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RISE UP AND POSSESS YOUR LAND

NO.270

HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS

It was with great yearning that the apostle Paul prayed for the church. He desired so much that they understood all about the calling that the Lord Himself had placed upon them. *“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 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: 17-18)

Paul had seen the Lord and he knew he had been chosen for a purpose. Jesus said *“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you...”* (Jn.15: 16a) He was speaking to His disciples then but we know that since that time, Jesus has chosen many more disciples. They are the ones that God has given Him. These first disciples were not there by coincidence, and we, upon whom the end of the age has come, are not here by coincidence either.

Jesus Christ the Lord conquered death in the flesh. As Head of the body, He opened the way for His own to be next to overcome death in the flesh. In turn, they open the way for those who belong to Christ, until death is fully overcome and there is no more death. Death will be totally destroyed for *“Death and hell are cast into the lake of fire.”* (Rev.20:14) *“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death..So then this corruption MUST put on incorruption, and THIS MORTAL MUST put on immortality.”* (I Cor.15: 26, 54a) Death has an end.

It is when the saints receive their new glorified bodies that Jesus receives His inheritance IN THE SAINTS. It is also when the saints receive their new bodies while still on earth, that the saints on the other side of the veil will appear in the same glory. We are surrounded by them for they without us cannot come to this perfection. This is what the church that Jesus has been building from the time of His resurrection has been made ready to possess.

Our journey, led by God's Holy Spirit, has been our preparation for this. He has brought us through a wilderness of religious doctrines and traditions of men. He has walked us in and out of a string of churches or assemblies. We have learned many lessons in that way, and now spiritually speaking, we have come to the border of our promised land.

When Joshua came to the border of the land that God had given them, he found it was truly a land of plenty. The men who were sent ahead to spy out the land came back with clusters of grapes so huge they had to be carried on a branch between two men.

That was the great news, however they also saw giants who had lived for a long long time and had built strongholds of defense. There were no possible way that anyone like Joshua and his men could ever defeat these giants and conquer the land. The people felt betrayed and began to turn against Joshua and Caleb who had been chosen to lead them in.

But God gave Joshua the solution in these words, *“For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the*

Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave to him; then will the Lord drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours...” (Deu.11: 22-24a)

The solution to possessing our land is to hear God's voice and follow Him. In whatever way the Lord speaks to each of us, we are to listen and follow. God had kept them forty years in the harsh wilderness of Sinai, to teach them to trust Him through every difficult situation. *“And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.”* (Deu.8: 2-3)

Our wilderness consists of all the places we went looking for the truth. It consists of all the books we have read and the tapes we have played to find what God was saying. It includes all the questions we have asked to understand what He was calling us to do and all the teachings and preachings we have sat under for hours on end. All the conventions and seminars we have driven miles to attend. Yes all these activities have been our wilderness learning as we were seeking to know Him.

Our wilderness has been a world of religious doctrines and traditions that we walked into after we crossed our Red Sea (salvation through the blood of Jesus). We left the darkness and bondage of Egypt behind (the control of the prince of this world) but we found ourselves in another kind of world. I found myself in the world of the Methodists and on to a Non Denominational denomination.

Then the Lord led us into the world of various five fold ministries and the truth about sonship. Later we had a taste of the Pentecostal realm. We gleaned what we needed from these and the Lord led us

through more of the same until He led us out of all of them. It is through them all that we learned to hear His still small voice that called us from the depth of our spirits where He abides.

It has been a long wilderness walk. It has indeed been a time of humbling and testing and great preparation. It was fashioned especially for each one of His called out. And now we are reaching the borders of our promised land and the time to put down the last enemy (death) is at hand. We have learned to hear the voice of our Beloved above the clamor of all the other voices that sought to sidetrack us.

Our Lord is the only One who promises us true eternal life. He is the only One who is able to lead us into our promised land of immortality. *“He is the only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”*(I Tim. : 15b-16)

For this battle, the Lord called on Joshua. It is the Joshua (Christ) who has been formed in us who is called to the task. The time of our inheritance in Christ, which is HIS inheritance in the saints has come. In the wilderness, we overcame the world and the flesh...but now we are faced with the biggest hurdle that the devil still holds over us (death and the grave).

The devil has occupied our land (bodies) with his legions of deadly terrorists. They are all death-threatening forces that have held us in fear and dread. Among them, pestilence, violence, sudden death, addictions; all these and more are strongholds that have kept humans in a state of constant anxiety. Jesus healed men from these and raised them from the dead. Do we look as grasshoppers besides these giants? We have stood trembling before them. Have we not witnessed the huge clusters of grapes, the fruit and evidence of the new life that He has shown us through His Holy Spirit.

It is the serpent of old who has plunged men in darkness and sins and has kept them in bondage to all his schemes. He has been the keeper of the gates

of hell. When Jesus rose from the dead, He came up triumphant, holding the keys of hell and death. Now our Joshua is risen again to use these keys and lead the rest of His body into all truths and out of the death cycle. It is the truth that makes us free.

Jesus said that the gates of hell shall not prevail against His church. The gates of hell are “death and the grave.” I believe that Jesus spoke the truth..THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL against His true church.

Our Joshua is in charge. He is the son that has been birthed in us and has now come to maturity. It is time to possess our full inheritance. We are changing identity and we stand in Joshua.

Although we still look the same, it is Joshua who is speaking these words in the face of the giant spirits that have kept us in the cycle of death. As we stand in Him, anything of the old nature is left behind; all doubts and unbeliefs are buried in the wilderness.

Our Joshua is the Word made flesh in us. He is walking forward triumphantly to dethrone all the giant powers of death and hell that have occupied our minds, hearts and bodies. Our carnal minds have been programmed since birth to defeat us. It constantly plays a tape of doubts and fear in our heads. It reminds us that this cannot be. All who have gone before us have gone to the grave...but the truth is that there is One who has triumphed over the grave and our life is now in Him.

We are not listening to words that defeat us anymore. Not even from our own carnal mind. We are not congregating with those who are looking forward to the grave and a heaven of bliss in the sky. We are the labourers of the last hour and the overcomers who are called to be the end of death.

It took only One, our Lord Jesus, to brake through the barrier of corruption and death and make it possible for those whom He has chosen to do the same. And it will take only a few firstfruits to do the same and open the way for many more to follow in this glorious better resurrection.

We are told that Caleb and Joshua had “another spirit.” Indeed, it takes another spirit to believe that our Joshua is going to take us into that land. The mind of the Adam nature is enmity against God and always will be. No one can fix it and make it to be at peace with God. But we have the mind of Christ. It is He who talks to us about possessing our land and getting the victory over death and the grave.

The people were ready to stone Joshua and Caleb who were encouraging them to go up and possess their land. Paul writes “*Now all these things happened unto them as ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*” (I Cor. 10: 11)

For forty years, the Lord had shown them His keeping power. He fought for them and kept them from starvation and diseases. Their shoes and clothes never wore out, yet, when the time came that they should have learned to trust Him, they came against those whom he had sent.

Let us not find ourselves with the same defeated mind. Let us join the heroes of faith listed in Hebrews 11 who have died believing and are still looking for the better resurrection. Let us not forget how our God has brought us through our own wilderness.

He has brought us through His cleansing waters (Word) and purifying fires (experiences) and has made us pure virgins, pregnant with His Word of life. This Word of life is not heard in the Babylonish orders of men. It is only believed by those who have been made virgins.

Jesus gave us the promise of a new dwelling place. “*In my Father's house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you, THAT WHERE I AM THERE YE MAY BE ALSO.*” (Jn..14: 2a,3b) When Jesus said, where I am there you may be also, He was promising them the same level of life that He had attained for Himself.

To fully understand this, one must see that through the cross and resurrection, Jesus obtained a place in God that none other had ever known. Jesus became the “*Firstborn from the dead.*” (Col.1: 18) and “*The*

firstborn among many brethren.”(Rom.8: 29b) Jesus overcame death in His own body of flesh and became the first of a new creation with many to follow.

Those who have ears to hear are quickened by this promise. They have learned their lessons in the wilderness and now they are strong in the Spirit as Joshua and Caleb. They are ready to follow on and possess even the land of immortality.

Does this sound impossible? Does it sound like something that has been tried but could never be done? Amen, it does. Yet it is what our goal in Christ really is. It is the mark of the high calling of God in Christ that Paul was reaching for. And it is the goal that some are sure to possess, not only for themselves but for all those of the faith that have gone before and are waiting eagerly to possess.

What a mighty God! What a wondrous Christ! The last trump of God is sounding. His true church, on both sides of the veil, is being stirred by the clear and certain sound. As for me, He has burned this Word in my heart since I was a child, long before I knew Him and could understand. Since he called me in 1960, He has never ceased to keep this vision before me.

. *“The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein.” (Ps.24:1)* There is no doubt that the world that God has made, (not the systems that men have established as the world) and they that dwell therein, belong to Him. It will all be fully brought under the government of His Christ, for our God so loves His world that He gave His only begotten Son to save it.

The Lord told Joshua when he was about to go up and enter the land, *“Be strong and of good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous...” (Josh.1: 6)*

Indeed our Captain Jesus is strong and very courageous. He is appearing in each one who has been given the same Spirit and who is following Him into the land of promise. *“Now we believe, not be-*

cause of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.” (Jn.4: 42b)

Yes indeed, now we have heard Him ourselves. He has been with us in every step of our wilderness journey and He will not forsake us but take us all the way to possess the land that is our inheritance in Him and His inheritance in the saints.

THE SON OF MAN MUST BE CRUCIFIED

It was the morning after the crucifixion and some of His disciples came to the tomb and found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. Two men in shining garments stood by them. They were angels come to help these bewildered men understand what had happened. They explained that Jesus was no longer in the tomb; He was risen. Then they reminded them of the words Jesus had spoken earlier.

“Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words.” (Lk. 24: 7-8)

Jesus had tried to explain this to His disciples but these were hard sayings to take in. How could they fathom such a thing as the resurrection that was about to take place? Indeed, These things cannot be understood with the natural mind.

Jesus laid His life down willingly; no one could take it from Him. Even when He was on the cross, He could have called on legions of angels and they would have brought Him down and ministered to Him.

“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.” (Jn.10: 17-18)

The instruments of Jesus' death were His own who could not receive Him. Yet on the cross, Jesus cried out, *“Forgive them Father for they know not what they do!”* Indeed it is the same for those who come against the truth that the Lord has given us today.

A TIME TO LAY ISAAC DOWN

They know not what they do and our cry is “Forgive them Father.” Each time that the Spirit moves us into a higher truth, we find that it brings more death to our carnal nature. This continues until there is nothing left to our old ways. When all is fulfilled in us, we will find that all that is left is the Christ man.

Paul explains it this way, “*For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.*” (II Cor.4: 6-7)

Then he mentions the great persecutions that they were going through. They were “*Troubled on every side, yet not distressed; perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not forsaken, cast down but not destroyed.*” Paul explains that all this had to take place for the life of Christ to be made manifest.

“*Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.*” (II Cor.4: 10-11)

This is a powerful teaching for us today. It is due to our own brethren who have cast us out because of our word, that His life is arising in us. When the word that we spoke was rejected, and we were no longer received among them, we died to all that we had known before and His life was becoming manifest *in our mortal flesh*. It is because of this death that new life is arising in us. This is what Paul was saying, and it is what is happening now.

The old ways of worship that we knew in the past, are being consumed by the fire of His appearing. At the same time, this causes the world at large to die and be consumed as well by the fire of His appearing. When all is said and done, only Christ will rule and reign in the earth and Scriptures will be fulfilled. When we understand this, we rejoice and gladly lay our lives down as well.

The day came when God put Abraham to his ultimate test. Who would have thought that the God who gave him his beloved son would also demand that he slay him upon the altar of sacrifice?

God did not require Ishmael to be the sacrifice, God was very specific, “*Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*” (Gen. 22: 2)

There could be no mistake. It was indeed Isaac, the only son of Abraham and Sarah whom God recognized, that had to be offered up. Obedient Abraham did not argue; he submitted himself to God's will. I am sure that the most difficult moment of this dear man's life was when he tied his Isaac upon the wood of the altar and “*...stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.*” (Vs.10)

What gave this man the power to obey such a command? It was the faith that God had placed in his heart and that had been tested every step of the way. Abraham was a man of faith, and through the many trials of his walk of obedience, a solid trust had been build between him and His God.

By now, Abraham had the vision of where he was going and he fully trusted in the God who had called him out of his country and who spoke from within his heart. Abraham had no Bible to follow, no apostles to counsel with, no prophets to inquire at. All Abraham had was the faith that God had put in his heart and the trust that God had built in him.

We are told that Abraham had received the promises and was persuaded of them and embraced them. He was seeking a country. Of course, at the time he was also looking for the geographical country that God had promised him when he left Ur of the Chaldees, but as we read later, he was looking for more than that, “*For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*” (Heb.11: 10)

The eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews informs us that not only Abraham but all the heroes of the faith died still believing in the promises of a better resurrection and a country where God is not ashamed to be called their God. It says that if, at any time, they had had a mind to return to their old country, they would have had opportunity to do so. Yet they pressed forward every step of the way.

The story of Abraham and Isaac has been preached many times as a type of Father God offering His only Son Jesus, and that is good. But the Spirit reveals Isaac, not only as the type of Jesus, the Son who was offered up by Father God on Calvary, but also as Jesus as He is arising in His entire body. At this point we find that our Father God also requires us to be placed on that altar of sacrifice.

And so it is that each time His Word of life increases and takes root in us, and each time we were called to share it with those who reject us for the Word, we have laid Isaac on the altar of sacrifice. They, perhaps unknowingly, (knowing not what they do) have crucified afresh the Lord of glory when they rejected us because of Him who is the Word.

And so we have been lambs following the Lamb. Yet we always have opportunity to drop this word down a notch, and return where we feel safe among believers whose assemblies are cities built by man and not by God. Some have been overcome by loneliness and the need for close fellowship and have returned to the folds of such assemblies.

When Abraham offered up his son Isaac, he was full of faith and he knew that even if he had to slay him, God *"...was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him as a figure."* (Vs.19) Abraham passed the test. As we move forward, we find that our God has placed a strong faith in our hearts and we know that all that we have given up is not worthy to be compared with the glory that is unfolding before us and in us.

OUR ISAAC IS SLAIN MORE THAN ONCE

I have known preachers who were well established

in their ministries and left behind wealthy congregations when they heard the Word that was leading them on. Brother Bill Britton could not remain with the Assemblies of God when the Lord called Him to write and preach truths that they could not receive.

Many others whose names are not as well known have made the same sacrifice. They left their secure places of ministry and followed not knowing what would happen thereafter. In time, God raised them up higher than they could have ever imagined.

Yet this process has to be repeated over again in one's life. I have also seen some of the same ministers who once did not hesitate to lay it all down, later refuse to move on again when the Lord called them up to a still higher Word.

They had now rebuilt their ministries and felt safe and secure in their new position. They were not ready to do it again. Spiritually, Isaac (the son that the Spirit has formed in us) has to die and be raised again many times on our journey. This was how Israel was led through the wilderness. The tabernacle and everything in it had to be portable. They had to be ready to pick up their tent stakes and move on every time God's cloud showed up.

To further explain this, permit me to give you some of my own experiences as examples. There was the time when my husband and I were in a non-denominational church. We had quickly fulfilled our stay in the Methodist church and now we were sitting under the teaching of a very capable Pastor, skilled in the literal letter of the Bible. We learned very valuable truths at the time.

After a few years of attending and serving faithfully in that church, the Lord gave me a dream. I have written this dream before, so I will skip the details for now, but it was a dream that revealed that the churches had lost God's anointing and their connection with the Spirit of God.

My husband and I asked to see the Pastor so I could share this Word with him. We truly thought that this dream would open his understanding and be of help to him. We never expected what hap-

pened or perhaps we would not have been so bold to present it to him. We were sitting in his private office when I told him the dream. When I finished, this good man who had always been very kind and very pleasant suddenly turned red in the face and asked us to turn in our letters of resignation and leave the church without delay.

We were shocked, not really understanding what was happening. We continued attending services for a short while, but found ourselves having to leave when he began hurling accusations toward us from the pulpit. We had become the enemy in their midst.

I did not know at the time but now I realize that this had been the death of Isaac. In this case, Isaac was the ministry of the Word through dreams that the Lord had given me. This Isaac was offered up and slain. This would be repeated several times later.

The Lord quickly moved us on and soon we were introduced to a group of saints who also had come out of their churches in quest of a better Word. We quickly witnessed to the Word and remained with that group for five wonderful years of learning, traveling and teaching like minded believers.

Then one night God gave me a very significant dream. I did not know it right away, but the same forces that squeezed me out of the last church, were already at work. Only this time it was more lethal because the Word that God was giving me through dreams had reached a deeper depth.

I know that I have written this dream before but for the sake of giving a clear understanding, I will write it again. *“In the dream I was standing outside the gate of our backyard. Across from where I stood was a wooded area like a park. A young boy was standing in that area. He was stunningly beautiful with the bluest eyes that matched his unusual blue hair. Just beyond him was a huge, coiled up rattle snake. I was told that this was the serpent of old. The snake’s rattlers were raised up and sounding its intent. In a flash, the snake struck the boy and I knew that this boy was going to die. I told him to lay down and be very still. My thinking in the dream*

was that by being still, the venom would be slower to work its way through the bloodstream. So the boy laid on his side and slowly died.” End of dream.

I did not know at the time what this dream was about. I only knew that I was very moved and impressed by what I saw. What happened in my life after that was totally unexpected.

The Lord, who had been speaking through prophetic dreams to me and several others, began to reveal to us that the leader of the group was about to embark the people on new ventures that would not be to their good or the good of their cause.

I gathered all the Words, including my own dreams and called the leader to a private meeting with me and another ministry. We clearly laid out God's Words and quickly realized that he showed disdain and scorn rather than interest in any of them.

After making an attempt to get us to forget about these Words, this very influential man, flatly stated that we emissaries of the devil, and me in particular. It was then that I understood that the beautiful boy in my dream represented the young ministry of truth (blue eyes and blue hair) that God was nurturing within me. I knew that my time with them was over. It was a horrible death and it truly felt like it.

They found their own prophets who feared them more than they feared God and were more than happy to confirm whatever they wanted to hear. I learned by experience that we are truly deceived when we turn away from the love of the truth.

Paul writes about those who perish because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. *“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion (error), that they should believe a lie.”* (II Thes.2: 11)

They became convinced that where they were about to lead the people was of God. However, what I was hearing, along with others, was just the opposite. I could not back down for I knew that the words received were pure and true. We left the group.

My reputation as a true ministry of the Word among them had been struck dead. The venom came from the serpent of old who had deceived the first woman Eve and was now leading these people into deception. My Isaac (ministry through dreams) had been offered up again. All this may sound far fetched, but it is indeed very real. These are graphic examples of what it means to lay our "Isaac" down.

It will happen to all who are called of God and are moved by the Spirit. Our Isaac sacrifice is not the offering of our old nature; our old nature is dealt with by our daily cross. Our cross is when we put our own will and ways down and choose the way of the Spirit. This takes place in our daily lives.

JESUS GAVE US MINISTRIES

Jesus told His disciples that He would not leave them orphans. He would come to them. Indeed, He returned as the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truths. His Holy Spirit is given to each one of His called out people. It is not given only to the ministries that He placed among us. This is because it is vital that **all** be taught of God and not of man.

As babes in Christ, we need to learn to hear His voice. Ministries are given to do the work of maturing the church. All ministries are vital to the Body of Christ however they cannot be organized by man. God has placed them in strategic places to touch the lives of His called out. We are not called to follow them indefinitely; they need to let us go when we are ready.

Each of His elect will reach the time when they feel the need to fly away from the coop. Ministries will often try to hold them back and can be good too. We each need to learn to fly even against the opposition of those we have had so much love and respect for. Our first love must be the Spirit within.

The five ministries that God has given are still in order today. Only they are not organized under one banner as some might believe. They are working all over the world in the order that God has set for them. In this way, the Body of Christ works together as one, moved only by God's Spirit.

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ knew his calling. His heartfelt prayer for the saints and the faithful in Christ Jesus, was that they might understand that the glory of His inheritance in the saints is a temple not made with hands. An eternal body of people in the earth filled with the presence of His Father and displaying His glory to all of creation.

As one of God's great apostles, Paul knew that he was to enlighten the saints and pray that the Lord would stir up in them the spirit of revelation, that they in turn might hear Him and look only to Him for their discernment. He desired so much that they would know their calling and lift up their vision high above the events of man's world to see Him who is the Truth and the Life.

Paul instructs us that the five ministries that Jesus gave are to bring the church to the maturity of sons. These ministries have been at work doing a great job ever since. Every step of the ladder of truths that we have climbed has been enriched by His anointed servants. His church has been built and has grown in the knowledge of Him as each one of its member has spoken the truth in love to the edification of the entire body.

It would be indeed immature to put any of these true ministries down when we think we have reached maturity. But it would be also wrong to follow after any of them when the Lord has made us ready to move on to the next rung of the ladder of truths.

I thank my God for every one that He has placed on my way to teach me and move me on. They are all very precious to me and I know that in eternity they will receive their reward. Many of these have now gone beyond the veil, but I know that the day of His appearing is at hand and that they are all part of that great event.

Lord Jesus, hasten that day.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*