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BEING BUILT UNTO AN HOLY TEMPLE

No.219

A HEART FOR THE BIRTHRIGHT

In His wisdom, God has hidden the mighty plan that He has drawn up for His creation in the types and shadows of the Old Testament. God's plan has been in force from the foundation of the world, and the events and people of His Book have been strategically framed. Through types and examples they are the tools that the Spirit uses to reveal God's purposes to those who have an ear to hear. If we read the Old Testament any other way we only learn history and not His and our story.

And so the story of Jacob and Esau is powerful to reveal to us the two natures that work in us and the one that God chooses over the other. The name Jacob means "supplanter." The meanings of names in the Bible often depict the nature of the person. God is very particular about the names of His characters.

Jacob is called "Supplanter" because from his mother's womb he schemed to be the firstborn. He did not succeed but his scheming and struggling were intense. Even while still in the birth canal, Jacob managed to wrap his hand around his twin brother Esau so that it would stick out first.

However Esau was meant to be the firstborn son. This was very important because in Hebrew tradition, the firstborn son is the one called to represent the father after his death and to inherit the double portion of his entire estate.

But why did God turn against Esau? We read, "*As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I*

hated." (Rom.9:13) God looks upon the heart and He knew that Jacob's struggling and conniving were for the right reason. Esau was a hunter and gave his heart to the game. Later, he was sorely tested and proved that he was ready to despise his birthright to save his life while Jacob was ready to give his life for the birthright. It is well known that Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup.

In Christ, the birthright of the firstborn is also paramount. The firstborn Son of God is Jesus Christ. It is when we are in Him that we become joint-heirs of God with Him. "*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed IN US.*" (Rom.8: 16-18)

God loved Jacob because he desired all that his father had for him. God loves the heart that desires all that the Father has. But what kind of inheritance are we looking for? Are we hoping for a mansion over the hilltop? Are we simply hoping to re-join those we knew and loved here on earth? Is this the inheritance we hope for in God?

Or do we seek God for the good things that He provides for us in this world? Do we seek Him for promotions in our work or in society? Or is our heart set for the birthright of the firstborn Son? Do we yearn to inherit His nature within. Do we really desire to give God His habitation in earth?

Indeed the inheritance of the firstborn or the “birthright” is Himself. It is to be His image and likeness in heaven and in earth (spiritually and physically). It is to be part of the corporate Christ in the world. Just as we have been in the image of the earthly Adam and part of his corporate body, we inherit the image of the Son and a place in the corporate body of Christ.

Our "corporateness" is not in whether we live together in the flesh or even know each other that way; our corporateness is when we are perfectly one in Christ and therefore in one another.

How do we inherit this position? Do we try to push our way forward as Jacob did at birth? Do we try by force to eliminate this Adam man who has come first? Paul teaches us that we have been given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers “*For the perfecting of the saints...till we ALL come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a PERFECT man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*” (Eph.4: 12-13)

These are all “word” ministries but they must be the ones that Jesus has given and not ones who have learned the doctrines of men. They must be filled with His Spirit and hear from His Spirit in order to give us the tools we need to go through and pass the tests that we may graduate into maturity in Christ.

We also read, “*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, LET US GO ON TO PERFECTION...*” (Heb.6: 1a) Being perfected or going on to perfection speaks of growing into full spiritual maturity. In the Spirit we go through the stages of babyhood, childhood, teenage and adult hood unto full maturity in Christ.

We know that “*The heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.*” (Gal.4:1-2) As long as we are still children or teenagers in the Spirit, we cannot receive our inheritance.

So far we have received the “earnest” or the down

payment in the Spirit. It is not as we cram the word in our minds, memorize Bible verses or pray at least an hour each day that we mature. It is as we take the word through the daily trials of life and overcome each circumstance by the Spirit that we become more and more mature in the Lord.

Everyone in this life has difficulties and is tested. Some overcome by their courage and determination and that is admirable, but it does not bring them to spiritual maturity. It is when one overcomes and passes the test with His word that one matures spiritually.

In Christ we are joint-heirs with the Son. This means that we receive the double portion of the firstborn. As Jesus is the image and likeness of His Father so we inherit the same. We inherit who He is as we are raised in resurrection with Him. He has come within us by the Spirit. When our soul is one with His Spirit we become the new creation of God.

God has designed a body for each seed. To each seed its own body...the body of glory is the body of that new man of the Spirit within. We will be seen when God makes us manifest in the earth. There is a verse that recently caught my attention. “*For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.*” (Rom.6: 5)

This verse becomes clearer when it is read without the help that the translators gave it. In the original Greek it reads, “*For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall also be his resurrection.*” When we die with Him, we die completely to our old nature, and the one who comes out is Himself in resurrection life. Resurrection is Him. He is the resurrection. It is not an event in time, it is Himself. He is our inheritance and we are His. In Him we are joint-heirs which means we have the birthright.

This is what the heart of a son of God yearns for. He does not yearn for riches and prestige in this world. He is not satisfied with the thrills and frills that the world offers to the flesh. He is grateful for the good things that the Lord provides daily for him,

but his heart's desire is turned toward being changed into the image of the Son. Nothing short of that will satisfy. A mansion in "heaven" as the worldly church teaches is not the goal of one who is called of God but his heart groans and travails for the manifestation of the sons of God.

"The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee." (Ps.20:1) How apropos it is that the God of Jacob was the One who came to David's mind as he wrote this Psalm. For Jacob, as David, had his heart set toward God. Even though he sought it by scheming and conniving, it was his heart that God looked upon. God became Jacob's defender until He changed his nature and named him Israel (Prince of God). May the God of Jacob become our defender as we walk this journey, until He changes our nature and names us "Christ."

DAVID'S HEART

David's passion was to build a house for God and to bring up the Ark of the Covenant in its place. This was the heart that was after God's own, for it is God's great desire to dwell among His people. When God gave Moses the pattern for the tabernacle, He was very specific and clear, *"And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them."* (Ex.25:8)

David made sure that the Ark was kept in a safe place, but his greatest desire was to build the temple for the Ark of God. Today, the hearts of God's Davids yearn to build this temple for God to dwell in. Some yearn to rebuild the actual temple in Jerusalem while others build churches or establish works in the name of God. These are fueled and financially supported by people eager to do something for God. Yet all our good works leave us void of spiritual fulfillment, for the true temple of God is the one that Jesus is building within each of His saints by the Spirit.

As much as God loved David and knew his heart, He never gave him the privilege of building His temple. Yet without David the temple could have never been built. It took all the preparations that

David brought to the scene to accomplish the work. Indeed, all the warfare and the escape from Saul were David's part in building God's great house.

So it is that the Spirit of David in us prepares the way for the building of God to be raised in us. Just as David had to fight the Philistines and all the enemies of Israel, so the Spirit leads us against every demon that speaks to our minds and every tradition that holds us in bondage.

In my walk with the Lord, I have learned that traditions are not necessarily the things that we learn in denominations or the rituals that our ancestors instilled in us, they are also the traditions we pick up for ourselves along the way.

The Lord reminds me of Israel on their wilderness journey. Even when they found a wonderful place with palm trees and good water, God never told them to build something permanent there. They were to be ready to pick up their tent stakes at any moment and to move with the pillar of fire by night or the pillar of smoke by day. So it is with us spiritually speaking. God moves us from the wilderness of one church to the desert of another without much explanation. Some of the places He leads us to are pleasant and it seems that we should stay there, but we need to keep our eyes and hearts on His Spirit and be ready to move on.

Each time that the Lord has led me and my husband with a certain group, we felt that this was it. We had now found the ones that we could stay with until Jesus comes! Each time we committed our all to them and loved them dearly. But the day always came, perhaps three years later or even sixteen years later, but the day always came when the Lord said "this is it, move on!"

And each time He moved us on it was not because we had found something better, no, each time, we found ourselves alone and waiting on the Lord to show us the next step. This happened many times until finally the next step was to just wait on the final event.

I said this because I know that we all want to be faithful to those around us. We feel secure and com-

fortable with them too and going out into the unknown may be scary so it is so much easier to just stick it out. But we need to remember that the culmination of our walk is to be wed to our true Bridegroom, therefore our faithfulness is due only to Him and to the vision that He has placed before us.

Our allegiance is not to a ministry or group of ministries or church or denomination or non-denomination; our faithfulness is due to the Christ that God has placed in our hearts. This is hard to receive but it must be engraved in our hearts- It is one of the acid tests. Remember that *“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”* (IITim.1: 7)

The Spirit of fear speaks to us through intimidation. It can make us feel that we owe our spiritual life to some organized group or man. Indeed, any group that keeps reminding us that if we are not with them we are not where God wants us, is keeping us in bondage. Anytime we feel tied down spiritually we are hearing from the spirit of fear. The sound mind comes when we are free from all bondage and we find joy in being where God wants us no matter where it is.

The spirit of David within us works to overcome all the enemies of Christ. It is necessary that we take hold of the “Man of War” in us and prepare the way for the Man of Peace to build the house of God within. It is when all out warfare is accomplished that the Man of wisdom and peace appears and begins to arrange the materials in their proper order. I believe this has been taking place in our lives each day. As we overcome our fears, unbeliefs, anxieties and fleshly desires, the Spirit is chiseling us as a stone to fit in the building.

DAVID'S PASSION

David's greatest desire was to build a temple for the Ark of God. And so it is that the greatest passion of God's sons is to see God ruling His creation from the Holy of Holies of His temple not made with hands. God loves the heart who desires to build His temple and see Him rule and reign in the earth.

Most of us begin by rejoicing because WE will be holy and pure! But as we mature our desire turns to God and we rejoice because the God we love will have His temple in the earth!

David, the warring spirit in us, defeats all the enemies of Christ Although this spirit is not the one who builds the building, he is the one who gathers the work force and lovingly brings together the supplies for the building. God does not dwell in a warring atmosphere but the warring spirit is like the bulldozer that clears and prepares the way for the building to be raised.

So there are times when we must come against the enemy that strives to defeat our faith, and there are times when our hearts bask in the presence of God and we are being built into His habitation. The Spirit of the Lord within fills the need of the day. If an evil spirit comes to irritate and torment us, the David spirit rises within and takes that spirit to task. But if all is calm, the peace of God floods us and Solomon (the son) is building the house.

At times of battle, we cannot take hold of the word that builds us into the new creation man. When the works of the flesh are put under our feet, we enter God's presence and find rest. It is obvious that in many areas we find the peace and rest of God and the building within has already begun. And it is just as obvious that in other areas, the Spirit of David is still fleeing from Saul or chasing the enemy within. This is how the materials are gathered for the work.

As we defeat all the enemies that strive to shake our trust in God through our internal dialogues, our confidence in Him increases. More and more we need less and less to find our confirmations in others, for we know that we know that we have heard from God. As we become mature, we have less and less need of tutors and governors other than God's Spirit.

However we need to remember that there are stages in our growth and that the teenage stage is a time of great testing. God does not call us to rebel against authority; He teaches us to submit to authority. God calls us to grow up and hear Him.

When we do, we will be broken and follow Him in a spirit of humility and love; never in rebellion against others.

David would have given his very life to build the house of God himself but it was not God's plan for him. While we have been on our walk of casting out devils and binding evil spirits, the Son of Peace has been maturing within. More and more we have this "knowing" that God is truly in charge of our lives.

So why did David, the man after God's own heart have this burning desire to bring the Ark of God to its place? The Spirit within him knew that this valuable little gold chest was not just a box from which the power of God issued; it was the perfect type and shadow of the true Ark of God that was yet to come.

Is it any wonder that just as the Spirit of David was yearning to bring back the Ark? So the Spirit in the sons is groaning and travailing for the appearing of the Christ creation man. *"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, BUT OURSELVES ALSO, which HAVE THE FRISTFRUITS OF THE SPIRIT, EVEN WE OURSELVES, GROAN WITHIN OURSELVES, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."* (Rom.8: 22-23)

As God, by His Spirit is revealing *"The mystery that has been hid from ages and from generations."* Is it any wonder that the Spirit in the sons travails and yearns to see the true Ark of God in its place in the temple not built with hands?

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ARK

Even though many of us have heard these truths before, there is a leaping and rejoicing within that takes place each time we hear them in a new way. The Word of God is as fresh bread out of the oven each time we eat it. Even though it is the very same recipe and goodness, it is mouth-watering delicious each time.

The Ark of God was the smallest piece of furniture of the tabernacle in the wilderness. Knowing that this tabernacle is a type of the true tabernacle

not made with hands, which is our earthly body as we travel through the wilderness of this world, we see that the Ark within is the heart of the Christ creation man for which creation groans and even we ourselves.

The lid of the little chest was a thick slab of pure gold called the "Mercy Seat." On top of it were two cherubim of hammered gold, one on each end of the Mercy Seat. All these details were not inadvertently given; they were carefully laid out by God. They were an exact replica of the heart of this new creation man in Christ. The fact that this little chest was made of wood overlaid inside and out with pure gold signified that this new man is made of flesh (wood) totally covered inside and out with the nature of God (pure gold).

This was the Ark of God from the time of Moses. This Ark represented the presence of the Almighty among them. We read of the time when the Ark fell into the hands of the Philistines. The power of God against them was so unbearable that they quickly found the way to return the Ark to Israel. The Ark of God was a fearful power in their midst.

The next Ark of God that we see and know is Jesus. Indeed, Jesus insisted that it was the Father in Him that did the works. Jesus made it clear that the Father dwelt in Him; Jesus was the Ark of God in the earth.

Just as David labored to bring the Ark back to its proper place, so the Lord by His Spirit has been working to bring the Ark of God to His temple. Jesus was clear; He was going to build the temple of His body in three days. So for the last two thousand years, He has been building His temple with the purpose to bring the Ark of God in its place. Just as the presence of the Father dwelt in Jesus, so His presence is to fully indwell those of His body. This is the Ark which is to come.

The little wooden chest was inlaid inside and out with pure gold. Pure gold is gold that has been passed through the fire. So the Holy Spirit brings the pure Word of God to our lives. He then creates the fiery situations into which we take that word and overcome. Everyone has fiery trials in their lives but it is when the gold of God has been laid in

our hearts and minds and we take this gold to overcome the fiery trial that we begin to be covered with the pure gold of God's nature.

The little chest was covered with a thick slab of pure gold called the Mercy Seat. On either side of this lid stood a cherub of gold. Indeed, God's abundant mercy connects us to the angelic realm. Through the angels (messengers), His word is made clear to our conscious mind. Without this communication we would remain in the dark.

The angelic beings on the Mercy Seat are not the ones with the flaming swords. They are the ones who bring us the words of warning, encouragement and hope. They open God's mercy to our lives. They are truly *"ALL ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation."* (Heb.1: 14) Note that this salvation is for the heirs; it comes by inheritance. This means that when we become children of God, we need to mature in order to inherit this salvation.

THE BODIES THAT SHALL BE

The apostle Paul has clear teachings on this. He was once caught up to the third heaven (the highest dimension in the Spirit) and he *"...heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful (permitted) for a man to utter."* (II Cor.12: 4b)

The next verse makes us understand that it was the Christ man in Paul who was caught up and not Paul in the flesh. *"Of such a one I will glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities."* (Vs.5) Paul's teachings about resurrection and the new body are obviously based on some of what he heard in this dimension of God.

God has not chosen to make us as the angels who are spirit beings. He has chosen to give us bodies through which He can express Himself to His visible creation. These bodies are not of corruptible flesh for it is sin that makes the flesh corruptible. The seed of these bodies is the sinless incorruptible Christ.

Jesus showed us this body after resurrection. For

forty days and forty nights He showed Himself to His disciples. He ate with them and walked with them. When Thomas could not believe that indeed this was the same body of His Lord that had been crucified, Jesus showed him His nail-pierced hands and side. Then Thomas touched and believed.

And so it will be that the doubting creation who has not believed in the resurrected Lord will see the sons with their new bodies, they will fall before the Lord and truly declare that He is Lord of all.

"Wherefore God hath highly exalted him, and given him a name that is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2: 9-11)

I remember the time when, as part of a group of saints seeking God's higher truths, there came a day when two of our beloved young men were killed in a small airplane crash. We were devastated and personally I was quite shaken for I had been very close to them. But shortly after the accident, God who uses all things to teach us gave me a dream.

In the dream, *"I walked into a restaurant. There were two large rooms to the place. The first had many tables to accommodate diners. The room in the back was separated by a wall and a door. As they came in, people were not permitted to enter the back room, however, I was given permission to just walk in and see. In the middle of the room I saw a chair and a man standing on top of the chair. I realized it was Charlie, one of the young men who had been killed. As I approached the chair I could reach up and just touch one of his hands. The hand looked normal but when I touched it, it felt so different. I cannot describe it because it was not like anything I have ever touched or felt before. With that I had to leave the room and the dream ended."*

The first room of the restaurant represents this realm of life. But the room in the back represents the realm where those who have gone to be with the Lord have their beings. From that day forward I

knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that we have a body beyond the veil. We are all part of the same restaurant, that is we are all fed on the same Word of God, but we cannot mingle with one another.

It was when Jesus was on the cross that the very thick veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom. This was the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies and the Ark of the Covenant. From this day forward the way into the Holiest of all was made. So it is that those who go before us in death enter in beyond the veil. And so it is that those who are still in this realm receive ministry from the realm above through the angels. Jesus has opened the way.

THE GLORY INSIDE THE ARK

“And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; which had the golden censer; and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant.” (Heb.9:3-4) The Amplified version explains that the tables of the covenant are the two slabs where the Ten Commandments were written.

We know that throughout their wilderness journey, God fed His people with daily manna. This was their sustenance. They picked it from the ground where it had fallen during the night and they ate it that day or else it would rot by the next day. They picked fresh manna daily with the exception of the day before the Sabbath day when they picked enough for two days.

The golden pot of manna in the Ark speaks of the hidden manna that those who hear the Spirit and overcome the deceitful teachings of men's religions are able to partake of. *“He that hath an ear; let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna...”* (Rev.2: 17a)

When we are submitted to men's religious creeds, we are fed on their words. When we are separated by the Spirit, we are fed of this hidden manna from the golden pot that represents God's source within. The devil who manipulates our minds, seeks to con-

vince us that if we turn away from these teachings and teachers, we will die spiritually. These are some of his fear tactics.

I am here to declare that when God separates us from the Nicolaitan church system, He opens up the golden pot of manna within and feeds us abundantly. He who has an ear to hear let him hear.

The visible church is still feeding its people on the manna of the sixth day. This manna is no longer fit to be served on the Day of the Lord. The light of today is the Day of the Lord. He is arising within and His light and life is taking over our darkness.

Many are preaching a new word while still holding on to their traditions. God does not hold back His word, but if one does not lay down his own works to follow the Lamb, even the word that was once thrilling will become stinking manna.

Some have attained honor among men because of their word. They will be greatly tested. If they choose to hold on to or try to increase their status, they are heading for a fall. In one of his daily writings, Dr. Thompson explains, *“It was not amassing of money that moved men to murder the Lord; it was not their immorality; it was envy. The priests and elders were afraid their status would be adversely affected because of the Lord's power. Pilate murdered the innocent Man because he too, as well as the chief priests and elders, was afraid of losing his position.”*

The Christian ministry of today is built around outstanding ministry people who are head and shoulders above the remainder of the Lord's flock. Price, arrogance, haughtiness, self-importance, cruelty attend these self-seeking leaders.” (End of quote) Dr. Thompson's article goes on to say that the same spirit that desires to be worshiped and that crucified the Lord is at work in many of these.

We are called to examine ourselves by the standard of the LIVING WORD! This is the Word that the Holy Spirit speaks to us from within. When we hear what the Spirit is saying to the church we are feasting on hidden manna from the golden pot. How good it is to stop all activities and honestly

open ourselves to hear His small voice. We glory when He loudly proclaim His works for His creation, but it is His small voice that deals with us personally to lovingly and firmly correct us. How we need to hear His small voice.

He will lead us into His humility and we will not hold back. We will not fear when those who have admired us suddenly turn on us. The ultimate humility is the death of the cross. This was the death of criminals yet the Father chose this death for His Son. Jesus laid His life down out of sheer obedience and love. He positively and emphatically trusted His Father with His life.

Brother Clydell Williams sent this recent prophecy.

“The alabaster box has been opened and I will begin to anoint you for your burial. Reach out to me and I will draw you to MY DEATH. Smell the death as it takes place. I hear the dead as they come alive in ME. Strength to stand on their feet.

Coverings I have made to cover your nakedness. Changing of the clothing, death to the flesh and life to the Spirit. I will tell you where you are as you get to where you are going. The grave cloths MUST be changed. Release and set them free, release and bring them forth. The body is rising to the call. Arise now and stand on your feet and walk. I am calling a troop, a many membered army.

ALL will not hear for the reeling from the old wine and the old wine skin. They have never changed, they are fleshly minded, they never look for me. I don't know them. Soon I will appear and they will know Me as I speak again in MY FLESH I have prepared for ME. Shake off the old wine skin and be a NEW Vessel pure as gold. No hesitation of life. Give up now and live. Life to the dying and death to the living. Bring forth MUCH FRUIT. “ 5-21-2011

There is more to this prophecy but this part confirms the death that the Body of Christ is going through at this time. In Adam we entered the realm of death. In Christ we enter the realm of light and life. What will we do with this life? Will we lavish it upon ourselves, or will we as Jesus did, yield our-

selves to the will of the Father and let Him make us His dwelling place in heaven and in earth for eternity?

It was because Jesus loved His Father that He obeyed Him. He did not obey because He had to, He obeyed because He loved His Father and He wanted to build Him a temple. Not a temple of stones and mortar, but a temple of flesh and bone. Hallelujah!

When Jesus went to the cross, He did not feel sorry for Himself; He saw the glory that was beyond the cross. His heart was to build a dwelling place for His Father. While in earth He had been that temple but now He was opening the way for His brethren to come to maturity (perfection) and give themselves to be built into the dwelling place of God in the earth.

As it has been many times on this journey, we have come to another crossing in the road. God is again separating some unto Himself. Those who are called to be His Body must now give themselves fully unto His death that His life might appear. This is not a word for “elite” people, it is for those who are “elected” for this death. Indeed the time has come that the alabaster box has been broken and that we are being anointed unto our death.

Paul taught “*As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive, BUT EVERY MAN IN HIS OWN ORDER: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*” (I Cor.15: 22-23) He must first appear in His body, that is His coming. This will open the way for those who belong to Him to be made alive. They will come in their own ORDER. Not their own time but their own order. Paul explained that there are orders of His resurrection. God willing, we will pick up on this in the next issue.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*