

Fresh Oil Releases

Transition and Manifestation-New Wineskins for Old

Part One

I have been taking a look at the manifestation of the Promised Son in order to gain understanding about the way God will accomplish the manifestation of the sons in this hour. Come with me to Luke where he describes the unveiling of the Son of God;

Luk 2:21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. Luk 2:22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord

For many years I read these two verses and assumed they took place together. However, on further study it became clear that they took place in different towns, thirty three days apart! According to God's law, a child was named and circumcised on the eighth day. Jesus was named in Bethlehem, but was taken to Jerusalem to be presented as the first-fruits offering of Mary's womb many days later.

In Leviticus 12 we read that when a woman had borne a male child, she was required to go through a season of purification which ended on the 40th day after the son was born. It was only on the 40th day that Simeon gazed upon this Promised Son in the temple. I will discuss the significance of this later but first let us look at Simeon and Anna.

Both these people were waiting for the kairos moment when God's Promised Son would be shown openly. These two represent the old and the new order and are a picture of what God is doing in the Church in this Third Day. There is a changing of the guard happening in the Spirit in these days. That which is of the previous season is decreasing and that which is of the new season is coming forth.

Luk 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. Luk 2:26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Luk 2:27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple

Simeon represents the previous season in God. He was anointed by the Spirit and walked in revelation to a certain extent- He heard God speak. He had understanding of God's timing and ways. He also understood that he was part of that which was passing away and that something new was coming forth. God had promised him that he would personally see the manifestation of this promise before death. "Simeon" means 'hearing'. Until the moment he held the child in his arms, Simeon had only heard about

what God was going to do; but finally he saw that which he had only heard of and longed for.

Luk 2:28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Luk 2:29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: Luk 2:30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

He embraced this new Holy Thing which God had brought forth, gazed upon it and then stepped out of the way so it could be manifested in all its glory. Simeon, the watchman of the old order, must be laid to rest in order for the new thing that God is doing to come forth fully. The last thing he does, as the baton is handed over to the next season, is prophesy to the Church (Mary):

Luk 2:34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; Luk 2:35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

'The fall and rising again' - here he speaks of a death and resurrection. The old dispensation has to pass away and that which has been waiting in the tomb of preparation has to be brought forth in resurrection power during this transition. Old mindsets must be laid to rest and new understanding embraced in order to possess a wineskin that can hold this Third Day wine. It is important to notice the timing with which Anna appears on the scene:

Luk 2:38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord...

At the very same instant that the old is passing away, the new is manifested. For those brief moments, the two dispensations, the old and the new wineskins, are present together in the same temple. They are very different but for a brief space of time God allows them to be seen side by side. In the same way we see that John the Baptist and Jesus were briefly together, the one representing a decreasing season in God and the other an increasing manifestation of God's promise made flesh in due season.

So too, the two wineskins are present together in the House of God at this time. One must be laid aside and the other embraced to keep in step with what the Spirit is doing. Once Simeon had embraced this Man-child, he was no longer seen in the temple. The old passed away because the new had come. This is the challenge facing the Church in these days - having the maturity and humility to acknowledge that what was once a new wineskin, has now become an old inflexible wineskin and must be laid aside.

Simeon represents an old religious paradigm, an old way of understanding. He came into the temple by the Spirit. This understanding that we come to a place in order to be in God's presence, the entering and leaving of a temple, is a mindset that is passing away. The Church is coming into a fresh understanding that in Him we live and move and have our being. Of course we have always known this with our heads, but the shackles of old religious ways have prevented us from living in the glorious liberty of a heart revelation of this truth. There is no place where we are not in God and He in us.

Anna represents this new understanding. She never left the temple but dwelt in the presence of God continually. In Anna is embodied the description of the face of the Holy Thing which God is unveiling in these days:

Luk 2:36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; Luk 2:37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

'Anna' means 'favor, grace'. A hallmark of these sons of God will be the evidence of the favor of God resting upon their lives. She was a prophetess - someone who heard God and conveyed His message to others. She was God's spokesman, bringing a living word to those in need. What was her pedigree? She came forth from the loins of a man called Phanuel, which means 'face of God'. Those God is unveiling in this season come forth from before the face of God - they are those who dwell in His presence before His face continually. Phanuel was of the tribe of Asher. The blessing released upon Asher by Jacob as he died was this:

Gen 49:20 Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties.

The heritage of the Anna company is the possession of an understanding of the Word soaked with fat (anointing) and the ability to bring forth kingly revelation (royal dainties) to feed others. Moses also released a prophetic blessing upon this tribe (Deut 33:24) as they prepared to enter the Promised Land. It contained four dimensions:

Fruitfulness

Acceptance by the brethren

An anointing and protection upon their every step

Strength for each day

The company that the Lord is releasing shall bear walk in each of these endowments.

The phrase 'of great age' is a very interesting one as the Greek words mean 'to go further, to advance in position or time'. These people are forerunners; they have gone ahead of others of their day. They are the spies that have entered the Promised Land and brought back the first cluster of revelation from within the land of His continual presence.

Anna was married for seven years and a widow for eighty four years. The first seven years in the presence of a husband represent the down-payment or guarantee of the fullness to come; the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The next twelve seasons (84=7x12) represent the season of preparation for governmental authority, the time when the vessel is purified and fashioned to be fit to carry the glory. It is the season of widowhood, the time of mourning and fellowship with His sufferings in order to be able to share His glory. It is the period during which the word spoken over Anna's life became flesh in her - she was 'the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher'. This is the title she was known by, but the fullness which this heritage embodied, had to be worked in her during those twelve seasons before she could go out in that apostolic governmental anointing and tell all whom she saw about the Christ.

Altogether there were thirteen seven-year periods. Thirteen is the number of years Joseph was in the prison of preparation for rule. It is also the number of years Sarah lived in the same house as Ishmael before God released a new season of fruitfulness upon her.

The other thing which Simeon mentioned in his prophesy was that this child would be a sign that would be spoken against. In other words, although it had been prophesied and discussed for centuries, that which God was doing would be disputed and rejected. This is a tragic truth of Church history. The old move always persecutes the new move. Instead of embracing new revelation of Truth and letting go of old mindsets, some prefer to remain with the monument they have built rather than be moved by the breath of God into the fullness of His purposes.

Luk 2:35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Jesus said He did not come to bring peace but a sword. Here, those who can hear God (Simeon) declare that the soul of the Church shall be pierced by the sword of the Word of Truth. This will bring a separation between those beliefs the Church holds that are soulish or of the flesh, and that which is truly revelation of the Spirit. Jesus said that our enemies will be members of our own house. Division and separation is coming to the House of God in this season as the man-child is progressively revealed. There will also be a separation within each of us as the Sword of the Word divides that in our belief system which is soulish (of man) from that which is of God. There

will be a warring within and a renewing of the mind both individually and corporately as fresh understanding of age-old Truth is released from the throne. During this time, the 'thoughts' ('debatings and reasonings' in the Greek) of many hearts will be revealed for what they are, earthly or heavenly.

The forty days from the birth to the presenting of the first-fruits of the womb is a period of purification and purging. The womb ejects its blood-filled lining, that which has cushioned and anchored the child from conception to birth, in a cleansing and purging action. That which is no longer necessary in the lining of the womb of the Church is discarded and the womb is then ready for conception of a new thing. For forty days, the woman lives with the child in the House of Bread (Bethlehem) and there is a separation and discarding of the old within. Then they go together to Jerusalem to be presented to the Father.

This purification period is also a parallel of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness immediately after His baptism. When He was baptized, God said, "this is My Beloved Son". In other words, He named Him. The forty days in the wilderness are the days of learning to rightly divide the Word of Truth so that we are able to say 'It is written..' while comprehending the whole counsel of God. After the forty-day period, Jesus came out in the power of the Spirit. Anna too, after her twelve seasons of widowhood, was released in the power of the Spirit to witness to all in Jerusalem who were looking for redemption. The root of this word 'redemption' means 'to loose'. Those looking for freedom from that which holds them captive, are about to be loosed in these days. So we see the apostolic mantle is released upon the Church after a season of purging and widowhood and she goes forth from before His face, preaching Christ alone. Apostolic governmental rule (12) is only released upon the fully mature (40). The Message Translation puts the goal of the five-fold ministry like this:

***Eph 4:13** until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. **Eph 4:14** No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. **Eph 4:15** God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love--like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ,*

So we see a separation from that which is soulish or childish and a growth to maturity. The same Greek word for 'fully mature' or 'perfect', meaning 'of full age (i.e. 40)' is used in the following:

1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

Again we see a laying to rest of the old - the old way of speaking, of understanding and of thinking. The old wineskin must be discarded. Simeon must die. The new wineskin must be embraced and in that instant the Anna Company, waiting in the wings is released. When this happens, there is a natural consequence:

Luk 2:39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. Luk 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

When all that God wants to accomplish in this transition is completed, there is a returning of the Church to the place from which we have come, to our own city. Galilee means 'wheel, revolution' and Nazareth means 'separated, crowned, sanctified'. God sets in motion a spiritual revolution and the Church once again becomes that city set upon a hill, the one separated unto God, wearing her royal crown as the Lamb's wife. Consequently, that corporate Son which grows and multiplies within her care, is strong in spirit and full of wisdom, walking with the favor and grace of God upon them. The prophesy of Moses over the tribe of Asher is fulfilled in the Anna Company, as they are manifested or revealed in the earth.

Selah

(part two to follow)