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THE LIVING, BREATHING TABERNACLE (PART TWO)

No.276

INTRODUCTION

As we continue our study of the Tabernacle of Moses, by the Spirit, we are ever reminded that God directed Moses to build everything exactly according to the pattern showed in the Mount. What a joy, it must have been to His Father heart when He beheld this first Tabernacle erected exactly as He had commanded, in the middle of the terrible wilderness of Sinai.

But what did God actually see? Did He gaze at this long, high curtain of fine white linen and see only the many bolts of fabric enclosing the Outer Court? Did He admire the intricate wide entrance called “the Gate” and ponder at its beautiful and colorful embroidery work? Or did He see behind the literal material aspect of the white curtain and behold the true pure righteousness embodied in His Son Jesus and in the Body that is prepared for Him?

Did He contemplate this white structure in the bright glaring sun of the desert and see things that were not as though they already were? Did He see Himself taking up residence in the midst of the terrible wilderness of the man of flesh?

Did God look at the Altar of Burnt Offerings and see only the bulls and goats that were brought in and slain daily, or did He watch through the telescoping eye of His foreknowledge and approve as the pure Lamb of God laid His life down as the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world?

Did God look at the Laver of highly polished brass and see it only as a shining basin for the priests to wash their hands and feet before entering

Place? Or is it possible that God already rejoiced at seeing the many who would come and be cleansed of the impurities of their souls by the washing of the water of the Word?

When God saw the high and narrow door leading into the Holy Place, did He simply recognized that His pattern had been skillfully executed with the bright colored threads He had ordered, or was He pleased with the way Jesus had opened the Holy Place in a people through the baptism in the Holy Ghost?

Did God look upon His magnificent candlestick of pure gold and see only a lampstand to light up the little room, or was He rejoicing at the brightness of the anointing of His Holy Spirit which fed the little lamps to illuminate the darkness of our hearts and minds?

Did the Lord look at the little Table of Shewbread laden with twelve mouth-watering loaves of fresh bread and admire the labor of a skilled carpenter and the expertise of a baker, or was it the aroma of the Word made flesh which drifted up as a pleasing savor unto Him?

How much would we miss if we interpreted the precious written Word of God in the literal letter only! We would still be in the realm of darkness and death. Paul writes, “*The letter kills, it is the Spirit that gives life.*” (II Cor. 3:6)

A CHOSEN GENERATION

The apostle Peter wrote to “*.the elect according to*

the foreknowledge of God the Father..”And he called them, “..a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation a peculiar people; that we should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” (I Pet.1:2a, 2:9)

God was extremely particular when He chose His first priesthood, to do the service of the Tabernacle in the wilderness, and God is no less particular when He elects His priesthood to show forth His praises as they serve the true Tabernacle, not made with hands.

In our previous study, we went from the Outer Court of our natural understanding, to the Holy Place where we find a new kind of light and begin a journey of discovering a new world within ourselves.

The service of the Holy Place was to be performed only by the “priests” and no one else. Furthermore, only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies.

This speaks to us of the truth that it is the Body of Christ, the sons of God who enter this realm of spirit for the rest of the world. Jesus, our Head opened the door of the Spirit to those who are called, according to God's foreknowledge, to be kings and priests unto God. It is not possible for the spirit of the world to enter the place where God's Spirit abides.

How did God choose the priesthood from the tribe of Levi? We find the answer in the book of Numbers. When God was ready to select His priesthood for the service of the Tabernacle, He instructed Moses to call the heads of the princes (leaders) of each tribes, twelve in all. Each had to take a rod (branch of almond tree) according to the house of their father and write his name upon the rod. Then each was to take his rod and lay it down in the Tabernacle.

As it happened, one of the rods blossomed overnight. This rod belonged to the tribe chosen for the priesthood. *“It came to pass, that on the morrow, Moses went into the Tabernacle of witness and*

behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. (Num.17: 8)

Indeed, those upon whose rod is written the name of the One who is called *“Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace”* (Isa.9: 6) will find their spirit, soul and body, bud and blossom and bear fruit, as the new Day arises in the earth.

It is the sign of life, resurrection life that set the first priesthood in place, and it is the resurrection life that blossoms and bears fruit in us that sets us as God's royal priesthood in Tabernacles not made with hands.

We are a chosen generation because of the life of Christ that is arising within us. The fruits that we bear are not the souls we save or the good works we do, (although there is nothing wrong with that). The fruit that we bear is the nature of Christ that is seen in our every day life, whether we show forth His death under persecution, or His life in the power to overcome.

This extraordinary, overnight bursting forth of new life speaks of the abundant life which raised Jesus out of the corruption of death, and which is raising each one of His elect overnight. Indeed, the Son is arising in the hearts and soul of His sons, and the darkness of night is swallowed up by the light. It is not so in the world, but those who are called to do the service of this Tabernacle are already in place.

FROM BRASS TO GOLD

We leave the realm of “brass” of The Outer Court, and find ourselves in a strange new place, where each piece of furnishing shines with gold. We are greeted into this Holy Place by the illumination of the magnificently fashioned Golden Candlestick with its seven brightly lit oil lamps. This Lampstand, sculptured out of a solid block of pure gold is perfect in every detail and exquisite in beauty.

We must mention here, that this block of fine gold was submitted to the skillful, repeated cuts and blows of the artist's chisel and hammer, shaping

carefully the lovely designs or bowls in the form of almonds, of flowers and knops (buds) on every one of the seven branches and on the center shaft. It is a **“beaten work of pure gold.”**

And so we are immediately reminded of the sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ, *“That I might know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the **fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death.”*(Phil.3: 10) And that we as well, follow through the same path, *“For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us..”*(II Cor.1: 5a)

“For it became him, for whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” (Heb.2: 10) *“But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”* (I Pet.4: 13)

As we behold this Golden Candlestick, by the Spirit we see that it is no longer a precious piece of solid gold, it is now the wonderful living, breathing Body of Christ, made of the much more precious gold that is God's own nature. This most precious gold is the nature of God's new priesthood, the Melchizedek order of His new creation.

While in exile on Patmos, John was transported by the Spirit into the Lord's Day when this Golden Candlestick appeared and called unto him. *“I was in the Spirit, on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet...And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks.”* (Rev.1: 10,12)

Then John saw the One in the midst of the candlesticks, *“..one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with the golden girdle.”* (Vs.13) Indeed John saw the great High Priest of this living, breathing Tabernacle.

And he heard His voice as the voice of many waters. The shaft of this Golden Lampstand is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and the branches are His entire living, talking Body. As He declared, *“I am the*

vine, ye are the branches.”(Jn.15: 5a) The Light we see when we enter this place within our spirit, is the risen Christ welcoming us and urging us to come up higher.

It must be mentioned that when God gave Moses the pattern for this magnificent piece, He had in view, every detail representing His written word as well as His living Word made flesh. We see this as we examine our Bible.

There are three groups of bowls in the shape of almonds, flowers and knops (buds) in each of the three branches on one side, plus twelve in the center shaft or a total of $3 \times 9 = 27 + 12 = 39$. And there are 39 books of the Old Testament. Now we add the same amount of groups on the other side, or 27, which corresponds to the number of books in the New Testament. When we add them together, we have $39 + 27 = 66$ or the complete number of books in the Bible. Christ is the entire Word of God fulfilled and come in the flesh.

The three pieces in this room are quite small in size, but they are of great significance and value for us. They clearly speak of the three items that the Lord has deposited within our spirit, to develop us and bring us to full maturity in Christ.

We direct our attention from the Light of the Golden Candlestick, to the right and across from it. Here sits a quaint little table with stacks of fresh baked unleavened bread. This is the Table of Shewbread. The table is also acacia wood overlaid with pure gold. This speaks of the human nature that has been changed by God's divine nature.

Shewbread consists of twelve loaves of unleavened bread, neatly arranged in two rows of six loaves. Shewbread is also called “Bread of Presence” because these loaves are meant to show forth God's Presence among the twelve tribes.

The table is only about two feet by one and a half foot and two feet high. All the furnishings are small scale, for the entire tent and all it contains has to be transported throughout the journey. However, every detail is perfectly followed according to the pattern

that the Lord showed to Moses in the Mount.

EAT YOUR MANNA

Throughout their wilderness journey, God fed His people with manna. Manna which translates to “What is it?” was a daily sustenance allotment that looked like a round flake upon the ground. It was something totally strange, but it was tasty and could be gathered and baked into loaves; it was their bread of life.

Every morning they picked up the amount needed from off the ground, and they ate it that same day or it would spoil. This was the daily ritual, except for the Sabbath Day of rest when the manna lasted an extra day.

Jesus explains, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.”* (Jn.6: 32-33)

The manna in the wilderness was a true blessing because it sustained their temporal, physical life throughout the journey. But Jesus is the TRUE bread from heaven, for He sustains the TRUE life which is the eternal life of Spirit. Manna gave life to the tribes of Israel, but the true Bread from heaven, gives life to the world.

Moses gave the people the Law which brought order to their lives. It made them a “peculiar” people and separated them from the barbaric nations around them. But it did not change them, it disciplined and controlled them. Obedience to the Law teaches the rebellious and immature, but when one, through obedience and testing reaches maturity, obedience comes from the heart and is part of their nature.

Years ago, the Spirit showed me this through a simple dream. *“I was standing at the back door of my house with my dog. I was about to let him out. In time past, my yard had been fenced in and my dog could not run any farther than the fence. Now the fence had been removed and as I was letting my dog out, I knew that because he had been trained to not*

go farther than the fence, he would not go beyond these boundaries. And so it was.” End of dream. The Law is as the fence that trains us to stay within God's order.

The Law is the manna that we pick up each day to direct our behaviors in this world. The Law calls us to “obedience.” The beautiful song declares, *“Trust and Obey, for there is no other way!”* But yes, there is another way. The Law trains us to know our boundaries. It reveals our sinful nature and gives us rules to keep it under control until the Spirit takes full authority of our lives. But the Law does not change anything in us.

The Law is most necessary but not the end of the matter. It is a “must” in our luggage toward our land of promise. Paul made a confession that we can all relate to. First he recognized this, *“Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just and good.”* (Rom.7: 12) Paul knew this and he also knew that *“for I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, I do.”* (Vs.18-19)

It was the law that revealed this to Paul. The flesh will cover up our evil deeds and call them good. In the flesh we are as Adam who hid from God and covered himself with fig leaves (works of righteousness). Now, the Law of sin and death, because it could not cleanse us and change us, has been replaced by the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. This Law has the power to change us and free us from death. *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”*(Rom.8: 2)

This law of the Spirit still reveals sins, but it does not condemn us, rather it corrects us. For the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all our sins until the One who CANNOT SIN IS FULLY FORMED IN US.

John wrote, *“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no*

sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (I Jn.1: 7-8) The One who cannot sin is in us, but until He is fully formed in us, we have need of the water of the Word and the blood of Jesus Christ, to cleanse us from all sin.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin because he is born of God." (I Jn.3:9) The one in us who cannot sin is the new creation man in Christ. When we are in Him, we cannot sin. Problem arises when we move in the "old man." However the new life is swallowing up the old and when His life is fully come in us and we are fully born of God, we will sin no more. Until then, we have the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from all our sins. Is this not the love of God for us?

When we come to the new light of the Holy Place, we step into the area of "spirit." The brass of the law of sin and death is now replaced by the gold of the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. At that point, the law of sin and death has accomplished its work in us.

The Law of the Spirit is surely the Law that the Psalmist greatly desired, *"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple...more to be desired are they than gold, yes, than much fine gold.."* (Ps.19: 1, 10a)

THE SHEWBREAD THE BREAD OF LIFE THE TRUTH

In the glow of the new light, we are find another kind of bread. It sets on a small Golden Table, across from the towering light of the Golden Lampstand. It is bread that has been baked and is set in order for the priests to partake of. It is called Shewbread.

The little table speaks of the wonderful fellowship that we have access to by the Spirit. The Word of God that we picked off the ground daily (manna) has led us to Christ, the Word in Spirit and in Truth, the Living Bread. Manna is like the Word we re-

ceive at the Laver. Water is a cleansing agent but it is temporary; we will sin again.

Now we are offered a new sustenance- the Bread of Life is our daily sustenance. This bread is much heartier and tastier, and we do not have to labor to pick it off the ground each day. Our Lord knocks at the door of our hearts each day and when we open the door, He comes in to sup with us.

The loaves on the Table of Shewbread represent the Bread of Life, the Lord's Himself. We read, *"I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."* (Jn.6:35) When Jesus says, "He that COMETH TO ME, shall never hunger, He is not speaking of just coming to Him for a mere visit.

Jesus is talking about EATING heartily, for He mentions 'never being hungry again.' Furthermore, He explains very clearly, *"..Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him."* (Jn.6: 33,53-56)

I know that we have been over this before, and others have as well, but it is as we chew His words over and over and savor them that we get the spiritual nutrition we need. For when Jesus says, "My flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed," He is speaking of His very presence in our vessels. It is not only by eating the pages of our Bible that we have life; it is by eating His Life, Word and Spirit (flesh and blood), that the new man is formed in us.

When Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life, He is saying that He is edible indeed. Jesus also declared of Himself, *"I am the way, the truth and the life."* (Jn.14:6) These three attributes speak of someone who is very much alive and moving on. He is the way, the Truth and the true Life. As I was pondering this in the light of "eating His flesh and drinking His blood" I realized that what Jesus wants us to

eat, is not just the written word or even the living Word, Jesus wants us to eat His Life. He wants us to eat Truth. Truth is alive.

When Jesus was questioned by Pilate about His identity, he answered, *“My kingdom is not of this world..”* (Jn. 18: 36a) Pilate pressed Him and Jesus said, *“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should **bear witness unto the truth.** Everyone who is of the truth heareth my voice.”* (Vs.37b)

Then Pilate asked, *“WHAT IS THE TRUTH?”* *And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I FIND IN HIM NO FAULT AT ALL.”* (Vs.38) Pilate answered his own question but he was not aware of it. The truth was that he knew immediately that there were absolutely no fault in Jesus. The truth entered into Him at this very moment and made him declare that he saw no fault in Jesus. This is the best ever interpretation of Truth. It is when by the Spirit within, we know a thing to be true, without having to look it up in some book or hear it from anyone else. When Truth rises up within, we just know something is true.

When I heard about Jesus and His saving grace, I knew within me it was true. The unbelievers around me could never persuade me that it was not true. Truth is Spirit in action. It could be called INTUITION, but it is much more. It is what Eve lost to the serpent in the garden. He was able to talk her out of what she knew to be true and make her believe a lie.

Intuition is the ability to understand something immediately without the need of conscious reasoning. It is the inner voice that makes you know something is wrong or right. It is the opposite to the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It comes from Spirit. In Christ, it is the voice of truth within. We have been trained to put that voice aside and to replace it with reasoning or counseling.

When we partake of Him who is the Truth, we begin to cultivate our inner voice again. We call it the Spirit witness. Jesus told Pilate that He came to this world to be a witness to the truth.

John declares, *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.. the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”* (Jn.6: 63b, Jn.1: 14a) The Word was made flesh in Jesus, and the Word is made flesh in us as we eat Him who is the very present Word of truth in us, we are being restored to the immediate witness to the truth.

THE FOOD CHAIN

Who has not heard the saying, *“You are what you eat?”* This is not a biblical verse, but it carries a real message. The root of the saying goes back to the year 1826 when a brilliant French gastronomist, physician, lawyer and politician by the name of John A. Brillat-Savarin published a book called “Physiology of Taste” in which he declared, “You are what you eat!” The saying caught on and was quoted by other nutritionists. When Jesus said ‘unless we eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, we have no life in us,’ He was, in essence, declaring that we truly are what we eat.

Knowing that *“..the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made..”* (Rom.1: 20a), we look to the things that are made to understand the meaning of the spirit words that Jesus spoke when He said that to have life, we must eat His flesh and drink His blood.

For this we turn to what is called, “the Food Chain.” A food chain is the chart of how living things get their food. We were taught in school that the food chain begins with the sun and the plants and ends with animals. Plants are at the bottom of the chain; they are called “Producers”.

They produce their own food from the chlorophyll which is the green pigment in the leaves that absorbs light. This is a process called photosynthesis. It makes food from carbon dioxide, water and sunlight and nourishes the plant. Oh! Sweet mysteries of life. The sun is the natural source of all life and food of this planet. The sun is a type of Jesus Christ the Son who gives life to the world.

Animals cannot produce their food; they eat plants or other animals. They are called “Consumers.”

There are three categories of consumers: Herbivores, who eat only plants. Carnivores who eat only other animals and Omnivores who eat both plants and animals. Plant life is nourished by the sun, animal life is sustained by plants.

There is much more to this interesting study, but this will suffice for us to perceive what Jesus meant when He said that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood to have His life in us. *“For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.”* (Jn.6: 55) Jesus is our Sun. He is the only provider and sustainer of all life including eternal life. Just as something wonderful happens when the chlorophyll of the plant absorbs the light of the sun, something very wonderful happens when we partake of Jesus' flesh and blood.

Our natural earthly man is nourished by the plants and animals of the earth, but our spirit man has another “food chain.” The spirit man finds its source of life from the Bread of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ. When He came in flesh and blood, He brought down heaven to earth and made it possible for us to be born again of Spirit and to find our sustenance in Him. He came by flesh and blood so that He could defeat the death that is in the flesh and replace it by the life that is in Himself.

THE BREAD OF HIS PRESENCE SHEWBREAD

The word “shewbread” actually means “Bread of the presence.” This speaks to us of the presence of our Lord within us as the Bread of Life. The flesh and blood of Jesus is His very presence within. The Word that He speaks from the Spirit in our own body, is His flesh and blood. It is fresh daily Bread. His Holy Spirit works in us continually, to open our understanding to what He clearly speaks in our ear.

From the time we came to Him as babes in Christ, and fed on the milk of the Word, to the time we partake of the Bread of the Presence (Shewbread) which is Himself speaking to us daily, He has made Himself available to us in flesh and blood and He speaks directly to our understanding.

Jesus made this shocking declaration to a bewil-

dered Philip, *“Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou 'shew us the Father?' Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me?”*

The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father, that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me for the very works sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (Jn.14: 9-12)

Up to now, we have applied these sayings to Jesus as He walked the earth two millenniums ago. But the day is at hand when the Spirit is saying, *“I am the One who is speaking within you. Just as Jesus said, 'Me and my Father are one', or, 'we are one and the same..' the time has come for us to declare, 'We and Jesus are one, one and the same.'"*

Therefore, *the words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”* This means that it is NO LONGER we that speak, but Jesus who dwells in us. As Paul declared, *It is no longer I that liveth but Christ that liveth in me.*

This means that the greater works that Jesus promised we will do, are at hand. It is time to believe this, **for the WORKS' SAKE.** The works of gathering the true church have been ongoing for two millenniums, and the works to deliver creation must begin. This is a bold statement, but the Jesus in us is declaring it. Look at the condition of the world, **Is there not a cause? For the works sake we are moving on!** And the works are to put an end to the age of corruption and death and deliver creation from its bondage.

Jesus was speaking by the Spirit. When He reminded them of the manna that Moses gave them in the wilderness, He was showing them that manna was only the beginning of the chain of Word that one must eat to become as He is, and inherit the higher form of life. The manna of our wilderness

has ceased and now we must put away the literal word and move up to the Bread of Life.

In the wilderness, the Law fed them with the ability to discern right from wrong, or good from evil in their behaviors. They were partaking of the tree of the KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. A tree is a source of nourishment. The words good and evil, describe this tree very clearly. It lets one know what is good and what is evil in this world. The only problem with that tree is that the serpent lives in it and manipulates “right and wrong” the way he wants to interpret it. The serpent has twisted the truth and taught us to call good evil and evil good.

The Law of God is perfect. The Law is good but the tree that it issues out of is infected by the “serpent” who twists everything his own way so that what we hear becomes corrupt. How many times have we been thrilled when we heard the truth, but soon after we became doubtful as we were influenced by the reasoning that the world planted in us. This is none other than the serpent in the tree taking hold of what we heard and robbing us from it through his wiles. The tree is our carnal mind. This is the abode of the serpent. What comes into our minds is quickly intercepted and re-interpreted by the serpent's manipulations.

But Jesus offers Himself as another tree: THE TREE OF LIFE. When we partake of the tree of life, we are no longer deciding between right and wrong; we are partaking of the One who is the Truth and the Life. The little table of Shewbread in our Tabernacle is the place where we enter into close and pure fellowship with the One who is the Bread of Life and the Tree of Life which has its roots in the River of Life.

*“And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on one row, upon the **pure table** before the Lord.”* (Lev.24: 5-6)

Each day the recipe was followed and the bread was baked. This speaks of the way the Word is prepared for us and passed through the fire of everyday testing. Each time we come to fellowship with

Him, we find fresh loaves ready to be enjoyed on this **PURE table** within our inner Tabernacle. Our fellowship with the One who is the Bread of Life is pure. The wood which is the flesh is no longer visible; it is overlaid with the pure gold of His nature.

Our fellowship with Him has been cleansed by fire. Water only removes the filth, but fire sterilizes and destroys the filth. As we eat this Bread in the Light of the **PURE** candlestick (Ex.31:8), we begin to see Him as He is and we are being transformed in His likeness and image.

The Table of Shewbread beckons us to fellowship and dine with Him. He is providing the Bread of life which today is His very presence in us, His flesh and blood, that we might eat and become.. and show forth His glory in the ages to come.

*“But God who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses and sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Jesus Christ.**”* (Eph.2:4-6)

What a mighty God and Father. In the ages to come, we will be on display to show forth the exceeding riches of his grace. How He has taken this man of dust, this lump of clay and from it has designed the most wonderful and glorious creation!

Jesus Christ our Lord put on Himself the death of this clay and overcame it. He led His firstfruits to follow and overcome death through Him. And the firstfruits, in turn, will bring in the rest of the clay creation, each in its own order. Hallelujah!

To be continued...

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*