



LETTER No. L-15

September 2021

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DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Most, if not all of us have been taught by the traditions of men. This is why everything we learn has to be constantly updated. Much of what we lived by a hundred years ago, is no longer valid today. It is the same about the things we have been taught about God. Seekers of truth, have continually plowed through the darkness to come up with new knowledge of God, yet we have barely scratched the surface when it comes to really know God. God's Holy Spirit is ready to reveal new truths, but in order to receive these, we have to be prepared to let go the old, and continue toward a greater light. This has been our journey, as we have followed Him, fearlessly trusting the light of the Holy Spirit within.

As we are entering the end of this age, we are coming into more maturity and understanding of the ways of God. By experience, we have learned that God's way to bring His creation to the perfection or completeness that He has purposed, is through death and resurrection. For us, this process begins at the time of birth, and continues until the time that we reach the "better resurrection," which is the fulness of our potential in Christ.

Looking back at my life, I can see that I went through many deaths, but each time I left one life behind, I moved into new life. When I left France, I was sixteen; it was a true death for me. It was a very painful tearing away from my family, my way of life, my friends, the familiar surroundings, the city that I loved, and even my language. I had to bury it all, look only forward, and just begin from scratch in my new life in the States. It was the love that I had for my husband at the time, that allowed me to go through this and never turn back. Although I did not know it at the time, this was a death and resurrection experience. Even more painful separations followed later, including the times when I had to leave cherished ones, including the people I called brothers and sisters in Christ. There was always a price to pay, but the new always compensated for the old, and looking back, I would not change any part of what I went through to bring me to this level of knowing my Father. When I fell and broke my vertebrae in Sept, 2020, again I had to leave behind my way of life and begin another. The physically active and independent person I had been, no longer existed. Now I found I had become much more resigned and dependent. I had gone through another death, a death that was necessary to bring me to the new ways of life that I need at this time. This death and resurrection continues through life, until we attain to the better resurrection in Christ. Our God indeed does all things well.

As He works in us, to mold us and make us new, we must never look back lest as Lot's wife, we turn into a pillar of salt. It is the same with what we learn about God, we must let go the many doctrines that we've been taught by the book, and take hold of what God is teaching us through the Spirit and experiences of life; thus we are becoming the Word. On the cross, Jesus put on the old Adam man and took him through death. It was the new Adam man who resurrected; the old is forever dead. Jesus took us all, with Him on this complete journey. Death and resurrection is God's way for us, and for His entire creation.

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.” (Rev. 21:1) We are coming to the end of the book, and to the end of the gathering of His church, which is His body. As the church, we have spiritually been fulfilling the three great “feasts,” or “convocations” of the Lord. We first passed through Passover, the time of repentance and baptism in water. We walked out Pentecost where we discovered Christ in us, the hope of glory, with the gifts of the Spirit, the demonstrations of His power and the many miracles. But now we are entering Tabernacles, where we are fully separated unto Him and made ready to enter into Christ. This is the time when He no longer is a God out there, somewhere, but we find that He is truly nigh unto us, even in our minds and hearts. This is also the time when all that is not of Him, all of our idols, have to go, and what is of Him has to be purified by fire.

At Tabernacles, we enter into Christ and become as He is. Tabernacles is the time when we come out of the quarry where we have been carved, chiseled and shaped, and find out that this remarkable work of the Spirit had been taking place, not only in ourselves personally, but also in all the called-out ones, who are His church, which is His body of sons. Paul did not hesitate to clearly state that the church and the Body of Christ are the same body of people; hear him say that he rejoices in his sufferings, and... *fills up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church.* (Col.1: 24) This suffering is part of the transition that is taking place, first in us, then in this world, when all that we have known is being taken away to make room for all things new. *“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) There is no doubt that today, with our spiritual vision, we are witnessing something ‘great and terrible’ taking place before our very eyes. If we look in the natural, physical world, we are seeing sheer destruction, but if we look by the Spirit, we are seeing prophecy in action.

By the Spirit, John clearly saw the first heaven and the first earth being removed. We know that God is not removing the literal stars and planet earth. The heavens speak of the powers, the dominions that rule over the earth. The life that is in the earth, responds to the commands of the heavenly powers. In Adam, the powers in heaven were mainly led by the spirit of the prince of this world. All that has life in the earth has been responding to the powers that worked in the mind of the Adam man who still has dominion over the earth. This man is tuned to the serpent’s mind, usurping the place that belongs to Christ. Indeed, the serpent has been the cunning power operating through man’s carnal mind and through the emotions of his soul. John gives us a picture of the battle as this power is being dethroned, *“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found anymore in heaven.”* (Rev.12:7-8) Oh yes, Michael fights each moment, in the heavens or our minds, to dethrone all the teachings and ways that the dragon has established in us.

In this age, the first heaven has been directed by the carnal mind of the Adam man. When God created Adam, he gave him dominion over all that He had created in the earth. Adam was given dominion over the earth. He heard from God who gave him the power and the intelligence to rule and take care of the earth. But when he yielded to Eve, who listened to the serpent, this dominion was taken over, and Adam’s intelligence and power were led by the crooked, malicious ways of the serpent. Adam’s intelligence no longer had its source in the pure river of the life of God. The true church, who is also the body of Christ, is taking back the dominion that belongs to Christ in the earth. The new Man Christ is pushing the old man out of his dominion, and taking over the place that belongs to God and His

Christ. It is interesting to see how the leaders of this world are now unable to rule and make right decisions.. God has removed all wisdom from them, and they are swimming in confusion, trying to restore peace when there is no peace to be had anywhere. Peace must first begin in the hearts and minds of man, or there can be no peace in the world.

HOW IS GOD REMOVING THE OLD HEAVEN AND EARTH?

Peter gives us that revelation when he writes about the scoffers that ignored the warnings of the prophets in the days of Noah, *“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished; But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (I Pet.3:5-7)*

The heavens and the earth, that is to say, the world that was established and controlled by man, were then destroyed by water. God destroyed the first world because *“He saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” (Gen.6:5)*. With this picture in mind, it is down right scary to know that the heavens and the earth we are living in today, will be destroyed, and not by water, but by fire! We cannot deny that evil in the hearts of man has again reached its peak, as the blatant truth is staring us in the face through the actual pictures of the abominable and appalling violence against all that is godly, is displayed by the Press, on television and Internet. We should not be surprised that men who are in power to protect and defend the innocent, are rendered helpless to carry out their duties, through fear or ignorance. Upheavals and raging violence have become the “norms” of the day, and world’s peace is no longer on our radar. And this is a mild synopsis of our world today, as there are no words strong enough to describe some of its horrors. Is it any wonder that our God, knowing all things from the beginning, has reserved this world, which is all governing powers of man, to perish by fire?

The book of Revelation is a book of prophecy through symbolism; it is revealing the Lord Jesus Christ as He is now, no longer the meek and gentle Jesus who brought us the Gospel of the Kingdom, but Christ the Conqueror as He is now, in heaven and in earth, (both sides of the veil), in His body of sons. John writes, *“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations...” (Rev. 19:15)*. The sword out of His mouth speaks of the powerful, sharp Word of God, marching through the hearts of men, cutting out the lies that control their minds, and destroying all that is ungodly in this world. This is not cruel; it’s merciful. It is indeed, God, bringing His kingdom into man’s heaven and earth. We are in the great and terrible day of the Lord; this is a day of the transition from the first Adam’s world, to the world of the last Adam Christ.

We are witnessing the effects of this burning in the physical world, but let us look at how the symbolic language of the book of Revelation, reveals it in Spirit. John states, *“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away...”* The transition had taken place. Rev.21:1 begins with the word, “And,” showing that it is the continuation of the former verses. So we look at the last verses of Rev.20 to find the instruments God used to remove the first heaven and the first earth. The truth that is revealed here may be difficult if not impossible for some to receive, because the dark teachings of the church have filled the minds of believers with doctrines according to their own imaginations. Nevertheless, the truth will surely be established in God’s time.

The scene in chapter twenty, is the judgment of the great white throne which measures the “works” of the Adam man by the righteousness of God. The throne represents the authority of God, and white

speak of His righteousness. The verdict of that judgment is plain. *“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever, (or whatsoever) was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”* (Rev.20:14-15) Carnal Adam had been given dominion over the earth but neither he nor the works produced during his dominion, were found in the book of life. The time of his dominion is closing, and the rule of Christ is at hand. All that is not of God is thrown into the lake of fire and destroyed forever. God is a consuming fire and He is love. It is His love that consumes death, that we might live forever. And so all that have been in the heavens and earth of man, including death itself is thrown into the lake of fire and destroyed forever; it will never return. This is why we are witnessing all the ruling powers of the earth becoming confused and powerless to bring order into this world, all their works are being destroyed. The lake of fire was created for that very purpose.

At the same time, Jesus Christ is Lord, and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess, and take hold of Him for new life. *“I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me, every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess.”* (Isa.45:23) Paul repeats these same words to the church, *“For as it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”* (Rom.14:11) This is the result of the change of heavens and earth that is taking place in our day.

God created the lake of fire to consume *“The devil that deceived the nations, the beast or the man of flesh, and the false prophets, the lies of the serpent.”* (see Rev.20:10). These were the ruling powers of this world. This is the Day of fire that Joel describes and that Paul speaks about. It is what Peter warned us of, and what John saw in His vision. When the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, John saw her, as she appears in all her glory, the bride, the body, the one who exhibits the image of the Son of God, Christ, ready to rule and reign in the earth. She is portrayed as a woman, but within her being she is the Son. Just as Jesus said, *“When you see me, you see the Father;”* she also can be heard saying, *“When you see me, you see the Son.”* She has become the visible image of Christ in the earth, the Word made flesh again, now incorruptible flesh; as He is, so is she. *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”* (I Jn.3:2)

We must erase from our minds, the image of the bride as a natural woman, and see that this bride represents a body of saints, moving by the life of the Son within. In the language of the Spirit, she is called a woman, because God has ordained that the feminine part is where the seed of the man is sown, formed into a son, and birthed into his active life in the earth. As a man needs a woman to father a son, so Christ needs a bride, to become the Son of God in the earth. This is the calling of the true church. This is what the Holy Spirit has trained us to do. This is the birthing that we are experiencing, until the Son of God appears, and we are as He is.

Let us take heart, and set aside our fears and anxieties for the future. Let us abide under the shadow, (shade), of the Almighty, with the eyes of our understanding being open, and let us not be pulled back down into gross darkness, by the forces of the carnal mind. Let us keep our place, seated in Christ, at the right Hand of God, in the secret place of the Most High. Let us praise Him forever as, by faith, in the Spirit, we witness the beauty of His new creation, and the excellency of His glory rising within us and in the entire world.

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*