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ZION AND JERUSALEM

NO.294

AWAKE, AWAKE

The Psalmist was filled with hope as his spirit declared, *“As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I AWAKE, with thy likeness”* (Ps.17:15)

It was with great excitement that the prophet cried out, *“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.”*(Isa.52: 1)

For centuries, the voices of God's faithful prophets have been crying out to Zion to awaken and put on strength, and to Jerusalem to put on her beautiful garments! What does that mean for us? Have we heard the same voice? It is highly possible that Isaiah did not really know who he was addressing in his appeal for he was speaking according to the Spirit that moved him. God is spirit and His words are spirit and truth.

Historically, Zion was also called the city of David. It is the hill on the borders of Jerusalem, where king David established his throne. But the prophecy is not addressed to the Mt. Zion of dirt and rock and to the literal city of Jerusalem; it speaks spiritually of the rule of Christ in the earth. Zion is the place within our spirits, from which Christ rules His church.

Jerusalem is the church of Jesus Christ. It speaks of the Jerusalem from above (not literal). It is the Holy City that John saw in a vision, coming down from God out of heaven. We have all read these verses in the book of Revelation, and I am sure that

we are all familiar with them. And so the prophecy was addressed to spiritual Zion and to Jerusalem from above.

Zion is the company of elect people who have followed the Lamb wherever He went. We find them in Rev.14:1, standing with the Lamb on spiritual Mt. Zion. Jerusalem is the called out church who has been made ready by her loving Bridegroom. Paul wrote that Christ so loved the church that He gave Himself for her.

“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Eph.5: 26-27)

Zion and Jerusalem are the same people. They are the ones who first heard Jesus' call and followed Him. Jerusalem is the bride or the visible part of these people. Zion is the invisible inner part in spirit of these same people. This is why Zion is told to put on strength, the strength of the Christ anointing.

Jerusalem has to put on her beautiful garments, because she is the visible part of this body. She is the earthly visible part or the body and soul of the new creation. When John saw her, she was no longer clothed with the garment of mortal flesh. She had been cleansed and washed by the Word and was ready to wed and become bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. She was ready to put on the eternal robe of the new creation of God in Christ.

This Zion/Jerusalem people form the Body of

Christ *“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”* (Col.1: 18) The Body of Christ is the new creation that is being formed in our earth today; it is spirit, soul and body. This is done through the mighty work of His Spirit in us.

The voice of the archangel and the trump of God have indeed been sounding loud and clear to awaken the dead in Christ. He first called out His elect company from the four corners of the earth. *“Arise, shine; for thy light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”* (Isa.61:1-3)

This prophecy is being fulfilled in us today. We will see the Gentiles (unbelievers), come to the light that is Christ in His people. We will not have to travel to far away lands to proselyte; they will come because they will see the righteousness of God in a people. There will be no need of pulpits or buildings or fund raising for this work. It will be abundant.

Even kings, or those in position of governments and leaders will come to the Christ light that will be seen in His people. This is even beginning to happen at this time. We will see more and more of it as He shakes all that can be shaken and awakens all who have been asleep in darkness and gross darkness.

IT ALL BEGAN WITH US

To the elect, Jesus said, *“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”* (Jn.15: 16)

Indeed, He has chosen us and anointed us so that we may bring the fruit of the Seed that He has planted within our vessels. This is fruit that remains for it bears His image and likeness. It is fruit in His

name and it has power with the Father. He has called us, anointed us and prepared us to bear His image so that we could be empowered to deliver creation. We did not volunteer for this. We just heard the call and followed. *“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise...”* (I Cor.1: 27a) He has chosen us.

It was in the 60s that I first heard the call that started me on this awesome journey with the Lord. I had so many significant dreams at the time, and among them I recall dreams of smelling the delicious aroma of coffee perking. I did not fully understand what it meant, but its effect surely came to pass. The powerful word that was preached then produced shaking and testing among us and brought us into the reality of His presence in our lives. The Word that He poured out to us was as strong coffee to our sleeping spiritual senses. This was a new day indeed.

We, who have heard the call and have followed the Lamb have learned that it is by taking hold of the cross as we go through the fiery trials and that the Christ within overcomes our old, dead Adam man. It is through many shakings that we have been awakened to the truth that was hid in the realm of spirit within our own inner beings.

He knew us before we knew Him and from our beginning He positioned us so that we would learn to submit to various authorities. It was harsh for some of us and easier for others, but all had to pass under the rod. We submitted to our parents, teachers, government's rulers, to our employers, down to the laws of nature that regulate our bodies and more. This was all to teach us to submit to the Spirit of God. These things were put in place by a loving heavenly Father to discipline His unruly children.

And so we are not surprised when we see the terrible shakings that are happening in every corner of our world today. Many are calling these things God's judgments, but the Lord impressed me that it is His ever increasing presence among us that is disrupting the systems of men and of the earth. Our God is a consuming fire. *“For our God is a consuming fire.”* (Heb.12:29)

Jude tells us that Enoch prophesied of this day, he writes *“Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints (In myriads of his saints) to execute judgment upon ALL and to convince ALL that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against them.”* (Jude vs.14a-15)

Because God has first awakened us from our sleep, we are aware of what God is doing in the world and we know that just as He first awakened us, He is now awakening His creation. This is causing the shakings that are taking place everywhere. When Lazarus died, Jesus said, *“He sleepeth.”* Jesus called “death,” “sleep.” Since the fall of Adam and Eve, the creation has been in gross darkness, totally separated from the realm of spirit and the knowledge of the true God. The spirit within man has been as dead, in a sound sleep. The deeper one sleeps, the stronger the shaking needed.

ETERNAL LIFE

Jesus said that eternal life is to KNOW the one true God. *“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.”* (Jn.17:3) No man had ever known the one true God until Jesus revealed Him. For that reason, no man had ever had eternal life until Jesus came and died on the cross for the sins of the world. Adam and Eve in the garden did not possess eternal life either; they were sustained in their innocence by the daily Word of God that visited them.

God is One, yet He is Three-in-One. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and the three are one. Man was created a triune being, spirit, soul and body, but in the garden, the spirit of man had not yet been awakened. Adam and Eve had not yet eaten of the tree of life. This means that they had not spiritually developed.

There were many trees in the garden, but only the tree of life could feed their spirit. *“And the Lord planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that*

is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” (Gen.2: 8-9)

It is likely that there actually was such a garden with trees, but because in this garden we also find trees that are not part of the earth, let us say that this garden speaks of the entire man, spirit, soul and body. Man is the planting of the Lord. *“That they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.”* (Isa.61: 3b)

Adam and Eve possessed only the life of “soul and body.” If God had not visited them each day to speak to them in the “cool” of the day, they would have been in gross darkness. The word “cool” means “breeze” or “spirit”. So when God came to talk to them, He spoke to their spirit. He did not speak to them through the natural breeze, but through His Holy Spirit. God is Spirit and speaks only Spirit to spirit. This was the way then, and it is still the only way.

Through the Word, God imparted a higher form of life to them; they were not as brute beasts. When the serpent came on the scene, they had not yet eaten of the tree of life. In other words, the man (spirit) had not yet awakened from the deep sleep into which God had placed him. They did not really know the true God and did not possess the eternal life that is ours in Christ Jesus.

This is why, as soon as they fell, God said, *“Behold the man has become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the **tree of life, and live forever;** therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man..”* (Gen.3: 22-24a) Today we would say, they were not yet filled with the Holy Spirit. Adam's spirit had not been quickened, or made alive.

When they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they lost their connection with God. They could only get direction from the carnal mind whose source is only from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The soul life is a lower level of life whose

source is the “breath of God.” God imparted that life to man for a limited number of years only. It is not quickening, or life-giving, it is temporal or temporary; it is borrowed. *“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”* (Ps.90:10)

Today, modern medicine has found a way to extend man's life, but it is still temporary at best. Jesus referred to the soul life as the “psuche” life. He said, *“He that loveth his life (psuche) shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it into life (zoe) eternal.”* (Jn.12:25) He was telling us to not get attached to Psuche life or “feel good life” of the soul. When we abhor the nature of the soulish man and allow the Spirit to deal with it, we are moving toward our inheritance which is the Zoe life, or life eternal.

Eternal life is a level of life that is totally sustained from within. When we enter into that life, our body will no longer need food, or air, or anything physical to be sustained. Jesus displayed that life for forty days after His resurrection. Life eternal is life that cannot be taken away by the lack of anything. It is the life of Christ in God. It is true ABUNDANT LIFE. It is our inheritance in Christ.

Being cast away from the tree of life (Christ), man had no way to ever obtain eternal life. Man was stuck in the “Psuche” life which is at the level of the “carnal mind.” No matter how illustrious or brilliant that mind can be, it is yet carnal and it cannot know the true God. The carnal mind keeps man in the sleep of death. God is spirit; the carnal man has no access to Him and no knowledge of who He is.

Sleep is a state of being where the consciousness is no longer aware of its surroundings. Our spirits have been asleep in thick darkness. Man has been conscious of his natural surroundings, but totally oblivious to the realm of spirit. When man lost access to the tree of life (Christ), he lost the light of truth, love and life. Isaiah uttered, *“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will*

not hear.” (Isa.59:2) Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the tree of life and the way to get access to it. And so our spirits have been awakened, and now we are witnessing the awakening of the rest of creation.

ZION AND JERUSALEM

The Lord has declared, *“For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name.”* (Isa.62: 1-2)

Zechariah has this to say about Zion and Jerusalem, *“Thus saith the Lord of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury. Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain.”*(Zech.8: 2-3)

The Lord was declaring His great love and purpose for Zion and Jerusalem. Although these prophets were addressing the people of the literal city and Mount, yet we know by the Spirit, that they were really talking to the chosen people who would follow the Lamb wherever He went. Their voices were being raised to announce the great work that was to take place within eternal Zion and Jerusalem from above. It is important that we understand who these two places represent today. Those who interpret God's word by the letter or even partially by the letter of the word, cannot come to the proper understanding of God's Word.

Earlier in this study I described the meaning of spiritual Zion and of Jerusalem from above. It is also important that we realize that both of these are actually ONE company of people. There are not two companies as perhaps some have believed; there is only one company of God's elect.

Zion is where David set his throne, it is the center

of ruling or governing power. What was the governing power in Jesus while He walked the earth? It was the Father in Him. Zion speaks of the governing power within the sons. The Father is Spirit, therefore Jesus was led by the Spirit. *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”* (Jn.5:19) So it is with the sons. It could not be clearer.

Everything that Jesus did was the work of the Father. Yet, because the Father is Spirit, we did not actually see the Father; we saw Jesus. He explained to 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?”* (Jn.14: 9)

So it is with Zion and Jerusalem. Zion is the Christ governing from within the visible body of the church- Jerusalem from above. She is the one who wears the garments (body). He is the one who has the strength, the power. The church is the body of Christ who is within her. Zion is the place of Spirit where the Son and the Father abide and Jerusalem is the Holy City, the Bride that will be revealed.

Just as Jesus was the visible body of the Father, the bride is the visible body of the Son. The Son will only be seen through His bride. We are the visible part of the Lord who is Spirit in us. We are Jerusalem, His visible body. As Paul told the Colossians, we are “the body, the church.”

Zion is putting on strength and Jerusalem is putting on her beautiful garments. The two as one are the new creation of God in the earth. And if we can receive it, the bride is married to her sons. This is what the prophet meant when he uttered, *“For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee; and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.”* (Isa.62: 5) Oh my Lord!

And so the time of Zion and Jerusalem has come upon us. The church triumphant is arising from the heavens (realm of spirit) where she has been pre-

pared. This is not a day of rapture in the sky, it is a day of rejoicing in the earth!! And the world is being prepared for the change. John saw the bride, the church, descending from God out of heaven. She had put on her beautiful garments. Her new garments are the eternal bodies that have been purchased for her by her Bridegroom Jesus Christ through the shedding of His blood on the cross. As she followed His Holy Spirit, she has been donning her new garments.

Isaiah saw this day as it is written, *“For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you in singing, and ALL THE TREES of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”* (Isa.55: 12-13)

We know that the mountains and the hills are people in high places. The trees of the field are the multitudes that shall see that day and rejoice greatly. And the everlasting sign that shall not be cut off is Christ in His body. The Lord Jesus Christ came, but was cut off early to become the blameless atoning Lamb of God. As He comes in His body, He will not be cut off for *“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...”* (Isa. 9: 7a)

This is why the kingdoms of this world are being shaken to the core today. The appearing of our Lord in His body is at hand and the earth is being shaken as never before. In the midst of tragedy, the people are finding a new strength and hope that they did not know before. They are helping one another. They are arising and following that Light soon to realize that it is Christ Himself. Yes, the shaking will continue to increase until the knowledge of the true God, who is love within them, is recognized by all. *“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”* (Hab.2:14)

In chapters 24 and 25 of his writings, Isaiah clearly describes the day when the Lord makes the “earth empty” and when the nations are brought low. In the

midst of terrible events, the Spirit declares through the prophet, *“O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. For thou hast made of a city an heap; of a defenced city a ruin: a palace of strangers to be no city. It shall never be built.”* (Isa.25: 1-2) *“And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over the people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.”* (Isa.25:7)

Indeed this is the wonderful work of our God. All the abominable devices that men of renown have raised in their names are coming down. And God is removing the veil that was cast over the people's understanding, that they might know Him and rejoice over Him forever. Truly this is the day that the Lord has made! We will be glad and rejoice in it!

CAST OUT THE BONDWOMAN

It was with conviction that Paul told the church, *“Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.”* (Gal.4: 30) Paul knew that bondwoman. As a Pharisee of the Pharisees, he had dealt with her personally and now he was fighting for these new members of the true church. Religious groups of that day were pressing hard to bring them into their forms of bondage.

Jesus had set the path to follow. He had made clear that the old covenant was no longer in force. He had instituted the new covenant in His blood. Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, fought tooth and nail to keep the young and tender church from being pulled into the works of the law, the circumcision and the rituals that were trying to swallow them up. *“This only would I learn of you. Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”* (Gal. 3: 2-3)

We are Christ's bride, the Lamb's wife, we cannot be members of the one He calls the *“great whore that sitteth upon many waters.”* (Rev.17:1b) This woman is the systems of religion that calls itself Christianity but has no likeness to Him at all. Israel

of old was the wife of God and she committed adultery with the nations around her. But this whore is even more abominable. She has raised herself in the name of the Lamb of God. She is the counterfeit of the true bride. She is a fraud and a despicable whore. She has twisted the word of God and the beautiful things of God. She has made herself rich and powerful with the blood of the saints and she rules over the multitudes through a message of fear. She has made merchandise of the souls of men. There is no better description of her than the one in Revelation chapter 17.

Yet she is the one that most of us were joined to when we first came to Him. She served His purpose for us. God exposed her to us and we forever know the difference between the profane and the holy. Those who heard the call left her ranks with no regrets.

However, like the Galatian church, the precepts that she had planted in us were deeply rooted and had to be pulled out through many trials and testing. We may still have to struggle with some of these ways in the thoughts of our minds.

The bride that Jesus revealed in a vision to the beloved John, was descending out of heaven from God. She has nothing in common with the one that calls herself the church in the world. She can only be seen by the Spirit. When John saw her, she was already prepared and adorned as a bride for her husband. She has been prepared in you and me and in all those who have walked this walk before us. The true church is the free woman, free from all man-made religious traditions. She is who we are in Christ.

She is made up of all those who have heard and heeded the voice of the Bridegroom as he stands in the light, in contrast to the counterfeits of this world. Each one who reads this has most likely experienced the wonderful yet fearful times when the voice of the Bridegroom called them out of darkness into His light.

As we deny the bondwoman, He cleanses us with the *“..washing of the water by the word. That he*

might present her to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph.5: 26-27) Yet in spite of all this love poured upon us, the bondwoman who attached herself to us, has often kept trying to pull us back to herself. She reminds us of the glorious meetings and the excitement we felt when getting together in fellowship. At times she suggests that we might have been deceived when we left the group. We had to struggle to hold on to the Word He spoke to us, even as Jacob fought all night with the angel until his name was changed.

Indeed many who once left their denominations and freed themselves from commitments to their organizations, were pulled again into a bondage much stronger than the first. Many formed groups of their own that in time became denominations of a sort. It was the same system entangling us again.

Because we were yet carnal, we felt safer in a group led by those we thought we could trust. Great anointed speakers were raised among us and we thought that they could not lead us astray. Being many, gave us a sense of security. This was exactly the test we needed. God was sorting out his people again.

Beginning in the Spirit and ending in the flesh was the predisposition of the Galatian church and alas it is the same for us. Staying in the "free woman" is the constant struggle in our walk. Just as weeds grow in any field, so the seed of the carnal mind are plenteous within our minds. Paul exhorts us to keep ourselves close to Christ and not to listen to the carnal mind who sounds like a friend but who wants to bring us back down into bondage. *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."* (Gal.5:1)

In my own experience, it was after I had made the rounds of the denominations, "Methodist and Non Denominational denomination," that I became involved with a group of sincere, God-loving, liberated people led by a word that was straight from the Lord. I stayed with them for five years and became

a preacher and a teacher of the word as well. At the time, the Lord spoke to me through many dreams. These dreams came to pass without fail and it became obvious that the Lord had placed me as a prophetic ministry among them. We were several with the same anointing, so the decisions that were made for the group should have been securely confirmed by prophetic words. This order was truly amazing. The group was being joined by many across the land who had heard the same call.

Alas, the day came when the beautiful life message took a turn. The Lord gave me a significant dream that should have rang an alarm with the main leader of the group. *"I dreamed that planes came over from Cuba and bombed our meetings and dwelling places."* But the man who had been so anointed at the beginning, had visions of his own for the group. He had already rejected words that did not agree with what was in his heart to do, and this one was no exception.

As it turned out, he was eager to lead the people into the strongest religious bondage that one can fall into. This took place in the 60s when Fidel Castro, with an iron will and a military coup, had just taken over Cuba and plunged that island nation into a stronghold of communism.

Soon after, the powerful word of life that had brought us together turned into a new message that rallied the people into "community living." It was then that my dream of Cuba became crystal clear. God had warned the leader that what he was about to do was like what Fidel Castro did to the people of Cuba. The call to "community living" and "wilderness refuge" was about to destroy what God had begun to establish among the people.

Because the leader had been so anointed in the beginning, the people trusted fully in his decision. They were convinced that this was the will of God for them, and I am sure that God used some of it to their good in many ways. But by the same token, I also know that many suffered unnecessary loss of property and even life because of it. Although the Lord worked in the hearts of those who looked to Him, the calling with which God had brought the

group together had been aborted. The man who at first had been anointed with a powerful message, was not spared from a violent death.

Nevertheless, I am ever grateful for the time I spent with this group and for the word that set me firmly on this walk. I am even more grateful to God for taking me and my husband out of it. Just as Fidel Castro had established what ironically was called the “Movement” in Cuba, so the remnant of the group has been known as “The Move.” I believe this is the name that God Himself assigned to it.

One may think that this could not be possible, but indeed it is human nature to be attracted to charismatic speakers and become devoted to them. This happens in religion, politics, sports and in every walk of life. The Word says that we grow into Christ by speaking the truth in love. *“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto edifying of itself in love.”* (Eph.5: 16)

This does not mean that we should submit to the decisions of one individual for our lives. It means that the WHOLE BODY is to participate in the EDIFYING OF ITSELF in love. The body should not be ruled by one man who surrounds himself with those he chooses and elevates to carry out his bidding. (It may be called plural ministry but it is no more than a pretense.) If one disagrees, that one is then called “deceived.” That is not plural ministry.

Recently I was talking with a sister who had been in the same group at the time. She said, *“These groups were gathered and raised so that God could call His remnant out of them.”* Indeed, God called a remnant out of the church system first, then He called out a remnant from the remnant among the various groups that had formed from the first remnant. It is like when God called Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites. Twenty-two thousand people rose up with him to go to battle, but God said, *“The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me,, saying, Mine*

own hand hath saved me.” (Judg.7: 2) So Gideon sent many home until there remained ten thousand. And God said, *“The people are yet too many..”* And this continued until there were only three hundred men left to go battle against the Midianites.

God never uses the “many” to do a work. He does it with a few chosen ones. The glory belongs to Him and not to the strength and ability of man. And so it is with the Body of Christ, the church. When you see the mega churches in the land proclaiming the name of Jesus, beware. Most of us will find ourselves down to what seems to be nothing, but be not deceived, one with God is a powerful force. Jesus said, *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”* (Matt.18:20) One saint gathered with the Father and the Son is the most powerful gathering of all.

Yet, gatherings have been ordained for a time, but often we tried to conform ourselves to the leaders and to one another in order to find unity. In so doing, we lost sight of the One who called us out in the first place. We set our sights on man. But then, the Spirit separated us to deal with us individually so that we might be conformed to the Christ who is arising within and not to each other.

What a mighty God! What a wonderful plan for us and for creation! To Him be the honor and glory forever. Amen.

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*

I want to thank all who prayed us through hurricane Irma. The Lord was gracious to us here, and we suffered no damage to ourselves or to our property. As He loves to do, our Father showed His love through the many who helped us and helped each other. We pray earnestly for all who suffered great loss and are now trying to find a way back to rebuild their lives. May the Lord give courage, strength and provision to all. There is a great Light shining brightly on the horizon. His name is Jesus Christ the Lord!