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WILL GO

NO.214

THANK GOD FOR THE CAMELS

Of all the types and shadows in the Old Testament, none is more precious and more informative than the story of Rebekah and Isaac. It has been preached and taught many times and each time it peels off another layer so that we get a clearer understanding of where we are on our own journey to the tent of our Isaac.

It all began when Abraham who was then stricken in age was concerned because his only son Isaac had no wife. They were living in Canaanite country and none of the young women in that area was suited for Isaac. So Abraham summoned his very trusted and eldest servant who ruled over his house and laid out the task at hand.

“...Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: and I will make thee swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.” (Gen.24: 2b-4)

In this account, Abraham is a type of Father God and the trusted servant is a type of God's Holy Spirit. Isaac is a type of the Son and Rebekah is His bride to be. The details of her journey and His waiting eagerly for her, opens our understanding to the things that are happening to us on our journey to our union with Christ and our complete transformation.

The story begins when father Abraham reveals his plan to find a bride for his only son Isaac. This is the heart of the matter. Our election and calling has

to do with the purpose and plan of God for His Son Jesus. It is good to keep in mind that our calling in God was never our idea; it all issued from God the Father.

The commission is given to the One who is anointed to reach our natural consciousness (understanding). Jesus calls Him our Comforter. He says that He will speak to us. *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that **shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come.**”* (Jn.16: 13)

God's Holy Spirit does not make things up as He goes. He does not arrange things for us according to our situation; He shows us the things that God has already planned. He relates to us what He hears from the Father. He is the Spirit of the obedient Son. He will never lead us astray, He guides us into all truth and He is the One who stays by our side on the journey.

*“And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for **all the goods of his master were in his hand:** and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.”* (Gen.24:10)
The Spirit is also the One who calls us and showers gifts upon us. He is our Husband in Spirit. It is when we meet the Son face to face at the end of the journey that we will see Him as He is, not only in Spirit, but in soul and body as well...

The camels are sent from the Father. Thank God for the camels! They are the burden bearers and the ones who make it possible for the bride to be transported to the kingdom of the Son. Paul gave

"...thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." (Col.1: 12-13)

The Father has sent His camels to transport us into the kingdom of His dear Son. How is this accomplished? Our Father sent His strong, trained and enduring camels to carry us hundred of miles across one of the driest and hottest desert on earth. Camels are not the most comfortable mode of transportation, but they are desert animal, able to travel with little food and water. They walk easily on soft sand where any other vehicle would get stuck and they make a way where there are no roads.

Camels have long legs with powerful muscles in the upper part to allow them to carry heavy loads for long distances. However camels move slowly and may only cover about twenty-five miles a day. When camels rest, they drop their front legs and fall to their knees. Then they fold their back legs and fall to the ground. They have very long eyelashes to protect their eyes from the gritty sand storms that often blow on the way.

By this short description one can see that spiritually speaking, the Father has equipped us for life's journey. Through the Spirit and by His grace we have been given "camel power" to cross the hot dry places that lie between us and our Bridegroom. We are endowed with the ability to go through violent wind storms and shifting sands on our daily walk. We are given knees that bend easily that we may pray and find rest on the way. He has equipped our vision with protection against the nitty gritty sands of life that slap our faces to force us off our path.

And he sent TEN camels. Ten is the number of trials and testing. On this journey, we are tested and tried to the nth degree. We are challenged by strong storms unleashed against us but our camels keep on walking. Fierce winds blow against us and the gritty sands of life try to obstruct our vision, but our eyes are shielded and we continue on course.

There are days of unbearable heat and nights of freezing cold that we never thought we could en-

sure but our camels are steady and sturdy for us. We feel their peace and strength around us as they bear our burdens and carry all our needs and provisions.

Our camels take us through the harsh environments and situations that we encounter so that although we are sorely tested, we are never defeated. We go through the storms with our heads up high and our hearts looking toward the wonderful Bridegroom who is awaiting us.

God's Holy Spirit is the faithful servant who never fails us. He is the One who is commissioned to bring back a bride for the Son. The Scriptures tell us that ALL THE GOODS of his master were in his hand. Hallelujah! He has ALL THE GOODS! He has all our needs.

HE IS ALL I NEED

Eliezer brought precious gifts to Rebekah and her family. Indeed, when we receive His Holy Spirit, we are given gifts more precious than the gold that perishes. Peter said, *"He hath given unto us ALL THINGS that pertain unto life and godliness..."*

He begins by giving us gifts of the Spirit to help us through as we walk with Him daily, He begins the task of building our character in His image and He introduces us to the One who is our life; He is the most precious gift of all. Then we know, as the song says, *"He's all I need, He's all I need, Jesus is all I'll ever need."*

Peter goes on to explain how these things are given to us, *"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."* (II Pet.1: 3a, 4)

By His Holy Spirit, Jesus gives us the power to escape the corruption that is in the world. Through the cross, we are able to resist the strong appetites that the world tempts us with daily. Then we find that once we have overcome the corruption that is in the world, we must work on the nature that is within us. If we try to overcome the world by our own

will-power, we are always in danger of falling back. We cannot overcome the world by running away from it or by isolating ourselves in some way. It is when, in the midst of the world, He takes the world out of our hearts that we are forever safe from yielding to any of its temptations.

Peter writes, *“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. If these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Vs.5-8) As we say today, “This is awesome!” The gifts of God are not given to make our earthly life easier; the gifts of God are given to work His nature and His character in us.

THE TRUE CHANGE

A dear brother in the Lord once said to me, “The change that is taking place within us is not a process; it is a progress!” The truth of the matter is that we are not being processed and re-cycled so to speak, we are being REPLACED by the One who has taken His residence in us. The death that was in our soul is being swallowed up by His life. *“For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that **mortality might be swallowed up of life.**”* (II Cor.5: 4)

This is quite a word, “Mortality is swallowed up of life.” We have imagined that “Resurrection” is a one big day event. At the sound of a trumpet, the graves are opened, the dead come up out of their tombs and stand in new bodies. This is the way we have imagined resurrection.

But let us not forget these eternal words of Jesus, **“I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.”** (Jn.11:25) Jesus IS the resurrection. From glory to glory, He is swallowing up our death as He arises within us. When His life appears in us, we appear with Him. The resurrection life that we experience is to the measure that He has been formed in us.

Paul wrote, *“For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven (in the Spirit) from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, **ACCORDING TO THE WORKING WHEREBY HE IS ABLE EVEN TO SUBDUE ALL THINGS (in us) UNTO HIMSELF.**”* (Phil.3:20b-21)

We are citizens of the realm of Spirit. This is where we find our Lord. He is working in our souls and spirits to change our vile bodies. Our vile bodies will not be changed through the natural things that we do; they can only be changed by the One who is able to subdue all the things that work in us and bring them unto subjection to Himself.

Paul was *“pressing toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”* He knew that there were degrees of resurrection and he desired the highest. He also knew that in order to attain to that, He needed to yield himself to the working of the Spirit within Him, that his death might be swallowed up and that the Christ might fully appear in him.

Jesus is the resurrection that has been at work within us from the time that we began to yield ourselves to His Holy Spirit. He explained that the dead shall *“...hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.”* (Jn.5:25b) When we hear His voice, that is when by the Spirit, we understand the realities of spiritual things or when in our hearts, we grasp something that only He could have told us, we are being quickened in spirit, soul and body.

The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead is quickening our mortal bodies. Each time we hear His voice, our entire being is quickened or made alive by His life. This does not mean that we are given a longer mortal life, it means that more resurrection life is formed in us and is becoming the life of our entire being until we become immortal.

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” (Rom.8: 11)

Each time we hear Him and obey His voice, we are quickened or made alive with His life. This is the work that He has begun within us and that He will also complete. It is not by any works that we do, it is by hearing and obeying the voice of His Spirit within. This sounds easy but because of our rebellious nature, it becomes an enormous struggle.

JACOB'S WRESTLING

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Eph.6: 12) We have quoted this verse many times and we know it by heart yet we often wrestle with the surface actions of flesh and blood rather than with the hidden powers of darkness. This is like putting a band-aid on a sore and letting it fester underneath.

Our warfare is not against the actions of the flesh man, it is against the spiritual powers that drive him. In our own selves first and others as well. If we get angry and throw a pot against the wall, the action of throwing the pot is not our warfare; our warfare is against the forces that brought the anger into being.

As the Christ nature rises from within, we face an even greater struggle. It is the wrestling that Jacob faced when he met with the Angel of the Lord at the river Jabbok. It is the struggle of the soul who is pulled by the forces of the flesh but clings relentlessly to hold on to the Spirit. We have perhaps felt this when our soul was drawn to the safety of numbers in the church, but knew that we must hold on to the lonely ways of the Spirit.

Above all, Jacob desired the birthright. From their mother's womb, the twins struggled. Esau was in line to be born first so that legally he was heir of the birthright. Jacob was a schemer and a manipulator. At the time of birth, he stuck his hand out passed Esau trying to be firstborn. Later he took every opportunity of Esau's weaknesses to snatch the coveted birthright away from him.

Jacob knew that Esau did not really esteem his

birthright; this was his weak point. So one day when Esau had been out hunting and was weak with hunger, Jacob had prepared a delicious and nutritious lentil soup. Jacob did not waste the opportunity to exploit the situation and trade a bowl of soup for the birthright. Esau had sold out his birthright in exchange for his life.

In Hebrew traditions, the birthright of the firstborn included a double portion of the inheritance. The firstborn received twice as much from the father as his other sons. He also received the right of succession which meant that all authority over his father's estate and entire house was passed to him.

*“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our Spirit that we are children of God. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; (firstborn son) **if so be that we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together.**”* (Rom.8: 16-17) It is through suffering that we are heirs with the firstborn Son.

Because of Jacob's scheming and manipulating, Esau was angry enough to kill him. So Jacob had to flee from the face of Esau.

It was in our mother's womb (the church) that we learned about the birthright in Christ. We struggled against the man of flesh but Esau had to have his day. We tried to move up the ranks of the church to better ourselves and be approved of our elders. We ran after ministries that we thought could get us closer to God. We moved from one fellowship to another until we met with the Angel of the Lord on the way. It was then that we began to hear the voice of the Lord.

His voice came to us in dreams and visions and prophecies. Then He stirred the Spirit of revelation within us and opened the eyes of our understanding. The struggle was on for the change. We knew we could not stay as we were; we wanted to see Him face to face.

The face that we have been waiting to see is the Lord Himself. We have known Him by the Spirit as the Word but now He is appearing in us. This means that our transformation is not only in our

spirit and soul but it is taking place in our bodies as well. It is the manifestation that we have so eagerly been looking for.

The Word that we have shared by the Spirit has been wonderful. It has quickened new life within us but when we see Him as He is we will stand face to face with the new creation of God that we have become.

Jacob the schemer in us had to walk through his paces. He had to first go to a relative of his father named Laban. This man made him work hard but Jacob acquired much through him. Indeed, when we first began our journey, the Lord sent us to a kin who knew how to make us labor for our keep.

As we know, the denominational systems of men were first to welcome us. They were ready to train us to work zealously to bring in more followers and enrich their coffers. We became some of their best workers. We taught Sunday Schools, knocked on doors brought in new members and kept abreast of all the plans that they devised for us.

In exchange they enriched us. They taught us the Bible and how to behave ourselves toward each other. They taught us law and order and how to repent from our sins. They taught us how to be committed to them but they could not teach us how to hear the voice of the Lord from within.

The church that taught me the most in my very beginnings was the nice "Community Church" that Michael and I attended for a couple of years. We sat under the Berean teaching of the Bible and it was just what we needed at the time. But when God gave me the first significant dream concerning the condition of the church, and we faced the Pastor with it, we were asked to resign.

At the time, I thought that my dream would be a great help to the Pastor, instead it literally enraged him. There is a time and a season for all things. Nevertheless, when we left that church, we were greatly enriched by all that we had learned. We had become knowledgeable in the Bible and we behaved like good Bible toting Christians but we were

only in the baby stages of our walk with the Lord.

Jacob struggled as he worked seven years for Leah and seven years for Rachel. Little did he know that he would end up with two wives. He only desired Rachel but the law demanded that he work for her elder sister as well. Leah is the perfect type of the denominational church who gave us so much. She gave birth to the sons (words) that we needed to go on to our perfection in Christ.

For a long time, dear Rachel pined because she could not give birth while Leah was presenting her husband with one son after another. *"Now the sons of Jacob were twelve: The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulon."* (Gen.35: 23)

When we study the names of the sons, we know that Reuben means "Behold a Son." He is a type of what we call the born again experience. This happens first and it is the first son of Leah. Then comes Simeon (hearing) and Levi (joined) and these are birthed as we begin to hear the Word and become joined and submitted to the church.

Judah is next in order of birth and his name means praise. When we hear the Word through the Bible, praise to God begins to rise up in our hearts and Issachar appears. His name means "a reward" and the reward is that we begin to know our God in a more meaningful way.

When we come to Zebulon (habitation) we know that our Lord has made His abode within us. We learn all of this in the first steps of our journey. Leah made Jacob rich in sons and we are made rich by the things that we receive at the beginning of our walk. *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."* (I Tim.4: 12)

Our growth in Christ must include all of these steps. Not everyone is joined to a denominational church and we do not all have the same teachers, but the result is always the same. As it is with newborn babies, spiritually we also need the milk of the word and daily nurturing in order to grow and be

spiritually healthy. And just as some children mature very slowly and some never do, so in the spirit we find that it is much the same.

THE REWARD OF WRESTLING WITH GOD

It was when Jacob had paid the heavy price of working tirelessly for twenty years that Laban had to let him go but not without more struggle. When they finally parted, Laban requested that the children of Jacob, which were also his children and grandchildren would be safe from warring against each other.

So they made a covenant for a witness between them. They built a stone pillar and broke bread upon the heap. *“This heap be witness, and this pillar be witness, that I will not pass over this heap to thee, and that thou shalt not pass over this heap and this pillar unto me, for harm.”* (Gen.31: 52)

They had drawn territorial boundaries between them with the promise to not make war with each other. This is the way we depart from all denominations and groups that have been instrumental in our spiritual growth. We can no longer continue with them, but by the same token we do them no harm and expect none from them.

When Jacob left Laban, his most intense struggle was still ahead of him. He would no longer wrestle only against principalities and powers of darkness in those who came against him, he would wrestle with the Angel of the Lord! He would no longer scheme for the birthright; he would obtain it legally by having his name changed.

Jacob's actual wrestling, as it is recorded in the Bible, took place during a twelve hour night, but our night is much longer. It was Jacob's most dreadful hour yet it was his finest. Jacob was terrified. If he did not prevail, Esau would surely kill him.

It was at this point that Jacob prayed, *“I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant...Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of*

my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.” (Gen.32: 10a,11)

It is as the Lord changes our name, our nature, that we feel the full force of the Esau in us. Esau was the twin brother of Jacob. He was the one who was the heir by birth. He represents not only the power of the flesh in us, but mostly the power of the ambitious religious man.

When we have overcome the powers that the flesh and the world hold over us, we come face to face with the one who has been making himself to be God in us. This is the stronghold of the subtle devil. Just as Eve begot both Abel and Cain, in Adam, we have received the Cain genes as well. Cain is the one who wants to please God through the works of his own hands. He offers God the fruit of the earthly man. It is only as we tenaciously hold on to the Spirit of the Lord that He blesses us with the nature of the new creation in Christ.

Jacob in us has received much at the hand of God. We have become strong in faith and in hearing His word, but even though our Jacob desires to do right, he remains a scheming religious man at heart until he is changed. Only when he becomes Israel (Prince of God) will he be free from the threat of Esau.

“And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

And he said, Let me go for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.” (Gen.32: 24-28)

Jacob had left home with nothing, but now he was a rich and powerful man. To show his power and wealth to Esau, he sent over hundreds of goats and

sheep and many camels, cattle and asses. And so they each went their own way. It is when we stand in the riches and power of God that the man of flesh realizes that he is no longer the strong man of the house. As we prevail with God the man of flesh has to bend under the authority of the Spirit and there is peace within.

Up to this time we have petitioned God for many things. We have desired our souls to be saved, clothed upon with our new bodies and not be found naked. But now we desire to be blessed with the double portion (birthright) and as Jacob, we cry out, *"I will not let you go until you bless me!"*

All the things we needed to entertain the old religious man is of no value anymore. Now, we hunger and thirst for God's righteousness (right way of behavior). We yearn to be changed into the One who only does the will of the Father. As I write these words, I am aware that they are a prayer from our hearts. May the Christ that is formed in us be made manifest in our members and may He be seen again in the earth through us!

As he wrestled with the Angel, Jacob's thigh bone was out of joint. He would never again walk again as the same man. Now he was a broken man but he had a new name. Jacob was no longer the schemer, he was a prince of God. Only a broken man can be a prince or a son of God.

Sons of God no longer scheme to manipulate people and circumstances in order to better themselves. Those who press toward the high calling of God in Christ find themselves in a furnace fired up seven times hotter. But fear not, for as Job declared so do we, *"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."* (Job. 23:10) When we have been tried, we will come forth with His nature (gold).

THE CAMELS HAVE ARRIVED

*"And Isaac came from the way of the well La-hai-roi; for he dwelt in the south country. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, **the***

camels were coming. And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel...And Isaac brought her into his mother's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death." (Gen. 24: 62,63,64,67)

It had been a very long and exhausting journey across the desert for Rebekah but her heart leaped for joy when she found out that the man she saw standing in the distance was Isaac. His father's faithful servant had led her all this way. He had comforted her when she missed her family and he had talked to her a lot about Isaac.

He had introduced her to him in so many ways that although she had never seen him, she loved him and desired to be his wife. It was from the very beginning that the witness in her heart told her to follow that man and when asked she did not hesitate to answer, *"I will go!"* Now she was so glad she went.

As Jacob, Rebekah also yearned for a change of name. Her desire was to take on the name of her new husband, to enter his tent and be his bride. This was the only reason for her journey. She no longer belonged to her earthly family; her heart was toward her husband and new life.

The Bible gives no details of what happened on Rebekah's long journey. It was the very same journey that Abraham took when he left his country in Mesopotamia. The way stretches across the Arabian desert and if we follow the trail of Abraham's journey we learn about the hazards and obstacles that he encountered.

When we answer the call of the Spirit to leave our ways of life and our religious traditions behind, we follow the Holy Spirit on a journey across a desert barren land. We no longer find the familiar fellowships and the soul's pleasures of our old life but we have the fellowship of His Spirit and He speaks to us about Himself and about things to come. He prepares us for the full union and new life that we enter into when we meet our Bridegroom face to face.

The way is hot and the camels are slow. Could

people such as we are today, conceive of taking such a journey as Rebekah took? Could we who are used to rapid and efficient transportation with good food and air conditioned places along the way embark on such a long trip?

Yet this is a true picture of what we go through to reach our spiritual destination in Christ. It would be nice if God transported us there by the touch of a magic wand. This may be what some preach to tickle the ears of their people, but it is not the reality of our change into Christ.

Spiritually, we are on a journey across a barren land. Things were familiar and comfortable in our mother's tent (earthly church) but now we are moving in the unknown and unexplored land that lies between earthly and heavenly (natural and spiritual).

We still want to touch base with the familiar, but we must follow our Guide; He knows the way and He will not lead us astray. Once we have made our commitment and boarded our camels, the word is, *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* (Prov.3: 5-6)

BY THE WELL OF LA-HAI-ROI

When Rebekah saw Isaac, she took a veil to cover herself and lit off the camel. Isaac had come to meet her by the way of the well called La-hai-roi. The name La-hai-roi means "well of the Living One who sees me or who watches over me."

This is where our heavenly Bridegroom meets us. Although He gave us tools such as Bible studies, prayers, meetings with great praises, dreams, visions, prophecies and much more, these are not where we find Him.

He is found in the river of life that flows deep within us. It is from that place that He brings us into His tent. It is by the living waters within that He waits to bring us into His tent. This is the complete transformation that we have been longing for. It is

worth the entire journey.

He has fed us and led us unto *"..living fountains of waters where God shall wipe away all our tears."* (See Rev.7:17b). We will no longer dwell in our own tent (body of this death) but we will share His tent (His body of glory).

He has given us His name in Spirit, but then we will be bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. The name of our natural birth will no longer be known. When I married my husband, I became a Caporaso. Some women prefer to keep their maiden name, but usually a woman takes on her husband's name. When our soul enters into full union with the Spirit of the Lord, He changes our name to His. We belong to His family. We are His.

Anyone who has been blessed with a good marriage knows that there is no other relationship like it. Yet in the natural, this union can only last until death parts us. As much as Michael and I loved each other and cared for one another, when he left his earthly tabernacle, I had to resume my own identity.

But when we marry our heavenly Bridegroom, we are joined to His Spirit and He never leaves us. We become a new creature joined to Him forever and because of our union with Him we are joined to one another in the same way.

Rebekah and Isaac started something big. I am sure that they are among those who are waiting for the better resurrection which is soon to come. *"Women received their dead raised to life again; and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection...that they without us should not be made perfect."* (Heb.11: 35, 40b)

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready." (Rev.19: 7)

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*