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No.223

THE VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

When Jesus said that *“Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist,”* He was referring to the man and his prophetic ministry. Jesus continued the sentence, *“Notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”* (Matt.11: 11)

Some must have thought that John the Baptist was the Christ for he loudly proclaimed, *“I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him...He must increase, but I must decrease. He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.”* (Jn.3: 28b, 30-31)

John received a high calling. God chose him to announce His Christ. All the prophets before John had spoken of the Christ. They had prophesied of His coming in some way. But John was the one who announced Him as being here. This was the greatest calling of all the prophets.

John also had a clear revelation from God; He knew his place. He knew that there was no room for his ministry and the ministry of Jesus at the same time. The more Jesus increased, the more John must fade away. There was no room for both ministries at the same time. This is truly a word for us today.

Since Jesus arose from the dead, the prophets of the New Testament have been announcing the soon return of the Christ. Over time, the revelation of the Christ has become clearer. The saints have found that the Christ is within and that His appearing will be from within His body of saints.

THE SERPENT IN THE TREE

As He increases, we decrease. His increase is not a result of our own efforts; it is the result of our following Him daily. He is being formed within us daily and the person that we were is fading away.

The Word has been loud and clear, “He will soon be seen by those who love His appearing.” But the trump of God (His last day message) that we are hearing is sounding something more- He is not just soon coming, He is here. This means that the time of the total demise of the old Adam has come. The ministry that we have had announcing His appearing, must be replaced by the true Christ.

As the people of the end of this age, we have been called to announce the coming of the Christ in His body. We have been experiencing this coming in our very own flesh and blood. From the beginning of our calling, the Lord has raised us up in the power of His Spirit and of His Word and this has been glorious.

The Spirit has led us and we have climbed to the top of the mountain. We are standing in power and glory on the true Mount Zion, the place of Christ's rule. This is the place that our inner man of the Spirit has reached. Spiritually, we are no longer at home in the old Adam man, our identity is in Christ.

Not long ago I had a dream that explains this. At first I did not clearly understand it as I do today. In the dream, *“I had been walking up a narrow path on a high and rugged mountain. Now I was coming to the top of the mountain. As I stood I see a man who is a brother in the Lord. He had come up the*

mountain by another path. We had not seen each other for a long long time and we were glad to meet there. We greeted each other but then we thought about where to go next. We were on the top and the only way now was down. There were several paths leading down but which was the one to take? As we studied the paths we saw one that was straight down and at the end we could see a town with an American flag flying. We knew that this was the one to take.” (End of dream)

The Word that we have received up to now has led us up the path to the top of the Mount Zion. Climbing the mountain means that through our walk or every day circumstances, we have been moving more and more into the Christ within. Our souls have been caught up into Him and is being born from above.

As we have received His Word daily, we have been changed into His image. This is not an outer work, we have been transformed within into a new being. We are no longer connected to the things of this world, we are connected to Christ by the Spirit. This is why the things of this world hold little interest for us.

While this has been taking place, we have held on to the Word announcing His appearing in the earth. Surely the Lord has taken His place in His temple not made with hands. Our “John the Baptist” ministries has been replaced and the Christ must appear.

Note that the people around John wanted him to be the Christ, for he said, *“I am not the Christ...He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.”* (Jn.3: 29)

John knew that a greater than he was appearing and that his work had been done; his ministry must fade away. He had been well received but now the bridegroom was among them and John rejoiced. And so it is today; we have proclaimed that Christ is arising in His body, even within us, yet we have been slow and hesitant to set aside our own ministry. When He fully appears, none of the old will be left. All things are become new.

In my dream, we had gone as far up the mountain as we could and now the only way was down. There were several paths going down, just as there were several paths going up, but the one that we chose led to a place with an American Flag. The American flag flies in the Land of the Brave and of the Free.

The Word announcing His coming has reached to the top. This means that the fulness of the Christ in us is appearing more and more in everything that we speak and do. This is not our doing; it is His. The only walk before us now is straight down to the land of the Brave and the Free.

The one from above is above all. He is the Head of the church. His bride has been made ready for her true bridegroom. The ministry of John the Baptist in our lives has been fulfilled; it is time for the Christ to appear. Let us not fear as we see changes taking place in our lives.

The way of the old man is DOWN. It has been glorious to press until we reached the top. The top is Zion where Christ who has conquered, rules and reigns in glory. Our walk now is to lay down all that pertained to the old ways and to the flesh that has held us in the bondage of sin and death until we reach the land of the brave and of the free and rule and reign together with Him.

Let us not fear to let go the traditions that have ruled our lives daily. Let us be strong and stand in the Word that we know is true. Let us pick up our identity in Christ and follow Him only.

Paul wrote, *“Whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”* (Rom 8: 30) This was ordained from the beginning and it has been unfolding in each of his elect's lives since the resurrection. We were called and we have been walking out our calling.

Our justification has taken place daily as the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sins. Now we are coming to our glorification and the Adam nature dies daily by the power of the cross, to rise no more. Just as we have experienced our calling and our justifi-

cation, we are now experiencing our glorification which is the complete death of the old. We are truly putting on the new man in the image of the Son. What a day of rejoicing this is!

THE WORD OF GOD

Addressing the saints and the faithful in Christ, Paul writes by the Spirit that *“we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.”* He adds that the purpose of this choosing is that *“We might be holy and without blame before God.”* It is important to note that there is a difference between a “Christian” and a “saint.” A saint is one who is sanctified or set apart for a work of God. A Christian is a believer in Christ. God loves all but He leads each one according to His purpose.

When we were in Christ in the beginning, we were yet “spirits.” We were not “body and soul.” We were part of Christ and we were spirits. When Jesus rose from the dead, He was no longer just “spirit”; He was “spirit, soul and body.” This is the great purchase of the blood shed on Calvary, for us who are His body. We are His inheritance: we are His body. Flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone.

When God declared His intentions and said, *“Let us make man,”* He purposed to make a Body for His Christ. Who is this Christ who was with God in the beginning? John tells us, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without him was not anything made that was made.”* (Jn.1: 1-3)

God is a Spirit and He is the Word. THE WORD WAS GOD. The Son of God is the Word of God. Jesus the Christ is the Word made flesh. All things were made by the Word. The Word communicates and communication between God and man is life. Communication is also the essence of being human. Every society and everything that was ever established by man was made possible because of the word.

Communication multiplies knowledge. Daniel wrote that in the end knowledge would increase. It

has been on the increase in the world and has either brought people together or caused wars among them. The printing press contributed much in our ability to communicate and grow in knowledge. The telephone, the radio, the television, the Internet and so on are all means of communication between men. As Daniel prophesied, they have produced a fast increase in man's knowledge and in running to and fro throughout the earth.

However, the same spirit that was behind the building of the Tower of Babel also took hold of men's imaginations. They saw that they could be stronger as one and they formed corporations, conglomerations and denominations so that they could be more powerful.

Now the “One world government” that is being formed is the crowning glory of that Babel spirit. God will not allow man to build a global nation. This is why Europe has not been able to repair their “global” banking system which is affecting the rest of the world. God has made each person with a different DNA, fingerprints, eyes. Every individual is separate from the other. Only in Christ can we be gathered as one. God will destroy every Tower that man builds even if they label it Christian.

The time has come and the stone cut out of the mountain is picking up momentum to destroy all kingdoms of men and establish God's kingdom in earth. One World Government is the masterpiece of the serpent, but it is also his last. It is the sure sign that we have reached the end of this age.

When the serpent met up with Eve, he began a conversation. He was the most subtle of all the beasts of the field. The beasts are a type of the spirits that rule men. Subtle means delicately crafty or clever. Insidious and not easily detected. The serpent took the Word of God and twisted it into a Lie in such a way that it sounded right.

This is the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil; it takes God's Word and twists it to make it sound right. The serpent did not change his tactics; he only added to them. The base of the Lie is HAS GOD SAID? It plants doubts about God's word. Is

this really what God is saying?

The serpent's word is sophisticated. It attracts the intellect that loves to debate with carnal reasonings. The Word of God has been at war with the serpent since the beginning. From the time of Eve in the garden, to now, the religious serpent has planted his version of God's Word in the carnal minds of men. He is the god of this world who has ruled the world from the "temple of God" (men's hearts) making himself to be God. He has manipulated the lives of men. He has set men against each other and has instigated all kinds of ways that lead to rioting, violence and wars.

Jesus, the Word made flesh, came into this world with the pure Word of God. Men in authority preferred their darkness to the truth. They were threatened by the truth. The Word of God is Truth.

Later, the same spirit that was in the leaders who crucified Jesus was in the leaders that persecuted and killed the saints of God. This is the work of the serpent who rules the world with the "lie." The lie is the twisted word of God to persuade men that through their knowledge and intellect they are gods in this world.

The scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' time were of the same cloth as the lawyers, preachers and politicians of today. One only has to listen to court cases to see the ways that lawyers manipulate the truth and make jurors to believe a lie and be too confused to embrace the truth.

We were all born in darkness. We have followed the path that leads to sin and death. The warfare began in our minds from the day that God began to speak to our hearts. I heard some say that they had less trouble before they came to Jesus. Actually we began a new warfare. Now we were on the side of the truth and we were swimming against the tide. We have been in a war of "words" and this war is being won by the Spirit and not by our knowledge. When we read the Bible, the Word is stored in our Spirit. If we read the Word with our intellect it is the literal word and it is only knowledge. *Knowledge puffeth up!* When we read the Word by the Spirit,

we grow in Him and we are able to discern the counterfeit when we hear it. The Word of God is stored in our spirits and descends into our consciousness or understanding.

If the Word is stored in our intellect, the serpent twists it and uses it to his advantage. He manipulates God's Word to keep us in darkness. The closer we come to the end of this age, the more cunning the serpent becomes.

This is why Jesus warned that at the time of the end, *"There shall arise false Christs (anointed ones) and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, they shall deceive the very elect."* (Matt.24:24)

Then Jesus gives us a great clue. *"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."* (Matt.24: 27) This word "lightning" is from the Greek "astrape" which means a flash or a brightness as of a star. It does not refer to the lightning of an electrical storm. Lightning from a storm does not come out of the East to shine even unto the West. What the Lord was explaining was the rising of His bright star- the Sun of Righteousness that will put an end to the darkness over the people of the earth.

This is how the coming of the Son of man is to be. He illuminates our darkness, then He lights up the entire heavenly realm over the earth. So it will be when the word of truth penetrates every mind and heart as a flash of light that pushes away the darkness and forever defeats the lie. This is how we receive each revelation- Suddenly we see the truth.

DISCERNING THE SPIRITS

Peter teaches us that our obedience to the truth by the Spirit results in the purifying of our souls, then he goes on, *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."* (I Pet.1: 23) This has been our spiritual journey. We have been taught to obey the truth by the Spirit so that our souls are made clean from the lies that the world has taught

us. Then His incorruptible seed has found the fertile ground of our cleaned and redeemed soul. The incorruptible seed is the word of God. It is when our souls are purified that we receive God's word and produce the fruit of that word.

Our soul is the womb or the "woman" who receives the seed. The "woman" gives birth to the child of the incorruptible seed. The "child." is the new body of the Christ creation. This is how the woman (soul) is being saved in "childbirth." The union of this Seed and the bride is all about the new body.

This is why the warfare is raging. Our earthen bodies have been the serpent's meat. The warfare is raging because he knows that his time is short. He will lose his meat. Many believe that all the material loss in this country and the calamities in the world today are God's judgment on the disobedient people. They are right in a way, but the real truth is that God is judging the world by righteousness, he is not punishing the world, He is destroying the systems of the world to establish His righteousness. God is destroying the works of the devil. Anyone who is still tied to these works will suffer loss.

What we are witnessing today is God raising up His sons and bringing the end of suffering for the people. He is breaking the bonds of sin and death that the devil used on them. *"Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth."* (Ps.96: 12-13) The more the sons stand in the truth, the more the ways of darkness fall.

The serpent is not happy. As the light of truth penetrates the darkness, he is losing his hold over the people. We are seeing and hearing his emissaries of doom going to and fro all over the earth calling themselves ministers of Jesus but their works are not from God. - their end is near. The serpent is using very sophisticated tactics to sell his lies to Christians and even to the elect if possible. He uses God's word in his sly and crooked way. This is why a serpent crawls on its belly in a crooked way. He

sets up movements that attack the authority of the Word. God's elects know that the written Word of God is absolute truth. It is THE standard for life but it must be revealed by the Spirit. But the serpent takes the literal word and twists it and undermines it. He takes away from it and adds to it so that men become confused as to what they believe.

EASTERN MYSTICISM VS GOD'S WORD

Several years ago, I shared this dream. *"I was seated on a bench or seat way up in the sky. I could see all the earth below me. Soon I see the statue of a Buddha growing rapidly from the earth until it reached almost to where I sat."* There was a little more to the dream, but the message it conveyed is clear. The Buddha represents the heathen religions of Eastern mysticism invading the realm of spirit (Christendom) almost to the place where the Word of the elects is seated (established).

At the time, the understanding of this dream was not as clear as it is now. Listening to some of the preachers today, we can detect the philosophies of Eastern mysticisms that have made their way into Christendom today.

Buddhism teaches how to understand "self" in order to cope with daily problems. Their followers strive to develop their minds in the paths of wisdom. It even strives to clear the mind from all impurities by practicing being very calm and quiet. It is another form of humanism. All this inner work is accomplished by the "self."

Because of the easy means of communication, such teachings have grown into movements that have gathered an enormous number of followers. One of them is "The Secret" which was promoted by Oprah with all the fervor that she could put into it. The Secret has swept the world and touched millions of lives. It teaches that we are magnetic energy that can attract things to ourselves through signals and thoughts. Through thoughts we can attract bliss, health, money and all things. This way we create our own destinies. The Secret has the tools to help us get to that. This way we can create the life of our dreams.

Those who are being deceived by such teachings are not the mainstream denominations who are waiting for the literal rapture and are already deceived. They are those who have separated themselves unto the Lord and have moved on to greater truths. They are the popular Charismatic moves that are filling up the mega churches in the land.

Through deception, the serpent has been successful at distancing the true God from the minds and hearts of men. But when Christ was revealed in the flesh, the serpent was not prepared for the fight of his life. Christ appearing in the sons puts an end to the serpent's meat.

The tree of knowledge of good and evil attacks the integrity of God's Word. It takes absolute truth and plants doubts into what was really said or written. This is the tactics that lawyers and politicians use. Through the world's schooling and teachings, men's minds have been trained by the standards of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. If something does not suit the laws of the land, the laws are amended to fit. This is how things work out in the world.

Because the "righteousness" of man comes through the carnal mind, it varies with each man's opinion. As a result, confusion and fiasco such as the protests that we see in many places today are partially to be blamed for the collapse of our societies and nations. It is incredible that some believe that the wealth of others must be shared with all humanity. This is totally the reasonings of the serpent in the tree of good and evil.

Jesus showed us that the devil knows the Scriptures and he quoted them to our Lord in the wilderness. James tells us that "...*the devils also believe and tremble.*" (Jms.2: 19b)

The serpent is a master in quoting Scriptures and in using them to his advantage. Many teachers of the word amaze people with their knowledge of the Scriptures and keep their flocks well fed according to their knowledge. But one needs to discern the "spirit" that is behind the "beautiful word that they teach. Most Christians who believe the doctrines of

men have not really taken the time to read the Word of God.

Looking to how the "elect" would be deceived if it were possible, it is certain that the serpent has kept his most subtle trickeries for the time of the end. The Bible and the prophets all warn against smooth talking men who take the Word of God and twist it to fit their purpose.

"The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts, and intents of the heart." (Heb.4: 12)

Truth cuts deep into the inward parts but it heals and makes one clean. Through smooth speaking men, the serpent utters words of wisdom, but they are void of God's love. They cut but do not heal. They may be great revelations but they leave you discouraged and empty. The truth is a two-edged sword, the word of the serpent is a butcher knife.

The serpent reminded Eve of what God had said but he planted some doubts about God's integrity. *"Has God said you shall surely die? That is not true."* Today, the same serpent still takes God's word. Has God said that *"... he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth?"* (Rom.9: 28) Or is He really *"... the author and the finisher of our faith?"* (Heb.12:2)

But you have not done enough to pass the test. Your faith is too weak to move this mountain. And he will dilute your faith until he has your mind back in darkness and confusion.

I have seen this done by smooth talking men who have the latest revelation. They will lay out a Word that will amaze their listeners, then the punch comes when they insinuate that none of them can really measure up to it. Are they really able to hear God's voice? Are they able to love their brethren enough? Such questions plant doubts in the hearts of the hearers and soon they are even wondering if Jesus was able to save them from hell after all.

There are many false christs (anointed speakers)

around us today. This is a sign of His coming. *“Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am the Christ and will deceive many.”* (Matt. 24: 4-5) The sign of the last days are powerful anointings who make themselves the very Word of God.

Jesus said that the elect would be deceived IF IT WERE POSSIBLE. This gives comfort to our hearts. He has tested us by the Word unto the purifying of our souls. When the soul is pure, the devil finds no way to deceive. He finds nothing in us with which to tempt us.

When Jesus prepared His bewildered disciples for His departure, He explained, *“Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.”* (Jn.14: 30)

Jesus knew that the prince of this world, the power that moved the leaders to crucify Him, was coming in full force against Him. He knew that they could use anything He said against Him so He would say nothing more. He had nothing in common with them, He would simply walk to the cross and do His Father's will.

We have faced the giants in the land of our souls and we have overcome them one by one. The bondage from which we were delivered has taught us to recognize that which is of God and that which is of the darkness of this world. In Christ we found the strength of heart to stand against the rulers that dominated us.

Each time God has separated us from our old Adamic traditions, He has tested us as He tested them through the wilderness. We found ourselves without the fellowships that we were accustomed to. We left the programs of the Church and the security of the system. Would we return to it or would we follow the pillar of fire by night and the pillar of cloud by day?. We were often separated from old friends and even family, would we truly love God with all our heart and soul and strength or would we yearn for the leeks and garlics of Egypt?

It is in our wilderness that God tests our hearts.

He told Israel, *“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.”* (Deu.7: 2)

It is through our specific wilderness walk that we have learned to fear Him, know His ways, know Him and love Him. This is why it is not possible for the elect to be deceived even by the smoothest talker of all. We know God's ways and we hear His voice.

After Moses died, the anointing to bring Israel into their land fell on Joshua. Then the Lord told Joshua, *“There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.”* (Josh.1: 5-6)

Because we learned our lessons in the wilderness, we are following our Joshua into our land to overcome the strongest enemies; even death and the grave. No longer under the Law (Moses) but now following the Holy Spirit within we are defeating one giant at a time. We are clearing the land. The Spirit within is our new life and now He is the possessor of our soul. The result of all this will be manifested in full resurrection glory.

Sin and the sinful nature is soon be totally under our feet and the grave will have lost its hold upon our bodies and souls. This is what it is all about. It is the entire story of the Old Testament in types and shadows.

The new Day is at hand and the old is totally passing away. This is the Day that the entire creation has been looking to see. We are truly living in the Day of great rejoicing! Amen.

A SISTER SHARES

A sister from Texas shares her experience with the Lord. I believe we can all relate.

WHY ARE WE CALLED SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE MOST HIGH?

First He calls us out of our dependency upon groups, churches and worldly associates. With FAITH we obey and often with a struggle because we draw from a support that we can see, touch, hear and believe- but then our Father who seems so unbelievably far calls us to come closer.

Closer means a different connection to a source of LIFE, though experienced in depth, yet not physically touched in a flesh and blood sense. Our feet are shaky but in FAITH we leave the comforts of the tangible to embark upon the intangible in TRUST and in FAITH, in what we read, what we hear, and as a blind man we try to feel around hoping to hang onto some sort of structure to assure ourselves that we are on solid ground. What we find is nothing solid but a BELIEF from WITHIN that a connection is being made to a source far stronger than the connection we once had with flesh and blood.

This BELIEF turns into FAITH and in that FAITH we stretch out our legs for a greater stride into the unknown. Strange as it may seem, we encounter a PEACE, a sense of TRUTH that we have found to be of a more solid ground from what we once had when all of our senses were satisfied.

This stretch from groups gathered together to worship turns into a single, lonely worship service only to find that He has found His Home in us, and we have discovered that our HOME is in HIM. He lives within us and so find again His Word in 2 Cor,6:16: *“What agreement (can there be between) a temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God' even as God said, I will dwell in and with and among them and will walk in and with and among them and I will be their God and they shall be My people.”*

We now have a Father and thus have become His sons and daughters that have left all to find a Father who is more protective, more assuring, quick to respond to our needs and never leaves us comfortless though we see not, hear not, taste not, smell not and

touch not of His spiritual existence.

We now know we are His sons and daughters for as He is Spirit so we as sons and daughters have become spiritual sons and daughters who walk by FAITH. By His Spirit we are ONE, the outer wall having been abolished we are FREE to enter His presence 24/7 knowing He is within and closer than any brother (Pro.18:24)-

No rushing, no traffic, no preparation in dressing, eating, drinking, driving, and parking- just simply a quiet place of rest and peace in a beautiful sense of getting to know our Father from a different perspective as His sons and daughters. Truly we have found our connection and our true home. 2 Cor.6:18 *“And I will be a Father to you and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”* KIND AFTER KIND! (End of sharing)
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Reading this, I am reminded of the Lord's prayer. OUR FATHER which art in heaven.” No other religion teaches that God is OUR FATHER. He is not only the creator, in Christ, He gives us the power to become His sons. *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* (Jn.1: 12)

God's Holy Spirit is the incorruptible seed that He plants in our souls so that we may become a new creature in Christ- Spirit-Soul and Body. This is done through the miracle of birth. We are first born of the Spirit and are quickened by the Holy Ghost. Then through the working of the Spirit within, we are born of God and we grow into this new creature until we are mature or perfect.

The requirement is that we yield ourselves to His living Word (seed) and let it find the fertile ground in our hearts. We are being renewed in our minds (souls) until we are one with Him, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. What a mighty God we serve!!

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*