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JESUS OPENED THE BOOK

TYPES AND SHADOWS

Jesus taught His disciples by parables using things that they were familiar with to make them understand invisible, spiritual realities. In one of His parables Jesus speaks of the man who built his house upon the sand and the man who built his upon a rock. When the storm came and beat upon these houses, the one built upon the sand was washed away while the one upon the rock withstood the fury of the winds and the floods.

The man who built his house upon the rock was a wise man who not only heard the words that Jesus spoke, but believed and took them to heart. The house we build is our spiritual house. If we take the Word of God seriously in our hearts, we will be built upon the Rock and the winds and storms of adversity will not destroy us.

I have found that one of the great ways to be established in the faith is to study the types and shadows of the Old Testament by the Spirit. When we see Christ and ourselves in these types and in the lives of God's chosen people, we are built upon a rock. Indeed, we find a solid foundation that cannot be moved.

The types and shadows of the Old Testament are a prophecy and a revelation of the Christ of the New Testament and of who we are in Him. They open an understanding into the plans and purposes of God for our lives. Christ is the fulfillment of the types. As we find ourselves in Christ, we find ourselves in

the types. Paul teaches us, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love;”* (Eph.1: 3-4)

God's called out people were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. So in the lives of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David and many more, we find a parallel with the calling of Jesus Christ and all who were chosen in Him from the foundation of the world. This opens a large window on the purposes of God for His Christ and for all His creation.

The people of the Old Testament are the types and we are the fulfillment of these types in Christ. This does not mean that the actual people of the Old Testament are not in Christ, but it means that their calling was to bring us to the knowledge of Christ and of His plan for the world.

If we miss seeing Christ in the types and shadows, the Scriptures will give us, at best, lessons in behavior and morality. They will provide us with a good education in history and in literature but they will not advance us spiritually. They will not stir up the witness of the Spirit within and give us life. They will not open our spiritual ears and eyes.

But when we find Christ in the types we begin to understand our own calling in Him and we become

grounded in the faith. We are likened unto the man who built his house upon the rock for that Rock is Christ. The storms of life will rage all around us but we will stand strong and grounded in the faith.

JOSEPH TYPE OF THE DELIVERER

By the Spirit, we cannot help but love this young man whose mother died when she gave birth to his youngest brother Benjamin. Of course, Joseph is very special to his father Jacob. He is the first son of his beloved Rachel for whom he labored in Laban's camp seven extra years and... lo and behold, she could not give him children!

It was after Jacob had raised ten sons and a daughter from Leah and handmaidens that the good news came: Rachel was with child! O what joy! His beloved Rachel would now bring forth the fruit of his seed. So when Joseph was born, it was a very special event and Jacob cherished this son above the others. As we know, later Rachel gave birth to a second son, Benjamin and she died in childbirth. This is another great teaching in types.

By allegory, Paul teaches the Galatian church that Sarah, Isaac's mother, is a type of the Jerusalem from above. An allegory is similar to a parable and also to a type. By definition it is a story or a picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning. It is a symbol of an idea or a concept.

In Paul's allegory, Rachel who gave birth to Joseph and Benjamin, is a type of the last day Jerusalem from above who gives birth to the sons who will deliver creation.

In type, the life of Joseph is one of the most poignant and beautiful story of the Bible. As we read this we find ourselves as Rachel, yearning and longing to give birth to the Christ life within. We find ourselves frustrated as we watch the visible church (Leah), giving birth to her many children. We hold in our beings, as a woman with child, the beautiful words that will someday overcome sin and death. We patiently await the day when we will give birth to this Word, fully formed and ready to be

manifested to this eagerly waiting creation.

In Joseph we find the type of THE Son Jesus Christ and of those who are called in Him. He is a perfect type of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, and also the type of the Lamb company that is found in Him. Joseph is a type of the Deliverer in Christ. So it is no wonder that when Joseph was born, Jacob loved him above all the others.

By the Spirit, Jacob was aware of his little son's calling and he made him a priestly garment. He did not clothe him with the rough garments of shepherds tending sheep in the fields; he gave him a robe of many colors, down to the foot. It was the garment of a priest. Indeed, this son was special to his father; he was predestinated to be a ruler and a priest. He was called to be one of God's DELIVERERS!

Although they were called to play a decisive role in the life of Joseph, the brothers could not possibly understand why they resented him so much. They could not understand his dreams or their father's preferential treatment of him. They knew that there was something different about him; something very disturbing that stirred them to the same violent jealousy that overtook Cain long ago and that drove the Pharisees to crucify the Lord Jesus. Little did these brothers realize that they were the chosen instruments that God had forged to bring Joseph to his place of "Deliverer."

The entire life of this brave young man is a type of the walk that the Lamb and those in Him have to take in order to bring the great deliverance that God has purposed for His entire creation. Not for His own people only but for the entire creation. Joseph delivered his entire family, and he also delivered Egypt from famine and death by the word of God in him.

GOD SPEAKS AND IT COMES TO PASS

The events that took Joseph on a mind-boggling and turbulent odyssey began to unfold when God spoke to him through two significant dreams. "*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.*" (Ps.37: 23) God initiates.

He orders. He speaks the Word and brings it to pass. He does it in various ways. It may be through a person or an event or a dream but God is always the Initiator.

The word that Joseph received was going to send him far away from the shelter and love of his father's house, into a dark and godless world. Yet God had prepared the entire scenario. By the Spirit, the Psalmist found the way into the mysterious workings of God. He writes of the great care that God gives to bring His plan into action and how He is in charge of all that happens in His people's lives.

“When they were but few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it. When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people; He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread. He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him.” (Ps.105: 12-19)

Joseph was set up by God. Years before the predicted famine took place, this chosen young man was brought in as a slave. The one who had received the words that even the stars, the moon and the sun would bow to him, was now humiliated, lied about and had to overcome the woman of flesh in Potiphar's house. He had to serve a time in Pharaoh's prison until God sent His word to two men who turned to Joseph for interpretation.

Through sufferings and humiliations, Joseph learned to take authority over his emotions and reactions, over the strong demands of a young man's flesh and to trust God. So when it was time for the word that God had spoken to him years back to come to pass, Joseph was ready and God brought him out of the prison.

By the anointing that God had given him, Joseph found himself in the place of high authority and

might. He was second to the Pharaoh upon the throne and ruled so that the people were saved from the famine and blight that was devastating the land.

In the same way, Jesus the Son of God *“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But **made himself** of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* (Phil.2: 6-8)

Jesus who once thought it not robbery to be equal with God, was brought down lower than the lowest of man among those who professed to be called of God. He humbled himself under their hands and became obedient to death in order to overcome death. As we follow Him and as He (the Word) is our life, we will be treated with the same disdain by those who profess to know the Lord. As Jesus and as Paul and all who went before us, we *“Count it all joy.”*

By His Spirit, the Lord is leading our lives and directing what takes place. The death to self that must work in us cannot be accomplished by our own efforts and sheer will power. Only through the situations that the Spirit takes us through are we able to embrace the cross. This was the path that Joseph had to follow, it was the path that Jesus walked, and it is the path for the sons who are found in Him.

Through it all, God did not stop speaking to Joseph. I am sure that Joseph had a number of very significant dreams but only the two that are a revelation of his calling are recorded. Young Joseph tells the first dream to his brothers, *“Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.”*(Gen.37: 7) Then he tells the second dream, *“Behold, the sun and the moon and the **eleven** stars made obeisance to me.”* (Vs.9b)

Joseph was unsuspecting and vulnerable, a seventeen-year-old youth who received powerful, prophetic dreams. If I had been near him at the time, I probably would have been tempted to tell him to

keep his dreams to himself; but this was not God's plan. The hearts of the brothers were already filled with jealousy because of their father's preferential treatment of Joseph and now these graphic dreams were adding fuel to the fire. There was no way out; Joseph was ambushed by God Himself.

Joseph's sheaf in the field represents the Christ that was to rise from the midst of those whom God has predestinated according to His purpose. By these dreams, the Lord was announcing the chosen Son and Saviour of the world. For Jesus, the brothers are types of the Pharisees who were also his own but who were threatened by His power with God.

For us, the brothers represent those who are our brethren in the Lord but who feel threatened by the way that we are hearing from God. The world's bright minds and rulers are represented by the sun, moon and eleven stars of the second dream. They will also come and be made to bow before the Christ.

John saw the Lamb who *“redeemed us to God by His blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign with him on the earth.”* (Rev.5: 9) And he beheld and heard the angels and the beasts and the elders round about the throne of God. They were all giving praise and worship to the Lamb that was slain.

Then John saw *“Every creature which is in heaven and on the earth, and such as are under the sea, and all that are in them heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders, fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”* (Vs.13-14) He was seeing all creation (all the sheafs) bowing down before the majesty of God's Christ.

The word “beasts” in this verse is translated from the Greek word “zoon” which refers to a living creature. This is in contrast to the beast that rose out of the sea in Rev.11: 7. That beast is translated from the Greek word “therion” and denotes a dangerous,

venomous wild beast.

The four (zoon) beasts of this verse speak of all humanity from the four quarters of the earth that will come and worship the Lamb. The Lamb is God's gift for the forgiveness of sin. This worship will happen when all creatures are made free from the sin nature of the first Adam. These rejoice greatly before the Lamb for they were trapped in a nature that kept them in bondage to sin and death with no way out but the grave.

In this vision, John saw the day when the Christ of God in Jesus and in all of His body will have finished the work assigned to them and will present the kingdom to the Father that God may be all and in all. This is the plan of God in Christ. It began before the foundation of the world and we are soon coming to its glorious fulfillment. Hallelujah!

THE HEART OF THE DELIVERER

Before he could again face the brothers that sold him into slavery and suffering, Joseph was subjected to many traumatic experiences. It was a glorious day when he could reveal himself to them. His heart must have been beating fast and hard when he stood before them with great love and understanding and said, *“But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”* (Gen.50: 20)

Joseph, who had been abused beyond words was now comforting the culprits. It took a great revelation from God for him to do this, and it took a heart full of love and forgiveness too. A forgiving heart is probably the greatest prize to attain in Christ. We often quote the words that Jesus uttered on the cross when He faced His executors, *“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!”* Jesus understood the plan of God. He knew that those who were crucifying His flesh were actually doing His Father's will.

Joseph understood that his brethren had actually done God's will when they got rid of him in such a careless and cruel way. Those who are “sons of God” must come to the same understanding. Any

who came against us for the word that God has called us to have only done the perfect will of God for us. There was a time when we may have come against those who went before us in the same way. We need to know this in order to forgive all and fulfill our calling in Christ.

In a parable Jesus tells of a man who had been forgiven a great debt yet did not find it in his heart to forgive one who owed him as well. This was extremely offensive to his master who dealt with him very harshly. *“And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.”* (Matt.18: 34-35)

Joseph could not have been cast in the role of a deliverer if he had not been able to forgive his brothers from his heart. And not only did he forgive his brothers but also Potiphar and his wife and all who treated him unjustly. He did not hold any animosity against the Pharaoh who kept him in prison for several years either. God saved all of their lives through Joseph.

Jesus held no rancor against the Pharisees of His day or against the heathen either. He was not afraid to walk through cursed Samaria and talk to a lowly woman who had had five husbands. He held nothing against any of them although they were in sin and deception. He was the Savior of the world.

This is the heart of the Deliverer and it has to be the hearts of the sons who are called to deliver creation from the curse of sin and death. This made me look closely at my own heart. Do I still hold any rancor against those who have come against me for the word that God has given me?

The Lord commands us to forgive completely. If I think I belong to the company of His deliverers in Christ, then I must forgive all of them completely and from the heart. Some who came against me have already gone to their grave and some still resent me...Father I forgive them as you have forgiven me. I will no longer thrill at any opportunity to un-

cover their nakedness. I will no longer silently pray for God's revenge upon them. I fully forgive. Lord by your Spirit make it so in my life.

Father, when you forgave me, you also forgot my sins. I will not only forgive but forget as well. This does not mean that the incident will never come to mind; it means that I will never again re-ignite it in my heart. I will strive to see the good in what they have done. And Father forgive me for all the bad thoughts I have had against any. This must be the prayer of a deliverer. Let us see our Father's marvelous plan and not hold anything against any of His creation. They may have meant it for evil, but God is using it all for good. What a revelation! Lord help us to see this.

OPENING THE BOOK

John the Revelator tells of a sealed book that no man is able to open. This book is written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals and held in the right hand of him that sits on the throne. John writes, *“And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?”*

And NO MAN in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me “Weep not: the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, to loose the seven seals thereof.” (Rev.5: 1-5)

What is this book that caused so much grief because no man could open it? We know that these visions are symbols of spiritual realities. Paul told the church at Corinth, *“Foreasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”* (II Cor.3: 3)

Paul said that they and we are written epistles- By definition we are all written messages, letters, books. Our lives are like pages of writing that tell

the story of who we are within.

The “book” that no man could open is not a book of paper and ink. The book is a people in whom is something very precious. Something that cannot be known by the natural man no matter how intellectual and brilliant they may be.

Who can open this book? Who can make known its mystery? The Lion who laid His life down as a Lamb is the One who is opening the book. The opening of the book is vital to the entire creation. It is when the contents of this book is made known that the greater work of reconciliation and deliverance in the earth will take place. No man could ever open this book at any time. It took Jesus, the pure Lamb sacrifice and His overcoming death and hell for this work to begin. And it is the opening of the entire book, when the sons in Christ are released that the work of God's full salvation will be seen in the earth.

The Lion of the tribe of Juda has prevailed to open the book, yet when John looked at the one who was opening it and loosing the seals he did not see a Lion, he saw a Lamb. *“And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.”* (Vs.6)

The scene of the four beasts and twenty-four elders falling down before the Lamb in worship and prayer gives us a vision of those who are found in that book singing a new song to Him, *“..Thou are worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast **redeemed us** to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”* (Vs.9)

This is certainly a NEW SONG! A song denotes a message from the plan of God. A song speaks of a joyous occasion. This is a NEW song that has never been heard. It is the unveiling of God's kings and priests ready to do the greater work of reconciliation in the world. It is the song of the full deliverance

that is in Christ and that will be seen when the book is opened and those who are in Him give Him glory for the complete work that He has accomplished. We see this in Rev.5: 12-13 as quoted earlier.

The Lamb has been opening the book and revealing Himself to us day by day. When the Lamb is fully revealed to us we will see Him as He is and we will be like Him. The Body of Christ will appear in the earth and the sons that are found in Him will be fully released. When this book is opened, the sons will appear and life will swallow up the death of the world.

This work was a sealed book from the foundation of the world. In the Scriptures we find types and shadows of its contents. We find Him in the life of Joseph and David and many others. But it was the shed blood of Jesus on the cross that opened the first chapter of the book. He was sent to His own but they could not receive Him. Joseph was slain by His own brethren who could not receive his word. And the sons of God are slain among the Christian brothers who are not able to receive the word that the Father gives to them.

This is the pattern and it has not changed from the time that Cain slew Abel until now. It is a pattern that we must understand because it is the only way of redemption for ourselves and for the world. The Lamb must be sent, and the Lamb must be slain. This is not a sheep nature; it is a LAMB nature. It is a SACRIFICIAL nature.

Sheep are followers too but their gift is their wool. Lambs possess the nature that lays its life down as a sacrifice. A sheep gives his wool (works) but a lamb gives his life.

The One who prevails and opens the book is the Lion of the tribe of Juda. The lion is the king of beasts. He is the conqueror. In the jungle there are none greater than him. So the One who prevails is the Christ who overcomes sin and death and has become King over all creation. He is the One who opens every area of our being and exposes all that offends so that He takes it away.

He is the Lamb who has *“..spoiled principalities*

and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” (Col.2:15)

The Christ of God is being released to begin the greater works that Jesus told us about. In the sons He appears to reconcile the world. *“Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost part of the earth for thy possession.” (Ps.2: 8)*

HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS

“The eyes of your understanding, being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of HIS INHERITANCE in the saints.” (Eph.1: 18)

In his long prayer for the church, Paul informs us that when the eyes of our understanding are opened, we will know “...what is the hope of Jesus' calling, and what is the riches of his inheritance IN THE SAINTS.” The Scriptures give us a glimpse.

We know that those who are His church, His called out people, His bride, are Christ's inheritance. The true bride consists of a company cleansed by Him and impregnated with His Word. His living Word is the Seed who is planted within and forms the Christ in us. It is not complicated but it is something that can never be produced by any man. The miracle of birth can only be the work of God.

Christ loves His bride; she is His treasure. Paul tells us that a man is to love His wife even as Christ loves the church and gave Himself for her. He said that He loves her as His own body. She is His inheritance and in her, His inheritance increases. She will give Him a Manchild, Christ manifested in the flesh.

By the Spirit, David wrote, *“Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost part of the earth for thy possession.” (Ps.2: 6-8)*

We also read, *“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be my*

sons.” (Rev.21: 7) There is no doubt that Christ will possess all of His inheritance. He will inherit His Bride, His Manchild and the heathen to the uttermost part of the earth. He will inherit all that is in the sea and under the sea as John's vision declares.

Christ will not be cheated out of His full inheritance because of our stubbornness or fearfulness to believe. We are told that the fearful and the unbelieving *“.. shall have THEIR PART in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” (Rev.21: 8b)* They will have **a part or a season** in this hottest of fires until all that is left forever in that fire is the BEAST, the DEVIL and the FALSE PROPHET.

We may not know what kind of fire one will find in that “lake of fire,” but most of us have tasted of fire in our experiences so far and some fires are hotter than others. However if we compare what we were and what we are now, we know that it was through the fire that the change was accomplished.

The happy and peaceful times of our lives did not make us strong in adversity or compassionate with those who are suffering. We did not grow in the Lord by being cuddled and getting our way. No! We went through hard times and we stood in the face of many things and people who tried to destroy us.

We were put in circumstances that we despised but could not run away from. We suffered in our souls and in our bodies. We had to face our fears and to overcome them. These are some of the fires of this first death.

As long as we are in the realm of death, we will face fire because it is the consuming fire of God that destroys death and all that is of the first Adam is death; it will all be consumed.

If the first death has not all been destroyed in this world, there is a second death with even hotter fires. I cannot say with any certainty but I just know that it is best to avoid that place if at all possible.

As we overcome this first death, we find God. David well said to the Lord, *“Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy*

presence? *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there. If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*" (Ps.139: 7-10)

GROOMED FOR THE THRONE

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." (Rev.3: 21)

Christ is the Overcomer. Christ in us overcomes the world, just as Jesus the Christ overcame. When the complete Body of Christ, God's new creation is ready to be made manifest, Christ will judge the world with righteousness. By standing in the world as He is, the evil will be judged out of the world. This is the work of the saints. *"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?"* (I Cor. 6:2a)

These saints are those who have gone through the baptism of fire and have been made white as snow. They are made the righteousness of God in Christ. They are His kings and priests who have overcome in Christ and are seated in His throne. They are dressed in white. White denotes the righteousness of Christ.

Before his death, Moses blessed the people with God's word, *"...The Lord came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from Mount Paran, and he came with TEN THOUSAND OF SAINTS: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea he loved the people; ALL HIS SAINTS ARE IN THY HAND: and they sat down at thy feet; everyone shall receive of thy words."* (Deu.33: 2-3)

Isaiah uttered, *"...when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."* (Isa.26: 9b) It is God's Spirit that has taught us His judgments. They are now in the earth. He has written them in the hearts of those whom He has called. And now because they are in the earth...THE WORLD WILL LEARN RIGHTEOUSNESS!

A throne speaks of authority. This is where the saints are seated with Christ. John saw the judgment

of the dead; it is called The Great White Throne judgment. *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was no place for them."* (Rev.20: 11)

A throne also denotes judgment. When a king is going to judge a matter, he ascends upon his throne. White denotes the righteousness of Christ. It is by this righteousness that the dead will be judged in the resurrection.

This is the work of the saints who have become the righteousness of God in Christ. *"...for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth."* (Ps.96: 13b) It is from that throne of authority in Christ that the saints will judge the world as Paul also declared. This is the work of those who overcame and are seated with Him in His throne. It is the work of the Melchizedek priesthood who will rule and reign with Christ in the age to come.

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

An old song:

I love the way that my Beloved speaks to me
Chases away my fears
He leads me down the paths of truth
And He keeps me ever near
He comforts me, sets me free
makes me to understand
And every time I say, "I can't!"
He tells me that I can!

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*

