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Zion and Jerusalem

The voice of God's great prophet resonates throughout the ages, shaking all who have ears to hear and hearts to understand. *"Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion."* (Isa.52:1-2) We have no way of knowing if the prophet himself really knew who he was addressing with these words, but we know that the actual dirt and stone city of Jerusalem, and the hill of Zion could not possibly put on actual garments of beauty. The Jerusalem that the prophet was addressing, was indeed the one arising from the dust of the earth where she has been held in the sleep of her captivity.

The prophet was calling for the awakening and appearing of the church in her glory. In an amazing vision, the old apostle John sees Mt. Zion and the holy city that Isaiah spoke about, and he describes her as she appears, clad in her beautiful garments, *"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."* (Rev.21:2) The Jerusalem that John sees is coming down from God out of heaven. She is that Jerusalem from ABOVE that Paul writes about in an allegory about the two Jerusalems. One is *"...the Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."* (Gal.4:25-26) There has been a counterfeit church in the world, and she is being dealt with even now. Most of the true church has already been called out of her. She has been made free by the truth that she receives daily from the Holy Spirit. But she is in great travail, awaiting her beautiful garments, her new body. These old bodies are from the dust of the earth. They serve their purpose well, but *"All are of the dust and all turn to dust again."* (Ecc.3:20) Dust is what our garments are made of.

Jesus gives us the key that changes this gloomy fate, *"I am the resurrection and the life..."* (Jn.11:25a) Resurrection is not just an event; resurrection is Jesus Christ. He is the corn of wheat who fell into the pot of earth that we are, died, and is soon to rise again from this same earth. He has swallowed up all our death, and has made our soul His beautiful bride to be one with Him forever. And so as He arises within us, we arise with Him in our beautiful garments (bodies) of glory. The study of Zion and Jerusalem as the Spirit reveals it, is the appearing of Christ arising within His prepared, elect people. Christ in us has been our hope of glory, until He becomes our glory, our eternal life. Christ arising in His people is the only hope for this world as well.

The literal mount Zion, located in the city of Jerusalem is the hill where king David pitched the tent that housed the Ark of the Covenant, and from which he ruled and reigned. Just as the golden Candlestick in the tabernacle of Moses is a type of Christ in His church, so Zion and Jerusalem are also a type of Christ in His church. In his visions, John heard a voice behind him, *"And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man..."* (Rev.1:12a) What John saw was the Lord Jesus

Christ in the midst of His church. The word candlesticks should have been translated “oil lamps,” and seven represents the complete number of those who are illuminated by the oil of His anointing within. The Lord uses natural things to open our understanding to the reality of the invisible things of Spirit. This is why the study of types is so helpful and even vital to our growth in Christ. Symbols are a valuable tool, given to open our understanding to God’s mysteries. Solomon, the wise man who wrote the Proverbs, insisted, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”* (Prov.9:10) *“Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.”* (Prov.4:5)

The apostle Paul earnestly prayed for the church to get understanding, *“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints”* (Eph.1:18) He knew that we can only hope for the things we see, and we can only hope for the high calling if we understand what it is all about. The Holy Spirit is re-directing our minds from the earthly to the heavenly, from looking to literal gain to seeing the glory of God’s calling and purpose in us. *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed IN US.”* (Rom.8:18)

And so when we look upon Zion and Jerusalem, we see neither the glory of the ancient rule of David, nor the glory of the city Jerusalem, we look in the Spirit and see the glory of the church that Jesus built. When we speak of Zion, we see the many-membered Christ of God, ruling and reigning in His church, changing the kingdoms of this world into the kingdom of our God. *“And the seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”* (Rev.11:15) As the Psalmist wrote, *“Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.”* (Ps.50:2)

We may see the bride and the sons as two separate groups of people; there was a time when I also thought it might be so. But the Spirit made it clear to me, that as Zion and Jerusalem as types, are one unit, so the sons and the bride are one unit. Christ within His bride rules from His throne of power and authority (Zion), and His bride is Jerusalem—the visible part of the Son within. The bride and the sons are Spirit, soul and body together. At the time of manifestation, the bride in her beautiful garments, adorned for her husband will appear as the visible church, yielding herself fully to the husband/ Spirit within. *“And he carried me away in the spirit, to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. Having the glory of God: and her light was like a stone most precious, even like jasper stone, clear as crystal.”* (Rev.21:10-11) Descending denotes appearing in the earth. She was prepared in the Spirit, but will be fully seen in the earth.

He has been preparing His church in the secret place, (heavenly, invisible realm of soul and spirit), but she will appear clad in her beautiful garments, her body of glory, in the visible realm of earth. The Son ruling within her, will release the sons (Word) that will deliver creation, and rule in righteousness. Only when we are tuned to the Spirit can we comprehend such glory. *“For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? BUT WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST.”* (I Cor.2:16) *“And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your whole spirit, soul and body, be preserved unblameable in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ; steadfast is he who is calling you, and who also will do it.* (I Thes.5:23-24 Young Literal Translation).

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*