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WHEN THE SONS APPEAR-

THE PLACING OF SONS- The order of son's placing, called the adoption in the Bible, is extremely important, for it determines the position of life and of power among sons. The old testament sons of Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, is symbolic of the placing of the sons at the end of this age. Paul tells us that as sons we are not led by the law of sin and death, but we are led by the Spirit. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, (the law of sin and death), but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." (Rom.8:15). So we look at Jacob's sons, and their placing in line of their inheritance. The adoption, or order that sons occupy in their father's house, determines their birthright or right of inheritance. Jacob changed the order of his firstborn son Reuben, because he greatly sinned when he laid with Bilhah, his father's concubine. Reuben thus lost the birthright of the firstborn, which would have made him heir of a double portion over all his other siblings.

The Old Testament is much more than history. To those who have an ear to hear by the Spirit, the names, objects, places, behaviors, events of the patriarchs and people of the bible, are also types and symbols of spiritual realities that unfold and are displayed in our lives, and in the world. Reuben, is a type of Adam, which Luke's genealogies records as the son of God, "...which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God." (Lk.3:38) As it was with Reuben, the first Adam sinned and lost his birthright, his dominion over the earth. However, God had another man, another Adam, a Last Adam, that he calls His first and only begotten Son. Indeed this Last Adam is begotten of the incorruptible seed of the Word of God. This Adam has another DNA, a DNA from heaven, from the Spirit. "Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven...and as we have born the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." (I Cor.15:46-49)

SAUL'S NEW IDENTITY- Saul of Tarsus, was on his way to Damascus, still breathing threats, ready to persecute and murder men or women who were disciples of the "Way," when the resurrected Lord Jesus suddenly appeared to him and called out, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:4) At that moment, Saul fell from his horse, trembling and blinded by the brightness of the presence that surrounded him. On the spot, Saul of Tarsus was slain, and a humble man named Paul, who called himself a prisoner of Jesus Christ was raised out of the ashes; this is conversion, a new birth. Jesus then told Ananias, a beloved disciple, to go meet the newly converted Paul and bring him to his house and pray for him. He assured him saying, "Go thy way, for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel. For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." (Acts 9:15-16) From then on, Saul of Tarsus no longer existed, Jesus had changed his identity. Soon after, Paul went up to the desert of Arabia where for three years, God met with him and revealed His Son in him. "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, (Judaism), and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen, (Gentiles), immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood." (Gal.1:15-16) Paul was not taught by the apostles or by any man, he stayed by himself for three years in the desert of Arabia, while God revealed the Son of God in him. Did Paul truly understand what God was showing him? Perhaps, not fully, but this was the foundation and the building up of all the revelations that this man of God shares in His epistles. Many of the things that Paul wrote, were even hard

for the apostles of his day to understand, but he remained undaunted and pressed on to fulfill the will of God for him. Paul encouraged the church to persevere and to "...continue in the faith...and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel..." He declared, "...I Paul am made a minister. who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church; whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God; even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and generations, but now is made manifest to his saints. To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col.1:23a, 24-27) What Paul had experienced in the desert, he now brought to his ministry to the church. The revealing of Christ in us, is the true foundation of the church. It is as Christ is revealed in us, that our old self and false identity is being changed into His image and likeness. This cannot be accomplished by any works of righteousness that we endeavor to do, or by the works of the law, "...for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Gal.2:16b). We are being changed as we trust and follow the Spirit that leads us to keep the faith and overcome the daily, nitty-gritty adversities, and the serious challenges of our lives.

JOSEPH'S DREAMS ARE STILL COMING TO PASS IN OUR LIVES- Most dreams concern the dreamer's personal life, but there are dreams that are prophetic, and reveal the present and future plans and dealings of God with creation. Characters of the Old Testament as well as people today, dream such dreams. Many dreams fall by the wayside for lack of proper understanding, but they come to pass just the same. We meet Joseph as a teenager living with his father Jacob, and his eleven brothers. He is clad in a beautiful tunic we call "robe of many colors," but actually should be translated, "robe with long sleeves." The ten brethren all work in the fields; they are all shepherds. They wear sleeveless tunics, so that they are not hindered by long sleeves while laboring among the sheep. Benjamin is still a young lad and is being schooled at home. Jacob did not send his son Joseph out in the fields to labour, instead he made him a priestly tunic to match the calling that he recognized in him. This privilege greatly disturbed and embittered the ten brothers against Joseph. They had to labor, caring for the sheep in fields far from home in all kinds of weather, fighting wild beasts to protect their father's flocks. It was grueling, while Joseph stayed in the comfort of home, with his father and younger brother Benjamin.

For a long time, Joseph kept a precious secret in his heart, "God spoke to him in dreams". However, the day came when Joseph just had to tell his secrets to his family, so he gathered his father and brothers around him, and told them the first dream, "...behold we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf." (Gen.37:7) The response from the brothers was immediate: "Shalt thou indeed reign over us? Or shalt thou have dominion over us? And they hated him all the more for his dreams, and for his words." (Vs.8) As if this was not enough, young Joseph continued, "...behold I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told to his father, and to his brethren; and his father rebuked him...And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying." (Vs.10-11)

Joseph's brothers were already stirred against him so they reacted quickly to his dreams. They "got the picture!" This is what they figured the dreams meant, "Joseph was not only Jacob's pet; he was highly favored of God as well." What did that do to them? It gave them a good reason to get rid of that dreamer. Their fury, driven by envy and jealousy was kindled, and they quickly moved to accomplish their despicable and sordid act. They took him forcibly and threw him at the bottom of a dry well to die. They took a piece of his garment and soaked it with blood to show their father that Joseph was most likely killed by a wild beast; they became vicious murderers, and evil liars to cover their sin. They could not have known that God had chosen Joseph to later save their lives, and that they actually were setting God's plan in action. In all of this, Joseph could do nothing to change his situation. At the moment, he neither felt nor

looked like the one whose brothers would bow down to; he could only trust God to deliver him. Jesus did not look like the Savior of the world as He hung on the cross; those whom He had come to save, were rejoicing, thinking that they were rid of Him for good. Paul writes that although this cruel death was caused by the powers of darkness coming against the truth, the hidden wisdom of God was using it all to the good. And had they known this, "...they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." (I Cor.2:8) There is no doubt that "...All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Rom.8:28)

Joseph loved God and he understood his dreams. He knew that God had called him, and he trusted that all things that were happening to him were working together for good; to fulfill God's purpose. He suffered physical hardship and pain, betrayal and imprisonment, and he triumphed over them all. His faith gave him the strength to endure until that glorious day when he stood in front of his trembling brothers and said, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass as it is this day, to save much people alive." (Gen.50:20) The strength of Joseph was his faith in the Word that God spoke to him; he never wavered. Our strength as sons is in the Word that has been written to our hearts through many trials. Through it all, Joseph saved the lives of his entire family and of all the Egyptians as well. This was Joseph's calling at the time, and he is a type of the sons of God, soon to be made manifest in the likeness and image of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

OUR SONSHIP AND THE BIRTHRIGHT- God had changed Jacob's name to Israel, "Prince of God, or Son and heir of God." At the time of his death, his sons were assembled around his bed to receive the final blessing of their father. The ten sons by Leah were first in order of placement, and under normal circumstances, the firstborn son, Reuben, would receive the birthright. However, because he had committed a despicable sin against his father, the birthright was "...given unto the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler, but the birthright was Joseph's." (I Chron.5:1b-2) This is very important because the birthright is the continuity or succession of the father's name. Receiving the birthright is taking on the father's identity. I remember when my mother passed away in Belgium, I had to prove that I was her first child and only heir, (my father had long passed away and so had my brother.) In Belgium, the heir must receive what is called the "succession." In order to receive anything from my mother's estate, I had to be awarded succession of my mother's name. When this happened, I became as "Mme. Henriette" and took over all that she owned and also all that she owed. This is what the birthright represented in Jacob's day, and it is so in God's economy as well.

HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST- When through the workings of God's Spirit within, we become sons of God, we receive what the King James Bible calls the Spirit of adoption, (Rom.8:15). The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our birthright and of our new name in the firstborn Son. When that which is perfect is complete in us, we will receive the complete payment which is the redemption of our bodies. Adam is a flesh and blood living soul, until his spirit is made alive or quickened by the Holy Spirit, he cannot see or enter into the realm of Spirit. "...flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption." (I Cor.15:50) In this corruptible condition, Adam who was once a son of God, could not be heir of God. Man may boast that he is in God's image, but the truth is that man lost the image when the serpent came on the scene.

When Jesus died on the cross, He put the sinful Adam man, the first Adam man to death, and He became the first of a new creation of God in Christ. He became the second man from heaven; the Last Adam. "And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit." (I Cor.15:45) The old Adam man died, but in Christ he is reborn and made alive as the Last Adam man. The

new man in Christ, has a new quickened spirit, and his soul with a renewed mind is saved. This means that the treasures of the spirit that he laid up in the spirit, remain part of his new identity. The talents that God gave to the old Adam man are refined by fire, and redeemed in Christ. Indeed, we are "redeemed," born again with a renewed mind. "...be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (Rom.12:2) "And as we have born the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly, (the last Adam)" (I Cor.15:49) Jesus explained the process of salvation to Nicodemus. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (Jn.3:5) A man must go through the water, the baptism of repentance, and be baptized in the Spirit. Jesus asks John to baptized Him, and as He came up from the water, the dove came and sat upon Him. These two baptisms or immersions take place continually in our lives. All who come through the waters of repentance are saved and raised into the life of the Last Adam. This takes place in God's order, "For 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. Then cometh the end...the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death...And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." (I Cor.15:22-28) Please read the complete verses.

My cousin Eugene had been a non-practicing Roman Catholic all his life, but just before he passed away, he called me and we began to talk about salvation. He lived in France, so our communications were by phone only. We talked about Jesus, but he was really not too interested. Then he passed away, and a few years later I had this dream, "Eugene had sent me a hand written note. It was just a small piece of paper and it was wet as though it had gone through water. There were two words written in ink, but they were blurred by the water damage so that I could not decipher them." It was later that the Spirit showed me what Eugene had wanted me to know. The two unreadable words scribbled on the note were simply, " I repented!" Eugene had gone through the waters of repentance. His soul had been redeemed.

God has a wonderful plan for His creation. At the end of this age, we are witnessing the subduing and destroying of the last enemies of Christ. This work has been taking place in the firstfruits sons, then in God's order, it continues until all the enemies are subdued and placed under His feet. Jesus is the Head and we the Body are the feet. The last enemy to be overcome is death, which includes violence and wars and all suffering. At that time, God's order will be established in all the earth, and He will rule from His throne in the sons. The sons and the bride, the church will sit, ready to welcome whosoever will. "And the Spirit and the bride say Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." (Rev.22:17) Soon, the kingdom of God will rule the earth, and death will be no more. "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Rev.21:3-4) This day of victory is at the door.

Oh let us believe God's Word and not faint. Jesus asked the question, "...nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, will he find faith on the earth?" (Lk.18:8) Beyond the horror of war and the hatred and anger in the hearts of frightened and desperate people, there stands a company of deliverers, filled with faith, hope and love. "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write; for these words are true and faithful." (Rev.21:5)

Because He is love, *Angèle Caporaso (Jackie)*

Note: For years I have used the nickname Jackie, but now in my old age, I am directed to use my legal name as appears on my French birth certificate, Angèle.