly] courageous man, he attached him to himself.

There is constant spiritual attack and warfare during the reign of Saul. Not a moment of peace and quiet; the enemy was always lurking in the shadows. How exhausting! Not only this but Saul's eye was constantly roving over his subjects to see anyone who was exemplary and he would then 'attach them to himself'. Once again we see that it was all about him. And anyone who was valiant and courageous was harnessed to his cause. 'He attached them to himself'... how many leaders in the Body of Christ are guilty of this?

In 1 Samuel 15, we find that another detrimental aspect of Saul's character is displayed. He disobeys the instruction of the Lord to annihilate the enemy.

1Sa 15:9 Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, oxen, fatlings, lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them; but all that was undesirable or worthless they destroyed utterly.

Saul used his own judgment and decided to keep what looked valuable. He also did not slay the enemy king. These fleshly decisions cost him his position and his relationship with Samuel, the Prophet. Yet, it is quite astonishing how shallow his repentance is. He cares more about what the people think of him and asks Samuel to walk with him and honour him before the people.

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim (household good luck images). Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king. 1Sa 15:24 And Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned; for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 1Sa 15:25 Now, I pray you, pardon my sin and go back with me, that I may worship the Lord.... 1Sa 15:30 Saul said, I

have sinned; yet honour me now, I pray you, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.

A love of the praises of men and an inability to be obedient to God's instruction – coupled with an unteachable spirit and a heart that doesn't easily repent, eventually leads to the shut-down of the voice of the true Prophet in the House of Saul. Oh yes, there will be the witches of Endor and other false prophetic voices to fill the gap, but the testimony of Jesus which is the spirit of prophesy will have left the building.

1Sa 15:35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of

The true prophet may grieve over the state of the House of Saul, but his assignment to speak direction and into Saul's life has been cancelled by Heaven. Saul is past help. God is already busy with the man after His own heart, preparing him for the assignment ahead of him.

1Ch 10:13 So Saul died for his trespass against the Lord [in sparing Amalek], for his unfaithfulness in not keeping God's word, and also for consulting [a medium with] a spirit of the dead to inquire pleadingly of it, 1Ch 10:14 And inquired not so of the Lord [in earnest penitence]. Therefore the Lord slew him and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.

For three transgressions the Lord slew Saul. And He turned the kingdom over to David, Son of Jesse. However, the turning over was a process and not an instant hand-over. In just the same way, death is coming to the Saul and his sons in the present-day Church system (for much the same transgressions) and God is in the process of transferring the kingdom from the House of Saul to those whose hearts are like David's.

THE HOUSE OF DAVID

'David, son of Jesse'... Jesse means 'I exist, one who is present ' – in other words, 'I am'. What a powerful prophetic forerunner of the One Who was to come, Whose Father is 'I Am that I Am'! No past tense, no gravestone; ever-present and ever working out His eternal purposes for the kingdom. Now that God's people have experienced what it was like to be under the slavery of King Saul, the Father is ready to bring forth His trump card, a king from the loins of one whose name means "I exist, I Am'. And what a difference there is in the house of David! When David was called to be anointed, he was out feeding his father's sheep.

Psa 78:70 He chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds; Psa 78:71 From tending the ewes that had their young He brought him to be the shepherd of Jacob His people, of Israel His inheritance. Psa 78:72 So [David] was their shepherd with an upright heart; he guided them by the discernment and skilfulness [which controlled] his hands.

God had been watching David while he was hidden from the general public. He scrutinized his heart and his ways with his sheep and saw that he had a heart of integrity. He did not run when the bear and the lion came. He was no hireling. God could trust him to look after His people in the same way. Beloved, God has been watching you as you go about your daily routine. He knows intimately the quality of the warp and weft of the cloth you are fashioned from. He knows whether He can trust you to care for His people and rule with integrity.

Out on the hills, David worshipped God with his harp and fought the preparatory battles God brought his way, unaware that they were shaping him for greatness. His hunger for intimacy with God propelled him into composing song after song. Those with hearts carrying the DNA of the House of David are busy ministering and caring for those sheep placed under their responsibility by their Father. And they worship God with all their hearts while they spend long hours alone on the heights. They have fought battles others haven't witnessed and conquered enemies that those in the lowlands fear greatly. And it is all recorded in God's Book, not in the annals of the populace or the local newspaper. Their characters have been forged in the lonely place, where only God and the angels are witnesses.

1Sa 16:12 Jesse sent and brought him. David had a healthy reddish complexion and beautiful eyes, and was fine-looking. The Lord said [to Samuel], Arise, anoint him; this is he.1Sa 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

David had beautiful eyes. The eyes are the windows to the soul. He had spent much time beholding the beauty of the Lord and it showed. As we behold Him, we are changed from glory to glory. The beauty of the Lord was upon David. He was also anointed king in the midst of his brothers. The family was aware what was happening. This is in contrast to Saul who was anointed privately after a meal with the Prophet. David's older brothers witnessed the oil being poured on their youngest brother's head. What an astonishing turn of events.... Certainly God's ways are not man's ways and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

However, this was not a sign of David's immediate ascension to the throne. The House of Saul had to decrease first and David had to go through a long period in the Refiner's fire. He played the harp for Saul <u>after</u> he had been anointed by Samuel, but he did not try and take the throne by force. He was a man yielded to God's timing and God's method. He honored Saul in spite of his foul behavior toward him. This was a time when the rubber met the road and what was in David's heart came out.

Any kind of pressure will reveal what you are made of – the cloth of Saul or of David. Do you resort to manipulation and witchcraft when threatened or your progress delayed, or do you quietly wait for God to promote you in His time? The anointing by the Prophet was only the beginning of the transfer of the kingdom. After that, David was anointed by the tribe of Judah as King, and then finally a third time by the elders of Israel.

God is a God of process. He is a 3-in-1 God of threefold things. He completes the work He begins, but the flesh of man wants the throne immediately after the Prophet releases the word of kingship. Do not make that mistake. Just as David was not ready for the throne when Samuel anointed him, so too you are not ready as a vessel to walk in the shoes of the prophetic word over your life at the moment it is spoken over you. That word must be fleshed out in you.

It is no good wearing the garment of a king if you do not have the heart of a king. And this process is excruciating and lengthy... and there is no shortcut. Your heart must be tested while enemy after enemy assails you, while you are betrayed and hunted and rejected by men; while you are despised and considered of no worth and men hide their faces from you. You have to be a man or woman of sorrows, acquainted with grief; one who has experienced the comfort of the Comforter, not the comfort of man. You must fellowship in the sufferings of the Messiah from the House of David. You have to have His image forged in you while the Refiner's fire burns out the dross within. You are the earthen furnace in which the Word is purified seven times. When there is no flesh, no dross, left, then you come forth from that place of intense testing as a vessel of honour, fit for the Master's use. He takes great pains in the forging of His sons from the House of David. He cannot have another Saul on the throne...

David's second anointing came after the death of Saul. Finally the man that pursued him day and night is cut off. What a relief. All those psalms David wrote crying out for God to deliver him from his enemies and bring him forth into a large wide open space are finally being fulfilled. Many of us would have rushed to claim the throne at that point, but not David. He had moved to Hebron under God's direction after he married Abigail, the widow of Nabal, and while he was dwelling here at the place of the judgment seat of Israel, he received the second confirmation of kingship.

2Sa 2:1 AFTER THIS, David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the Lord said to him, Go up. David said, To which shall I go up? And He said, To Hebron. 2Sa 2:2 So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 2Sa 2:3 And David brought up his men who were with him, each one with his household, and they dwelt in the towns of Hebron. 2Sa 2:4 And the men of Judah came and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. They told David, The men of Jabesh-gilead buried Saul.

Saul went through none of the intense refining David did. He was just chosen, appointed and elevated to the throne. Beloved, there is coming a season of the changing of the guard and those of the House of David are going to oversee the final preparations of the Bride of Christ. The House of Saul has had curatorship of the Bride for long enough. He used his time to force the Bride into unclean associations for his own ends, to bolster his kingdom position. That is coming to an end. And those being brought into the light now are those who have been dwelling at Hebron for a long season of completion, attended by the flaming spirit of judgment and burning. All dross is removed, as silver refined in the furnace of the earth seven times, the word of the Lord within has been refined and purged of all dross and flesh. For seven years and six months, David dwells at Hebron, while God has the last one of the House of Saul upon the throne.

2Sa 2:8 Now Abner son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim. 2Sa 2:9 And he made him king over Gilead, the Ashurites, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin, and all Israel. 2Sa 2:10 Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began his two-year reign over Israel. But the house of Judah followed David. 2Sa 2:11 And David Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

was king in Hebron over the house of Judah for seven years and six months

One might be tempted to think that Abner had acted wrongly in putting this last remaining son of Saul on the throne. However, that is judging by the fleshly understanding. Saul is not the last remaining obstacle. The House of Saul must reign for its complete appointed term. The last reigning king of the House of Saul did not have jurisdiction over all Israel. The tribe of Judah followed David. Here we see the beginning of separation, the first glimmers of light in the dawn watch, but only those with understanding of the times can actually discern this.

Judah was the tribe from which Jesus came (Heb 7:14). God instituted a change in the priesthood. No longer would the tribe of Levi be instituted as priests. Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. And for the sake of the purposes of God, the tribe of Judah must throw their lot in with David and separate from the rest of Israel. There is a parting of the ways; a distinction coming into play. The river forked at the grave of Saul and a portion sided with the one whom God had already appointed and anointed as future King.

Beloved, it is time to stand up for what you know to be true, even if it means separation from the rest of the pack; even if a large portion of the people of God are still ruled by the House of Saul. It is no longer good enough to just go with the flow and do what others are doing. You must follow the convictions of your own heart and be aligned with what God has declared He is doing. He is going to raise up the tabernacle of David. The House of Saul's journey as the anointed of God is a dead-end road – and it is shorter than you think. God sets before you life and death. Choose life, even if it means inconvenience in relation to the larger circle of the people of God. Follow that which God has already anointed even though it may seem to be situated in relative obscurity. Hebron is a place of huge prophetic significance in God's way of doing things and there is a reason God had David dwelling there for almost seven full years. (This will be dealt with in the next chapter).

Now let us get back to the installing of the final king of the house of Saul. Abner means 'father of light'. So that is who this commander of Saul's' army is a type and picture of – the Father of Lights in whom there is no shadow of turning. The Father of Lights has appointed this 2 year handover period. It is not the enemy that resists your elevation to the throne. You are not ready and the Father of Lights still has preparations to complete. Ishbosheth means 'husband of shame' and comes from a root word meaning 'delay'.

Beloved, this seeming delay in the fulfillment of God's word to you is nothing more than a brief period to deal with the shame you carry. Saul brought shame on his house through his disobedience to God and his consulting of the witch of Endor. The brief two year transitional reign of this man Ishbosheth (whom David called righteous) would put in order many things which were out of alignment. Ishbosheth was 40 when he began to reign, the age the Jews consider a man wise enough to judge justly. This two year period is a vitally important part of the preparation process for David and a time during which the fruit of his heart is clearly displayed. He has no spiritual ambition and hunger to be acclaimed by men and he applauds those who have 'shown kindness' and buried Saul. He honours the man God has put upon the throne for the interim period. He knows that everything is not yet in place. God is still moving chess pieces on the board. The house of Judah is following and cleaving to David and the scales are beginning to tip in David's favour. He is growing stronger and stronger:

2Sa 3:1 There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker. 2Sa 3:2 Sons were born to David in Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;... 2Sa 3:6 While there was war between the houses of Saul and David, Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul.

While David dwelt at Hebron, sons were added to his house. There was fruitfulness and increase. In contrast, the house of Saul was growing weaker. We are told there was a long war fought between the two houses. Perhaps that is where we have been for the last six years, Beloved – in this spiritual battle, where the flesh is warring and yet losing control over the ways of the spirit and those who exercise them. So be encouraged, the House of David is growing stronger with each battle that has been fought and the House of Saul is growing weaker! Note also that they are separate. God has brought a division of location between them. David cannot complete his final period of preparation under the beady eye of the House of Saul. He must come away and go through a wilderness time across the Jordan. He is far from the madding crowd that bustles round the city of the current king. And all the while, the Father of Lights is making Himself strong in the House of Saul. He has people there whom He knows should be in David's camp and He is strengthening His position amongst them. He is working in their hearts until they are undivided.

Abner knew that David had been anointed king, but he was not a disloyal person; given to change of allegiance. He fulfilled his role as commander of the king's army but he also knew that time was ticking by and soon David would be elevated to the throne. He wanted God's purposes to be fulfilled and he wanted to be a part of it, but timing was vitally important.

Here is something to keep in mind: The Father of Lights is in control, even though it looks like those with the DNA of the house of Saul still reign on in the house of God. There are some righteous men in the house of Saul and God brings them to a place of influence for a brief season, so that they may release righteous judgments and recompense on the new king in waiting. Imagine a balance, with weights being transferred from one bowl and added daily to the other side. Sooner or later, the scales will tip – and in this case, it is Abner who tips them by throwing his full weight into the camp of the House of David.

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

Remember I said to you that God puts before us two choices, life or death and there are two voices in the earth? The voice or sound of the House of Saul is growing weaker and weaker and the sound coming from the House of David is growing daily stronger! One day, a false accusation tips the balance hugely in David's favour. Ishbosheth accuses Abner of gross misconduct; of going in to Saul's concubine. Why would a man called 'father of light' fellowship with darkness?

This false accusation finally releases Abner from loyalty to the house of Saul. (Remember how Samuel also was released from allegiance to Saul after one final transgression?) The house of Saul accuses the Father of Lights of unfaithfulness to its cause – what an affront! God is light and there is no darkness in Him; no shadow of turning. This accusation from the House of Saul is groundless and it is the pivot point which swings the whole balance in favour of the House of David. Abner angrily decrees the purposes of God concerning the throne of the Kingdom:

2Sa 3:9 May God do so to Abner, and more also, if I do not do for David what the Lord has sworn to him, 2Sa 3:10 To transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and set the throne of David over Israel and Judah from Dan to Beersheba. 2Sa 3:11 And Ishbosheth could not answer Abner a word, because he feared him.

Abner is now taking personal responsibility for helping to bring about all God has decreed concerning the throne of David. Ishbosheth, this husband of shame and delay knew how strong Abner's position was amongst his soldiers – that he had the loyalty of a huge number of men in the army and he also knew what Samuel had done in anointing David as the next king of Israel... Abner possessed the power to dethrone the House of Saul and fulfill God's prophetic purpose. Beloved, God is determined to fulfill His Word. No man can stand in the way but there is an appointed time for everything! Abner immediately sends a message to David...

and then something hugely important occurs and it shows that David has very good understanding of the times and the fullness of God's purposes:

2Sa 3:12 And Abner sent messengers to David where he was [at Hebron], saying, Whose is the land? Make your league with me, and my hand shall be with you to bring all Israel over to you. 2Sa 3:13 And David said, Good. I will make a league with you. But I require one thing of you: that is, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see me.

There is one last puzzle piece to be put in place before the power to reign over the whole kingdom is granted to David. There is an unfulfilled marriage covenant outstanding! He is not prepared to go anywhere without His wife Michal at his side!! He wants to fulfil his marriage covenant with her. How powerful and prophetic! When David fled from Saul to save his life, Saul married his betrothed daughter to another man, so that David could not have her. How incredibly spiteful... and how cruel to his daughter. Betrothal was such a powerful stage of the marriage covenant that anyone breaking it was guilty of adultery! Saul cared so little for his daughter and his hatred of David was so great that he was willing to place his daughter in a position of continual adultery before God, just to rob David of what was rightfully his. The full bridal price had been paid and Saul had accepted it. There was no excuse for what he had done and it was not until two years after his death, that justice was restored.

POLYGAMY AND BARREN WOMBS

Beloved, this is what the spirit of Saul has done to the Betrothed of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah in the Body of Christ. He has taken her and married her off to something other than her Bridegroom, in an attempt to keep her from fulfilment of her marriage vows and to prevent her ever experiencing true intimacy with the King after the order of King David and bearing sons and daughters for His house. As long as Michal remained in this counterfeit marriage to Paltiel, she remained under the watchful eye of Saul and in a state of adultery, condemnation and broken-heartedness, through no fault of her own. And it looked like the bridal price had been paid in vain...

David represents the One Who is of the House of David, the Bridegroom Who has paid a bridal price of us, His Bride. His intention is to carry us away from the House of Saul and install us as His Queen, ruling and reigning with Him.

2Sa 3:14 And David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying, Give me my wife Michal, whom I betrothed for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

Do you hear the roar of the Bridegroom, "Give Me back My wife" as it emerges from the lips of the coming king David?

2Sa 3:15 And Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her [second] husband, from Paltiel son of Laish [to whom Saul had given her].

Are you 'married' to something other than God's eternal purposes for you; faithfully serving something other than the One who paid a bridal price in Blood for you? Do you feel robbed and unfruitful and trapped in an arrangement which you didn't choose, but which you seem to be unable to get out of? Take heart! Your Betrothed has not forgotten you even though it has been many years since you have seen His face or heard His voice, He still considers you His. You may have even been in the bed of another man, giving everything of yourself day after day, year after year, for something you were not destined to be involved in. But your time of release is coming. The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is roaring, "Give Me back My wife!" and the spirit of Religion and the spirit of Saul and every other counterfeit masquerading as your husband is about to be sent packing as the Father of Lights accompanies you on your journey back to the House of David.

Paltiel means 'God delivers'. Imagine Michal, forced to marry a man she didn't love to further her father's vendetta against her rightful husband. Every time she calls her new husband's name, she thinks, "Is God going to deliver me?" Shame cloaks her no matter what robe she puts on in the morning, and people talk about her in whispers when she passes by on her way to the market... and she is helpless, completely unable to free herself from this snare. Her father's house has brought this upon her. Perhaps she lies awake in bed at night and thinks about David, her handsome, brave Betrothed, who killed one hundred men in order to pay the bridal price set by her father. She wonders if David ever thinks of her and hopes he is safe and that her father will never catch up with him. "Deliver me, Abba Father" she prays, even as she wonders if David would even accept her back now that she has been defiled by another. After all, he is going to be king one day. He probably wouldn't want her now anyway.

And then one day, a man comes to the door. It is Abner, the commander of King Ishbosheth's army. And he brings astounding news, "Pack your bag. You are going back to your first husband!" She can hardly believe her ears. It's impossible. This is her deepest heart's desire but nobody knows that. "The King orders you to be released from this marriage. It is now annulled." Just like God told Moses declare to Pharaoh, "Let My people go!" so His Bride could wed Him at Mount Sinai, so too, Abner told Ishbosheth to let this bride go so she could wed David at Hebron.

Just as the Israelites were suddenly thrust out of Egypt by the command of Pharaoh, so too Michal is suddenly released from years of bondage at the command of the king. She is a type of the Bride of Christ trapped in a system and bound to that which enslaves and defiles her – victim of a devilish plot to keep her from intimacy with her Beloved Bridegroom; to prevent her from experiencing full oneness and becoming fruitful. She has been used and abused and held captive, but God is now delivering her.

Psa 45:10 *Hear, O daughter, consider, submit, and consent to my*

instruction: forget also your own people and your father's house; Psa 45:11 So will the King desire your beauty; because He is your Lord, be submissive and reverence and honour Him.

Which king desires her beauty? Not the one who is of her father's house! It is the one who paid the bridal price for her, who considered her worth one hundred philistines. So Michal turned her back on her past and all she had known before. She knew this meant her family was dead to her. Her life was no longer about being the daughter of Saul or the shame-filled wife of Paltiel. She was the Betrothed of the coming king and he had sent for her. She set her face like a flint and began to walk away from all that was familiar, towards the fullness of her future and her Bridegroom. All she thought about was that she was soon going to see him face to face and feel his arms around her. How she had missed him and secretly longed for the sound of his voice.

RETURN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE

Beloved Betrothed of the coming King, He has sent for you. Whatever you have been enslaved by because of your father's house and your people, is now at an end. Your covenant with whatever you have been bound to by the house of Saul is annulled because the covenant that was made before it still stands. The sound of the Blood that was paid for you before the foundation of the world has never fallen to the ground. It still resounds from the mercy seat and it covers all your defilement by the systems of men and their schemes to use you for their own purposes. In the eyes of your waiting Bridegroom, there is no flaw in you! The superior marriage covenant stands, and all else that has had a claim on you is now powerless to hold you back.

That however does not mean that your jailer gives up without a fight. Satan is not at all keen for you to slip out of his clutches. Look what unfolded with Michal:

2Sa 3:16 But her husband went with her, weeping behind her all the way to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, Go back. And he did so.

Imagine the wailing and the soulish manipulation that Michal was subjected to as she put one foot in front of the other. But she did not turn back or look back. She was singleeved and at a certain point in her journey, Abner intervened! He ordered Paltiel to go back to where he had come from! And Beloved Bride of the Lamb, this is exactly what is going to happen to you. At a certain point in your journey, the interference and warfare and pressure in the spiritual atmosphere trying to stop you leaving is going to be silenced and the Father of Lights Himself is going to roar at all that has been trying to retard your progress on this journey back to the Bridegroom, "Go back!" With all the authority of the Commander of the Army of Light, He is going to order those demonic and soulish powers to go back where they came from! And you will journey on, unimpeded by sound pollution and spiritual vexation, to your face to face appointment with the Bridegroom.

This whole journey is a gradual separation unto holiness. First Michal is separated from a place or positioning in the house of adultery AND, more importantly, from her father's house. Then a further sifting and a deeper work occurs as unholy covenants are completely severed. The place where this separation occurs is significant. Bahurim means 'choice young men'. This is the place where those who are vessels of honour are separated from those who have not cleansed themselves of worldly lusts and are therefore not fit for the Master's use. As Paltiel's wailing voice fades into the distance, Michal is returning to her first love and leaving all lesser lovers. She is leaving her past and all that has defined and defiled her far behind.

As Paul says, forgetting what is behind and pressing forward to what is ahead, she presses on to take hold that for which she was taken hold of so many years before. She was chosen and paid for. The Lamb wants His wife back and what He wants, He gets. It is recompense and restoration time. All that is stolen is now returned. All that had fallen to the ground is now resurrected and the oil of joy replaces mourning. Beauty is appointed to replace the ashes of broken dreams and lost hopes. It is Jubilee time!

By its very nature, the return to our first love requires the separation from all other lesser claims on us. It requires movement from us. David did not come and fetch Michal on his way to sit on the throne. It was necessary for her to leave her father's house and the area of its rule. The daughter born in the house of Saul must leave that environment on her own two feet, by her own volition, and move to the place where God is preparing the ruling company in waiting. It was necessary that she come and dwell at Hebron. Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

Psa 45:14 *She shall be brought to the King in raiment of needlework; with the virgins, her companions that follow her, she shall be brought to You.*

Michal was brought to the King. Rebekah was brought to Isaac. You must be brought to where the Bridegroom is. He is not in the city. He is outside the city, at Hebron, and once you have become one with Him, you will both ascend to the place of rule together. But first, all stolen belongings must be returned. Recompense and restoration must be carried out. The thief must restore completely what he has taken illegally and that includes inheritance.

Pro 19:14 *House and riches are the inheritance from fathers, but a wise, understanding, and prudent wife is from the Lord.*

Michal was David's inheritance from the Lord. And dwelling with her husband was her blood-bought right. And full intimate experiential knowledge of the Son of God as we dwell continually in His presence is our inheritance. It is time for it to be restored. Decree over your life that every unholy covenant that challenges your bridal covenant with the Lion of Judah is annulled. Decree to every Paltiel in your life that the Father of Lights says, "Go back"!

Declare that you are leaving all that has kept you from fully experiencing what is rightfully yours as the wife of the Lamb. And keep on going forward to your face to face appointment with your first Love! Ignore the wailing and manipulation of all those trying to keep you from intimacy and restoration of all you have lost. Leave all lesser lovers, all lesser callings, all lesser responsibilities and affiliations and press on toward the high calling.

Heb 13:13 Let us then go forth [from all that would prevent us] to Him outside the camp, bearing the contempt and abuse and shame with Him. Heb 13:14 For here we have no permanent city, but we are looking for the one which is to come.

Paltiel's father's name was Laish, which means '(to knead) in the sense of crushing; a lion (from his destructive blows)'. Beloved, you have been through your season of crushing (as if you didn't know that!). Just as incense is crushed for use at the altar of incense, so too, the crushing blows that have fallen on your life seem to have pulverised your very soul. But take heart. Unless incense is crushed, it cannot release its fragrance. And now that the long painful experience is complete, the Bridegroom will be able to breathe in the fragrance that comes from your beautiful, surrendered heart.

You have been tried in the furnace of affliction and now you are coming forth as gold. The altar of incense is the last outpost before intimacy in the holy of holies, where you come face to face with what you were betrothed to so long ago. God's ways are not our ways. We would have liked David to come galloping in and kidnapping Michal on his white horse one week after she was sent to Paltiel. We would prefer to circumvent the route of suffering altogether. But we are not our own. Only those who share His sufferings are appointed to share His glory. You are subject to God's timing and this is God's order of preparation for the Bride of the Lamb. When your life has become a sweet fragrance to the Lord through many crushings; when your soul is crushed very fine, then your next appointment is face to face with the ark of His presence.

The high priest used to take two handfuls of incense crushed very fine into the Holy of Holies behind the curtain on Yom Kippur. This incense thrown on coals in the golden censor created the cloud of fragrant perfume that protected the high priest from dying in the presence of God. Bahurim is like the separation point of that curtain. On one side is incense on the altar, crushed to normal size. But past Bahurim goes Michal, crushed very fine, on into the place of intimacy; the place of the ark of His manifest presence.

Michal returning to David is also a picture of dislocation becoming relocation. A dislocated limb causes pain to the body. When you are positioned wrongly, you cannot fulfill your purpose. Every joint must supply. Dislocated joints (knees, ankles, shoulders, wrists) mean that the body cannot run and work the works of God. You are being called into alignment with purposes ordained before the foundation of the earth. Your rightful position was paid for with Blood. You were not bought with a price in order to live married to Paltiel for the rest of your life. The queen stands at the right hand of the King. There is a trumpet call in the Spirit, calling the Bride to be rightly aligned to her rightful Bridegroom and all dislocation (wrong location) to become relocation! It is time to accompany the Father of Lights as He walks you toward your waiting Bridegroom.

Chapter 11 ~ THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

Every step of Michal's journey from Jerusalem to Bahurim, and then on to Hebron is an amazing prophetic parable of the way the Spirit of Holiness works with those He is jealously protecting and helping to make themselves ready for their face to face with the Bridegroom.

Jerusalem has 3 valleys, laid out in the shape of the Hebrew letter Shin; a letter used as an abbreviation for the Name of God Himself. In order to go be with her groom, Michal had to go out of the gates of Jerusalem and walk through the Kidron valley which separated the city from the Mount of Olives. What many people do not know is that this valley was also known as the valley of the shadow of death! Yes, that's right, David was referring to a literal valley when he wrote psalm 23!

Why was this valley given this name by the locals? Well, during Tabernacles, four giant oil lamps were lit in the courtyard of the women (the place we have already talked about concerning the gate Beautiful). The light from these lamps was so bright that it lit the whole of Jerusalem during this feast. But what it also did was cause the Kidron Valley to be in deep shadow, because it was situated quite far below the level of the city. In this valley, many tombs of righteous Jews were buried, including Ezra. So a trip through this valley was considered a journey through a place where death and the tomb was very present. And when David fled both from Saul and from Absolom through this valley, the shadow of possible death hung over him. What is really important to remember is that as you traverse this valley, you need not fear any evil because the Lord is with you. Those who are part of the Saul system may be raging threats and seeking to do you in because you have left their clutches, but God's rod and staff will comfort you during this whole journey. The rod speaks of His governmental rule and discipline in your life and the staff His shepherding and caring for your every need. The only reason you are walking in deep shadow is because you walk in the shadow of His hand, you are moving in the shadow caused by His light.

THE SOUND OF THE LILIES

The king's garden spoken of in Song of Songs was at the bottom end of this Kidron valley and he grazed his flocks amongst the lilies in this valley. The word 'lilies' is 'shoshanim' in the Hebrew and it means lilies or trumpets. Psalm 45, known as the wedding psalm, is written to the tune of Shoshanim. So in this place, the King of King's Lily Trumpets are releasing their sound, decreeing the coming wedding and the separation of the Bride unto her Groom. As Michal walked, she would have passed lilies growing along the way. Bride of Christ, you will encounter lily trumpets on your way, positioned right where you need to hear a word of encouragement or direction. These vessels have walked the journey before you and are fully prepared to release the sound the Spirit has forged within them. Passing through the valley of weeping, they have made it a place of springs, which will serve you refreshing water of the river of Life. They will urge you to press on in your high calling, to not

look back like Lot's wife. It is the time of being washed with the sound of separation and holiness released from these lily trumpets.

The Lord commissioned Moses to make two silver trumpets during the journey through the wilderness. Amongst other things, they were to be used to call the people to break camp because the cloud was moving on (Numbers 10). The word used for trumpet in this case comes from a root word meaning 'to surround with a stockade, to separate from the open country'. Beloved, as these silver trumpets release their sound over you, you are wrapped in protection and separated from the open country, so the enemy can no longer maraud you. You are His and anyone who touches you touches the apple of His eye.

WASHING YOUR GARMENTS

Not coincidentally, seeing as we are on a journey of cleansing, the Kidron Valley is also known as the Valley of the Fullers. Here the garments of the priests were washed and laid out to dry upon the rocks. As you journey through the Valley of the Fullers, you will encounter teaching both from the Spirit and those who have been appointed to help wash the garments of His priests. This is a time of cleansing from the filth of the Saul system and the defilements forced upon you by its ways. Malachi 3:2 speaks of the Lord coming as a fuller's soap. This is a reference to the thorough washing of your garment so that you can again be clothed in robes of righteousness.

Mal 3:2 But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can

stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; Mal 3:3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the priests, the sons of Levi, and refine them like gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord offerings in righteousness.

A fuller would trample the garment under his feet in a basin containing soap, in order to loosen ingrained dirt. Years and years of involvement in the House of Saul's unclean atmosphere, not to mention your polygamous marriage to any Paltiel you have been joined to, will have taken its toll upon your garment. En-Rogel, the fountain of the Fullers, was situated right at the juncture of the valley of Hinnom and the Kidron Valley. It is water from this fountain that was used to wash the priest's garments. The Valley of Hinnom was the place where children were offered as burnt offerings to Molech and it later became the refuse dump for Jerusalem. Saul had offered his daughter as a living sacrifice at the altar of his own hatred and desire for revenge, just as many of you have been bound and forced to serve to suit the schemes of the Saul system. The Bridegroom has ordained that you be washed with the water of the Word as you journey through this Valley of the Fuller, thoroughly cleansing you from all defilement.

Interestingly, the Kidron Valley was also the main trade or trafficking route and we have discussed in detail the trafficking and buying and selling of souls prevalent in today's Church. Michal did not travel along this route, going the same way as the traders. She crossed over it, fully

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

focused on meeting her husband and making a transition out of the system that dealt in the buying and selling of souls. Beloved, it is time to travel at cross purposes with the general flow of traffic in the general Church. There will always be another program, another conference, another group to sign up for. But it's time for allegiance to the Lamb. It's time to walk in His footsteps through the valley of the shadow of death. The journey Michal took is the same walked by Jesus on the night of His betrayal. He and his disciples left Jerusalem after the last supper and traversed the Kidron Valley to reach the Mount of Olives. David fled through here to save his life but Jesus walked this valley twice in one night – once to pray and fully surrender His will to the Father, and then again when He was led, bound in ropes, to give His life as a ransom for many.

Do you remember how it was 'necessary' for Jesus to go through Samaria on His way back to Galilee?(John 4:4). On a map, this was the long way round, but Jesus knew He had an appointment with the Samaritan woman. She had had five husbands and was living with a sixth man, and it was time for her to be married to the Truth and cleansed from her defilement. She is a picture of someone who has some knowledge of the truth but has joined herself to house after house in the hope of finding happiness and fulfillment. But only the living water dispensed by Jesus will quench our deepest thirst. He is not looking for worshippers who worship in this or that location. It isn't about location as much as intimacy and face to face relationship. And the Bridegroom is determined to release the thirsty to find the True Source of living water.

In the same way as this journey Jesus took, each part of the journey back to the Bridegroom is absolutely necessary. Even though Hebron is south of Jerusalem, it was necessary for Michal to go through Bahurim, which is east of Jerusalem, on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. Why? Bahurim, the village of the choice young men, is the tarrying place of those who offer themselves willingly in the day of His Power (psalm 110). The Mount of Olives is the place of the oil press; the place where fresh oil for the journey ahead flows; the place where you say, "Not my will but yours be done."

It is the place of separation – of Jesus from the other disciples; of the willing from the sleeping; of the Bride who is following in the footsteps of her Bridegroom from all that has bound her and kept her from full surrender. It is the place where an angel from Heaven will come and strengthen you as you press through to the place of full surrender (Luke 22:43). The Mount of Olives is also the place where the first drops of Jesus' blood were shed for you and the power of the Blood of the Lamb is available to you there. You also have access to the mind of Christ in any area you are wrestling to let go of.

CLEANSE ME WITH HYSSOP

The Mount of Olives is also the place where the ashes of the Red Heifer were kept and anyone who had been in contact with a dead body and needed cleansing was to go there and be sprinkled with the water that contained those ashes. This

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

had to be done twice; on the third day and the seventh day of his week of separation (Numbers 19). The sprinkling could only be done by a clean person. Beloved, the body without the spirit is dead and if you have been in contact with any group calling themselves 'the Body', yet there has been no evidence of the Spirit, then you need the sprinkling of the waters of the red heifer, because you have been in contact with death. Of course, Jesus was our red heifer, slain outside the camp for the uncleanness of men. He is also the Clean Man who sprinkles us through the words of His mouth. Once the sprinkling with the water containing these ashes took place, one was pronounced clean and could have contact with people again.

The water was sprinkled using a hyssop branch, the same species of branch that was used to apply the Blood on the doorposts of the Israelite houses in Egypt to protect them from the angel of Death. Hyssop was also added to the burning carcass of the heifer as it was incinerated. When praying for forgiveness after his adultery with Bathsheba, King David cried out, "Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be clean" (psalm 51). Hyssop is a symbol of intense and complete cleansing. The journey to Bahurim on the Mount of Olives for Michal depicts the completion of cleansing and the separation from the period of defilement. This is why Paltiel was commanded to go back at this point in her journey. What fellowship can light have with darkness and the spirit of Christ with Belial? All that has been used in your life to keep you from full oneness with the One Who paid the bridal price for you, comes ultimately from Belial. He may

use men of the cloth, he may use programs, he may use busyness and being yoked to the visions of spiritually ambitious men, but ultimately satan's purpose is to bring separation and barrenness to your spiritual womb. At Bahurim, you are separated from that which has rendered you unclean and that assignment of barrenness is broken and your spiritual womb is cleansed and prepared for fruitfulness with your Betrothed.

Let us also examine what other significant events occurred at this place called Bahurim. Many years later when King David was fleeing again from someone who wanted to kill him, this time, his own power-hungry son Absolom, he had a disturbing encounter at Bahurim:

2Sa 16:5 When King David came to Bahurim, a man of the family of the house of Saul, Shimei son of Gera, came out and cursed continually as he came. 2Sa 16:6 And he cast stones at David and at all the servants of King David; and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

Note that someone of the house of Saul was cursing David and throwing stones at him and all who had aligned themselves with the House of David! Beloved, persecution is part of the package for those who want to be conformed to the image of the Son. In fact, Jesus said, "If they hated Me, they will hate you." Shimei was a mouthpiece for all the hatred and bitterness stored up in the household of Saul over the years. He accused David of being responsible for all that had befallen Saul, but in actual fact, he had brought it on his own head with his disobedience and rebellion. So Bahurim is the place of cursing and persecution by those whom you are no longer a part of, by those of the House which God has rejected.

It is really important to note David's response. One of his men wanted to kill Shimei but David seemed to know it was a test from the Lord as to whether he was of the same spirit:

2Sa 16:10 The king said, What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the Lord said to him, Curse David, who then shall ask, Why have you done so? 2Sa 16:11 And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, Behold, my son, who was born to me, seeks my life. With how much more reason now may this Benjamite do it? Let him alone; and let him curse, for the Lord has bidden him to do it. 2Sa 16:12 It may be that the Lord will look on the iniquity done me and will recompense me with good for his cursing this day.

As it so happened, David *was* recompensed with good that same day as he got to the Jordan. Someone was there waiting with food and drink for his weary household. Beloved, ignore the curses and the accusations that the House of Saul hurls at you as you reach this village of the choice young men. You are part of a different household. Whatever the enemy has intended for evil, God will turn for good for you. Do not seek to pause and defend your reputation or your actions. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus and press on to your destination. Your Bridegroom is waiting anxiously for a sight of your beloved face at Hebron. Press on to take hold of that for which He took hold of you!

MY SERVANT THE BRANCH

As I already mentioned, a hyssop branch was used to sprinkle the ashes of the red heifer and also to apply the Blood on the doorposts in Egypt. It was also used in the cleansing of lepers (Lev 14). And a branch of hyssop dipped in blood was used to seal the covenant by Moses:

Heb 9:19 For when every command of the Law had been read out by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of slain calves and goats, together with water and scarlet wool and with a bunch of hyssop, and sprinkled both the Book (the roll of the Law and covenant) itself and all the people, Heb 9:20 Saying these words: This is the blood that seals and ratifies the agreement (the testament, the covenant) which God commanded [me to deliver to] you.

I would like to look further into the symbolism of this branch of hyssop in a present-day application. We are told that Solomon taught on the hyssop that grows out of the wall:

1Ki 4:33 He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall; he spoke also of beasts, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish.

In Song of Songs 8, the Bride declares that she is a wall. So the branch of hyssop emerges or comes forth from the Bride. In Revelation 12, we read of the manchild coming forth from the woman and being caught up to the throne to protect him from the dragon. Is this manchild the branch of which God says will bring forth the true temple of the Lord in Zechariah?

Zec 3:8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your colleagues who sit before you--for they are men who are a sign or omen [types of what is to come]--for behold, I will bring forth My servant the Branch.

So here are Joshua, who has just been plucked out of the fire and given clean clothes, and a company of men who are a sign connected to the bringing forth of the Branch! And the Lord goes on to say that he has placed a stone (or plumbline) with seven eyes before Joshua. This is a reference to endowment with the seven spirits of God. Three chapters later and Joshua is again connected to the Branch:

Zec 6:11 Yes, take from them silver and gold, and make crowns and set [one] upon the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, Zec 6:12 And say to him, Thus says the Lord of hosts: [You, Joshua] behold (look at, keep in sight, watch) the Man [the Messiah] whose name is the Branch, for He shall grow up in His place and He shall build the [true] temple of the Lord. Zec 6:13 Yes, [you are building a temple of the Lord, but] it is He Who shall build the [true] temple of the Lord, and He shall bear the honour and glory [as of the only begotten of the Father] and shall sit and rule upon His throne. And He shall be a Priest upon His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between the two [offices--Priest and King]. I see this hyssop branch as a manchild company, operating in a kingly and priestly anointing, because they have been caught up to the throne. God has promised to pour out the latter rain. This word in Hebrew means 'eloquence'. They will release the heavy latter rain in the form of eloquent teachings which cleanse and wash the woman who has been defiled by Babylon or Sodom, so that she is fit to be wed to the Bridegroom. In effect, they are the Fuller's fountain, supplying water for the washing of the Lamb's wife.

This company has reached mature manhood and is able like the Zadok priesthood to teach God's people the difference between the clean and the unclean - and as the hand of the Clean Man, Jesus uses this company to sprinkle the cleansing power of the Blood upon those who, like lepers, have been declared unclean, they are washed from their defilement. *"Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be clean! Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow,"* cries out the adulterous David.

For three and a half years, this manchild company will minister cleansing, nourishing Truth to the woman, as she is kept safe in the wilderness. The counsel of peace or shalom shall be between the two offices of priest and king. Here we have the rod and the staff of the Lord operating. Shalom means not only 'peace' but also 'wellness, health, safety, recompense and restitution'. All these things are ministered by His corporate servant, the Branch as they build the true temple of the Lord

Chapter 12 ~ HEBRON, HOLY HIDEOUT

Let us look further into the significance of this place the king in waiting is kept at for almost seven full years. Hebron means 'seat of association'. It comes from a root word meaning 'to couple together, to fellowship with'. Who are you associating with? Saul or David? Witchcraft and the strength of the flesh or the power of the Spirit? The house of Saul and the house of David have nothing in common. What fellowship can light have with darkness?

2Co 6:16 And what agreement does a temple of God have with idols? For you are the temple of the living God, as God has said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." 2Co 6:17 Therefore come out from among them and be separated, says the Lord, and do not touch the unclean thing. And I will receive you 2Co 6:18 and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.

This what David did. He came out from among those of the house of Saul. He did not want to be a part of what was going on there. He chose life and separated himself unto God and His purposes. All who are part of those who come forth from the House of David, in the image of the Firstborn of many brethren, must also spend a season of completion at Hebron. It is here the finishing touches are put on the vessel of honour. Jos 21:11 They gave them [the city of] Kiriath-arba, Arba being the father of Anak(strangle), which city is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, with its pasturelands round about it. Jos 21:12 But the city's fields and villages they gave to Caleb son of Jephunneh as his own. Jos 21:13 Thus to the descendants of Aaron the priest they gave Hebron, the city of refuge for the slayer, with its pasturelands (suburbs), and together with their suburbs, Libnah,

Hebron was the portion of land which was given to the Levites as their dwelling place. So Hebron is associated both with priests and kings. Hebron used to be called Kiriath-Arba or Mamre, which means 'rebel' and belonged to giants. Then Joshua conquered it and it became a city of refuge. This meant that anyone fleeing there because they had accidentally killed someone else was safe from someone who wanted to slay them. Hebron is the place where giants are overcome and where kings-in-waiting take refuge and experience the firstfruits of ruling and reigning. It is the spiritual atmosphere where you are safe from the manslayer, as long as you remain within its city limits.

Hebron also represents a season of seeming delay in the fulfillment of God's declared purposes; a season when the Ishbosheths are on the throne. Ishbosheth, husband of delay, held the throne for the closing down season of the house of Saul; and as a righteous man, he participated in bestowing recompense and restoration on the house of David as he restored David's stolen wife, Michal. It takes a royal decree to annul a covenant. She was released from her adulterous marriage through a word from the throne. Ishbosheth in this way, righted the wrongs of his father, Saul and gave David what he had paid for with blood, his rightful bride. Therefore the season of seeming delay is actually the season of righteous judgments and restoration of what has been stolen

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE

Jesus prayed in John 17:21-23. He prayed and He said: "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me". So, there we see Jesus speaking and clarifying what He meant by 'being one'. He said: "as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You". Jesus and His Father were perfectly one. Jesus only said what He heard the Father saying and did what He saw Him doing and They were one and that's what He was praying for - for us to be one, the way He was one with the Father; "that they may be one in Us". He wasn't praying for us to be one with one another, He was praying for us to be one with the Father, just as He was, so that we could have the same effect on the world that He had.

"... And the glory which You gave Me I have given them". Well that sounds great, doesn't it? He's already given His disciples the glory way back when He prayed John 17, but what is this glory? We don't have a very clear understanding of what the glory of God is, but here He explains it so clearly: "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one even as We are one". That's the glory, oneness - oneness with the Father! That was the glory of Jesus; the glory that He emanated and displayed was His oneness with the Father.

Michal could only become one with her Bridegroom David once she had separated from Paltiel and her father's house. They became one at Hebron. And from oneness comes fruitfulness. So here is something very important to take note of – in God's economy, division and separation is the pathway to oneness and multiplication or fruitfulness!

John 17:23 carries on: "*I* in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, that the world may know that You have sent Me" and this is the thing that I want to emphasize, this phrase: "that they may be made perfect in one". Michal and David were not made perfect in one as long as she was in Jerusalem in the arms of Paltiel and he was in Hebron. David understood that in order for the fullness of kingship and the promises of God to be manifested in his life, he and Michal's betrothal and covenant must be restored and consummated.

The home of Paltiel was like the placenta that fed Michal in the womb of preparation. But when the time of birthing came, she had to be thrust forth speedily from her father's house and her people and then the umbilical cord needed to be cut at Bahurim. What had fed and supported her in the past would no longer be her source in the days ahead. It was a complete cutting off. Paltiel did not attend the wedding ceremony of David and Michal. Michal's people did not have invitations either. In fact, Ishbosheth was murdered on his bed shortly after he returned Michal to David. All those bridges were burned. Bahurim was her Rubicon, her point of no return. The place of the choice young men leads on to perfect oneness with the Bridegroom. It is a one-way road. There is no going back to the womb once birth has occurred. Beloved, everything that you're going through right now as you press in to God, is for the purpose of you "being made perfect in one", in other words, completely one, completely one with the Father and with Jesus. What does that word "made perfect" mean? In the Greek it means 'to consummate, to finish, to fulfill, to complete'. So, the work of making you one with Him is to be brought to completion and then the world will know that Jesus was sent and that God loves us, His beloved sons, just as He loved Jesus.

Hebron is the place of the marriage; the place of the name change. The Bride takes her husband's name. No longer is she known in the community as the daughter of her father's house. She is a member of the house of David from this point on. She bears her husband's name. No longer is she only betrothed. She has the full legal rights of being married to her husband.

David prayed in the psalms, "one thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after", but in the actual original Hebrew text, it doesn't say "one thing", it says "oneness have I desired of the Lord", "**oneness**" and then in the New Testament, Jesus prays: "may they be made perfect in **one**". So, this oneness is a process that progresses to perfection of oneness, as we yield more and more; surrendering our own wills in every area more and more! The journey from Jerusalem to Hebron is the journey of being made perfect in one.

ONLY ONE VOICE

I want to share something amazing that I've discovered, which is such a graphic depiction of being 'made perfect in

one'. You know that Abraham and Sarah had Isaac, the Son of Promise, 'in the fullness of time" as God had prophesied and then Abraham was told to take Isaac up the mountain and sacrifice him? It was a real test for Abraham, of who was seated on the throne of his heart. Was he worshiping at the altar of his fulfilled promise in his son Isaac, or was his heart wholly God's? Abraham passed the test as he tied Isaac to the altar and lifted the knife. Then God provided the ram and He could come back down the mountain again –we know the story so well. But you know the most amazing thing is, that something else happened on that day and it's not recorded in the Bible, but it's recorded in the Jewish history books. On the same day that Abraham offered Isaac, his wife Sarah died.

She was 127 years old when she died and, you know, I really wrestled with this knowledge. I just couldn't understand and, I thought: Abraham went up the mountain thinking he was going to lose his son, but he ended up losing his wife. What was with that, God? Why did Sarah have to be taken on that particular day (because God never does anything by mistake)? What was the significance of removing Sarah once Abraham had passed the test with Isaac?

And then, finally, the Lord showed me that after Abraham's trip up the mountain with Isaac, the voice of Sarah was no longer heard in the earth. Only the voice of the Father and the Son was heard after that. Hebron is the place where Sarah died and was buried. Here the mother whose womb birthed the son of promise was laid to rest and her voice was heard no more in the earth. Hebron is the turning point, the point where clarity of sound comes. No longer is the voice of the mother interspersed with the voice of the father and the son. From the moment the stone is rolled over the mouth of the burial cave, only the voice of the Father and the Son are heard in the earth – and they are one!

Beloved, that is where God has us at this time, up the mountain with our Isaac. For those of us who have been called to represent Him in the earth; who have prophetic giftings; who the Lord has been speaking to about releasing a sound; those who really feel they have a calling to share (either publish, preach, prophecy or even 'talk' through our art), our promise of what God is going to do through our lives is wrapped up in our voice or what comes from our earthen vessel; what kind of sound we release. The trip up the mountain is really about the silencing of our own voice, so that only the voice of the Father and the Son can be heard from our earthen vessel, after we come down from that mountain of testing. So there's a death that has to come in our lives to our own voice, to our own opinions, to our own advice and thoughts.

You know, Sarah was a great one for giving advice. She got Abraham into the whole thing of producing Ishmael, because of her trying to offer advice on how to bring forth the promise of God. So, the voice of Sarah did not produce much that was beneficial to the Kingdom of God in the earth. Her womb brought forth the Son of Promise, but her mouth brought forth strife and division for generations and we can still see that in the battles that are in the earth today between the descendants of Ishmael and the descendants of Isaac.

So, for the Bride of Christ, Sarah is epitomizing through her death, at this time, a silencing of her own voice at Hebron and a clarity coming in the sound that's being released in the earth. Only the voice of the Father and the Son are heard after Isaac is offered up. As Jesus prayed that we would be made perfect in one with the Father and the Son, that being 'made perfect in one', that complete oneness, requires our surrender and the silencing of our own opinions and our own voice and our own will, in a sense.

So God is really dealing with our tongues and you might feel like the fire has been heated 7 times hotter and God is really bringing all the dross to the surface, especially in the area of the tongue and the things we say (because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks), but what God is really doing, is ensuring that it's only the Father and the Son on the throne of our hearts and that only their voice issues the decrees and the sound that comes forth from our earthen vessel as we cross the threshold into the next season in God.

So it's really our voice box, which is an instrument, becoming completely yielded and put into the hands of the Father to be tuned to the pitch of Heaven, so that it's not our own song that comes out of our instrument. You know, this is not a karaoke session where we play the music of Heaven and we put our own sound to the tune, because that creates confusion! Just as people who've listened to a few karaoke sessions know, it can sound really awful and people want to cover their ears - but when the song of Heaven is sung and released by the Father and the Son through you, it will shatter crystal in the earth; it will cause earthquakes. There will be a thundering and a lightning crack as God speaks and roars through your earthen vessel... but first, Sarah has to die...

Can you imagine Abraham? He goes through this whole emotional turmoil as he goes up the mountain with his Son of Promise and he doesn't understand what God is doing, but he's willing to follow his instruction, even though he doesn't understand it and he's willing to slay his own son, because he trusts God... and then God provides a ram and he doesn't have to kill Isaac and he's so relieved and he's passed the test and he's coming back down the mountain, worshiping and praising God and feeling like he's really got a grip on what God's doing again and he gets to the bottom of the mountain and is greeted by the news that while he was up there, his beloved Sarah has passed away!

He will never see her face again and he didn't even have time to say good bye, so you can understand how Abraham really wept. What an emotional upheaval! If you're really going through a thing of really not understanding God's instructions; it seems like one minute it's clear, the next minute: "I don't know what on earth you're saying God. Nothing You're doing is making sense to me" - well, I'd say you're probably in this chapter of your life where God is putting Sarah to death, so that the voice of the Father and the Son can be the only thing that's heard through your earthen vessel. You are probably on the journey from Jerusalem to Hebron.

MACHPELAH AND MULTIPLICATION

Gen 23:19 After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah to the east of Mamre, that is, Hebron, in the land of Canaan. Gen 23:20 The field and the cave in it were conveyed to Abraham for a permanent burial place by the sons of Heth.

From this point on, Abraham is no longer married to any living person. Sarah is dead to him. And so Sarah is laid to rest in Hebron at a cave that Abraham purchases for 400 Shekels. You know, 40 is the number or the age when a man in the Jewish culture is considered wise enough to judge a matter. So 40 is really a symbol of wisdom after the preparation season in the wilderness of life, in a sense, and 10 Shekels was the price that was given or the value attributed to a woman after she had passed the age of 60. So 40 x 10 gives you 400. So we see that the price of 400 Shekels had to do with reaching the age of wisdom, and wisdom speaking.

You cannot have your voice and wisdom speaking at the same time. The voice of your flesh must be stilled. Sarah was Abraham's half-sister, but now she was dead and he began a chapter where wisdom was to be his closest companion.

Pro 7:4 Say to skilful and godly Wisdom, You are my sister, and regard understanding or insight as your intimate friend

Who are you intimate with, Beloved? Is it the voice of your own earthly or soulish wisdom that resonates in your heart in your ear or does Wisdom minister to you in your inner chambers?

Pro 8:20 I [Wisdom] walk in the way of righteousness (moral and spiritual rectitude in every area and relation), in the midst of the paths of justice, Pro 8:21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit [true] riches and that I may fill their treasuries.

The field where Sarah was buried, Machpelah, means 'double portion'. The only way you are going to release the double portion inheritance due to you is if Self - and all the self-will it exercises, is buried there in the field of Machpelah and only CHRIST REMAINS. After this, it is no longer you who live, but Christ who lives in you and He and the Father are one! You are not your own, you have been bought with a price and ONENESS is the destination of this journey you are on. Michal's bridal price was paid many years before, but she did not become one with David for a long time because of the schemes of Saul. Finally, the voice of the Bridegroom's desire triggered her release. You were born in the Kingdom for perfection of oneness and the Bridegroom's voice will trigger its completion in you.

Four hundred(the price paid for the field of the double portion, is also the gematria for 'thy Maker, 'unto glory', 'wine', 'I speak righteousness' and 'poured out'. Looking at these phrases, I am sure you can well understand the nuances of the price paid for this double portion anointing; this outpouring of the best wine. 400 is also the gematria for the Hebrew letter Tav, which is the 22nd letter or the last letter of the Hebrew Alphabet. God is the Alpha and Omega, the Alef and the Tav. He is the beginning and the end. God is the last letter of the Alphabet and God wants to have the last word in the earth. The Father's desire is to complete the work begun in you when He paid the bridal price for you. But you must cooperate with the urging of the Spirit in this and be led to Hebron.

Are you cleaving to the voice of God or are you determined to keep on declaring your own opinion on the matter? If you will not let God have the last word in the earth, then breakthrough and the manifestation of the glory of God is never going to come through your life. So, don't utter your voice over the waters. Still your tongue. Let Sarah be buried in the cave of Machpelah in Hebron and let the voice of God be heard, because only God's voice can change hearts.

You know, when a Bride and a Bridegroom become one in the natural, they become one flesh, and there is a yielding and an opening and total surrender on the part of the Bride. We know that Psalm so well: "*Lift up your heads, o ye gates, the King of glory is coming in*" and I've shared before that 'lift up your heads' can also be translated, "yield, you princes". Lift up your heads o ye gates, yield you princes at the gates, the King of Glory wants to come in and you know what, sometimes it could be us who are the princes at the gates that need to yield. Are we stubbornly going on speaking when God says to be quiet? Are we holding on to our own opinions and our own right to speak and our own right to be heard in whatever situation we're facing, or are we yielding, because the King of Glory wants to come in to our mouths and to fill them, but He's got to tune our voice boxes, he's got to tune our heart strings to the tone and the pitch of Heaven and so there is a dying, a permanent dying and a burying that has to happen at this junction.

MESSENGERS OF HIS FACE

You know, David was at Hebron for quite a long time. He reigned there for some years, before he went up to Jerusalem and took the throne. As I mentioned before, Hebron is called "the seat of association". Who are you associated with? Are you associated with the Spirit of the living God and the voice of the Spirit of Wisdom? Who are you one with, your own stubborn self-will, worshiping at the altars of your own opinions which you feel you must declare at every moment?

...or are you one with the Father and the Son and you only say what you hear the Father saying?

So, for those waiting for the manifestation of kingship, Hebron is the place of waiting and being made perfect in one in every area with the will of God, until His appointed time where there is a handing over, a changing of the guard in the spirit.

Isaac was also buried at Hebron and he was 180 when he died. Hundred and eighty is the Gematria for the word for "face". The glory of God is seen in the face of Jesus Christ and so we need the face of Jesus Christ to be imprinted upon our hearts and then the voice of the Father and the Son can

be heard in the earth. It's a place where we feel impatient and want to be released from the stall, but allow God to finish the work that He is doing in your hearts - we might be surprised at the intensity of the fire, but He's dealing with His prophets at this time. He's dealing with their eye and what they're seeing, because if your eye is full of light, the whole of the body is full of light. The eye of the prophet hasn't been full of light. Up till now he's only seen in part and prophesied in part. From what you see and the revelation that you're seeing, you speak forth and sometimes we don't see clearly. So we need more light, we need double light and you get that in the field of Machpelah.

We must be known as those who have come forth from His presence. We are destined to be the messengers of His face. Jesus was the messenger Who came forth from the Father's presence:

Joh 17:8 For the [uttered] words that You gave Me I have given them; and they have received and accepted [them] and have come to know positively and in reality [to believe with absolute assurance] that I came forth from Your presence, and they have believed and are convinced that You did send Me.

It must be absolutely obvious that we have been with the Bridegroom:

Act 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness and unfettered eloquence of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned and untrained in the schools [common men with no educational

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

advantages], they marvelled; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Have you been with Jesus, Beloved? Or do you just hear about Him every Sunday from someone who has? John the Beloved spoke a different message to the other disciples because he had laid his head upon Jesus' breast. He was aflame with the fiery zeal he heard beating in the heart of the Bridegroom.

1]n 1:1 We are writing] about the Word of Life [in] Him Who existed from the beginning, Whom we have heard, Whom we have seen with our [own] eyes, Whom we have gazed upon [for ourselves] and have touched with our [own] hands.

Hebron is the place of completion of covenant; of experiencing what the fullness of the covenant intended for you to possess. It is one thing to be betrothed and quite another to be married. The difference is visiting or dwelling. The difference is hearing about through others, or seeing with your own eyes. The difference is knowing him afar off or intimately and becoming fruitful. Hebron is the place of fruitfulness.

I in You and You in Me that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent Me, that they may be made perfect in one".

THE DOMINO EFFECT

Once Michal was transferred to her rightful Blood-bought place by David's side, it triggered a quick succession of events. Abner then urged the elders of Israel to align their hearts with what God had already declared to be His purpose (2 Sam 3:17). His heart was for all Israel to follow the will of God. It is the Father of Light's desire for all His people to be aligned to the House of David. It is a new season. The season of Saul is over in God's eyes and He intends to wrap things up quickly.

2Sa 3:21 Abner said to David, I will go and gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a league with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart desires. So David sent Abner away in peace.

Soon after this event, at Hebron, Abner was murdered (2 Sam 3:27) and buried. The head of Ishbosheth, a righteous man who made recompense to David, was also buried at Hebron, after he was murdered in his own bed. At Hebron, the lives of righteous men who have understanding of the times are laid down to transfer a kingdom from the house of Saul to the house of David. And their sacrifice for the cause of Heaven triggers a transfer of a mighty army of souls to alignment with David:

1Ch 11:1 THEN [after the death of Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, who ruled over eleven tribes of Israel for two troubled years after Saul's death] all Israel gathered at Hebron and said to David, Behold, we are your bone and your flesh. 1Ch 11:2 In times past, even when Saul was king, it was you who led out and brought in Israel; and Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

the Lord your God said to you, You shall be shepherd of My people Israel, and you shall be prince and leader over [them]. 1Ch 11:3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them there before the Lord, and they anointed [him] king over Israel, according to the word of the Lord through Samuel.

Note that the Bride moves to Hebron before the elders of God's people make the move to anoint him king for the third time. She is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh, but the rest of God's people cannot become aligned to the House of David until he and his Michal are one. Note also that Hebron is the place of covenant before the Lord. And daily God added to their numbers:

1Ch 12:22 For at that time day by day men kept coming to David to help him, until there was a great army, like the army of God. 1Ch 12:23 These are the numbers of the armed divisions who came to David at Hebron to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the Lord...

Those who are part of the army under the Father of Lights must turn the kingdom from Saul to David, in accordance with His will. The time of slavery under a fleshly, sinful king is over. It's time to be shepherded by a man after God's own heart. Offer yourselves willingly to be part of the raising up of the tabernacle of David. Throw your whole heart behind the One Who is a King after the order of king David. 1Ch 12:38 All these, being men of war arrayed in battle order, came with a perfect and sincere heart to Hebron to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest also of Israel were of one mind to make David king. 1Ch 12:39 And they were there with David for three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them.

If you have come with a perfect and sincere heart to join yourself to the house of David at Hebron, it becomes the place of feasting on what has been prepared for you, for three whole days. This reminds me of the woman flees into the wilderness to a place prepared for her, where she is fed and kept safe for three and a half years (Rev 12). There is a place prepared for you during the time of the rampaging of the dragon, but it is not in the House of Saul. In order to feast on what is prepared, you need to separate yourself from all pertaining to Saul. Stop being a part of Saul's army, fed with rations organised by the house of Saul.

David writes about taking refuge under the shadow of God's wings and that, from this place, the children of men are lavishly fed from the abundance of His house.

Psa 36:7 How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of men take refuge and put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. Psa 36:8 They relish and feast on the abundance of Your house; and You cause them to drink of the stream of Your pleasures. Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light. The reference to wings can be confusing. With our western upbringing, we are prone to picturing bird's wings around us. However, to be more accurate, the spreading of a wing over someone was actually a Hebrew reference to being wrapped in the fringed edges of the Bridegroom's prayer shawl (or talit in Hebrew). At the end of a Jewish wedding ceremony, once the final vows have been taken, the groom would stand behind the bride and wrap them both in his prayer shawl. It was a symbol of her coming under his protection and provision.

It is these wings under which we take refuge, Beloved, the protection and provision of our Bridegroom. When Ruth had her tryst with Boaz at the threshing floor, it was to this practice she alluded in her request:

Rth 3:8 At midnight the man was startled, and he turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! Rth 3:9 And he said, Who are you? And she answered, I am Ruth your maidservant. Spread your wing over your maidservant, for you are a next of kin.

David sent for Michal, his betrothed, because he wanted to spread his wing over her. He wanted to complete his marriage vows and bring her under his protection and provision. Psalm 91 is so often quoted by believers, but the key is verse 1. The word for 'dwell' means 'to settle down and marry'. So psalm 91 is about the positioning and protection and provision of the Bride. Dwell in the shelter of His wings, Beloved. You are His. *Psa* 91:9 *Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, Psa* 91:10 *There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent.*

Chapter 13 ~ FRUIT FIT FOR A KING

Why does the Lion of Judah want His wife back? Because He wants to release a sound in the earth. And this is not to be an earthly sound but a heavenly sound. God wants His kingdom to come on earth as it is in Heaven. To do this, He needs holy vessels who are connected to Heavenly realms and fully surrendered within, so that no flesh interrupts or dulls the sound as it is sent from Heaven through you to earth. Your life makes a sound in the spiritual atmosphere. It emanates from the way you live your life and your orientation of heart, even more than upon the words of your mouth, although those too are sounds. A pure heart releases a pure heavenly sound. The Word tells us that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. Nothing can emanate from your lips, unless it first is found within your heart. Therefore God takes great pains in purifying the hearts of His vessels of honour. Hence the washing with the water of the Word as you journeyed out of the house of Saul, passing through the Valley of the Fullers and being sprinkled at the Mount of Olives by His Servant, the Branch, with the waters of the red heifer.

The final stage of Ezekiel's river in Ezek 47 is water to swim in, water that cannot be crossed over; water that carries you wherever the river is going – your own will is completely surrendered! And that river goes down into the desert and then into the sea, where it heals the waters. Everything lives wherever this river flows. BUT before you get to this place of being carried by this healing river, you have passed through water to the ankles and then water to the knees. Now the third test and washing appointment is the depth where you must cross over or obtain victory in the level of the loins – the part of you that brings forth <u>fruit</u>. In the natural realm, the loins are the source of fruitfulness. In the spiritual realm, the mouth is the organ which sows seed and produces fruit. Remember, the power of life and death is in the tongue and those who love it, will eat the <u>fruit</u> of it. The fruit of what? – life or death; whatever your tongue is busy with! James tells us that a man who can control his tongue is a 'perfect' man ie. One who has reached mature manhood. The tongue must be tamed and fully submissive to the Spirit of God – it must be conformed to His death in order to access the resurrection power of the river of God.

Psalm 29:3 says: "*The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; The God of glory thunders;*" Do you know that our bodies are made up of a huge percentage of water and the voice of the Lord is uttering over our waters at this time. He utters it in order to release spiritual sound waves that change you. Let those waves of sound wash you. Let them align you. Let yourself be swept away and carried along by the sound of His voice over you. His voice is powerful and His voice is full of majesty and we need to become perfectly one with His voice and His sound - and that requires our complete surrender and our complete yielding. You know, sometimes that's a difficult thing. It's easy to yield and to surrender when you understand and when you agree, but when God is saying: "Be still and know that I am God and be silent…", when you're just bursting to ask a question, that's a really

difficult thing to do, but it is at this time that the rule of the gate of our mouth needs to be handed over permanently to the Lord. There are some sounds that are outside the range of our human ear but they exist and have an effect nevertheless. Just because your natural ear cannot hear the voice of God washing over you, does not mean He is not speaking.

Sometimes we just need to still our minds and hearts in His presence and allow those deep waves to wash deep within us as deep calls unto deep. Sometimes there are no words; there is just a sound that your spirit can pick up. To others it seems quiet.... but God is busy uttering His voice deep within you, changing and realigning and moving and reordering.

Just surrender and trust Him to complete the work He has begun. The sounds He is releasing will create spiritual light within you – and wherever light is released, darkness has to flee. Keep focussed, keep still, keep your heart in an attitude of worship and allow the Spirit to engrave deeply upon your heart. For out of these heart engravings will emanate the sound that your life was intended to make in the earth. It is a heavenly sound which will shake prisons and move mountains and heal and deliver and rend the earth with ever-flowing symphonies of praise to Him Who alone is worthy to receive all the honour and glory. It is the sound of the Blood; a sound made flesh in a holy vessel. It is the sound which says, "It is finished!"

CO-MMUNION

Communion means communication. It means 'the sharing or exchanging of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially on a mental or spiritual level'. God wants us to be a vital part of His communion with this world. He wants to share His secrets with us and co-labour with us in the earth to bring in the harvest. The prefix 'co' means 'with, in union'. When we break bread as believers; when we take communion (communion is also common union - oneness), we are declaring our bridal covenant, our coming into one with our Heavenly Husband. We are proclaiming His death; in other words we are proclaiming the bridal price which is His spotless Blood and the fact that we are not our own - we have been bought with a price. To proclaim means 'to utter, to decree'. So if we are proclaiming or decreeing the power of the Blood and His ownership of us, as we partake in this symbolic covenantal betrothal meal, there should be an accompanying release or demonstration of the sealing and completing power of that Blood.

However, what if our lives don't release a sound in harmony with the sound of the Blood? What if the discordant sound of our lives clashes with the sound of the Bridal price we are proclaiming or communicating? What if areas of rebellion and stubbornness release a sound that is out of alignment, out of tune with the sound of the communion meal we are taking? The combination is a resulting harsh, ugly, discordant sound in God's ears and Heaven cannot sanction it. This is why we are called to examine ourselves – to search for any area where we are discordant and repent and realign. Ask God for an undivided heart; a heart in which there is nothing out of alignment. Ask the Spirit of Truth to work it in you. Ask God to utter His voice over you and bring into alignment any area of your heart that is divided. Become His love, His dove. Doves have eyes that both look in the same direction, in contrast to other birds whose eyes work independently. Ask Him to give your heart dove's eyes. This request delights His heart and the Spirit of Truth moves in to fulfill such a request without delay.

When we demonstrate our coming into union with Christ by breaking bread together, the first areas that the bread and the wine touch are our lips, our tongue, our mouth and our throat. Every one of those things are involved with the sound that is released from our earthen vessel and so, let the bread of the Word that God breaks with you in these days, transform your lips and your mouth and your tongue and your voice box. That's what He's working with in these days, in intense detail, actually microscopic detail, of the conviction of the Spirit, in order to fully align us and make us perfect in one with His sound. It is only the sound that comes from God's mouth that makes the strongholds fall (remember the marching army had to be silent and just listen to the sound of the shofars for 6 revolutions round Jericho).

In Joel 2:11 it says: "The Lord utters His voice before His army". It's His voice that needs to be heard. Only when there's a clear sound in the earth, a unity of sound, and we are made perfect in one with the sound of heaven, are we going to see results in the earth realm and so we've got to yield, Beloved. We have to let our hearts be tuned to the pitch of Heaven.

Of course, the pathway which the communion bread and wine follow, as we swallow it, traces back down to the heart of the matter because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. Jesus said that He only said what He heard the Father saying. If we are honest, can we really say this is true of us? Sometimes we get it right, but mostly our minds are filled with our own thoughts and our focus is more on earthly things, than listening for the sound of His voice within.

This is why there has been a pause at this time and we find ourselves in this fiery furnace. We are just like Isaiah, who needed a burning coal on his lips, because he was a man of unclean lips and he lived amongst a people of unclean lips. So too, the Lord is coming to the unclean lips of His prophetic people and dealing with them, because a spring cannot yield both fresh and bitter water together and out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. So the Lord is dealing with the springs that flow forth from our heart and come out of our mouths.

I don't know about you, but I am so under the Holy Spirit's spotlight in these days. Every moment a sentence comes out of my mouth which is not to His liking, the conviction of the Holy Spirit comes and the fear of the Lord comes. So we really need to pray over ourselves and join our voice with the voice of Jesus. "Father, may I be made perfect in one, perfect in one with Your sound, perfect in one with Your voice, perfect in one with Your heart, at this season." It's because it's only as we are made perfect in one, that true fruitfulness can come. The Bride and the Bridegroom become one and fruit comes forth in the earth.

When the winds of the Spirit blow upon your heart, and dross is brought to the surface, just release it to Him and turn from that thought or way of being. With each successive revelation of that which is out of alignment, and each resulting release, you are becoming more and more singleeyed, more focused, more undivided. Don't make the mistake of getting discouraged when His light brings to the surface yet another thing that needs to be released. The Lord is taking you at your word concerning your request. Deeper and deeper He is working, right into your foundations. He is breathing and blowing and swirling deep within the chambers of your heart and cleansing and sorting and realigning all... until you are perfect in one.

Sometimes you will not even be fully aware of what exactly He is busy doing. It matters not. Just keep your eyes on His face for as you behold Him, you will be changed from glory to glory. The Father is at work revealing His Son <u>in</u> you, not to you. You are beholding and becoming; not necessarily beholding and knowing with your natural mind what is happening. He is creating within you the image of the heavenly. And He does it with definite purpose in mind. On the march round Jericho, the sound emitted by those shofars for 6 days washed over that silent army, working within them, until finally on the seventh day, they opened their mouths and released a sound in perfect alignment with the sound of the Blood coming from those shofars. And that double portion sound wave flattened the towering walls in front of them, releasing Rahab to be grafted into the lineage of Jesus.

Rahab too, dwelling in the wall of Jericho, was washed by that sound and prepared her for the release and the separation from all she had known before. It was no small thing to leave her people, but Rahab had dove's eyes. She had already declared her desire to be aligned to the God of Israel and His people. And her desire was fulfilled in a way that was far beyond what she could ask or think or dream. That woman who had been involved in harlotry for a very long season was delivered out of the wall of that stronghold and became a part of the DNA of the Son of Man – and all because she desired to be made perfect in one with the One True God. So too, the people of God in harlotry are washed and released by the sound of the Blood.

PLACING AND RELEASE

God cannot string His bow and release His sound in the earth until we allow ourselves to be bent and to be strung as an instrument, by His hand, to Heaven's tension and yes, a lot of it involves our mouths, but there is a reason God gave our bodies a portal to release a sound. In Song of Songs 8, the Bride says: "I am a wall". A wall can be a dam wall that holds back waters of a river until the whole valley is full of a flood of water - and built into that dam wall, there are turbines and when those turbines are released and the water is allowed to flow, hydro-electric power can be generated.

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

You might feel that the Lord is pouring revelation after revelation after revelation of living water into your heart and all you want to do is share it, but He's keeping those turbines closed until you are made perfect in one, until you are filled and complete and brought to the full stature and the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. You are like a dam of living water that is filling, filling, filling with the rain water from heaven. There will come a time of release and you will generate Hydro-electric power in the earth from the rain of Heaven through the turbine of your tongue, if you will allow yourself to be made fully made perfect in one through the water of the Word that is pouring into your vessel at this time.

Don't just spew out whatever you might be thinking at the spur of the moment. Allow the Spirit of the living Christ to complete His work. Let Him work an undivided heart in you so that the water released is not muddied by the flesh. One true word from the Father's lips released though your mouth contains more power than the atomic bomb, if done exactly when He indicates. Only say what you hear the Father telling you to say. Be reigned in and submitted to the Spirit of Truth. Meekness is harnessed strength. Be meek.

I don't know if you have ever heard about the making of a shofar, but a shofar comes from a horn from the place next to the ear and then all the flesh is dug out of it and scraped out of it until it's completely empty. Then that horn lies in the sunlight until it's completely dry and then it's picked up and a hole is bored in the end of it and then the breath of the owner is blown through it.

That's what God is doing with His prophets at this time. He's scraping all the flesh out, the fleshly soulish chunks of what we've heard and what we've seen and what we think. He's scraping all that self out of us, until we may feel that there's almost nothing left of what we thought we knew... and then the light of the Son comes and bakes us and makes us durable and powerful and makes us a vessel that can contain the breath of God through us. Then He blows His life-giving breath and speaks through His trumpets in the earth, a clear sound that can rally the people.

So, just yield to what the Holy Spirit is doing and pray this over yourselves: "May I be made perfect in one". We have to stop trying to minister from our acquired knowledge base by the sight of the eye or the hearing of the ear. We must let go of the Church age which exists on a basis of doing and emphasises our ministry. We are moving to the Kingdom Age which is based on being instead of doing; on Sabbath rest and not the striving and works of the flesh; on the power of the Spirit as opposed to the power of the soul. What is of the flesh produces that which is flesh. Only the Spirit can bring forth that which is Spirit and Life.

If you have been praying and striving with all your might to come forth into what God has for you, and yet nothing has occurred, then know it has been soul power which has been engaged in this pursuit. The fullness of Christ is only brought forth when one has entered Sabbath rest and ceased from your own fleshly labors. Wrong focus will bring forth nothing in this season.

Be still and know He is God. And He will be exalted among the nations. He will do it. Concentrate on being made perfect in One through the ministration of the seven Spirits of God. It is not an earthly work. No human hand can bring it about. John said, "I must decrease, that He may increase." That is our part – decreasing; stilling our inner thought dialogue so that He may speak within.

BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD

The breath of God carries within it creative power. Through it, all that exists in our world was brought forth. Without it, Adam would have remained a beautiful but lifeless sculpture. Containing it, he stood on his feet as a man created in the image and likeness of God. So the breath of God is vitally needed to create and revive and fill our hearts. In Song of Songs, the Shulamite describes a meeting with her Beloved. He is different from all other trees in the wood and under His shadow, she finds rest and is abundantly fed:

Son 2:3 As the apple among the trees of the wood, so is my Beloved among the sons. I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste. Son 2:4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love. Son 2:5 Feed me with raisin cakes, comfort me with apples, for I am sick with love. Son 2:6 His left hand is under my head, and His right hand embraces me. When she says she 'sat down', the word used here is one that means 'to dwell, to settle down and marry'. This is not some casual encounter happening here among the trees of the wood. This is the finding of a dwelling place under the shade of a Bridegroom who is feeding her spirit with fruit. The Hebrew word for 'apple tree' comes from a root word meaning 'to blow, breath, to kindle'. It is the fruit of our Bridegroom's lips, His breath that feeds us. His words kindle and set aflame the fire within our hearts. In Song of Songs chapter 8, we learn more. In this place at the foot of the apple tree, we are awakened and brought to birth:

Son 8:5 Who is this who comes up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved? Under the apple tree I awakened you; there your mother gave you birth, there she was in travail and bore you.

The only place you are going to be birthed from is under the apple tree which is Jesus. He is the Tree of Life and His fruit gives you life and awakens everything in you that has fallen to the ground and died in the past season. You cannot bring yourself to birth. Only the breath of His lips can accomplish this. Now will you cry out with me, "Breathe upon me, breath of God!" His breath will form and align and position and set you in place in the heavenlies, so that you can shine your measured portion of light on the earth. None of this can be accomplished by your own efforts; only by the breath of God and the wind of His Spirit. Can you see why there was such a need to come out of the house of Saul? So much that is brought forth there is of the intellect and the schemes of man, motivated by the spiritual ambition of those who desire to ascend, instead of decreasing that He may be seen. Let Him complete the good work He began in you. He does not bring to the point of birth and not bring forth (Isaiah 66:9). But remember you cannot live by bread alone. You need every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. You need to be refreshed and comforted with apples from the Tree of Life.

You need the embers of your heart kindled into a raging fire by the fiery breath of His jealous love for you. Our God is a consuming fire and you are to be baptized not only with the Holy Spirit but with fire!!

Son 8:6 Set me like a seal upon your heart, like a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy is as hard and cruel as Sheol (the place of the dead). Its flashes are flashes of fire, a most vehement flame [the very flame of the Lord]!

Chapter 14 ~ ALIGNING WITH THE ROAR

Why does the Lion of Judah want His wife back? Because He wants to roar through her! He wants to release a sound in the earth that comes from Heaven through His holy vessels! He wants His voice to be heard in the temple. And what is the primary purpose of this sound release? Firstly, His primary purpose is to communicate with His Body. The Body of Christ is supposed to be connected with the Head, Christ, and receive continually the mind of Christ. In the human body, which is our pattern, all nerve communication from the head to the body is passed through the neck. A paraplegic, however, has all nerve pathways severed from the brain to the body. And without them, the body becomes a helpless shadow of what it was intended to be, dependant on help from the outside world to be positioned, fed and moved.

The Church of today is, sadly, largely in this position. Because of a lack of vital connection to the Head and the mind of Christ, it has become dependent upon the world, its philosophies and value system, to position it, feed it and help it function. This is not what the Father had on mind in creating a Body for His Son. Paul declares that God's intention is for us to grow up in all things into Him Who is the Head:

Eph 4:15 *Rather, let our lives lovingly express truth [in all things, speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly]. Enfolded in love, let us*

grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). Eph 4:16 For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its need] is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love.

Every part of the Body cannot supply as intended, if there is a disconnection with the Head, Christ. Because of the infiltration of worldly values and the embracing of doctrines of demons, unfortunately the mind of Christ has been replaced with the mind of the prince of the power of the air, which Paul tells us is at work in the sons of disobedience! (Eph 2:2) Our lives are supposed to lovingly express truth, as the above verse points out. But instead there is the sound of trafficking in souls, evil being called good, and the jangling chords of worldly lifestyles filling the air. It's time for the voice of the Head to be heard in the temple again. And it is coming to bring realignment, single focus and Truth.

Heb 12:26 Then [at Mount Sinai] His voice shook the earth, but now He has given a promise: Yet once more I will shake and make tremble not only the earth but also the [starry] heavens. Heb 12:27 Now this expression, Yet once more, indicates the final removal and transformation of all [that can be] shaken--that is, of that which has been created--in order that what cannot be shaken may remain and continue. The word for 'shake' here comes from a root word meaning 'vibration, a billow or a wave'. So we understand that the shaking that is coming 'once more' is caused by sound waves; billows or vibrations in the auditory realm which cause those things that need to be removed to topple and fall. All which is manmade in the temple will totter and crash to the ground when this sound is released. That which is of the flesh is the enemy of that which is of the Spirit. And this roar of sound is shaking the heavenly realm which houses the principalities and powers presently ruling and reigning in the halls of Churchianity!

He is coming to overturn the tables of the money changers and the tables of those who deal in doves. He never intended His doves to be traded as commodities. His Beloved has dove's eyes and she is His alone. So His voice must be heard *in* His temple before it can be released *from* His temple in the earth! There needs to be a drastic change in atmosphere. There should be a heavenly sound coming forth from the Body that is His temple and Isaiah tells us that he can hear an uproar (good word choice!) as a voice or sound is heard within the temple. It is so loud that it can be heard outside:

Isa 66:6 [*Hark*!] *An uproar from the city*! *A voice from the temple*! *The voice of the Lord, rendering recompense to His enemies*!

The voice of the Lord can be heard from His temple and it renders recompense to His enemies. Yes, Malachi tells us He is coming as we have asked, but He is coming to deal with His enemies IN His temple; He is coming as a refiner's fire and a fuller's soap. He is coming to deal with the adulterer, the sorcerer and the false swearer, amongst others, and give them what they deserve. The voice of the Lord confronts everything that makes His temple a den of thieves, instead of a House of prayer and worship. His roar in the temple is demanding that His wife be given back to Him. And by the time He has finished roaring in His Body, the wicked will be left with neither root nor branch – and the doves will be set free.

Something very interesting happened at a Bar Mitzvah ceremony in Israel recently and it provides a powerful prophetic picture of what we are talking about. In a place called Bat Yam, everyone was busy with the ceremony, singing the usual songs, when the Rabbi noticed something strange about the prayer shawl or talit the boy was wearing. The inscription in Hebrew caused panic. It read, "Blessed are You O Lord our God, who has fulfilled all the Torah in Yeshua the Messiah and covered us all in his righteousness". Here, in the midst of business as usual, a powerful sound of Truth was released and it caused consternation. That the Name of Yeshua as Messiah was proclaimed in the synagogue in this place is profound, because the words themselves are the roar that sounds from the Blood of the Lamb and it was released in the midst of the gathering of His Jewish people, in much the same way as Jesus stood up and read from Isaiah 61 and then said, 'This day is this scripture fulfilled in your sight'. Imagine the uproar that also caused!

Bat Yam means 'Daughter of the sea' or 'daughter of the roar'! Now isn't that interesting?! What a powerful depiction

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

of the roar that is about to be released in the midst of business as usual in the Temple of the Lord. When Jesus strolled into the temple just before Passover, at the time when the Jews were busy removing all leaven from their homes, He began enacting what that removal of leaven was really all about. It wasn't just about crumbs of bread being swept out of corners in their kitchens. In fact, it wasn't just about *their* houses at all. It was about His House! The leaven of hypocrisy, the leaven of Herod, the leaven of the Pharisees – it all had to go! And the roar of the Lion of Judah will be cleaning house once again.

The declaration during that Bar mitzvah upon the prayer shawl of that 13 year old boy was a decree that all had been completed, that it was finished! 13 is considered the age at which Jewish boys enter manhood. It's time for the Body of Christ to enter manhood, to put away childish things. The Torah has been fulfilled and the complete Bridal price paid and we must grow up in all things into Him, Who is our Head, Christ the Messiah.

Remember that the roar that Jesus released from the cross, declaring the payment was complete, caused an earthquake and tore the veil in the temple. The roar of the Lion of Judah demanding the return of His wife in this season will set off a similar earthquake in religious circles, and tear veils off people's understanding. It will be no more business as usual. He is coming to shake everything that can be shaken; to overturn tables and unseat traders and free doves from their cages!! And after He has done this, there will be a profound release of healing amongst those who have been blind and lame spiritually, just as there was when He first cleansed the temple:

Mat 21:14 And the blind and the lame came to Him in the porches and courts of the temple, and He cured them.

One other thing He dealt with during this temple cleansing event was concerning His vessels:

Mar 11:16 And He would not allow any to carry a vessel through the temple.

This sounds strange until we realise that He was addressing the using of the temple as a traffic route. No trafficking allowed in the House of Prayer! The word used for 'carry' also means 'to drive'. Remember the Holy Spirit leads. He never drives us like a herd of animals. If you feel pressure from behind, it is very likely not God, but some other spirit trying to control you!

Interestingly, the word translated 'vessel' here also means 'wife (as someone useful to her husband)'. The Lion of Judah is putting a stop to His wife being driven and bought and traded. We are to be useful to Him, not to any charlatan who wants to harness our gifts and talents and finances as assets in their ambitious quest for wealth or spiritual recognition.

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God A CONCUSSION OF SOUND

Psa 141:2 Let my prayer be set forth as incense before You, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

The golden altar of incense stands at the curtain that separates the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. Fragrance from the burning spices fills the Holy Place. Revelation 8:3 tells us that this incense represents the prayers of the saints. Its position on the threshold of the Holy of Holies is pivotal and the recipe given for the incense used there is not accidental.

Exo 30:34 Then the Lord said to Moses, Take sweet spices--stacte, onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense, an equal amount of each-- Exo 30:35 And make of them incense, a perfume after the perfumer's art, seasoned with salt and mixed, pure and sacred.

One of the spices mentioned is onycha. (The other spices are dealt with in detail in the next chapter). The spice onycha used in the holy incense comes from the mussel used to make purple dye for kingly robes, and the word in Hebrew, shekeleth, means 'to peel off by a concussion of sound' and comes from a root word meaning 'to roar'. Beloved, this is what the roar of the Lion of Judah does – its sound peels off layers that cause blindness and deafness; it rocks foundations of religious prisons and lets the captives go free.

The word 'concussion' means 'a violent shock as from a heavy blow, a condition resulting from the stunning, damaging, or shattering effects of a hard blow, a heavy blow to the head, which sometimes causes injury or permanent damage'. It originates from a Latin word *concussionem*, which means 'a shaking'. Yes, the roar of the Lion of Judah causes a shaking and a blow to the mindsets of man. He is coming to shake everything that can be shaken and it is His roar that is doing it! The Lion of Judah roars through the prayers of His people!

When I was looking into the meaning of Onycha, I saw a vision of the enemy headquarters and there were high level generals of darkness poring over a strategy map on a table. As the roar of sound entered that room, it reverberated off the walls and knocked every one of them down, one after the other, like skittles!! The concussion of sound had caused a shattering effect to the HEADquarters that was governing the Body of Christ and keeping it bound in fleshly pursuits. Once that sound wave was released, it continued resounding in that place until not one thing was left standing against it. Such is the voice or sound of the Lord being released in His temple in these days. It renders recompense; it metes out the judgment due.

Onycha has a fragrance which is released by fire. This sound embodied in the roar of the Lord has a fragrance which is released by our God Who is a consuming fire. We know it is a kingly fragrance and a kingly sound, because onycha comes from the same source as the purple dye used to make

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

kingly robes. May the holy, royal fragrance of the roar of the Bridegroom King peel off the layers and scales covering the eyes and ears of the hearts of God's people. Just as His cry on the cross triggered an earthquake and tore the veil keeping the people from the Holy of Holies, may this roar usher in a new era of accessible intimacy before the ark of God. May His Bride no longer be held bound in the dovecotes and cages of the traders. May the roar of ownership shatter the locks and open the doors that she may fly free in the face of the Heavens. May its concussion and reverberation annihilate every enemy lurking in His temple and drive every covetous charlatan from His Body.

LET MY PEOPLE GO TO WORSHIP ME

When the Israelites were released from slavery in Egypt, there was still one more physical barrier which stood in their path, blocking their journey to their appointment at Mount Sinai. The Red Sea stretched out before them and there was no way round it. The name "Red Sea" is actually a misnomer from the translation of the Hebrew. The Hebrew is 'yam suph'. The Hebrew word 'yam' means 'sea or roar' and when used alone, it refers to the Mediterranean Sea. The word 'suph' literally means "edge". This can be 'the edge of a country (border), the lips as the edge of the mouth, or an outline of something'. In the Biblical text, this word is used for 'reeds' which line the banks, or edge, of rivers.

Hence, the "yam suph" is the "Sea of Reeds" or "Reed Sea". Somewhere in time, the "Reed Sea" became the "Red Sea". A reed was used to write the papyruses of that day in Egypt. Is the roar of the Egyptian Slave master writings keeping you from freedom?

The barrier that blocked the Israelite's way, Yam suph, could also be viewed as the 'roar of the lips' or 'the sound of waters coming from the edges of the mouth' – words released by the spirit of Religion to keep you from freedom. It was the rod of God which parted those waters, which separated the impenetrable barrier of words that had been spoken, so His people could walk through on dry ground. Beloved, let the rod of the fiery spoken word of God open and part your lips and let the roar that is forming deep within you be released – first over your own earthen vessel, and then later, over any slave you encounter. Then walk upon the straight pathway this sound has cut out before your feet, into the promised land of your inheritance in Christ.

Look at Moses, who came to Pharaoh under the authority of God and his message to Pharaoh was simple, "Let My people go!" Let the Lion of Judah roar in you and create a concussion of sound that annihilates everything in you that resists His will. Let those royal sound-waves penetrate every corner and crevice of the chambers of your heart, taking ownership and driving out every squatter.

Then let Him use you to roar over others and shake the prisons they are bound in. You are given a great commission; to carry the sound of the Blood wherever you go; to decree liberty and jubilee and return and realignment to all who cry out for the Bridegroom to come. The sound of the Blood is a roar that breaks open prison doors and sets the captive free. It opens the eyes of the blind and causes the deaf to hear. Hosea 11 tells us that the Lord will roar over His people and they will come trembling and eagerly responding out of Egypt:

Hos 11:10 They shall walk after the Lord, Who will roar like a lion; He Himself will roar and [His] sons shall come trembling and eagerly from the west. Hos 11:11 They shall come trembling but hurriedly like a bird out of Egypt and like a dove out of the land of Assyria, and I will cause them to dwell in their houses, says the Lord.

When the Lion of Judah roars, everything that is holding His people captive is shaken. Do you see in these verses the mention of doves being released? He is overturning the tables of those who have bought and traded in His doves and they are being released by the concussion of the roar to dwell where they belong – in the face of the Heavens!

ELIJAH HEARS THE ROAR

When Elijah had cleansed the land of the prophets of Baal, he prophesied to Ahab concerning what he heard. It was a word of release for a land crippled by drought for three and a half years:

1*Ki* 18:41 *And Elijah said to Ahab, Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of abundance of rain.*

If we look into the word 'abundance', we discover it comes

from a root word meaning 'roar' or 'war'! On the basis of the roar He heard coming from heaven, he then went to the top of Mount Carmel and took up the birthing position. The seventh time he sent his servant to look, there was the firstfruits manifestation – a cloud the size of a man's hand. But which man? The Son of Man - and He is coming on the cloud of witnesses, the sons of the right hand, who carry the roar of the Lion of Judah within them.

Rev 14:14 Again I looked, and behold, [I saw] a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud One resembling a Son of Man, with a crown of gold on His head and a sharp scythe (sickle) in His hand. Rev 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple sanctuary, calling with a mighty voice to Him Who was sitting upon the cloud, Put in Your scythe and reap, for the hour has arrived to gather the harvest, for the earth's crop is fully ripened. Rev 14:16 So He Who was sitting upon the cloud swung His scythe (sickle) on the earth, and the earth's crop was harvested.

What followed Elijah's birthing intercession was a very great rain, a heavy latter rain. Beloved, once we have cast aside the words of the prophets of Baal and have returned to wholehearted devotion to God, the blindness of our eyes and deafness of our ears are healed. This is the first job description of the Spirit of Elijah in the latter days: 'to restore the hearts of the fathers to the sons and sons to the fathers'. Then, with newly opened ears, once we have heard the roar that signifies war coming from the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Bride must take up the birthing position and bring forth the sons of the right hand, who come releasing the heavy latter rain of His manifest presence. The Hebrew word for 'latter rain' means figuratively 'eloquence' and comes from a root word meaning 'to gather the after crop'. The eloquent sharing of the water of the Word by the sons of the right hand will bring in the rest of the harvest, the after crop – and it is the Spirit of Elijah that ushers this harvest in.

Chapter 15 ~ FRAGRANT COALS OF FIRE

The contents of the incense, whose fragrance is being released by fire at the golden altar, contain much prophetic significance. In John's vision, he saw that this incense played a pivotal role in end time events. Once it had been ignited and cast on the earth, there was an outbreak of heavenly sounds in the earth:

Rev 8:3 And another angel came and stood over the altar. He had a golden censer, and he was given very much incense (fragrant spices and gums which exhale perfume when burned), that he might mingle it with the prayers of all the people of God (the saints) upon the golden altar before the throne. Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense (the perfume) arose in the presence of God, with the prayers of the people of God (the saints), from the hand of the angel. Rev 8:5 So the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and cast it upon the earth. Then there followed peals of thunder and loud rumblings and blasts and noises, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

This golden altar is before the throne of God and the fragrance of the prayers of His people is always rising before Him as a pleasant odour. However a time comes when the golden censer comes into play and casts a measured portion of fiery, fragrant incense upon the earth and the result is earth shattering – literally! The word translated

'thunderings' actually means 'roar'! So the fusing of fiery coals with the incense releases the roar of God through these coals of fire - and the result is light and revelation, 'noises' or 'sayings' and an earthquake. When people know the Truth, it sets them free. Therefore, this release of light and revelation will trigger a release of captives, who have been held prisoner for a long time by the lies they have erroneously embraced, thinking they are the truth. Prison cells will be shaken by the earthquake that follows the release of this roar through the coals of fire. Answers to long seasons of intercession for bound loved ones will suddenly be manifested in the earth realm and breakthrough will occur all over the earth.

The earthly version of this golden censer was used on the holiest day of the year, Yom Kippur, when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies to make intercession for the people.

Lev 16:12 And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil. Lev 16:13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the ark-cover that is upon the testimony, that he die not.

There are saints, who, like Anna of old, remain at this golden altar, their whole lives being one of prayer and fasting and worship before the Lord. Others come and go, in between their involvement in the things of the world, but for those who have doves' eyes, their focus is upon the throne of God and their hearts continually worship Him in this position. The position of the golden altar before the curtain and the incense which is burned thereon, day and night, is a picture of those whose lives are a continual fragrance released by the fire of their love for Him.

However, we are also told there are two handfuls of incense, which has been crushed finer than the rest, which is taken in the cupped hands of the high priest into the Holy of Holies to create a fragrant cloud before the ark of His presence. There are a portion of saints appointed extra crushings and temperings, and it may seem unfair when you look around you at others who do not experience such intense breakings. Yet there is purpose.

You are appointed to be carried beyond the point where other intercessors live, right before the ark of His manifest presence, to be set ablaze and form part of the fragrant cloud impregnated with His presence; this cloud of witnesses who emit the powerful fragrance of Christ from their lives, as the fire of God burns constantly within them. These ones dwell with the everlasting burnings, having lingered much in the presence of the mercy seat.

Yom Kippur was also the day the Jubilee shofar was blown, announcing freedom from slavery. When this happened,

every slave was to be returned to his family and to his ancestral possession. Loved ones who had been slaves for many years were suddenly released by the sound of this shofar blast and were soon reunited with their families!

Rev 8:5 So the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and cast it upon the earth. Then there followed peals of thunder and loud rumblings and blasts and noises, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

The word 'cast' can also be translated 'sent'. Here is depicted a thrusting forth of fragrant, fire-filled harvesters into the harvest field. Like Anna who rushed out to tell everyone she saw about the Messiah, so too, these fiery zealous coals are thrust into the earth realm, sent on Heaven's missions; bringing the harvest to completion. These coals are poured out with a heavy coating of incense, which is consumed by the fiery heat coming from the coals and turned into a perfumed, smoking cloud as it hits the earth realm.

And from this cloud comes a sound, a Royal roar that shatters prison bars and sets the captive free! Just like the bridal palanquin of Solomon (Songs 3:7-11) carrying the happy royal couple, surrounded by 60 mighty men, emerged from the wilderness with pillars of fragrant smoke, so too this outpouring upon the earth is a united, fragrant outpouring of the Bride and the Groom who have become one, and go forth to administer His righteous judgments in the earth. Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

Isa 66:15 For behold, the Lord will come in fire, and His chariots will be like the stormy wind, to render His anger with fierceness, and His rebuke with flames of fire.

CARRIERS OF HIS FRAGRANCE

What is seen in Revelation 8 is the answer to the centuries of intercession of the saints. The bowls are full and it is time to pour out the answer in the form of a release of messengers of fire on the earth, who carry the fragrance which is acceptable to the Father. So let us look deeper into the ingredients of this incense named in Exodus.

Exo 30:34 Then the Lord said to Moses, Take sweet spices--stacte, onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense, an equal amount of each-- Exo 30:35 And make of them incense, a perfume after the perfumer's art, seasoned with salt and mixed, pure and sacred.

The Holy Spirit is the Apothecary or Perfumer, creating within us the required recipe for dwelling at this altar of gold. The word 'perfume' in Hebrew means 'to fumigate' and comes from a root word meaning 'to turn into fragrance by fire, to drive out occupants'. This incense is tempered or pulverised with crystals of salt. Salt is a preservative which eradicates any form of decay. In other words, salt drives back the operation of death. It represents Truth, which purifies, disinfects and drives out any demonic occupant. Those whose lives embody this perfume are carriers of an anointing of yoke breaking Truth which drives back the hold of death in any form. The fiery Truth of God will test every man's work, whether it be of Life or Death. He is coming as a Refiner's Fire to the Church and He is salting us with fiery Truth in order to preserve us when the Destroyer passes overhead.

Mar 9:49 For everyone shall be salted with fire.

A Salt Covenant is an eternal, unbreakable covenant, so the addition of salt and fire to the incense ingredients for the golden altar gives it a sense of an eternal, unbreakable covenant being forged with these ones residing here.

We have already discussed onycha in the last chapter, but to refresh your memory, onycha means 'to peel off by a concussion of sound', and comes from a root word meaning 'to roar'. Onycha burns blue when exposed to fire. Onycha is the roar that comes from your life, peeling off layers that hold people captive by a concussion of sound. You shake atmospheres by your presence. The fragrance of Christ in you contains a roar that opens prison doors, so step into the darkness with confidence in Him Who utters His voice and releases His royal roar through your yielded vessel. ...But what of the contribution of the other ingredients to the fragrance?

STACTE

Stacte is clear, reddish myrrh which exudes spontaneously

from the tree, or which is released when lumps of myrrh are bruised. In other words, stacte is offered freely. Myrrh is harvested by making slashes on the tree bark. Therefore the harvesting of myrrh is a result of interference by the hand of man; whereas stacte is a freewill offering. Myrrh was released into the spiritual atmosphere when Jesus was whipped with the cat of nine tails by the Roman soldier. Yet, because He offered Himself willingly, stacte was also released as He was bruised for our iniquities. God's people will also offer themselves willingly in the day of His power. They will say, "Here am I, Lord. Send me!"

The Hebrew word for 'stacte' comes from a root word meaning 'to speak by inspiration, to prophesy'. When fully surrendered to the Bridegroom, the testimony of Jesus which is the spirit of prophecy just oozes from you without any effort. You speak by inspiration of the Spirit of Truth. What is even more powerful is the fact that your life speaks or releases a sound that carries spiritual authority. You are conformed to His death by living in a posture of 'Not my will, but Yours be done' and so the life, power and fragrance of Christ flows from you.

GALBANUM

Galbanum is a golden yellow colour and burns with a purple flame. The word 'galbanum' means 'fat, the richest, finest, choice part'. Do you remember Mary chose the 'choice part' which was sitting at His feet, drinking in the words that came from the lips of Jesus? Those who have chosen the choice part are His choice ones: Son 6:9 But my dove, my undefiled and perfect one, stands alone [above them all]; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her who bore her. The daughters saw her and called her blessed and happy, yes, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.

We would say, "She is the cream of the crop; the one of the highest quality". The Hebrew word 'choice' used here means 'beloved, pure, empty'. It comes from a root word meaning 'to clarify, cleanse, purge and polish, to select'. Here we have the whole refining process in a nutshell, and those who exude galbanum have cooperated with the trying, refining process and have been selected for their high quality. This dove company stands alone, above the rest in purity and clarity of heart. They are those who can dwell with the everlasting burnings and when the fire consumes them, they display the royal colour of purple, signifying they are of the King's household.

FRANKINCENSE

Frankincense was used with every offering in the temple, except the sin and jealousy offerings. Therefore its presence on the altar of incense signifies that the work of cleansing from sin is complete - and also that no test for adultery needs to be conducted here. This company is faithful and has undivided hearts. The dove of the Bridegroom is undefiled, meaning 'complete, without blemish'. Frankincense burns white and comes from the root word for 'heart'. The white flame signifies a pure heart and we know that the pure in heart shall see God (Matt 5:8). Notice that it is the pure 'in heart' that are described i.e. The fragrance and flame of Frankincense is burning. The Lord said to me that one is only qualified to wear frankincense when myrrh has done its deep cleansing work and your heart is declared undivided. When you have made your journey through the wilderness of preparation successfully, then frankincense and all the sweet spices come forth from our hearts as a fragrant preparation for intimacy after the wedding ceremony. If the burning incense could speak English, it would be a wholehearted "Yes, I do" to the Father's question, "Who takes this Man as her lawful, wedded Husband?"

Frankincense is the fragrance of the open tomb, the fragrance of life from the dead and of surrender. Only when one's heart is fully Christ's, the fragrance of frankincense begins to be emitted. The expertly crafted perfume of frankincense and other 3 sweet spices combined in the incense recipe speak of marriage and becoming one in a salt covenant, before entering the Holy of Holies with Bridegroom; our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

A BRIDE AFTER MY OWN HEART

When I was looking at the incense and its characteristics, the Holy Spirit pointed out something amazing. We know that as we behold Him, we are changed from glory to glory and that 1 Corinthians says that when we see Him, we shall be like Him. Well, right here in this burning incense is a visual demonstration of the Bride becoming a mirror image of her Groom, bone of His bone and flesh of His spiritual flesh. Let me explain... God gave instructions to Moses on the mountain about the making of the breastplate for the High Priest; and He was very specific about the colors that must be used:

Exo 28:15 You shall make a breastplate of judgment, in skilled work; like the workmanship of the ephod shall you make it, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet [stuff], and of fine twined linen.

Threads of four different colors were interwoven with fine white linen to form the foundation upon which the twelve gemstones representing the twelve tribes of Israel would be set in gold settings. Not coincidentally, these four colors, plus white, are found in the characteristics of the incense burning on the golden altar:

Gold – galbanum in its solid form Blue – onycha as it burns Purple – Galbanum's flame color Scarlet – Stacte's color White – Frankincense's flame color.

So when Bride's heart is set aflame and burns with fiery zeal, these jewel colors are seen and it is clearly displayed that she has the heart of the Bridegroom and is recognized as bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh, one worthy to be the Bride of the Lamb. She has the same heart for His people that He has and carries His heartbeat for all the nations of the earth.

The blended fragrance released by these spices expertly blended together as a sacred perfume move the heart of the Bridegroom. We can see a demonstration of the release of God's righteous judgments accompanied by the very colors of the flames of the incense depicted in the book of Esther. After Esther had won the heart of the Bridegroom King with her banquet of love, she again approached the king and received permission, along with Mordecai the faithful intercessor at the gate, to craft a decree counteracting what the enemy wanted to do in destroying her people. When Mordecai rode out of the palace to announce this decree, he was clothed in the colors of the flames from the altar of incense!

Est 8:15 And Mordecai went forth from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and with a robe of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan shouted and rejoiced.

Mordecai wore blue and white, gold and purple. All are colors released at the altar of incense. The faithful intercessors at the altar of incense are raised to honour, just as Mordecai was. Note that he came forth from the presence of the king! Those who have poured out their lives at the altar of incense in prayer and worship come forth from the presence of the King with a fiery anointing, releasing His righteous judgments.

When God's righteous judgments go forth, they are not something to be feared if you are walking in the fear of the Lord. They bring recompense upon the enemy and all he has come up with to destroy you! Those who dwell at the altar of incense play a part in releasing His righteous judgments in the earth. This is why there are thunderings, voices and an earthquake when the censor of fiery coals is cast upon the earth! And those who dwell in the city where the King resides, experience great rejoicing because He is decreeing recompense upon their enemies.

SWAN SONG

A few weeks ago, I visited a wine estate in our area called Webersburg. When I heard this name, the Spirit reminded me that a Weber is a barbecue kettle with a domed lid; in effect, an oven and He took me immediately to the scripture that says *'the day comes that shall burn like an oven'* (Malachi 4:1). He also brought to mind a number of scriptures mentioning fire in connection with Zion, which formed the undergirding for the message He was forming in my heart. The second half of the Estate name *'burg' means 'city'*. This is a prophetic picture of a city that is an oven with a fire burning in its heart. The estate was very beautiful with rolling green lawns, huge ancient oak trees and a restaurant and wine cellar overlooking a tranquil lake:

Isa 4:5 And the Lord will create over the whole site, over every dwelling place of Mount Zion and over her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory shall be a canopy (a defense of divine love and protection).

For those who have been purged and purified by the spirit of judgment and burning and now find themselves safely anchored on Mount Zion, there will be green pastures and still waters and, more importantly in these difficult days ahead, divine protection and illumination. The flaming fire Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

of the Lord is found in Zion, to provide light in the darkest night:

Isa 31:9 ...says the Lord, Whose fire is in Zion and Whose furnace is in Jerusalem.

God has a furnace in Jerusalem and the fire that heats it is found in Zion. In the natural Jerusalem, mount Zion is the place where the city of David is located and where King David had his palace. It is in this place, where those of the house of David are anchored, that the everlasting burnings are situated, described in Isaiah 33:

Isa 33:14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling seizes the godless ones. [They cry] Who among us can dwell with that devouring fire? Who among us can dwell with those everlasting burnings? Isa 33:15 He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, who despises gain from fraud and from oppression, who shakes his hand free from the taking of bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed and shuts his eyes to avoid looking upon evil.

So it seems that living righteously enables one to dwell in the presence of the everlasting burnings. Sinners know that the fire has come to deal with their ungodly ways. Malachi 3 speaks of the coming of the Refiner's Fire to the Church, resulting in the revealing of His jewels and the consuming of the lawless, so they have neither root nor branch. Daniel described vividly the scene he saw of the throne of God and fire featured prominently:

Dan 7:9 ...His throne was like the fiery flame; its wheels were burning fire. Dan 7:10 A stream of fire come forth from before Him...

We are entering the day that burns like an oven, Beloved, and those who have not allowed the refiner's fire to work within their hearts in the previous season, will be facing severe dealings in these days. Our God is a consuming fire and if we carry His Name, He is honour-bound to deal with His own because they represent Him in the earth. He cannot have fleshly disobedient children misrepresenting Him.

What really captured my attention in this beautiful place with the name of a city with a furnace within it was the large bronze statues scattered round on the emerald lawns. There were leopards in many poses; running, leaping, lying on logs. They brought to mind the scripture in Song of Songs:

Son 4:8 Come away with me from Lebanon, my bride, come with me from Lebanon. Depart from the top of Amana, from the peak of Senir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards.

This verse depicts the start of a new journey, a starting point, place of launching. Armana means 'covenant' and Hermon means 'to consecrate'. Both of these terms are part of a marriage ceremony. The bride is consecrated or set apart to the Bridegroom. Historically, Mount Hermon is the place where the fallen angels descended and made a group pact to sleep with the daughters of men; thus infiltrating and defiling the bloodlines with demonic DNA. There is a building of hewn stone on top of this mountain, from which an archaeologist removed a limestone block bearing an inscription which reads "According to the command of the greatest and Holy God, those who take an oath (proceed) from here." – a curious statement for a demonic gathering place. Perhaps it was written with the intention to refer to satan as being the greatest god. However, those of us who know the truth are fully aware just Who is the greatest and Holy God! So the allusion to mount Hermon on Song 4:8 is interesting. Indeed, Mount Hermon is a place of division and covenant but the question is with whom is one making a covenant? God calls His people to come out and be separate from all uncleanness.

Women often refer to churches in the Scriptures and the taking of human women by fallen angels is also a depiction of the taking over of Christian fellowships and turning them into the habitation of demons, which bring forth mixed seed and pollute the earth with the doctrines of demons disguised as revelation from God Almighty. This is already going on all over the earth. Its time make a final choice at Mount Hermon. Where is your heart at? Lebanon in Hebrew comes from the root 'lebab', meaning 'heart'. Which deity is your heart joined to? The challenge at Mount Hermon is the same as the one Elijah issued at Mount Carmel: "If the Lord is God, follow Him! But if Baal, then follow him". Will we be lovers of Him Who is Truth and choose to consecrate ourselves fully to be part of the army of light or will we cleave to the deceived masses who will ultimately bow to the antichrist?

There is no more time to procrastinate with your choice. It's time to leave and cleave. The powers of darkness are also getting ready to launch their final leg of 'angels of light', counterfeit workers, into the church system at this juncture because the counterfeit is running concurrently with the real as usual. At Mount Hermon, light is being separated from darkness and those moving in either direction are being identified as such. We will know them by their fruit. Interestingly, the word 'Hermon' also means 'to separate and devote to destruction'. Mount Hermon is a launching pad to destruction or Life, depending on what your heart is choosing to cleave to at this juncture.

A short while ago, I woke up in the middle of the night with the word 'redeem' resounding in my spirit. Then the Lord added a meaning for me; 'buy back something devoted to destruction'. If Hermon means 'to devote to destruction' by the act of consecration, then the only way to effectively leave this dark place is if you are ransomed, redeemed and bought back from the designation to destruction. Only the Bridal price of the Blood of the slain Lamb will ransom and redeem you from Mount Hermon.

It doesn't work to just amble away from Hermon and tell yourself you are now free. You have to be separated unto Life; you have to leave and cleave. You have to divorce and separate. Please note that the Bridegroom does not say, "Come away..." He says, "Come away WITH ME..." There are essentially only two bridal covenants in the earth in these end times. Either you are entered into covenant with fallen angels and every sector of society that they have infiltrated OR you are ransomed and redeemed by the Bridal price of the Lamb and set apart exclusively for Him. There is no middle ground.

Leave the temple made of stones hewn into shape by fallen angels and their deception. There is one who will build the true temple of the Lord; His Servant the Branch. Cleave to the Bridegroom and come away with Him from this place as He requests. This wine estate Webersburg seems to depict a place of separation, a place of choice, a place where the fiery jealous love of the Bridegroom demands His people make a wholehearted choice: forget your people and your father's house, turn your back on all that has gone before, leave the past and all mixture and defilement behind and journey on with Him alone...

It is no coincidence that this venue is often used for wedding receptions, due to the beauty of the surroundings. During a Jewish wedding ceremony, there is a specific word that is used that exemplifies the concept of being completely set apart for the Bridegroom. 'Mekudeshet' is a Hebrew word, meaning 'exclusive, completely set apart unto'. At the peak of a Jewish wedding, the groom slides the ring on the index finger of his bride, and cites, "By accepting this ring, you become my exclusive [Mekudeshet] spouse according to the religion [or customs] of Moses and Israel." The word 'Kadosh' (holy) is derived from the same root, and so this blessing literally means: 'you are exclusively Mine, holy and separated unto Me'. This is what the Bridegroom is asking of us. We cannot belong to multiple lovers. We must be His alone. He is not prepared to share us with fallen angels. Traditionally, when a woman accepted a wedding ring, she was signaling her change of personal status and her agreement to the provisions in the 'ketubah' or marriage contract.

As I sat and worshipped the Lord in my heart at Webersburg while I gazed at the mountains and rolling lawns, my attention was drawn by a huge sculpture of a figure diving. It was held aloft in perfect balance by an iron rod upon which the heart of the figure rested. There was such grace and alignment in the arrangement of its limbs and I recognized the diving position as a 'swallow dive'.

It struck me that in this position there were no hands out to brace for the impact and to protect the head from injury. Instead there was perfect focus depicted – what a profound way of showing surrender and trust in the power of the rod to hold it up. And how fitting that the rod connects to the heart of the figure and not its head. The Holy Spirit ministered to me so powerfully that this is the time to be in full alignment with Heaven's purpose for us and to get ready to launch with our whole heart trusting in the rod of His Word.

He is coming to rule the nations with a rod of iron. It was the rod of God that accompanied Moses as he confronted Pharaoh. It was the rod of God that opened the Red sea and struck the rock so water could flow out. For those who overcome in the area of tolerating Jezebel, there is an award of a place of rule and authority, using a rod: Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes (is victorious) and who obeys My commands to the [very] end [doing the works that please Me], I will give him authority and power over the nations; Rev 2:27 And he shall rule them with a sceptre (rod) of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, and [his power over them shall be] like that which I Myself have received from My Father;

Psa 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations as Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth as Your possession. Psa 2:9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like potters' ware.

A SOUND RELEASED FROM THE ALTAR

John, the Beloved, was given a reed like a rod to measure the sanctuary and the altar of incense and record those who worship there (Rev 11:1). The Hebrew word for 'rod' also means 'a scepter or staff; a stick for fighting, writing or ruling'. It is from the centre of Zion that the scepter of God is extended to rule in the midst of our enemies, according to psalm 110. So those who are getting ready to launch in perfect alignment with Heaven will be releasing decrees and books and sounds that cause massive change in the earth and bring alignment with the Kingdom of Heaven in their chosen areas of influence. They will be led by surrendered hearts and not by their own understanding; providing a breathtaking display of perfect oneness with their Creator for those who observe them.

They are those who have, like the swallow, made their nest or dwelling place at the altar of God, as psalm 84 describes. As I have mentioned earlier, the golden altar is the altar of incense just in front of the veil, and it is from this place that an angel takes coals and adds much incense and casts it on the earth, releasing an outbreak of Heavenly power and sound

Rev 8:3 And another angel came and stood over the altar. He had a golden censer, and he was given very much incense (fragrant spices and gums which exhale perfume when burned), that he might mingle it with the prayers of all the people of God (the saints) upon the golden altar before the throne. Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense (the perfume) arose in the presence of God, with the prayers of the people of God (the saints), from the hand of the angel. Rev 8:5 So the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and cast it upon the earth. Then there followed peals of thunder and loud rumblings and blasts and noises, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

There will be a release of heavenly sounds, revelation and the voice of God resounding through these perfectly aligned vessels, released as burning coals of fire from the censor to minister a message that shakes the earth. They usher in the sounding of the seven trumpets.

As I left Webersburg, I went closer to the statue to read the plaque on its base and was surprised to discover the name of it was not 'Swallow' but 'Swan'! How interesting – swallow dives that are swan-songs! In other words, these bond-slaves of the Lamb have put all their strength into their final dive. A swan-song is defined as 'a final performance, one which brings to a life to completion before death'. These ones have come to the place of being fully conformed to the death of Christ and know that the final stretch of the relay race is before them. They press on to win the prize for which Christ is calling them upward.

From within, they find the store of resurrection power reserved for this day and hour and they run this leg of the race with all their heart and soul and mind and strength, because the finish line is in sight. They are dead to this world; dead to personal ambition, dead to the praises of men. They take this final plunge for Heaven's pleasure, seeking only to gain the approval of the audience of One for whom they leave the safety of the diving board. This is what they have been trained for in the furnace of affliction; this is what they were born for; they have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this and they have nothing left to lose. They are not their own, they are bought with a price and for them to live is Christ and to die is gain.

I was reading a book recently which contained a record of people's last words upon their deathbeds. Anna Pavlova, the prima ballerina who danced in Swan Lake, was heard to say, "Get my swan costume ready" as she breathed her last. What powerful statement and one which we should all be getting ready to say as in the dispensation of the fullness of times, Heaven and earth work together to bring '*all things together in Christ'* as Ephesians 1 describes:

Eph 1:9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, Eph

1:10 for an administration of the fullness of times, to head up all things in Christ, both the things in Heaven, and the things on earth, even in Him,

So, Beloved of the Lord dwelling at the altar of incense, are you ready for your swan costume? Can you hear the sound of the Bridegroom as He approaches. In this day that burns like an oven, are you saying with the Spirit, "Come, Lord, come"? Are you ready to throw your whole strength and heart into taking the plunge and aligning perfectly with that which the Father purposed for you to do in the earth; to play your part in helping bring all things to completion in Him? It's the final leg of the relay race for the cause of Christ; the final harvest will now be reaped amidst much shaking and dense darkness upon the peoples. But His light will arise upon you and your swan-song will draw those around you to Him, as you focus only upon bringing delight to the heart of the Bridegroom.

He is asking you to get ready for your swan-song; the grand finale spurt that all your seasons of difficult preparation have shaped and readied you for. All those grueling training sessions alone with the Spirit, wrestling as the Refiner's fire burned every ounce of dross from your heart, will all prove worth it! Launch yourself forth in full trust and faith as His Rod upholds you in perfect balance, with the glory of God upon you.

COPYCAT CEREMONY

Of course, at the same time that the Lord is preparing a holy army of saints to launch on their Heavenly assignments, the

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

enemy is busy recruiting his hordes and he tries to make them look like the army of God. In September 2016, a 3 week-long festival was held in Jerusalem, called 'Mekudeshet'. Yes, you read that right! However, it was not declaring Jerusalem holy to the Lord. The festival brought together Israeli and international artists, in a shocking presentation of terms and activities that mixed Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and witchcraft. One of the main events was advertised as an experiment in alternative realities, called "Seven ways to dissolve boundaries." Allegedly, this was all about music and art. However, one of the international artists performing was described as a "Prophet," with the added promise that he would bewitch the location [David's tower in this case] with his best music. Another artist was called a "High Priest." One of the bands was promoted as a collaboration of a "Priest" and a "goddess." Some of the events were called 'Confessions' and 'Forgiveness' and one of them was a common Prayer House, called 'Amen', which consisted of a 7 day long 24 hour prayer and worship by Muslim, Christian and Jewish participants.

Clearly, the festival was to hijack the city that has long been known as the city of the Great King and betroth it to fallen angels and the agenda of the One World Religion. How tragic and what a graphic depiction of what the enemy desires to do with the wife of the Lamb, who is described as a city descending out of Heaven from God. His desire is to defile and imprison the wife of the Lamb exclusively for his diabolical purposes. No wonder the Lion of Judah is roaring, "Give Me back My wife" and shaking everything that can be shaken, in order to free her and get her back!!

COPYCAT COLOURS

In a similar display of the counterfeit, we see that the woman who rides the beast also displays some of the colors of the holy incense:

Rev 17:4 *The woman was robed in purple and scarlet and bedecked with gold, precious stones, and pearls, [and she was] holding in her hand a golden cup full of the accursed offenses and the filth of her lewdness and vice.*

Note, however, that there is no blue displayed. It takes the hottest part of the flame, a blue flame to turn the incense into fragrance by fire. The fire is not intended to warm the toes of the bride, but to set her aflame with a cleansing fire. Therefore this harlot bride has not subjected herself to the Refiner's fire. She tries to rule and dispense wine without the fiery seal of God's approval and is without purity of heart. Therefore she offers abominations and filth in the cup she holds out. Blue is also the colour of heavenly revelation, of which she dispenses none!

The locusts released from the abyss in Revelation 9 also represent the counterfeit bridal company, moving in demonic power. They have faces of people (in other words, these are people possessed by demons) and breastplates of iron and something 'like' golden crowns. They have teeth like lion's, but there is no roar of the Lion of the tribe of Judah from their spirits! They are also accompanied by smoke, but it is black as opposed to the smoke of the altar of incense which is white and blue and purple. And there is no salt of any kind present – Truth is absent and Abbadon is at their head.

Rev 9:2 He opened the long shaft of the Abyss (the bottomless pit), and smoke like the smoke of a huge furnace puffed out of the long shaft, so that the sun and the atmosphere were darkened by the smoke from the long shaft. Rev 9:3 Then out of the smoke locusts came forth on the earth, and such power was granted them as the power the earth's scorpions have. ... Rev 9:7 The locusts resembled horses equipped for battle. On their heads was something like golden crowns. Their faces resembled the faces of people. [Joel 2:4.] Rev 9:8 They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. Rev 9:9 Their breastplates (scales) resembled breastplates made of iron, Rev 9:11 Over them as king they have the angel of the Abyss (of the bottomless pit). In Hebrew his name is Abaddon [destruction], but in Greek he is called Apollyon [destroyer].

Once these five months of torment inflicted on all those who do not bear the Lord's seal is past, a very interesting thing happens:

Rev 9:13 *Then the sixth angel blew [his] trumpet, and from the four horns of the golden altar which stands before God I heard a solitary voice*

There is a voice or sound released from the very place that the incense is burning on the golden altar. This word translated 'solitary' is a feminine word meaning 'a' or 'one'. So there is a sound which comes forth after the sixth trumpet. It is one sound, a single or united sound, not many different sounds and its purpose is to issue a decree to release the judgments held back for this particular moment in world history. These judgments are carried out with the intention of bringing the remaining two thirds of mankind to repentance as Rev 9:20,21 indicates. However, even though a third of men perish, the hardness of people's hearts prevents them turning from their sorcery, murder, idolatry and thefts.

It seems to me that it is those who are sealed before the locusts are released, which are the ones found at the golden altar, worshipping and praying before the throne. They are dwelling in unity and are in one accord in one place before the throne and from them a united sound is released, triggering the executing the judgments written. In Revelation 11, John is informed that the temple and the altar and those who worship therein are exempt from the trampling that occurs for three and a half years.

Rev 11:1 A REED [as a measuring rod] was then given to me, [shaped] like a staff, and I was told: Rise up and measure the sanctuary of God and the altar [of incense], and [number] those who worship there. Rev 11:2 But leave out of your measuring the court outside the sanctuary of God; omit that, for it is given over to the Gentiles (the nations), and they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months (three and one-half years).

The word translated 'gentiles' actually refers to those who do not serve the One True God and are therefore pagan. As the time period is the same as that given in Revelation 12 regarding the woman who is kept safe in the wilderness, we must assume that it refers to the same group of people. Beloved, the altar of incense is the place to be found in the days we are entering into.

MAKING A MESSENGER OF FIRE

In 2012, I had a vision during worship which gave me an interesting view of the making of a messenger of fire. It involved a season inside a dark cocoon, during which all substance became liquid and was rebuilt into something new

– the process of metamorphosis. I would like to share that vision with you:

In worship, I saw small section of brilliant colour, royal blue and orange and black, almost like a peacock feather brilliance in fine detail, then I saw a single butterfly struggling out of a cocoon. It emerged with crumpled wings and sat upon a twig, spreading its wings in the light of the sun and drying out and the wings gradually smoothed in the warmth of the sun. The scripture came to mind about the Sun of Righteousness arising with healing in His wings.

As the butterfly emerges from place of forming, and its narrow confines, there is a struggle to emerge, and it can't fly straight away. It needs to rest in the light of the Son and allow healing of all the wrinkles and crumples from the birth process. Then I saw it wasn't only happening with one but thousands of butterflies, all the same colour, brilliant orange, deep blue and black. Then a wind came and began to lift them up from underneath and carry them away and it began to blow harder, forming a giant whirlwind full of butterflies and because of the colour of their wings, it looked like a swirling pillar of fire.

Then fire fell from above and burned the chrysalis, so there was no going back. God was burning bridges and those butterflies could only go forwards from now on. The purpose of the chrysalis was complete and there was no more use for it. Then the whirlwind of fire began to move all over and touch down and people were watching it in wonder. Every now and then, one person watching longingly would be sucked into the whirlwind and become part of the sweeping fiery column, and as they did, fire would consume the places they had come from. There could be no going back. God says, "I make my messengers a flame of fire". Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. The wind blows where it wills and where it comes from no-one knows. Thus it is with those born of the Spirit!

Chapter 16 ~ TOWER OR TOMB

The enemy's takeover bid has been aimed at infiltrating and counterfeiting the voice or sound of God and this 'voice' comes from the voice box situated in the neck. The whole nervous system communication also passes through the neck vertebra to every part of the Body. We are called to grow up into Him Who is the Head so that every joint can supply. Therefore, every joint within the neck must supply free passage to the nerves supplying messages to the rest of the Body. When nerves are pinched in the neck, severe distress results in one or more of the Body parts and the message being sent from the Head cannot be effectively received and understood. Therefore the joints in the neck either hinder or help the whole Body, depending on their orientation and positioning in alignment under the Head. So let us look into what the neck symbolizes.

When our son was very small, he used to clamber into bed with us early in the morning so that he could listen to a story told by his dad. One morning he turned up his nose in disgust and said, "Daddy, I don't like the smell of your voice!" Of course, he was referring to his dad's 'morning breath' but there is a spiritual principle here. Do our words carry the fragrance of life or of death? Jesus accused the Pharisees of being whitewashed tombs, full of dead men's bones. If this was the case, the sound which emerged from their mouths must have carried the odor of death and decay, because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. The throat is merely the depository of the decoder and broadcaster of the thoughts and atmosphere of the heart. This decoder is called the voice box.

Son_7:4 Your neck is like a tower of ivory, your eyes like the pools of Heshbon by the gate of Bath-rabbim. Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon which looks toward Damascus.

The word translated 'tower' here, also means 'pulpit' and the word for 'ivory' comes from a root word 'to teach diligently' or 'to pierce'. So the neck is the launching place of teachings or sermons which either bring life or death, depending upon the ownership of the heart which is the source of all its sermons! The vocal chords create the pitch and tone of the sound released from within the neck. The Bridegroom also describes the neck of the Bride as being an arsenal which has been constructed to hold weapons and display the shields of warriors:

Son_4:4 Your neck is like the tower of David, built for an arsenal, whereon hang a thousand bucklers, all of them shields of warriors.

Notice it is a tower built by David, not Saul! We have to be a depository for the right House if we desire to release the right sound. So, when the sound of Heaven is imparted to the heart of the Bride, her voice box becomes an arsenal or treasury of powerful sound weapons. As the Lord utters His voice through her, strongholds are shaken and the kingdom of Light drives back the Kingdom of Darkness, executing the judgments written by the release of a pure heavenly sound.

Remember the man who called himself 'prophet' in the unholy Mekudeshet festival, who declared he would bewitch the tower of David with his music? So we know that the enemy is releasing a strong barrage of witchcraft against the 'voice box' of the Bride, by coming up in its midst, using counterfeit workers, 'angels of light' or false prophets, and distorting and defiling the sound emerging from it.

A RUTH OR AN ORPAH

We have heard that the wife is the neck that turns the head, but in truth, the wife is supposed to be the neck through which the Head turns the Body in the right direction, functioning as a holy temple in the earth; displaying the glory of God as the Light of the World. In the book of Ruth, we read of two widows who began the journey out of Moab towards Bethlehem. Moab is the place of uncleanness, named after a people birthed through incest. One of these two widows turned back, turning away from the destination that had a supply of the Bread of Life and returning to her unclean past. It behooves us to look into the meaning of her name.

'Orpah' means 'stiff-necked'. And what caused this turning back? The prospect of remaining a widow for the rest of her life; the thought of leaving the ways of Moab and the gods of Moab were all too much for her. She chose the familiar. Ruth on the other hand chose God... and ended up being married to the Kinsman Redeemer, Boaz. A stiff neck has spasmed muscles and cannot move freely or turn to look behind it to where it has come from, in order to make a wise decision. It has no hind-sight. Orpah is a picture of the widow church who has lost the presence of her Husband and has no memory of His voice and therefore would rather choose to return to uncleanness, than experience any form of self-sacrifice. This harlot Church chooses unclean associations because self is on the throne. Here at the threshold, a separation occurs and the true Church, even though still in widowhood, sets her face like a flint and decides to choose God and His people and moves on to dwell (or settle down and marry) in Bethlehem, the House of Bread.

The prophet Jeremiah is given a message of impending judgment for the inhabitants of Moab. Note once again the mention of the dove:

Jer 48:28 O you inhabitants of Moab, leave the cities and dwell among the rocks, and be like the dove that makes her nest in the walls of the yawning ravine.

These doves are called to hide in the cleft of the rock to escape the judgment upon unclean Moab. Yet, in the book of Ruth, when given the choice to keep going forward to Bethlehem or to turn back, stiff-necked Orpah chooses that which is familiar. Instead of leaving her people and her father's house, she chooses to return to Moab. There are idols in her heart. No wonder the Lord says that stubbornness is as idolatry. Stiff-necked people worship the idol of their own opinions and walk in pride and are unteachable, because they believe they are always right. They find it difficult to repent and change their ways or humble themselves.

Ruth, on the other hand, is single-eyed. She is moving forward towards the people of God and the revelation of Him. Forgetting what lies behind, she presses forward to what is ahead. She is on the journey to becoming rightly aligned with the Head. Then she goes to the threshing floor and lies down at his feet, and when asked, identifies herself Boaz's handmaid. What a prophetic picture her as positioning portrays. The neck must be under the head and in straight alignment, obeying every instruction the head gives it. Otherwise the rest of the body receives distorted or muted nerve signals. Anyone who has had problems with misalignment in their neck will testify to the discomfort this causes to the whole body. A rightly oriented neck is not stiff, but pliable and flexible and in submission to the head it is joined to. From a position of rest, it fulfils its part in the whole picture.

Ruth went home to Naomi with all the grain Boaz had given to her and she sat still until Boaz, her Groom-to-be had dealt with the legal issues in the gate. Only a Kinsman Redeemer can restore the name of the dead to his inheritance. Only a Kinsman Redeemer can unlock an inheritance that is dormant because of widowhood. Orpah forfeited that right because she turned back. She parted ways with what God was doing and was never heard from again; whereas Ruth became part of the lineage that brought forth Christ in the earth. Jesus will not have a stiff-necked wife. One morning recently, when I was praying, I heard the word 'orient' and then the word 'orientation'. I saw a compass needle spinning as if it was unable to find true North. Why can't it find true North – or the direction of the Head? Because there is a disconnection in signal; a break somewhere along the line of transmission of magnetic signals from true North. Ruth was single-eyed. Like a well functioning compass needle, she set her face like a flint towards the House of Bread. What is the House of Bread? It is the House where the Bread which came down from Heaven is available to you. It is the place where the breath of God and the fruit of His lips keeps you among the living. The Kinsman-Redeemer is only found in the House of Bread.

Orient is defined as:

1)the special luster of a pearl of the finest quality (with reference to fine pearls from the East);

2)to align or position (something) relative to the points of a compass or other specified positions;

3)to tailor or adapt (something) to specified circumstances.

It comes from the Latin 'orientem', which means 'the rising sun' and is the present participle of oriri, 'to rise'. So when the Lord spoke the word 'orient' to me, He was referring to becoming aligned and tailored and adapted to a specific position with regard to the Sun of Righteousness. This in itself of necessity requires the letting go of every other alignment or position previously held. Ruth oriented her heart towards Bethlehem and the God of Israel. In so doing, she had to let go of any focus on the place she had come from or any person she had left behind. She was doing what Paul speaks of – forgetting what lies behind and pressing forward to take hold of that for which you have been taken hold of. All lesser claims upon one's time and attention must be abandoned if one desires to reach one's goal. Jesus said He came to separate a daughter from her mother in law and this is exactly what happened in Orpah's case.

'Orient' also refers to 'the lustre of the finest quality pearl'. Do you remember the man who found the pearl of great price?

Mat 13:45 Again the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is a dealer in search of fine and precious pearls, Mat 13:46 Who, on finding a single pearl of great price, went and sold all he had and bought it.

He sold all he had. He burned all his bridges and invested himself fully in the acquisition of this pearl of great price. He oriented himself toward the pearl. Everything else dimmed in comparison. We are told that the path of the righteous s like the light of dawn that grows brighter and brighter until the full light of day. This can only happen as one turns one's back on the darkness and begins to walk step by step towards the Sun of Righteousness Who is rising with healing in His wings.

When the neck is rightly oriented to the Head, it can then orient or turn the Body. First the Bride must be rightly oriented. Michal had to leave Jerusalem and focus on reaching David. When she arrived there and took the place that was rightfully hers at his side, she then was ready for the next part of the process. The Lion of Judah does not want His wife back just to have her on His arm as an adornment. There is purpose in His demand. There is a sound to be released; a life of rule and fruitfulness waiting once oneness is achieved.

The other word I heard the Spirit say after 'orient' was 'orientation'. This means 'the action of orienting someone or something relative to the points of compass or other specified positions'. When used in Human resource management, it refers to 'an introductory stage in the process of new employee assimilation'. The Lord of the Harvest is looking for laborers. For those who have offered themselves willingly in the day of His power, they are undergoing orientation. This includes being exposed to all aspects that pertain to the position they will be filling. Of course, by nature, orientation is both general and specific. A new intake of harvesters will receive input on the general nature of the endeavour Heaven is engaged in and then specific instruction will be released to each one, depending on the specifications of the area or position they will be functioning in. It involves a setting in place with the view of fulfilling function.

Moses underwent orientation at the burning bush. He was there for a whole week, wrestling with God, having his excuses moved out of the way of God's purposes. When he was finally fully aligned, he was released to join with his brother Aaron to carry the sound God had appointed him to carry into Egypt. The sound released into you, becomes the sound released through you. The water poured into the vessel became the wine poured out of it on the 3rd day of the wedding feast. Empty yourself of all self-will. Come to a place of full surrender to Heaven's purposes so that God can fill you with the portion of Heavenly sound you are destined to release into the earth realm. Orient yourself toward the Sun of Righteousness. Turn your back on the night you have journeyed through and set your face like a flint toward what lies ahead. Forget what lies behind. Press forward to take firm hold of that for which Christ laid hold of you!

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

Chapter 17 ~ DIVISION BEFORE MULTIPLICATION

God is a God of separation. His process of creation involves division and separation. He separated light from darkness, the waters above from the waters below, the sea from the land. He separated His people from Egypt before joining them to Himself in a marriage covenant at Sinai. All fruitfulness in the earthly realm involves division and before fruitfulness. At cellular separation level. the chromosome, consisting of two chromatids, unwinds and splits apart during the cell replication process. Separation occurs before multiplication. God breaks down in order to build up. He tears apart in order to produce. His ways are above our ways. The spiritual world operates in a way that the natural mind cannot grasp. We add in order to increase. God divides in order to create more.

In the chromosome, each chromatid carries the genetic sequence which makes up the blueprint from which the creature it belongs to is fully formed. During conception, for each of the 22 human chromosomes, the baby receives one RNA strand from the mother's ovum and the other strand from the father's sperm. The cleaving of all these respective chromatids from both the sperm and ovum create a unique human being with a genetic blueprint containing characteristics from both the mother and the father.

In the world of the Spirit, God decrees that light and darkness can have no fellowship. Yet, the church has taken genetic information from the blueprint that has formed worldly systems and spliced it into the genetic blueprint given in the Word of God. In so doing, they have produced a mutant hybrid creature that bears little resemblance to the Father God. Spiritual genetic engineering in the Church of Jesus Christ has taken the strengths and characteristics of the business world, with all its trading and trafficking, and introduced it into the given Word of Truth, severely weakening and polluting the spiritual genetic makeup of succeeding generations of Church life.

What now passes as the widely accepted style of following and worshiping the One True God is so far removed from the original genetics of the early Church, that the first disciples would not recognise it as being the offspring of the Word of Truth. Mutant hybrids are monsters and just as the copulating of fallen angels with human women produced giants in the earth, so too, the coupling of the DNA of this fallen world with various church bodies and deceived individuals has brought forth giant ministries, which strut about the earth, making great claims and declaring they represent Heaven. Unfortunately, they are of Hagar the Egyptian and the odour of the world clings to their garments. Their fragrance is that of death, not life.

This is why God calls His people to come out and be separate - just like a single chromatid separates from another to which it was previously bonded. The genetic blueprint of Babylon is constructed of the doctrines of men and demons and is

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

bonded together with Jezebellic control and witchcraft power. Until we unwind from the DNA of Babylon and separate fully, we cannot cleave to the true DNA of Christ. Jesus says that He will spew that which is lukewarm out of His mouth. All mixture is anathema to God. He is Light and there is no darkness in Him. We must separate and live as sons of the Light and sons of the Day. An interesting fact is that when chromatids separate, any broken places in their genetic sequence are then restored and healed, before they then replicate or join with another chromatid. So if we want our brokenness healed, we must come out from among those who are of Belial and darkness and then God our Father binds up our brokenness and heals our wounds. As long as we are fused to Babylon and its fleshly ways, we will produce after its kind.

Scientists have recently discovered a third strand in between the two chromatids which make up the DNA. Buried within the tightly wound double helix is a laser beam of light. They have reported that when a certain acid is applied to the ends of the DNA helix, it causes the DNA to unwrap. As the DNA unwraps and the chromatids separate, the light bursts forth, measured at 130 nanometers. The frequency of 130 nanometers produces a light purple or violet colour, the healing frequency. Our God, Jehovah Rapha, desires to release the light and Truth that will heal all our brokenness – but first, separation from Babylon must occur.

Why does the Lion of Judah want His wife back? Because she belongs to Him; joined in holy covenant. Remember the tribe

of Levi whom God took for Himself in place of the firstborn? (Num 8:16) The word 'Levi' means 'to unite, to entwine or to cleave'. Leah, the unloved woman named him this because her heart cried out day and night for intimacy and union with her husband, not only in flesh, but a oneness of soul. Jacob was married to her and supplied her physical needs, but from a sense of duty rather than love. How fitting that God should choose the tribe with a name embodying this heart cry to be set apart for Himself. Enfolded within this name is the cry of the Lover for the Beloved - for oneness, for union, for cleaving as one. God wants His Bride to be made perfect in one with Him; to cleave to Him with all her heart and soul and mind and strength. He wants her to be so entwined with Him that the two are bound in a spiral like the two chromatids of the DNA strand, with the laser beam of violet light between them.

The laser beam of light is the spoken Word, the sound that comes forth from the Rider on the white horse in Revelation

19. He is the Word of God, clothed in a garment dipped in blood. The sword coming forth from His mouth is that which has worked on those who ride behind Him, clothed in white linen. They are separated and set apart and rightly aligned with their Head. They follow Him wherever He goes because they have become one with Him and His purposes in the earth.

The Hebrew word for garment also means 'wife' and here we see that this Kingly Rider's garment or wife is dipped or immersed in Blood. The wife of the Word of God, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, is clothed herself in the Bridal price, setting her apart as His alone. No-one else is allowed to wear or use the garment of the King of Kings. She accompanies Him as He goes to rule with a rod of iron. He is within her, clothed with her and displaying His glory from within her.

Jesus said early on in His ministry that He did not come to bring peace but a sword of separation. The words of light coming from His mouth and resounding within our hearts cause the separation. The laser beam of light parts as under. It separates ruthlessly all that is born of the Spirit from that which perpetuates the fleshly.

Mat 10:34 Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. Mat 10:35 For I have come to part asunder a man from his father, and a daughter from her mother, and a newly married wife from her mother-in-law-- Mat 10:36 And a man's foes will be they of his own household.

SAMSON, ONCE SET APART

Samson, a man set apart and mightily used of the Spirit, began to compromise, succumbed to enticement and the enchantments of Delilah and eventually found himself grinding corn for the Philistines. You have also discovered firsthand that being yoked to a religious system only produces food for the enemy. The word 'grind' in Hebrew is also translated 'to work as a concubine'. The religious system will place fetters on you and yoke you to a perpetual circular route, forcing you to use your gifts and talents for the benefit of the system and there will be no payment for services rendered. Your spiritual womb will be rented out to produce after the Philistine kind in the halls of Churchianity. This is not what God had in mind when He betrothed you to Himself. The secret of Samson's strength was his setapartness. He was supposed to be 'mekudeshet'! In the same way, the enemy will lay hold of you and use you for common purposes, and then degrade and mock you. Like Samson you will be made to perform for the pleasure of the people. It leaves you empty and drained and feeling used.

Deep within his heart, Samson quietly began to unwind from the DNA of fleshly ways he had walked in, as he went round and round with his sightless eyes gazing upon the unseen. And his hair, a symbol of his set-apartness, began to grow again. He was gazing on Him who is invisible and the laser beam of light coming forth from the mouth of Him Who rides the white horse (Rev 19:11) was separating His son from the darkness of the DNA of Adamic ways.

Jdg 16:30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself mightily, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those he killed in his life.

Samson, fully separated from the DNA of Philistia and its trading and trafficking ways, became one with his destiny. As he stood between those two pillars, he had cleaved and was one with the shaft of laser Light coming forth from the mouth of Him Who is Light. Samson was on assignment, released as part of the army of Light, an explosion of light

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

separating the two DNA strands of Philistia, thrusting them asunder from one another. The separating power of Heaven came upon him and used him to execute judgment upon all that went on in the genetic blueprint of that temple. Heaven's laser beam of light destroyed that edifice and all the princes seated there. Beloved, the laying down of your life for the sake of the Kingdom will accomplish more than all your exploits for the religious system. Jesus accomplished more on the cross than in all his days of ministry beforehand. It is the fear of death which keeps us captive to the harlot religious system. The enemy has no hold over those who are not afraid to lay their lives down. In the process of you doing this, the principalities and powers that have mocked and jeered at you during your years of slavery are brought to naught.

Where did Samson's greatest victory take place? In the house of Dagon. Dagon was the fish-god. He had the head and hands of a man but the tail of a fish. This is a picture of the thoughts (head) and works (hands) of man combined with Christianity (the fish was used by the early Church as a symbol of a Christian). The house of religion serves a mutant god, combining the doctrines and fleshly endeavors of man with the gospel of Jesus Christ. This monster deprives the Word of God of its power.

The true gospel of the Kingdom calls us to lay down our lives that Christ may live and move through us. It requires us to believe with the faith of a child; that faith which is not moved by what it sees or doesn't see. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God and they sow to the Spirit and do not gratify the flesh. The two pillars in the house of Dagon are counterfeits of the two pillars in the temple of Solomon. These two pillars were named Jachin (**He** will establish) and Boaz (in **Him** is strength). In a house built according to God's blueprint, the focus is upon Him. In the temple of Dagon, the focus is on man – I will establish myself in my own fleshly strength and spiritual ambition. Only as the sons of God, chastened and disciplined by trials, lay hold of that which is counterfeit in their belief systems and push with all their might to thrust that DNA strand and blueprint away from them, will they embrace the true eternal life which was purchased for them at Calvary.

God allowed Samson to be brought to captivity in the house of religion so that he could learn to be led by the eyes of his heart and not his natural sight; to gain first-hand knowledge of the diet being offered in the house of religion and ultimately to reject it in favour of true meat. So, Beloved, don't look back with regret at all the mistakes you seem to have made. Rejoice that God has been working within you to deliver you from all outward support and the need for the approval of man. The place that seems darkest to you is your appointed place of deliverance from all that has bound you. Gaze upon Him Who is invisible and call upon God to remember you. All that the enemy has intended for evil, He will turn for good as you walk in childlike faith. Samson's mention in the Hebrews 11 list of faith heroes shows us that the Father's accounting system is very different to the world's! In your weakness, His strength is perfected. The

crushing trial, the darkness, the seemingly endless days at the grinding wheel only serve as tools to form you into a weapon fit for the Master's use! Arise as you hear your name called and ascend from the prison house of religion. Your appointed time of deliverance is at hand! Leave and cleave to the Light. Block out the jeering cries of the enemy and focus upon the face of your Father. Heed His simple instructions in so doing you will bring about deliverance for yourself and your brethren. Lay down your life for the Kingdom and enter into your rest from fleshly labors. Through many tribulations, you are entering the Kingdom.

LET SAMSON ARISE!

Some years ago, I was worshipping and found myself singing and decreeing, "Let Samson arise!" Over and over, the Spirit had me call this out, and the words were accompanied by a vision. I saw Samson yoked and grinding corn in the prison house of the Philistines and then he heard the call of his name and he stood upright and was led by a little child to stand before the shouting, drunk crowds and perform for them. I saw him whisper to the child and then, placing his hands on the two pillars of the house of Dagon, he bowed down and pushed with all his might, thus destroying it.

Jdg 16:25 And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house stands, that I may lean upon them. Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

Jdg 16:29 And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

The Holy Spirit gave me understanding that Samson represented the sons of God, who had been brought into captivity and slavery to an ungodly religious system. Their ability to see had been destroyed by the enemy and they had been going round and round in circles, yoked with a yoke and being forced to produce food for the appetite of their enemy. However, now a call was going out from the Heavens for this corporate Samson to arise and be led to his appointed place. Amidst the mocking cries of the enemy to perform for entertainment, they would lay hold of the two pillars which hold up the pagan temple in which they stand in chains.

These pillars represent doctrines which cause the house of religion to keep standing. As they lay hold of or identify these pillars of false doctrine and lift up their voices to the Lord, the Spirit of Might would then so clothe these sons of God that they would be empowered to push down these pillars. They would do this, not by looking at the seen, but at the unseen, for the natural things are temporal, but the unseen are eternal. Fixing their eyes on things above in heavenly places, the zeal for God's house would come upon them like a cloak as they were clothed with the power of His might. This would accomplish the destruction of the structure of this pagan temple in which the sons of God had been performing as blind slaves.

It would silence the mocking voices on the rooftop (representing the second heaven where principalities operate). A great slaughter of the enemy ranks would occur during this demolition. As Samson was prepared to lay down his life for the vengeance of God to be displayed on behalf of His sons, he precipitated the destruction of an idolatrous place of worship. When the two pillars fell, all that was sustained and upheld by them came crashing down!

Isa 59:17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense. So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun.

I sang further about the people of God being clothed with power from on high, that they might access the rich treasuries of His glory according to Eph 1 – the glorious riches of His inheritance in the saints AND the incomparably great power available to us as believers. It is time to begin to access that power now.

There is a re-clothing of the sons of God. The slave-rags of their own righteous religious deeds are being removed and they are being clothed within, with the cloak of zeal and might to fulfil the purposes and works of God. They must begin to see this with the eye of faith and access and appropriate what is appointed for them in this day. As they enter the kingdom as a little child by faith, the Spirit of wisdom and revelation will begin to unveil the place, nature and position of these pillars. As they lay hold of eternal Truth, zeal for God's House will so energize and fill them that these strongholds of the doctrines of men will begin to topple, creating a domino effect in the spiritual realm.

Psa 149:6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two edged sword in their hand; Psa 149:7 To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; Psa 149:8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; Psa 149:9 To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints!

Let Samson arise and separate himself and execute the judgments written!

DANCE ME TO THE END OF LOVE

When two chromatids cleave together, they perform a kind of courtship dance as they bond and spiral round one another, forming the double DNA helix with the hidden shaft of true light in the middle. In truth, a threefold strand is not easily broken and once we have separated and cleave to Him Who is the true Light of the World, nothing can snatch us out of His hand. The Spirit has often used the concept of dancing with the Bridegroom to minister to me concerning being led by the Spirit and co-labouring with Him in the earth. Just as the woman is led by the man on the dance floor, so too, the Bride must be led by her Heavenly Husband in all things, waiting for His leading and following His prompting.

When I recently heard that the Jewish poet and singer, Leonard Cohen, had passed away, I was immediately intrigued as within his name are both the Latin word for 'lion' and the Hebrew word for 'priest'. Jesus is the Lion of Judah, our Bridegroom priest and king; a Priest after the order of Melchizedek. While researching this man whose music has entertained millions for many years, I came across a video of his song 'Dance me to the end of love', which spoke very powerfully in a prophetic sense to me. The lyrics of his song can be interpreted in a natural fleshly way, just as the chapters of Song of Solomon can. The natural man cannot understand the things of the Spirit and we must become those who put forth spiritual truths in spiritual language. We must move from bearing the image of the earthly and the fleshly to bearing the image of the heavenly and seeing with our spiritual eyes. As Paul says:

1Co 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 1Co 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness

to him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I believe that Leonard Cohen's passing at this moment in history and the resulting renewed interest in his music are very much a prophetic message in themselves. The letter kills but the Spirit gives life and just as the relationship between a man and a woman are likened to our relationship with the Bridegroom in Song of Songs, so too, this song can be viewed in a similar way at this time, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. As mentioned, the natural man does not understand the things of the Spirit and there will be those who are unable to hear a spiritual message within these lines. Yet for those who are able to hear, there is something to be received and embraced.

I do not think that Leonard Cohen thought of himself as a prophet and seems to have had a very erratic relationship with the God of his fathers, yet his lyrics in this particular song are profoundly prophetic in that they depict a love dance and song between the Betrothed Bride and her Bridegroom and her plea for Him to guide her safely through the panic and fearsome things that are coming upon the earth and dance her to the wedding chuppah. She expresses a desire to be safely gathered in and to be lifted like an olive branch – referencing the Man whose name is the Branch who will build the true temple of the Lord. It is a song of intimacy which mentions the children or fruitfulness that will come from this dance of love. It comes as no surprise that in Israel,

this song is played at weddings and funerals. Here are the lyrics:

Dance me to your beauty with a burning violin Dance me through the panic 'til I'm safely gathered in Lift me like an olive branch and be my homeward dove Dance me to the end of love Dance me to the wedding now, dance me on and on Dance me very tenderly and dance me very long We're both of us beneath our love, we're both of us above Dance me to the end of love Dance me to the end of love Dance me to the children who are asking to be born Dance me through the curtains that our kisses have outworn Raise a tent of shelter now, though every thread is torn Dance me to the end of love

SUPPORTED BY THE WORD

In 2012, I had a vision during worship which also featured a dance between the Bride and the Groom. I was busy singing, "where you go, I go, where you stay, I stay, God" and I saw two fireflies, but I could only see their red lights against a dark backdrop and they were following each other in a kind of dance. Then I saw the Bridegroom and Bride on a rectangular dance-floor, similar to the scenes one sees in the program 'So you think you can dance'. There was a panel of sober, serious judges and people were standing around, watching the dance. However, one moment the music was a waltz, and the next minute it changed to a tango. It was hard

to figure out the category of dance this fitted into because it was no known dance routine.

The judges were frowning, but the Bride and Bridegroom were dancing flawlessly as one, the amateur with the expert, as she followed His lead. The couple was oblivious to all watching or what they were thinking. The faces of the people standing around the dance floor became filled with wonder, but the judges' eyebrows were going up in consternation, because they knew the laws about dancing and all the rules were being broken. They couldn't see the beauty of the dance because of their knowledge of the written dance laws. Then as the audience gaze enraptured, the people began to fall on their faces round the dance floor and they were transformed into sheaves of wheat that have been harvested. The judges were busy deliberating and disqualifying the couple, but then Jesus stooped down and began to write in the sand: 'a perfect 10'.

Then I saw sheaves falling out of heaven and these were the answers to prayers for unsaved loved ones who have been in the audience, watching the Bride's dance with the Bridegroom but not participating and they came forth as sheaves out of the tomb, a harvest from the seed of the promises that have seemed to fall to ground and died.

Then the worship ascended in the fellowship where I was taking part, and the worship leader started singing about stepping out on the water of the Word and not being afraid. Immediately, I saw that the dance-floor had writing on it, and the Bridal couple were dancing on the foundation of the written Word but there was a wind blowing around them, so that the Bride was being led by the Spirit, but supported by the Word; both the Word made flesh and the written Word on the floor under their feet. I heard the word 'zephyr'. (*A zephyr is a soft gentle breeze*). And that word was followed by the phrase; 'Not by might, nor by power but by my Spirit'.

Then the sheaves lying round dance floor began to get up and go onto dance floor, and each one began dancing with their partner, which in each case was the Bridegroom. Somehow, they were all hearing their own song and music and, as a result, were doing different dances. It looked like a chaotic riot of colour and movement from the horizontal level where I was viewing the scene.

Then I was lifted to see it from above and it was actually a glorious choreographed dance by the Lord of the Dance. It reminded me of an orchestra playing with different instruments, where each musician had their own part to contribute in the symphony, yet somehow there was colour attached to what they did so that it looked like I was viewing a giant kaleidoscope, which the Lord was continuously turning with His hand so that all the coloured stones falling into different beautiful patterns. This is the view the Father has as He orchestrates the bringing of all things to completion in Christ.

In Song of Songs, there is a company who watches the emerging of this beautiful Bride and exclaims at her appearance:

Son 6:10 [The ladies asked] Who is this that looks forth like the dawn, fair as the moon, clear and pure as the sun, and terrible as a bannered host?

Who is this who looks forth or appears like the light of dawn? Her clarity and purity is the same as the sun because she is of the same genetic material as the Sun of Righteousness. She is one with Him and brings forth His light in the earth. She carries the light of His glory within her and inspires the same awe and fear as one feels when gazing upon a marching army displaying their banners as they ride forth into battle. When she wants to leave their presence, they call her to return, for to gaze upon her is to gaze upon the face of Him Who is the Light of the world.

Son 6:13 Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may look upon you! [I replied] What is there for you to see in the [poor little] Shulamite? [And they answered] As upon a dance before two armies or a dance of Mahanaim.

When they gaze upon her, it is the gazing upon a dance being performed before two armies, the army of Heaven and the army of God on earth. The word for 'dance' used here also means 'to twist, to whirl, to tremble, to calve, to travail and bring forth'. This dance which the Bride is engaged in is like the winding and twirling of the DNA helix as cleaving occurs and fruitfulness is the result. The Bride is bringing forth the purposes of Heaven as she dances with her Groom, face to face, gazing upon His beauty.

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME

The Lion of Judah Bridegroom King has been longing to have His wife back. And once she is safe in His embrace, where she has always belonged, the orchestra of Heaven can begin to release the first bars of the heavenly music reserved for this hour. And now, Bride of the King of Kings, dancing with the Bridegroom to the music that is next on Heaven's playing list is going to be a challenge. It is a song unlike any we have ever heard before and the rhythm and tempo is unfamiliar - it has never before been played on earth in your hearing. It is a song which has been reserved for this moment in your life and this hour in history and the Bridegroom has already written His Name on your dance card. His request is simple - "Save the last dance for Me". This is not the kind of dance the world is familiar with, where the dance partners stand a distance from each other and gyrate out of sync with each other in a darkened room. Nor is it one in which all the women flood the dance floor and dance on their own because they are tired of waiting for the man of their dreams to come and ask them to dance.

This is a dance where there may be darkness all around but the light of Heaven is shining upon you. This is a dance according to old fashioned protocol. Each of us will be dancing with the Bridegroom according to the Spirit's leading. Each of us will be firmly clasped in His embrace, dancing face to face with our Beloved. There is place for no other name on the dance cards of our hearts at this hour. It is the dance of the Bride with the Bridegroom, carried out before a watching world – and in many cases, before a watching Church who has forgotten what it means to be set apart for the Bridegroom; believers who don't understand what it means to be holy and prepared as the Bride of Christ in such a time as this. It is a dance of love that is done to express the Father's heart to eyes and ears that still don't seem to understand His message. It is a living letter placed in the embrace of the 'envelope', in other words, hidden in the arms of Christ - and from this place, all people see is you in Christ and Christ in you. It is a display of oneness with the heart of God and the beauty of this union is portrayed for every watching heart to read. The 'envelope', Christ the Bridegroom is inscribed with the personal name and address of each watching soul. It is a personal message for each one watching – it is their invitation to follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

So how do you dance to a song you do not know? The only way is to rest and trust in the arms of the Bridegroom and follow His lead. He has your back and the slightest pressure from His left hand will guide you. He holds your right hand and you fear no evil as He gently but firmly guides you through the steps to the song that He has known from before the foundations of the world. Oh yes, beloved, it is an ancient song, composed in honour of the Lamb who was slain, when the very plan of salvation was conceived in the heart of God. It was performed then, far from the ears of man, for the ears of man had not even been formed at that time. Only the orchestra of Heaven read the score for that music, penned by the Spirit of grace and truth, and angels held their breaths and wept in worship as they heard the words for the first time, "I will go". Holy, holy holy is the Lord God, the Lamb.

Set-apart for the purposes of the Father is the Lamb. Even as Esther came to the kingdom for such a time as this, so too, the Bride has been set-apart and prepared for this moment, this dance performed before a pagan court in intercession and invitation for the people of God. There has been a season of the Mordecai's weeping and interceding at the gate as they overheard the plans of the enemy for destruction. But now the baton has been passed to the Bride, the one who already has captured the King's heart with her beauty.

Don't be afraid, Bride of Christ, as you hear the opening bars of this music. Don't falter as you take His hand and step onto the dance floor. You know His embrace – it is your safe shelter. Breathe in the fragrance of the Bridegroom whom you know so very well - and trust Him. You will not dash your foot or stumble and the sight of you dancing with your Beloved will do more than you know in the watching crowd.

Blind eyes, long bandaged by the lies of the spirit of harlotry, will be opened. Chains and shackles holding believers long in servitude to the spirit of this age will fall open. Many souls born again into a compromised and fleshly modern day institution, which is the only 'church' they know, will receive the light of the revelation of the glory of God as you display for them the beauty of holiness in a prepared and adorned Bride. Your life speaks more than you know – without a single word from your lips. You are a living letter, displayed before men whom the Father's heart is yearning for. You may not even be able to hear the words of the song because you are so intent on following His lead step by step. But everyone watching it can hear the strains deep within their own softening hearts – "Come away with Me, My love". Through your dance with Him, the Spirit is wooing others to come and follow the Bridegroom in this holy dance. Your very dance is writing lyrics on the hearts of all around you. They want to dance this dance too...

It's time. All the other dances are over. All your dance partners have had their turn. They admired your beauty and longed to hold you in their embrace and like eager suitors they queued up for a chance to 'own' the Bride and make her dance to their chosen tune, work with their ministry and play a part in their vision –giving impetus to what they have wanted to build for God and display before the eyes of men. But now it's time for the last song – it's the turn of Heaven at last. Now it's time to step into your God-appointed place, hidden in Christ, for the last dance. Christ in you is the hope of glory. You being hidden in Christ causes a release of the glory. Now the dance card can be put down and all those names and other dances forgotten. It's time as Paul said, to lay hold of that for which Christ laid hold of you. Can you see your Bridegroom standing before you with a twinkle in His eye, saying those old familiar words, "May I have this dance?"

In the balconies of Heaven, saints who have danced this holy dance before you are leaning over excitedly and jostling for a place, to have the best view. They are so excited as they watch the latest addition to the Bride of Christ moving to the tune they know so well. Heaven's scribes are busy recording the news – "It's happening again, it's what all Heaven has

been waiting for – another wave of harvest is about to come in. prepare the halls of Heaven for we are soon to welcome the final harvest. The song of the reapers has begun"....and

as they watch this dance, they are moved to tears with the beauty of the Word made flesh in you, moving to no earthly song. And the fragrance of your complete surrender and trust as you step into His arms, ravishes your Bridegroom's heart. You have eyes for no-one else. Like Moses of old, you gaze steadfastly on Him who is invisible. Dance with all your heart, Beautiful Bride and see the hearts of stone be turned to flesh all around you.

A holy ear-splitting roar is released as you twirl and whirl as one in the earth. This sound goes forth and reaps the harvest with a fiery zealous love. And those who have ears to hear the things of the Spirit can interpret that sound. It is calling forth all those who have been paid for with the Bridal price from the places they have been ensnared. It is shaking the prisons and breaking the bars which separate those He loves from His embrace. It is releasing the laser beam of light which thrusts back everything from the realm of darkness keeping His bought wife bound. It causes a leaving and a cleaving and you have now become one with the sound of the Light; you are a true saying of God. You are part of Heaven's song, part of the symphony of saving sound for which you were created. This holy dance becomes a spinning dynamo of power and light, broadcasting the call and decree for all those still to come in, all those appointed to also become part of this dance. It is an ancient call, one that has

been and now resounds again with a concussion of Heavenly authority:

"GIVE ME BACK MY WIFE!"

Chapter 18 ~ POSTSCRIPT ~ VISIONS AND DREAMS

On April 22nd of 2017, I attended a prayer meeting called 'It's Time', where almost 2 million people left the places where they lived and came together in a field on a farm outside Bloemfontein (flowering fountain) in South Africa. The scale of what happened is hard to comprehend. 400 airplanes descended upon the local airport. Highways were jammed with busses and cars from every direction. A call had been issued and His people had come. It was a sight that moved me to tears. As we walked the many kilometers from our parking place to the gathering place, we all commented how it was similar to when almost the same number of the Israelites assembled at Mount Sinai in order to covenant with the Lord in marriage. It was a profound experience kneeling together and holding hands as we all reconsecrated our lives to the Bridegroom. The Lord answered by sending a white whirlwind cloud which moved right across the vast crowd of people.

Hundreds of shofars were blown throughout the gathering and many banners waved and all focus was on seeking the face of the Lord. I kept seeing a giant lion standing upon the little hill behind the stage. His legs were as tall as the huge speakers on each side of the stage and He gazed back and forth over the crowd of His people assembled as far as the eye could see. Then suddenly He roared and flames poured out of His mouth and rushed over the people, right to the back edges of those gathered. I knew His fiery jealous love was claiming each soul kneeling before Him as exclusively His own – mekudeshet unto Him. Later, someone shared a verse with me:

Psa 97:3 *Fire goes before Him and burns up His adversaries round about.*

I understood that these flames were burning up everything in His Beloved's life which resisted the fullness of His will; every demonic stronghold consumed and eradicated; every lesser claim to this earthen vessel completely annihilated as He took full possession of that which was rightfully His! Throughout the meeting, I wished I could hear from above, the sound which was being released into the spiritual realm from this vast company. It seemed like the sound of many waters and the thousands of thousands who cried out to the One upon the throne, as described in the book of Revelation 5.

The heavy presence of God amongst His people was tangible and afterwards as I journeyed home, the Spirit began to show me that what I had seen with my own eyes that day was a prophetic depiction of what this whole book is about – the return of the wife of the Lion of Judah to her Groom. This is that which was spoken of.....

The people did not gather for a worship concert or to hear a famous preacher. They came out from among their congregations and denominations and left their routines and places of work and came out to Him. Many people travelled

for days to be there. And in those preceding days, there were multiple visions of warring angels being released to stand around that huge 2000 hectare field. The Spirit kept stressing the word 'Mahanaim' – the place of two armies; the army of Heaven coming to work together with the army of God on earth. In Songs 6, those who gazed upon the Bride described her as looking like a bannered host and later like a dance before two armies:

Son 6:10 [The ladies asked] Who is this that looks forth like the dawn, fair as the moon, clear and pure as the sun, and terrible as a bannered host? ... Son 6:12 Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib. Son 6:13 [I began to flee, but they called to me] Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may look upon you! [I replied] What is there for you to see in the [poor little] Shulamite? [And they answered] As upon a dance before two armies or a dance of Mahanaim.

Amminadib means 'a company of people who offers themselves willingly'. All that vast crowd of Believers came willingly and offered themselves again to the Lord in consecration, repenting of having wandered away from Him and covenanting again with the Bridegroom. The Lion of Judah was being given back His wife! Just as psalm 110 says 'Your people will offer themselves willingly in the day of Your power.' And one of the worship songs phrased it perfectly as it described this Bridal people who were saying, "Yes, Lord. We will ride with you." Here are the words of this powerful decree! We Will Ride

He has fire in His eyes and a sword in His hand And He's riding a white horse across this land He has fire in His eyes and a sword in His hand And He's riding a white horse across this land And He's calling out to you and me "Will you ride with me?"

He has fire in His eyes and a sword in His hand And He's riding a white horse across this land And He's calling out to you and me "Will you ride with me?" We say, "yes, yes Lord, we will ride with You"

Chorus:

We say, "yes Lord, we will ride with You We will stand up and fight We will ride with the armies of heaven We'll be dressed in white, we'll be dressed in white" We say, "yes, yes Lord, we will ride"

He has a crown on His head and he carries a scepter in His hand And He's leading the armies across this land And He's calling out to you and me "Will you ride with me?" We say, "yes, yes Lord We will ride with You"

That fire in His eyes is His love for His bride

And He's longing that she be with Him Right by His side That fire in His eyes is His burning desire That His bride be with Him, right by His side And He's calling out to us right now, "Will you ride with me?"

The sound that resounded and rolled over South Africa that day from the mouth of His consecrated ones is sweet music to the Bridegroom's ears. His Bride wants Him alone; His Word alone, His face alone. This sound says, "I am Yours, my Love. You are the chief among ten thousand to me." And the power of that sound released at the golden altar of incense sets in motion His righteous judgments in the nation and the continent. A harvest of harvesters has been accomplished.

Bloemfontein was originally the seat of the Judiciary in our nation and is the home of two army bases. From the seat of the Judiciary, decrees are issued and then executed. That day, the kings and priests of the Lamb issued decrees in a violent earth- shattering roar, "Amen ~ Let it be so!" as the leader of the prayer meeting decreed wave upon wave of royal judgments, "We say NO to immorality!... We say No to pornography.... We say NO to corruption in government..." and on and on, the decrees rolled, a concussion of sound peeling off the layers of demonic strategy veiling the nation

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes Lord (Songwriter: ANDY PARK)

and the continent. The angelic armies surrounding this field containing the vast Bridal Company have come to co-labour with the army of God in this nation in bringing in the harvest for His glory. Millions of voices releasing one sound in unity, "Let your will be done – in us, in our nation, in our continent. Let your kingdom come. Let it be as You have written". Fire has been cast upon the earth, thunders and voices have been set in motion. The Lion has roared, who will not tremble!? (Amos 3:8)

In the week preceding this milestone prayer meeting, a prophetic sign unfolded. A man arrived with drilling equipment and asked if there was enough water on the farm. He was told that water had never been found in the area, but they gave him permission to drill. He hit an incredibly strong underground aquifer and proceeded to drill four boreholes on this farm. Beloved, a fountain has been opened for uncleanness for the house of David and there will be rivers in the desert, cleansing and washing – and everywhere this river flows, everything will live! All hiding places of the realm of darkness will be overwhelmed by this release and swept away.

Zec 13:1 IN THAT day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem [to cleanse them from] sin and uncleanness. Zec 13:2 And in that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no more be remembered; and also I will remove from the land the [false] prophets and the unclean spirit.

Isa 28:17 I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plummet; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the hiding place (the shelter).

At 3am on the morning of the prayer meeting, the Lord woke me and gave me Isaiah 35 and psalm 68. Both these passages describe the coming of the presence and glory of the Lord and the release of vast quantities of water.

Isa 35:1 THE WILDERNESS and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the rose and the autumn crocus. Isa 35:2 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing... They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty and splendour and excellency of our God... Isa 35:6 Then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Isa 35:7 And the burning sand and the mirage shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water... Isa 35:8 And a highway shall be there, and a way; and it shall be called the Holy Way.

Psa 68:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A song. GOD IS [already] beginning to arise, and His enemies to scatter; let them also who hate Him flee before Him! Psa 68:2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish before the presence of God. Psa 68:3 But let the [uncompromisingly] righteous be glad; let them be in high spirits and glory before God, yes, let them [jubilantly] rejoice! Psa 68:4 Sing to God, sing praises to His name, cast up a highway for Him Who rides through the deserts--His name is the Lord--be in high spirits and glory before Him! ...Psa 68:32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praises to the Lord! Selah Psa 68:33 [Sing praises] to Him Who rides upon the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, He sends forth His voice, His mighty voice.

Why did the Lord choose the tip of Africa to do this? Maybe because it has always been known as the Dark Continent, the least of the brethren, the weak and the foolish and the despised. Or perhaps it is dark because it has been hidden and veiled until this time in its prophetic destiny. It was a man from Africa who helped Jesus to carry His cross. Perhaps once again, a corporate man from Africa will help the Body of Jesus to carry their cross. When darkness was upon the face of the deep in Genesis 1, out of this state, God called forth light! From the Dark Continent, God is calling forth light. Psalms also tells us that darkness is His hiding place!! That is, until the moment He chooses to break forth in lightning and thunder and fire from the darkness!

Psa 18:11 He made darkness His secret hiding place; as His pavilion (His canopy) round about Him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. Psa 18:12 Out of the brightness before Him there broke forth through His thick clouds hailstones and coals of fire. Psa 18:13 The Lord also thundered from the heavens, and the Most High uttered His voice, amid hailstones and coals of fire.

The Word tells us, "Out of Egypt (Africa), I have called My Son." (Hosea 11:1; Matt 2:15) The continent of Africa has a prophetic destiny in releasing the manchild. And the roar of the Lion of Judah calling His Bride to come out to Him

triggers the process. Remember the white whirlwind that moved over the crowd as they prayed? Look at what it says in Zechariah 9:

Zec 9:14 *And the Lord shall be seen over them and His arrow shall go forth as the lightning and the Lord God will blow the shofar and will go forth in the whirlwinds of the south.*

Whirlwinds of the south – from South Africa, a whirlwind has been released, marking the release of His arrow, His called out ones, those who have set themselves apart and accepted His invitation. It is time! The Hebrew word for 'south' also means 'the right hand'. The sons of the right hand are preparing to ride.

Psa 68:26 Bless, give thanks, and gratefully praise God in the assembly, O you who are from the fountain of Israel. Psa 68:27 There is little Benjamin in the lead...

Benjamin, son of the right hand is described as leading in this verse, as being the forerunner, as setting in motion a movement into the new prophetic season in God, the one in which His enemies are annihilated. A prophetic sign of a whirlwind in the south was seen above this crowd of about two million people near Bloemfontein, signifying the arising of our God to scatter His enemies. Do you want to be a part of it? The sons of the right hand are those who rule, seated and reigning with Christ in Heavenly places, partnering in releasing His righteous judgments in the earth. But first we must be fully one with Him, fully consecrated, fully separated.

Bride of Christ, do you take this Man to be your lawful, wedded Husband; forsaking all others and separating yourself wholly unto Him as long as you both shall live? Will you ride with Him or will you ride with the army of darkness? It's time....The One on the white horse with the

eyes of fire is getting ready to ride. His garment is saturated with the power of His Blood. Remember the word in Hebrew for 'garment' also means 'wife'. Say yes to Him and be a part of the Blood-soaked garment moved by the wind of the Spirit, riding with Him into battle. The army of Light always wins!

FLEE TO ZION

I have already shared briefly earlier on in this book about a prophetic dream which I had in November 2005. It has remained vivid in my heart and mind as the days and years have passed and I would like to describe it in more detail. It amazes me how something given so many years ago can still be as fresh today as it was the night I dreamed it. It holds much prophetic imagery concerning the things that are unfolding in the Body of Christ in these days and once, again is a strong warning as to the urgency to leave and cleave.

In the dream, I was standing upon a high mountain overlooking the sea. It is late afternoon. There was an unearthly golden light upon the vegetation on the mountain. I was trying to photograph the scene using a camera that belonged to my sister. Suddenly on the horizon, a full moon

with black streaks began to rise and I was trying to get a photograph of the unearthly light with the moon in the background. However, the camera was continually changing shape and unfolding and I could not capture the scene or 'get a handle' on how to operate it. As I looked through the lens, chaos broke out on the water. There were gunshots and explosions and I saw wooden galleons on the sea which were keeling over. At that moment I saw pirates in smaller boats move up to the galleons and swarm up and onto their decks, taking over control.

Simultaneously I saw many people who had been at shore level, begin to stream up the mountain towards me as if they were fleeing to safety from the war below. Then, as my gaze shifted back to the water, I saw a speedboat travelling very fast, approaching from the right side, with a man standing up in the front, holding a burning torch. Then I noticed a continuous line of oil had been poured upon the water, between the wooden galleons and the shore. This man set the line of oil ablaze and continued on out of my line of vision to the left. I knew this refers to Luke 12:49.

Luk 12:49 *I am come to send fire on the earth; and how I wish that it be already kindled*?

Then suddenly I saw the man was travelling on the road behind me on the hill, still lighting a fire-line which sprang up between me and my car which was parked at the side of the road. There was a barbed wire fence between me and the car but I grabbed hold of the top and vaulted over. Surprisingly I felt no pain. I shouted to two people with me to do the same. When I arrived home, there were lots of people also preparing to leave and flee and the inside of the house looked like slave quarters. The people were all dark and looked like slaves. My husband came down the narrow passage towards me with a coloured or black man who said to him, "you should be able to get them safely to Natal (another province in South Africa). I got the impression that an operation similar to Harriet Tubman was on the go.

When I awoke, the phrase 'black moon rising' was in my mind and I was made to understand that angels had been released to separate the wheat from the tares in the harvest field.

Interpretation and Application

The mountain is Mount Zion bathed in the light of heavenly revelation. I represent the Bride of Christ positioned on mount Zion, receiving heavenly revelation and counsel, but unable to 'capture it' in a way that could be shared, because it was continually unfolding and changing shape very fast. Below, at sea level, which is the lowest elevation in the earthly realm, there are wooden galleons which represent people, groups and ministries which function in old religious mindsets and structures. In the dream, there are many people who are at this shore-level spiritually – it represents an earthly or fleshly understanding of Christ. Prophetically the time is just before sunset, the time before darkness covers the earth. There is a storm coming on the sea of humanity; a time of chaos, confusion and destruction; a time when demonic takeover of many ministries and groups will occur; a time when ships which have been sailing serenely all through the afternoon will keel over and be destroyed.

As I stand surveying (which entails mapping out, understanding positioning) the devastation below, I am looking from a heavenly perspective far above the devastation which comes to that which is rooted in carnality (below). The man at the helm of the boat is the Captain or Lord of Hosts. He comes from the sides of the North which is to my right as I face the moon in the west.

Psa 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

The fire-line He draws is the line of demarcation that has been spoken about for some time. This is 'judgment' or separating that which is of Christ, and that which is not. It is demarcated by the torch company, those who operate in the anointing of the Zadok priesthood, who can teach the people the difference between the clean and the unclean.

Luk 12:51 Do you suppose that I have come to give peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division. Luk 12:52 For from now on, there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. Luk 12:53 The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-inlaw. When this demarcation line is fully lit, there is no longer an opportunity for those aboard the galleons to flee to the mountain. This is the time of separation by the Sword of the Spirit. It will be clear who is of Christ and who is not. There is extreme urgency to choose where to be found – in Christ or in the systems of the worldly church, at this juncture. Time is running out. He sets before us life and death. We must choose life so that we and our children may live. As the chaos begins to erupt, multitudes will flee to mount Zion and the safety of being hidden in Christ and seated in heavenly places.

However, this work of fire is not only evident upon the sea of humanity. Christ lights a fire behind those upon mount Zion – His glory becomes their rear guard and they are easily able to overcome any barrier which stands between them and freedom. Although there are thorns or barbs on the fence, these curses do not alight as the barrier is negotiated, because they are in Christ. Just as the pillar of fire and the cloud removed and positioned behind the people of Israel at the edge of the Red sea, so too will the glory of God be a defense, separating us from our enemies as we hide in Christ on Mount Zion.

There are many people preparing to flee the slave quarters of the Babylonian religious system and they will be led out by the Bridegroom (the husband of the Bride) and brought to safety in another province. The name of this province is 'Natal' which means 'birth'.

Isa 66:8 Who has heard such a thing? who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Isa 66:9 Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? says the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? says thy God.

The separation which is upon us is from the womb of the church system. We are being birthed into a new place and separation from the placenta of the religious system (which has provided nourishment up to this point) is vital. We must flee to a higher place and personally breathe the air of mount Zion. This is not to say that every person must leave their place of fellowship. However, the allegiance to a system which enslaves people for the good of an organization rather than allegiance to Christ, Who is the Head of the Body, is the issue on the table. We must each be led of the Spirit in our personal decisions in these days.

Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Be caught up to God and to His throne, Beloved. Do not be caught up with the organizations of men and their doctrines which deprive the Word of God of its power. Be found assembling with the woman in the wilderness in the place where you will be safe and fed with daily manna. In the dream, there was an underground rescue operation being organised. Harriet Tubman carried out an underground operation, bringing people out of slavery in the United States of America. It was organized in secret and was highly successful. The Holy Spirit is at present secretly recruiting those who hunger after God and full freedom in Christ and is instructing them in order to bring them out of the lifeless religious system and off the galleons of yesterday and into the full freedom of the Sons of God.

'Black moon rising' refers to the occurrence of two dark cycles of the moon in one calendar month. It is believed that the second dark moon of a month is a time of great power within the spiritual world and any magic worked during this time is especially powerful. The fact that one appeared in the dream, just as the takeover occurred, signifies that soulish witchcraft and occultic practices will increase within church circles where a religious spirit is in control. There is also a specific time (which we have already entered into) in which the rising of occult power operating within the so-called churches will suddenly be greatly increased.

There is also a song by Black Sabbath with this title. There are also quite a few other songs with the same title - all relating to winds of war, death, gross violence, darkness. Black Sabbath also relates to a counterfeit of the Sabbath Rest of God. Dense darkness will be upon the peoples in the end times but for those who separate completely and position themselves upon Mount Zion, where the Church of the Firstborn operates, will be clothed in the light and glory of Heaven. It is here that myriads of angels are also found ministering to the heirs of salvation.

The place which the bride calls home in the dream is actually made up of slave quarters and it is time to flee this earthly or fleshly spiritual home and to begin to dwell on mount Zion. This is our only safety. Come away from earthly systems of control and become one with Christ. The Lion of Judah is roaring and His fiery jealous love will not stand for any form of harlotry in His Bride. Flee to Zion, Bride of Christ. Become fully consecrated to Him.

Heb 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, Heb 12:23 to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are written in Heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, Heb 12:24 and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. Heb 12:25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape, those who refused him that spoke on earth, much more we shall not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from Heaven, Heb 12:26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will not only shake the earth, but also the heavens." Heb 12:27 And this word, "Yet once more," signifies the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that have been made, so that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, Heb 12:29 for"Our God is a

consuming fire."

COME OUT AND BE SEPARATED UNTO HIM

In November of 2016, I experienced some days of visitation by the Spirit; during which He spoke to me in the form of poetry which was quite unlike any I had written before! The following poem contains the call to come out from among them and be separate unto the Lord, your Bridegroom. It echoes the warning of the dream to flee to Zion, to leave the earthly and the fleshly and become part of the Heavenly company.

POEM ~ FRIDAY 18TH NOV 2016¹

God is perfect Not a perfectionist The God Man With the bloodstained Garment reigns. The perfect spot for His son To be set in place In the earth Was a stable, Not a 4 star Inn. What kind Of crib Are you sleeping in? A manger?

 $^{^1\,}$ Also ${\rm 17}^{\rm th}$ Cheshvan, of the year 1656 from Creation - the day the great flood

Or are you In danger? For stars of the Right kind Are looking left Right now. Some of God's kids are lambs led to the slaughter. The daughter Of My people Dwells in Babylon And it's high time To climb To higher climes Before the flood Of blood and tears. Come out Through Christ The X-it Door Be 4 Stars fall And lights Go out. Be out The box. The fox Is in the

Henhouse And the co-hens² Are at risk And the strength Of the burden-bearers Is weakening³ Before the rush and push Of satan's flood but Two pillars pushed By the blind Posterchild Of Heaven And the roof's Coming down 4 real This time. It's not the Wind in the Willows You hear It's the Thunderbirds Great vultures Coming to Feast On kings and Priests.

²Cohen: Hebrew for 'priest' ³Neh 4:10,11

Its the wind Beneath Their wings You feel. Get real Wake up And smell The coffee Hell's Angels Are riding thru' Christian City And their Throaty roar Will bring More blood For sure... What you fear Will come Upon you If you don't Rise Vacate Your seat Excuse yourself And leave. The pitter patter Ain't heaven's reign It's counter-feet Dancing on the

Tables of the Drunken prophets' slime And cinder-ella Will slip And fall In the ashes of Her broken dreams If she doesn't Heed The Spirit's call To forsake all And disappear From Her spot In death row. It's role-call time And her name Is about to sound... And re sound, Be real. Make sure The bird Has flown Before the Door to hell Knell. R U a King Of earth Or Heaven? Be found By Zion's crowd.

Paradise lost Is no loss ~ **Right?** You don't want To be left Behind in Sodom, That's not your Lot! Heed The hand On your shoulder Steering you In the **Opposite direction** Of the crowd Of star-gazers And crowd-pleasers. B found Bneath the throne Where the Voices of those Who were not Their own Resound, How long

will your Reputation Be the chain that binds you to the wall that's set to fall⁴? How deep Do U have To sink B4U hit the Rock of Ages, deep beneath the sea of turmoil in the nations? Drink, Verdrink⁵ in the waves of His Love; Let His Breakers go over U and return U travelling tumbleweed to the Sandbed of the

⁴Isaiah 30:13 ⁵Afrikaans for 'drown'

Sea-d of Abraham; who are first found hidden in the darkness of the Third Day⁶ B-4 reveal. Enter Sabbath Rest. Let Him Do the rest. Wash away your cares at the Fountain of Life. It's mikvah⁷ time, Bride of Mine. Stay in your groove, keep on track. The single song He sings over you is a long-playing record of His endless love 4 U. He doesn't do compact discs.

⁶ Evening comes before morning in God's day⁷ Mikvah:cleansing bath by Bride before wedding

El Elyon⁸ is Ancient and the record of your days was played 4 angels before one note was heard here by serfs of satan. You R A microchip off the Old Block; Rock of Ages kind, inserted under the skin of the system. You carry the mark; Signed & sealed, Heaven's deal; delivered among the asses dung of the stable table; silent witnesses observing Heaven's Stealth 'E' -Mission; Eternity's vision

⁸God Most High (Gen 14:18)

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God

slipping in the side X-it of the Establishment Tabernacle; camping in the same grounds as serpent tent with foul intent ~ Saul's six-some Reel Crossing swords! Stay in your tent! There's evil out. Don't stroll about and glance from side to side. Hide deep inside the secret place; Hidden in the shadow of His wings; where you observe the reward of the wicked. Don't come out to play unless

I say! Watching serpent Eyes surmise... Don't drop crumb clues 4 them 2 follow IJ Don't play chicken in the broad road where Trafficking occurs9 Road kill is his Assassin plan. Understand. Be wise as serpents, gentle still, My Dove. Stay in the cote¹⁰, above the noise of traders in the temple. Be singleeyed, My Love

⁹Joel 3:3-6 ¹⁰Cote:a small wooden house on a high pole for doves to nest in

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My Dove, You stand alone, above the crowd in My eyes! Don't compete. Your holiness is Beauty -full to Me. Worship,-Hidden Beauty of the Hart¹¹. As U bow down I AM is lifted up ~ And all who gaze intently at the sign are healed from serpent byte by sound bytes from the Throne, as yet unknown. A re-released Echo¹² feast of sound

¹¹Hart:a male deer Son 2:9

¹² Saying what they hear the Father saying

abounds from Holy lips with sips of Zion wine¹³. It's time for 'T'¹⁴: a sip of 3-fold tips from Aleph's lips Leaves out of His book; healing for the Nations. The Tree of Life House has squirreled away a store of Wisdom Nutty new-trients Picked up from under the Okes of Righteousness; His planting¹⁵, Educare for tots

¹⁴Tav, the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Also the Hebrew word for 'mark' Ezek 9:4 ¹⁵Isaiah 61:3

¹³ Isaiah 25:6

Give Me Back My Wife ~ Lion of Judah, Son of God before crossing; Strength for the journey; meals from Home; Heaven's kitchen; Byte-sized dainties. U don't have 2 dine out 2 dine well...

You are His, precious saint of God. He chose you in Him before the foundation of the world. He chose YOU, Beloved, to be a member of His Bridal Company. You were worth the payment of the Blood. That is the value He placed upon you

– not 1000 camels, but His own precious Blood! He wants you back, fully aligned, perfect in one, able to say with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, "Yes, Lord". Let the beauty of holiness be seen in you, Beloved, so that you can confidently say, "My Beloved is mine, and I AM HIS". Come out to Him. Give Him back His wife!

Eph 1:4 Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, <u>that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him)</u> and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, <u>before Him</u> in love.Selah