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#169-

THE FIERY RED DRAGON

AND “THEY” OVERCAME HIM

A verse often quoted says, “*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*”(Rev.12: 11)

When our resurrected Lord Jesus gave John the visions of what was to take place shortly, He described a horrendous warfare brewing between the beast and the Lamb or between the woman’s Child and the great, fiery red dragon. Over the centuries, because the Sun of Righteousness was not yet risen, men have been groping in the darkness of their minds, oblivious of their ignorance. But now, the Sun is climbing over the horizon and His Light is awakening our minds and hearts.

In their search for spiritual truths, men have written books about their theories and have even illustrated their interpretations of the events that should come to pass. They have made sketches of what the beast or the dragon might look like, they have even painted works of art as they imagined the warfare that these heinous creatures brought about.

Yet these truths are only revealed by the Spirit. Men’s fancy interpretations have not served to bring many to the Light; instead it has spread fear and confusion in the hearts of their hearers. As a result, few have ever bothered to read the Book and among those who did, most categorized it as an intricate tale of gory warfare.

For this reason, those who dared teach it from their pulpits prefaced it by saying that no believer should

fret or worry about these things because we will all be raptured in the sky! Hallelujah! The question is then why did Jesus reveal these things and why did John take the trouble to write it all down in details? And why should anyone bother to teach it in the first place?

This is not meant to mock anyone’s ignorance; most of us have been there. Furthermore, it is a good thing that all along men have been seeking for answers, even when they came up with worthless speculations. It is because of their seeking that we have been able to take hold of the Light that we have now.

What is shameful is when the Light comes and we prefer to hold on to our darkness. When God’s Spirit lifts the veil from our eyes, we must leave our old beliefs behind and move into the light of the new day. This is always at a cost and it may be why many refuse to see. Yet there is none so blind as he or she who will not see. After the Spirit shows us the truth, He makes a way for us to pass it through the fire and seal us into it.

This morning as I pondered the word for the day, I heard “*They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...*” (Rev.12: 11) I felt a stirring in my heart and I knew that the Spirit wanted to speak concerning this. So my thought turned to “*the blood of the Lamb.*” and “*...for the life of all flesh is its blood...*” (Lev.17: 14b) The blood is what sustains the life of all flesh (human or animal). If the blood drains out, the life of that body is gone.

In a recent study, the Spirit led us to look at the Passover supper when Jesus took bread, broke it

among His disciples and said, *“Take eat, this is My body. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink, this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.’”(Matt.26: 26b- 28)*

The blood of the Lamb has been shed and a new covenant has been ratified in that blood. The blood of the Lamb is the life of the body of the Lamb. It is as we eat that bread (every living word that comes out of the mouth of God) that the flesh of new creation man is formed in us. And it is as we drink His blood (the Spirit of the Word) that the new flesh comes to life. The bread and wine represent the Living Word that the Spirit speaks to us daily.

It is not the reading of the Bible, but the Living Word spoken to us by His Spirit that forms this new creation body within us. This is the mystery of what our Lord was explaining to His disciples, and it is what overcomes the beast and the dragon revealed in the Book of Revelation. We do not flee from them, we overcome them.

THE WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN

What could be described as a horrific scene appears next. The great, fiery red dragon stands before a woman who is about to give birth to a Child. *“Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland (crown) of twelve stars...and the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.” (Rev.12: 1, 4b)*

Jesus has “called out a people,” a church that He has gathered unto Him. He has cleansed this church (woman) with His Word. He has taught her and fed her by His own Hand, He has passed her through the fire of purification and now she appears in heaven (in the Spirit). She stands majestically clothed with the brightness of the Sun.

She is not visible to the earthly realm or the carnal mind, but when we look in the Spirit, we see her standing tall, clothed in the brightness of the Sun, which is her new body of glory.

Our Lord revealed Himself in this same glory as He stood in front of the three close disciples that He had called aside to the Mount of transfiguration. *“His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.”(Matt.17: 2)* Today, the Spirit is revealing this new body of glory to His close disciples. We see it as we look in the Spirit although it is not yet visibly manifested.

The woman has the moon under her feet. The moon has no light of her own and does not give life to the earth; it simply reflects the light of the sun. The moon represents the realm of the Law, which reflects the light of God but cannot impart life. The woman, the true church, has walked out this realm of Law and has arisen above it into the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. She is free of the Law of sin and death; it is now under her feet.

Some believe that the moon represents Israel under the Law but they need to include the Christians under the Law too. It is the Law that has brought us to Christ. *“Therefore the law was our tutor (schoolmaster) to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” (Gal.3: 24)*

On her head, she has the garland or crown of twelve stars. The number twelve denotes the fullness of God’s government or kingdom. Stars are individual suns that give light and guidance to the earth. Before there were such things as radar and sophisticated means of navigation, mariners found their way at sea by the stars at night.

These stars represent all those who are the lights that Christ has positioned everywhere to lead those who are lost in the sea of humanity back to God. Stars are the bright saints who minister truth on either side of the veil. They are the apostles and prophets; they are the messengers and the anointed ones whose word brings the lost to a safe harbor. The church is crowned with the truth and light of God’s Holy Spirit who leads her into all truths and showers her with His love and care.

FALLEN STARS

We read that the dragon that stands before the woman draws a third of the stars of heaven to the

earth. *“His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman...”* (Rev.12: 4a)

In order to weaken the woman, the dragon swooshed as many of the stars of heaven down to earth. Many of the lights who had been called in the Spirit and had once seen the plans and purposes of God were caught into an evil vortex or current that brought them right back down into the earth. That which they had begun in the Spirit ended up in the flesh.

Today, we see many who had begun in the Spirit but who are now busy with the material or political affairs of this world. We see this in the popular charismatic move that is prospering into mega churches everywhere. The word that these pastors feed to their flocks appeals to the natural man but has no power to bring them into life.

A third of the stars of heaven are now on the level of earthly, mundane things. Because of it, they have become blind to the realm of the Spirit. Some are busy prophesying things that are nothing more than what we hear on such programs as World News of CBS, ABC or NBC. Yet people seem to run after these prophets and ignore the Voice that is within them urging them to come up higher.

The true church is with child; she is in labor and in pain ready to give birth. Christ's church is very pregnant with the incorruptible seed of truth that has been developing in her womb. The child within her is the fully formed new creation in Christ that is ready to appear in the earth.

This is the picture of what is happening to us in the Spirit. We have walked through the paces of overcoming the Law of sin and death and we stand in the Law of the Spirit of life, clothed with the Light of the Son and ready to give birth to the new creation man that the Living Word has formed within us.

We feel the pain of this travail and we are moved by the great desire to see this Christ man established in the world. We know that this is the only way to defeat the deadly enemy that has gathered all of its strength to try to stop this marvelous event.

THE DRAGON

Our God has given us the lessons and we have passed the tests. Now we stand as His church, ready to deliver this child into the world. This is truly the time when creation is groaning and travailing for this to happen.

All that God's Holy Spirit has worked within us is ready to appear; without fail, His church is going to give birth to the Christ creation in the earth. The Adam man was finished on Calvary and the seed of the Christ man has come to fruition. That which Jesus has begun, He is also finishing.

It is at this point that the most violent and intense battle of the ages escalates; it is a fight to the death. The power of the serpent is death and the power of the dragon is death that has multiplied in hostility and aggression; there are no holds barred. The beast is out to destroy God's creation man from the face of the earth.

If we thought that the serpent in the tree of knowledge of good and evil was a mild mannered creature, we can forget that picture today. The Lord once showed me the deadly power of this serpent in a dream. I saw a huge rattlesnake with huge rattles wrapped around its tail. This reptile was filled with venom then, but at the end of the age it has strengthened many folds and has now turned into a fiery (fire spitting) red dragon (monstrous serpent). It has increased in size, power and experience.

The Child that the dragon so despises is the creation called to overcome death in the flesh. **We are this creation in Christ and our calling is to overcome death in the flesh.** We are called to overcome death and the grave in these bodies.

Those who have gone before us are cheering us on, and urging us to move toward that goal. Even though some among us may not be part of the generation who will attain to this, we are called to press in faith toward that goal and if need be, pass the baton to the next generation. This is why the “dragon” wants to destroy us; we are a threat to him.

In his vision, John did not see just a serpent; he saw this monster of a creature. The word “dragon”

depicts a “fabulous kind of serpent.” The Encyclopedia says that dragons did not really exist, but most people believed in them. They were huge fire-breathing serpents with wings like those of a great bat, and they could swallow ships and men at one gulp. The dragons of legend are strangely like actual creatures that have lived in the past. Dragons were generally evil and destructive. Every country has had them in its mythology. (World Book Encycl.)

Telecommunication has made us aware of the enormity of the enemy of mankind. When we see it all by the Spirit, we realize that this fiery red dragon is spitting fire out of its mouth to destroy the entire civilization.

The woman who is giving birth is his primary target, but ultimately he wants to destroy all of God’s creation. He already has those who are in darkness in his clutches, but his greatest aspiration is to obliterate the new creation of God in Christ-the Manchild.

THE REPTILIAN MIND AND THE DRAGON

We are all aware that this dragon is not an actual hideous and deadly reptile, yet the vision of John pictures it that way because the enemy that keeps us ensnared in the loop of death and the grave is just as treacherous and forceful as that.

Paul wrote, *“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”*(Rom.8: 6-7)

The carnal mind is the area where the ways of the serpent flourish. This is where the serpent finds his food and where he is able to express himself and his nature. Some would surely like to disagree with this because the human intellect is highly regarded and respected in this world, yet the carnal mind can never produce anything that is pleasing to God; it remains at enmity against God and forever will.

The dictionary defines “enmity” as a strong settled hatred that may be displayed or concealed but usually breaks out into deadly warfare. As the dragon stands before the woman, he can no longer conceal or disguise the enmity that his entire being

displays. The dragon is out to destroy and wipe out the knowledge of the true God from all of humanity, and from the face of the whole earth. And this woman is the only source of that knowledge in the whole earth.

When Jesus hung on the cross, He wore a painful crown of thorns. This declared that He was taking the cursed carnal mind to its death. The carnal mind has many aspects and most of them seem good and logical to men.

The basic principles of the carnal mind are religious and even appear to be loving and caring of others. Although some bore a glimpse of God’s Law, it is through brilliant carnal minds that this world’s civilizations were established. **The carnal mind is the serpent’s domain.**

The carnal mind is the enemy that has been at work to wipe out the knowledge of the name of Jehovah or Jesus from the face of the earth. Yet the prophet has declared that the knowledge of His glory would cover the earth as the waters cover the sea! Hallelujah!

This is the warfare, and this is why God’s Holy Spirit works tirelessly with each one in particular, to bring us to the place where we will hear His voice over the voice of our carnal minds. This is a labor of love and of longsuffering because each is so accustomed to the voice of the carnal mind that it has become the strong man of the house. It takes repeated dealings from the Spirit to break us away from it.

We have been trained from our youth to trust the voice of our minds; we have not known the voice of the Spirit. Yet when He awakened us and stood us upon our feet, His voice became familiar to us, He shook us from our sleep, and we heard Him and rejoiced. The more we heard, the clearer the voice became and we were able to follow. Jesus spoke these comforting words, *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”* (Jn.10: 27)

This is why at this time it is imperative that the Spirit within us break every yoke of bondage that we may be free to hear Him individually and personally so that we may obey Him and not our

carnal mind. This is why He sets a time for us to learn our lessons together, then he takes each one aside privately to teach us to lean fully only on Him.

He is not changing our carnal mind; He is replacing it. Jesus has taken our carnal mind to the cross, but we must now reckon it dead and learn to move by the Spirit. This is what learning obedience is all about. It is learning to obey His Spirit rather than our own reasoning. This does not make us robots or dummies and it does not take away our ability to think or to reason; it simply changes the source of our thinking or reasoning.

“THEY” FEED THE WOMAN

In John’s vision, the woman gives birth to her Child. He is the prize possession and the dragon that waited to seize him as soon as he was born could not touch Him. We know that this birth does not refer to the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in Bethlehem because this vision was given to John by our resurrected Lord about things that were to shortly come to pass.

The birth of this Child is the manifestation of the sons that the true Church has been nurturing in her womb. The dragon is the force of the carnal global mind of men who has set up a system of society and religions in the world. These are the systems from which the woman has been pulled out. She has been fully separated from all that the brilliant carnal minds of men have established in this world.

The Lord reveals that as soon as she gives birth, the Child is caught up to the throne of God so that the dragon cannot take hold of it. This new creation is not as the many moves that have preceded it. Each time that the Church has given birth to a people out of the system, the dragon has been there waiting and has brought that child right back down into the same forms and programs that were the old systems.

We have all known people who had been pulled out of their denominations and who for a time rejoiced in the freedom that the Spirit had given them. But the lure of regrouping and becoming part of a visible assembly again pulled them right back into a system just like the one they had left.

We have known these people because most of us have been part of them; and this was God for us at the time. However, when the Word was formed in us and God walked us through the fire with it, we became that word.

It was then that we could no longer remain as we were and we found ourselves separated in a wilderness to be fed only by “**They**.” “*Then the woman fled in the wilderness where she has a place prepared by God, that **they** should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*” (Rev.12: 6) At this point the question may be asked, “Who are the They?”

THE “WIRE CHURCH”

Recently Ernest Brown shared a very significant dream with me. The dream is in two parts. I quote the first part “*I was back in the military and we had a **secret** program in progress. We were flying SBDs which are (or were) Navy two-seat bombers in the Second World War. The program was so hidden from the eyes of others that we actually took off inside the hanger and when we exited the hanger, we were already airborne.*”

Soon, I brought the plane down at a man’s house and the man appeared to be about 40 years old. He came to where I was immediately and said that no one could become a member of his **Wire Church** that was not a mature Christian...

At this point, the details are more personal so I will just write the part that is pertinent to my message. “*I was again on a flight mission and I believe it was Nancy (my wife) behind me on the second seat. In the SBD Navy plane, the second seat faced backward for the machine gunner to protect the plane from the rear, so I could not see who she was even though I talked to her.*”

Then we flew over the men’s place where they were starting the Wire Church, I said to Nancy, ‘I can now see that they had started.’ After this, we flew over other places where I also said to Nancy, ‘There are to be mature Christian Churches in these locations also.’ (End of dream)

One of the key words of this dream is the name of the Church, “**The Wire Church**” that had already

been formed. It is also important to note that Ernest was flying this small plane, with Nancy on board, over the location of this Wire Church and of the mature Christians.

Ernest and Nancy were NOT aboard a large airliner or even a commuter plane; they were in a small, two-seater bomber plane. This denotes an individual move in the Spirit. From their place in the heavenlies (Spirit) they are able to observe what God is doing in the land. At the same time, they are on guard and equipped to shoot down any enemy that would interfere with this plan (SBD bomber plane), especially the thoughts and imaginations of the carnal minds that would try to devise some way to help things out.

When flying over the area, Ernest knew the Wire Church had already started. The Wire Church is the true Church that has already gathered in the Spirit and communicates through the Wire.

There is a reason why God will not allow this church or woman to gather in visible groups anymore. She is spiritually well fed, but only by the “they” that He provides for her. At this time, she is the “Wire Church” that God revealed to our brother in his dream. This is the experience of those whom God has set apart and has so lovingly allowed to meet through the “wire,” whether by telephone, email, website or even regular mail, but not in the flesh.

If we knew each other in the flesh, it would not take long for us to schedule meetings and programs again, in the name of the Lord of course! This is why God has placed us away from each other and most of us have never met face to face. Yet, in spite of the distance between us, His word flows and His “Wire” church is abundantly fed and spiritually strong.

This does not eliminate the need for some to gather physically; God provides this as well. We respect and love those who teach the flock in meetings and fellowships. They are the ones who impart the seed word that impregnates the woman. It is in these groups that most of us have heard the call. But when the time comes to give birth to the word that is within us, we can no longer be under

any man’s rule or direction, no matter how good that may be.

As this Child is caught up to God, the woman flees to the wilderness place. She will remain there as long as necessary for all to be fulfilled. The wilderness is a place away from the support systems that she had known. It is where she must lean only on God.

We are the Wire Church that has been formed and gathered in Christ. We are the woman who has fled to the wilderness prepared by God and we are being fed royally by “They.” (Rev.12: 6)

THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

The fiery dragon is the very real spiritual threat that is out to destroy this Church and the Word that is made flesh in her. We know that it is the blood of the Lamb and the Word of our testimony that overcomes this beastly force that had dominion over us.

“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world; he was cast into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Rev.12: 9)

The blood of the Lamb is the life of the word. As we partake of this life each day, we become who He is. This is what Jesus meant when He said, *“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.”* (Jn.6: 53)

It is when our souls marry the Spirit of the Word, the blood with the flesh, that we become the Christ of God in this world and that our carnal minds are forever defeated. It is when the company of people that God is preparing to deliver creation has fully become the Christ of God in the flesh, that the fiery red dragon will have lost his power.

This is the Word that the sons of God need to hear and believe today. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God, and it is the Word for today that we must believe. We can only believe what we hear in our hearts, but after we hear, then faith arises and we embrace that word. Israel in the wilderness heard the word but *“because it was not*

mixed with faith, it did not profit them and that generation did not possess their land.” The new creation of God in Christ is soon to be seen bodily in the world. It will not take the many to bring this about; it will only take the few who dare to believe God.

When Gideon was called to defeat the Midianites, twenty-five thousand volunteered, but only three-hundred were chosen. God never needed a multitude to win the battles, only a few. Jesus said that many are called but few are chosen. Those who drink His blood and eat His flesh will believe and overcome the last enemy. Paul tells us that the last enemy to be defeated is death and the grave.

Paul also teaches that “... *to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*”(Rom.8: 6) As the mind of Christ replaces our carnal mind, we overcome the nature of sin and death and the faith of the Son of God triumphs over all. It sounds very simple, yet if we allow ourselves to listen to the thoughts of fear and unbelief that the fiery dragon continually speaks to our minds, we will not be the deliverers but we will be in need of deliverance.

THE WORD OF THE DAY

Just as we need fresh food each day for our natural bodies to stay strong, we need a fresh Word from the Spirit for our inner man to remain healthy. As good as the Word was yesterday, it is only the Word that we hear and believe today that sustains our life in soul and spirit. The word that was for me yesterday, may be for someone else today, but each must receive a fresh word to believe and inherit its promise.

All who have opened the door of their minds and hearts and let the Lord in have partaken of His delicious fresh bread and drunk of the best fruit of the vine with Him in the Father’s kingdom. Jesus promised this to His disciples and He fulfills His promise each time we partake of His life giving word.

The Spirit speaks the same word in different ways to those who are hearing Him today. It is often that after I write something, I hear or see the very same word written or spoken by another and we have not

talked to each other. This serves to confirm that the word we hear is by the Spirit and not of our own making.

Often, the Spirit will speak in a dream to announce what He is about to do in our lives. During the time that I was preaching or teaching the word, I had many experiences in that way. I remember the time that I dreamed being behind a pulpit and singing a French love song called, “*La Vie en Rose.*”

The words of that song (I have written about this before) are tender words from a woman to her lover. With this dream, the Lord was announcing to me that He was going to give me words to expound on the love between the Church and her Bridegroom. For the next few months, I found myself teaching the people about His love for them and His yearning to receive their love.

Another time I dreamed that I was learning the words of this song, “*Who is like unto You, O Lord among gods- Glorious in holiness, fearful in praise, doing wonders?*” This song is from a verse in Exodus; many had been singing it, but at the time, I had not yet heard it. Soon after that, the Lord led me to teach about the holiness of God and His mighty power to do wonders.

I remember the time when the Lord was about to separate me from the group that I had fellowshiped with for several years. I had no idea of leaving, but every day I found myself singing, “*hum, hum, gona get along without you now...*” It was not long after that my husband and I were separated from that group.

A few months before my husband went to be with the Lord, the song by Andrea Bocelli was always on my heart, “*Time to say goodbye...*”

There are many more instances but I have said this to bring you up to a dream that I had just a few nights ago. “*I was some place with my husband where many Christians had come to meet. It may have been on a ranch or up in a mountain area. I see my husband sitting on a chair with many attendants milling around him. They were removing a tattoo from his upper right arm. Right at that*

time, an old time preacher that I had known in the past (H. Richard Hall) but who is now deceased came to me and began pouring oil on the front of my head, then he went to the back of my head and poured out more oil.” This dream was very vivid and when I awoke I pondered and wondered about it.

I knew that the key to the dream was the preacher and what he represents. This man was Pentecostal Holiness and his ministry was far from ordinary. He moved in all the gifts but especially in the word of knowledge. I know that in the dream I not only represent myself but also all those who are moving in that same anointing.

I did not find a witness that the new anointing that was being poured out was coming in the gifts, so I prayed that the Lord would bring to my remembrance what the main message of this man was. There was one thing in particular that he often said in his meetings and that was very specific to this man.

In most of the meetings that I attended, He declared that he knew that someday he would die (and he did), but he insisted that there were some present who would never see death or the grave. This was very much a part of his message.

After remembering this, I have no doubts as to what this preacher represents in the dream. The Lord is saying that He is pouring His anointing upon those who will proclaim that “there are some among us who will not see death and the grave.” Some who are on earth today are called to overcome death.

AT THE LAST TRUMP

When Paul declared the final victory over death he said, “*Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed- In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed.*” (ICor.15: 51-52)

The trumpet speaks of a loud and clear message. The last trumpet is the word that changes our bodies of death into incorruptible ones. It is the following verse that declares, “*For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on*

immortality.” (ICor.15: 53) As the old time preachers used to shout, **GLORY TO GOD!**

This is what my dream is all about; there is an anointing being poured out on those who will hear, and they will blow this last trump message all over the land. The message is **THERE ARE SOME AMONG US TODAY WHO WILL OVERCOME DEATH AND THE GRAVE.**

I am persuaded that this is what the Spirit is saying to His church today. It is the sound of the last trump that will overcome the last enemy. The blood of the Lamb is the blood of this new creation man, and we will give full testimony of that as we stand as He is!

This is the most exciting and powerful word that I have ever been privileged to write. Oh! Yes, there was the part of the dream where my husband’s tattoo was being removed. In actuality, my husband never had a tattoo and he was very supportive of the word. He truly believed yet he went the way of the grave.

The Lord is saying that He is removing from us the image that had been permanently imprinted in our flesh. That image is the mind-set that we are all going to die. It is not easy to remove a tattoo, but the Holy Spirit is pouring this fresh anointing on our heads (minds) the old images that were so permanently imprinted on us are being removed. If you tell anyone that the Lord has shown you that you will overcome death and the grave, he or she will look at you as if you had lost your mind; and you have! You have the mind of Christ.

But this is not a pipe dream and it is far from impossible. This is the battle of the ages that we are overcoming. Our carnal mind insists that this is impossible, but the Spirit urges us to believe.

This is the Word for the day. He who has an ear to hear, let Him hear what the Spirit is speaking to His church. May those who believe rejoice, and may the skeptics pray. At any rate, may His word come to pass quickly. Amen!

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*

