

DEEPER TEACHINGS  
(MEAT OF THE WORD)

#61

THE BOW IN THE CLOUD

By Buddy Cobb



A Faithful Apostolic Teacher of the Word

## **THE BOW IN THE CLOUD By Buddy Cobb**

In this teaching I want to lay out for you what the scriptures teach concerning God's plan and purpose for all who are the elect, His church. It will be needful for you to understand this teaching by the anointing (1 John 2:27). So let us get our minds anointed, get centered on God, and let the Holy Spirit unveil to us the truth concerning what God's plan for His church really calls for.

What has God called us out and separated us for? We know what He has separated us from, darkness, sin, and self. What has He separated us unto? The answer is Himself, that we might be His inheritance (Ephesians 1: 18-23). How quickly we would say that this is true, but we need to understand what it means to be His inheritance, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1:23). The beginning of this understanding is found in Genesis, the book of beginnings.

In Genesis 3:5 we read, 'For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God (R.V.), knowing good and evil.' It is interesting to note that what the woman was after, what she was seeking to obtain from the tree of knowledge, to be as God, God is also desiring the same for us. In other words, what we are really wanting, God is also wanting for us. That which became the issue in the garden was "the way" to accomplish it. What appealed to the woman was the idea that she could be as God. What does it mean to be as God? It means to be in His image, in His likeness, in His glory and to have all His attributes, His wisdom, His knowledge, His power, and His righteousness. God wants us to be as He is, for His purpose is to create us in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26) and to obtain unto His glory! (See I Thessalonians 2:12 and I Peter 5:10) The trouble is, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), for all have not known "the way" God's plan calls for (Hebrews 3: 1 0).

We can now see that the controversy is not over what we are to be, but over "the way"! The serpent made his suggestion to the woman, "You cannot trust God to do it for you. If you are going to become as God, you will have to accomplish it yourself, by your own effort, by reaching your hand out and taking it." (i.e., self-improvement, the doctrine of humanism). Note: To take something that does not belong to you is stealing; to receive something from the one who owns it makes it a free gift.

We find in the word (Philippians 2:6) that it is not a matter of robbery to be equal with God (i.e., something to be grasped). It is not a matter of attainment, but obtainment! The Lord has given commandment that we be perfect and holy, even as **He is**. How can we do that? We find two ways. One is "the way of the serpent", by reaching out to the tree of knowledge and doing it yourself by human wisdom and human effort (a false way). The second way is "the way of God", by surrendering to God and letting Him do it. We see that the woman, beguiled, took the way of the serpent. The reason the devil always wants to make it a "do-it-yourself project" is so he can get control. From the moment you come out of the surrendered position to God, declare your independence, and begin to move in a way to show you have a capability, that by your own wisdom, power, and strength you can do it yourself, then you are under the control of the devil. Darkness has overtaken you. The light that is now in you is darkness (Romans 1:21 - 23). This voids our understanding and alienates us from the life of God which is light (John 1:4) and leaves us defeated in our efforts to be as God.

I want you to know that the devil is religious. He is more religious than God. The Father is the author of one true religion and the devil is the author of all the rest. The devil desires to be worshipped even as God desires to be worshipped, but not for the same reasons. He showed his hand when he was before Jesus in the wilderness and said, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." (Matthew 4:9). That is what the devil wants, a

body to serve and obey him. God says He has given to every seed his own body. It is a matter of whose body you are a member. The devil knew how to draw Eve out of the body of God or Christ and into the body of the devil or anti-Christ by enticing her, drawing her away from the truth, through her own lust, through the vanity of her own mind, causing her to imagine that she could gain her purpose another way.

We find in Genesis 3:14 and 15 that there are two kinds of seeds spoken of. "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between **thy seed** and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." There is an interesting thing here. God says, "And I will put enmity between **thy seed** and **her seed**," and yet his seed had to come by her. There can be no reproduction without a union between a male and a female, so there has been a play since the beginning of time by the serpent to lay hold upon the woman that he might bring forth a seed after his kind, and he has been very successful.

The woman typifies the church. It says that Eve is the mother of all living. She has to be. God only made one woman. The woman was made to be the help meet for man (Christ), but she played the harlot. Anytime the woman plays the part of the harlot, she is going to bring forth a seed. It is not going to be a godly seed, but an ungodly seed, whose father is the serpent (John 8:41 - 45). We see then a potential for two kinds of seeds from the woman, which is the result of eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Yet it is the same woman which God will bring to Himself, purify, and bring forth His seed. That is why Mary's name is Mary. Her name means rebellion. For first, there is a falling away before there is a drawing nigh. We find that this is what happened even in the Old Testament church. Old Testament Israel fell away from God before she was ever established in the land. She had to be recovered

from bondage and sanctified in the wilderness before she could be taken into the Promised Land and possess it. It is also what Paul taught would have to happen in this New Testament age before the day of Christ could come (11 Thessalonians 2:1 - 12).

As we progress, we pick up from Genesis 3 a promise of God that He is going to bring forth a seed from the woman that will be able to effectually deal with the head of the seed of the serpent. In tracing the fulfillment of that promise in the scripture, we look next at Genesis 9, but before we do, I would like to say this.

Many have been deceived into thinking that the goal (i.e. what God has called us to) is the attaining of something for ourselves, place, a standing, or a heavenly home. I do not know what was in your mind, but I used to have a hard time trying to really define it. We said we wanted to go to heaven when we died, but what does that mean? It was a place I knew absolutely nothing about and how could I be assured that I would like it any better than where I am? As a matter of fact, if God took us to heaven while still in the unregenerated condition, as when we first came to God, we would not like it there at all. It would be pure hell to us because all things there are in a much higher plane than where we are. What we have learned to love and like and to enjoy in our lower life is not to be found in heaven, no more than the leeks and garlic were to be found in the wilderness. So we see in order to enjoy getting into heaven that heaven has to get into us first.

There has to be a change of nature, not just environment or a geographical place; thus a change of the things you desire and enjoy. We must be regenerated, born again. I would not have enjoyed the spirit led meetings we have today before I was converted and filled with the Holy Ghost. You could not have gotten me in one. I would have rather been out fishing. I would have told you I was communing with God more than you by being out in nature enjoying God's handiwork. The kind of meetings we have in the Spirit

would have seemed to me foolishness, singing in the Spirit, the operations of the gifts of the Spirit, clapping hands, two hour sermons, etc! I would not have received it at all. The natural man's mind cannot understand or receive the things of God (I Corinthians 2:14). The god of this world has the natural man's mind so blinded to the truth (11 Corinthians 4:4) and in such darkness that man cannot begin to see the kingdom of God, much less enter into it (John 3:1 - 6)

The mystery of God's plan to fulfill His promise continues in Genesis 9:12 - 16. In speaking to Noah, God said, "This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth." God has only made two covenants with His people.

One, which was temporary, is the covenant of the law, written and engraved in stones (11 Corinthians 3:7). The other is the everlasting covenant. The everlasting covenant was not to be a covenant of law, of external observation written in tables of stone, but the everlasting covenant called for the law to be transferred from the outside to the inside of man, the law to be written and engraved in our minds and in our hearts (Hebrews 8:7 - 13) so that we are no longer trying to attain to it but, praise God, we are by nature doing it (Romans 2:13 - 15). God said that the token of the everlasting covenant that He is going to establish with His people is the bow in the cloud. I want to submit to you that in the language of the Holy Spirit this is saying the very

same thing as "Christ in you, the hope of glory", as we shall see.

I want briefly to open up the spiritual language of the Bible, using the Bible as the commentary. Whenever you go into another country, a different language is spoken. It is the same in the "far country" of God. When we walk in the heavenlies in the spiritual realm, we discover there the spiritual language (words) which the Holy Ghost teaches and uses.

As Paul says in I Corinthians 2:13, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." If we are going to have communion with God, we must learn how to speak and understand the spiritual language. The reason the Bible is an obscure book to people is because they do not understand the language of the Holy Ghost. One of the first things the Holy Ghost does when He comes into our spirit is to begin to give us an understanding of the things which are true, that we might know Him who is true (I John 5:20), by bringing us into an understanding of His heavenly spiritual language (1Corinthians 2:12). Many examples of the way the Holy Spirit uses the spiritual language of the kingdom of God is seen in the book of Psalms, where the believers are referred to as the sheep of His pasture and the trees of righteousness. The language of the Holy Spirit is rich in symbolism, which we must understand in order to hear what the Spirit says to the church.

We read in Psalms 57:9 and 10, "I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds." The Holy Ghost is not inferring here that God is speaking His truth to natural clouds. What good would that do? He is saying that His truth is unto the clouds which are His people.

In Psalms 68:34 it says, "Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds."

His excellency is over Israel! That is where the clouds are. They are above. His excellency is in the clouds. His excellency is in His people who have been made perfect through suffering and obedience that they might be made the manifestation of His glory! You are going to find the perfected ones over Israel, judging the twelve tribes (Matthew 19:28), ruling over the nations (Rev. 20:4). Where is His strength? In the clouds! It is not those physical clouds up in the sky!

Why does God picture us as clouds? James 4:14 says, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." What is a cloud, but a vapour. How do clouds move? They are propelled by the wind. What does Jesus say about one that is born of the Spirit?

In John 3:8 He says, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

In Hebrews 12:1, 11 Peter 2:17, and Jude 12, we find again examples of the Holy Spirit using the symbolism of clouds to represent people.

There are many more scriptures concerning the clouds. Once you see what the clouds represent, passages of scripture that have been obscure to you before will suddenly take on new meaning. Let us go back to Genesis 9 and consider the bow in the cloud. It so happens that the Hebrew meaning of the word here is not rainbow, but battle bow. To help our understanding, we need to look at Zechariah 9, but first let us read one of the statements that Jesus made concerning what we can expect it to be like when He returns. In Matthew 24:27 Jesus said, "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." It is going to be like the lightning shining from the east to the west! You are not going to miss it. You do not have to worry about it being

done secretly in a corner, but this thing is going to be done openly in the world.

It is going to be an obvious thing, so obvious that even the world is going to have to acknowledge it! For every tongue is going to confess and every knee is going to bow to the glory of God (Philippians 2:1 1). His first coming, however, was different.

We read in Zechariah 9:9 and 10, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth." This ties in with the scripture in Daniel 9:26 where it says, "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself . . . ", not for himself, not because of himself but because of the errors of his people. And so, this bow was "cut off. In Isaiah 53:8 and Acts 8:33 it says that He was cut off from the land of the living and who shall declare His generation? A big question: Who is capable of declaring His generation? Psalms 22:30 answers it.

"A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation." What kind of generation? The generation that shall declare His name! You see, in order to know a man lived upon this earth, there has to be something that remains to declare it. Where is that to be found which declares that God has ever manifested His life upon this earth? There has to be something that remains to declare it. Where is the generation that can declare it? Where is the seed that can show forth the same righteous life that is of the Lord to whom we pray in heaven? That is what the whole world has been waiting for! The manifestation of that seed! Amen!

The scriptures in Zechariah 9: 10 says the battle bow shall be cut off and He shall speak peace. Notice that it says, the

battle bow, He. There is beautiful symbolism here in the bow, for the bow consists of two parts and is a type of the Father and the Son.

Jesus said in the gospel of John 14:15 and 23, "If ye love me, keep my commandments. If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." We see that one part of the trinity (the Holy Spirit) is dealing with us to prepare us as a holy habitation for the Son and the Father. We are not only to be the habitation of the Holy Spirit (1Corinthians 6:19), but also the habitation of the Son and the Father. Jesus said, "I and my Father will come and we will make our abode with you." Now, in these two we have the two parts of the bow. The Father is like the main stem of the bow, and the Son is like the string. For in the Son's relationship to the Father, He has the ability to draw the Father, and yet He has to follow after. It is like the woman's relationship to the man. The woman draws the man, yet she is to follow after him for he is the head over her. That is not the end of the matter, for she draws him to follow after him so that the two might have union together to produce a seed, a manchild to declare the name of the father in the earth, or his name would be "cut off".

We have to see now that there are really three parts of a bow if it is going to be complete. We must have arrows. Let us look into the scripture concerning the arrows and find out something about them. If you read in Zechariah 9:11-14 it says, "As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even today do I declare that I will render double unto thee; when I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim, and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made thee as the sword of a mighty man. And the Lord shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning; and the Lord God shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south." Now we have seen that this is how

He is coming, as the lightning. The Lord God shall blow the trumpet and shall go with whirlwinds of the south. That is the trumpet we are waiting to hear! That is the trumpet which is going to conclude this age. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16, it says, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." God himself is going to blow the trumpet and when He does He is coming, with the whirlwinds of the south.

We find that the whirlwind is always speaking of the judgment of God. If you have ever been in a whirlwind, you know what it does to dust and things that are not well planted or rooted. God comes with a whirlwind that He might separate the chaff from the wheat! When Job wanted to converse with God, God appeared in a judgment array and spoke to Job out of the whirlwind (Job 38:1). It separated the chaff from the wheat in Job's thoughts.

When Elijah took his ride up into the heavens, most claim it was in a chariot, but that is wrong. It was in a whirlwind.

He is coming with those that are like Him, His saints--those that have been made just like Him!

When He comes, He is coming to judge the earth and that is what the whirlwind and the arrow that is like the lightning speak of. Let us look at a few more scriptures concerning the arrow.

Psalms 64:1 - 3 says, "Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity: Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words."

When God sends forth the ministry, when He sends forth one of His saints, what is He really sending forth, but His word. When Jesus came as the Son of God, what was He? He was the Word! He came to be the word that is quick and powerful and able to hit the mark. Amen.

He could discern the thoughts and intents of men's hearts and put His finger right on it. It says in verse 4, "That they may

shoot in secret at the perfect; suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not." And you would be surprised how many times you have shot arrows at Him, even bitter words. What makes the difference is whether we are in the flesh or in the Spirit. James 3:2 says, "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."

Do you know that a word can wound? Do you know that a word can kill? There have to be words between two individuals before they get angry enough to kill one another. There have to be words between governments before war breaks out between them. There has to be law that will execute death. So actually we can see that both life and death come by words (Proverbs 18:2 1 ).

Mercy comes by a word. In the beginning there was the word, but the word had to yet expressed. That is when it became the living word, the anointed one. Let us look at the scripture in Jeremiah 9:8. "Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait." Now I am trying to show you something here: that what God wants to order in us above all other things is the words which we speak, because by your words you are justified and by your words you are condemned (Matthew 12:37). I hope you can see that every word which proceeds out of your mouth is sent by a bow and the bow is always a battle bow, because the word we speak is life unto life to some, and death unto death to others. It is a two-edged sword and it has in it both deliverance and death. In Isaiah 49:1-3 it says, "Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me; And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified." The prophet Isaiah is speaking here relative to the seed that was to come

that would be the Israel of God, for He is coming to be glorified in all His saints. (See Romans 2:28, 29; Galatians 6:15, 16; 11 Thessalonians 1: 10- 12.)

In Psalm 127:1 - 5 it says, "Except the, Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth." The reason the devil wants to have union with the woman is so that he can get his quiver full of arrows. If you are going to have a warfare, you need the ammunition to fight with, and I want you to know that the warfare we are in is a spiritual warfare and concerns the thoughts in your mind, the words which you believe in your heart, and speak with your mouth.

In John 3:11 it says, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness." If all you know is pollution, corruption, and evil, that is what you are going to speak. That is the reason He said that the mouth of the scribes and Pharisees was an open sepulcher and out of it issued death. Either you are speaking life or you are speaking death! It is an interesting thing that every time we are either speaking life or speaking death! Every time we open our mouth and speak, what are we speaking? Is it life? Or is it death? That is going to be determined by whether we are in the spirit or in the flesh. Which seed are we, the godly seed or the ungodly seed? How can we know which one we are? The word says by the words which you speak. "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are the children of the youth.

Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." Why are they going to speak with the enemies? Because they are going to have the word that can shoot down the enemy and put him in his place, for God will make their

mouth like a sharp sword, hide them in the shadow of His hand, make them as a polished (thoroughly dealt with) shaft, and hide them in His quiver. Praise the Lord!

We find in Isaiah 49:3 - 5 that it says, "And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified! Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God. And now, saith the Lord that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and my God shall be my strength." Notice that he was called to be the seed to serve Him.

Paul says in Galatians 1: 15, "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me . . ."

Beloved, that is why you have been separated from the womb of the mother church, the woman. You have to be separated from her that you might become the servant of God, that His son Jesus might be revealed in you, that there might be a seed to declare his generation. In Isaiah 49:5 and 6 we read, "And now, saith the Lord that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and my God shall be my strength. And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth." We have been separated from darkness, sin, and even from the womb of the mother churches that we might become His servant, used of Him to perform a work, His work in this end time, a work of restoration! There are many denominations and sects of the Christian religion and they are confused about the twelve tribes of Israel. You are going to raise them up, as you succeed in being the servant of God, who has been

separated from the mother's womb. He said, "I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth." It is recorded in Luke 2:25 - 32 that Simeon, one of the prophets of old, had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had seen the salvation of God. What did he see? None other than Jesus! Simeon said in verse 30, "For mine eyes have seen thy salvation." We are looking for salvation and how is it going to come?

We read in Hebrews 9:28, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look **for him** shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." The Son of man coming **in a cloud** with power and great glory (Luke 21:27). What shall we see? The **bow in the cloud**, as an arrow sent forth, like lightning (Zechariah 9:14) that shineth from the east to the west (Matthew 24:27).

Do you see the symbolism that the Holy Spirit is using? Can you see the picture in the Spirit? For if you understand this, you can begin to see what is your hope of glory, and what is the hope of your calling! (See Ephesians 1: 18.) It is not that you might just get something, but that Christ might get you, that Christ might be fully formed in you (Galatians 4:19). When you see that your hope of glory is Christ fully formed in you, then you are going to begin to have the same mind God has, and you are going to begin to desire the same thing God does. Then you will become as concerned about your obedience to Him as He is. You will understand that salvation consists of being separated unto Him, praise God; that He might bring forth the fullness of Christ in you! Until He sees the bow in the cloud, He is not going to remember His covenant with the earth.

And so it says in Isaiah 49:7, "Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the Lord that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee." He will choose not the

kings or princes, but thee! He shall choose thee! Glory! It goes on to say in verse 8 and 9, "Thus saith the Lord, in an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places." Can you say that now? No! It has not fully taken place in you yet. But He says, "I am going to do it. I am going to preserve you and establish you as my covenant for the people that you will no longer be barren, unfruitful, weak, and without power, but that thou mayest say to the prisoners, 'Go forth', and to them that are in darkness, 'Shew yourselves', that they shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places."

As we continue to read in verse 10, 11, and 12, it says, "They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted. Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim."

(The word Sinim means remote and unidentified people.) Continuing in verse 13, we read, "Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted." Now, beloved, you are the afflicted of God because you are going through the judgment of God, for God purposes to begin His judgment with the household of God, after that the world. That is why you find all these afflictions upon you, but praise God, they are not there for your destruction, but for your perfection. God is not working against you. He is working for you, and in you that which is well pleasing in His sight (Hebrews 13:21).

Let us go back now to Genesis 9. There are two kinds of judgment to come from God. One is for your deliverance, the other is for destruction. He is coming to destroy the wicked, but to deliver the righteous. It takes judgment to do that. Let us see the picture here in Genesis 9. The first picture is kind of a broad brush picture that God gives us. He says when I get ready to fulfill my covenant with the earth and with all living creatures, the way the whole world is going to recognize that the time is at hand is seen in verse 14, "And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud." Continuing in verse 16, "And the bow shall be in the cloud and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth." Let us look again at verse 14. "And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud." Amen.

This then is the condition: 1) God is going to have a cloud. 2) He is going to bring it up over the earth. 3) His bow is going to be in the cloud. 4) He is going to look upon it and then He is going to remember His covenant with the whole earth. When He remembers His covenant, things are going to begin to happen. Let us see how the Lord continues to develop this in Genesis 15:3 - 5. "And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir, And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be."

It says that Abram's seed would be as the stars, the ones that proceed from his bowels would be as the stars of heaven. But I would like to take you back to Genesis 13:14 - 16 where we read, "And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and

southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to **thy seed** for ever. And I will make **thy seed as the dust of the earth:** so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered." We see that the scripture speaks that Abraham would have two different kinds of seeds; one seed would be as the dust of the earth and the other seed was to be as the stars of heaven! One earthy, one heavenly! One natural, one spiritual!

(See I Corinthians 15:37 - 49; Israel after the flesh-Romans 9:3 -8; and the Israel which is of God-Romans 2:28, 29; Galatians 6:16.)

Let us continue in Genesis 15:13 - 18. "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates." From the river of Egypt, this represents the life of bondage, a river in scripture represents the life that you are living. In John 7:38 Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." He was talking about the life of the Holy Spirit! The river of Egypt is speaking of the worldly life of bondage to sin that we are all in, in our natural birth. Therefore, from the river of Egypt unto the great river of Euphrates, which means "the fruitful one", it is saying from a bond slave to sin to fruitfulness in Christ! So He says I have given you all the land between

both rivers. Glory! This land represents all the experiences we are taken through while making the spiritual journey from our carnal life, being born again babes, until we all come to the fullness of the stature of Christ unto a perfect man.

Let us go to Genesis 17:1 and 2. "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly."

Continuing in verses 5-10 we read, "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee."

There are many nations that have to be dealt with, and Abraham will have a seed out of them all (Acts 15:14); those who walk by faith (Romans 4:11 - 16). "And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. (The spiritual seed of Abraham are made unto God kings and priests, Revelation 5:9, 10.) "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised." Going to verses 13 and 14 it says, "He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant."

Bought with money! The ones that have been purchased with a price! This is a reference to the Gentiles who were not of the household of God, but strangers and would be purchased with the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 2:12 - 19).

"And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant."

We know the scripture teaches that true circumcision is in the heart by the Spirit (Romans 2:27 - 29), and is foreshadowed here. Let us look again at verse 13. Where shall the covenant be ? **In your flesh!** This is the same picture as the bow in the cloud, the only difference being it is now speaking on an individual basis, instead of a corporate. In order for you to be a part of the cloud in which the bow is seen, you must be circumcised; that is, the sign that verifies that you are in covenant with God. This sign must be seen in your flesh; i.e. the life of Jesus Christ in you (11 Corinthians 4:11). The cloud represents the corporate company, the whole body of Christ, made up of each individual member who has the sign of the covenant in his flesh. (See 11 Corinthians 4: 10, 11; 11 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19 - 21 ; Colossians 1 :24 - 27.) Just like the sign of the covenant is in the cloud, so the sign of the covenant must be in every individual that makes up that cloud, be he Jew or Gentile! The fact that the cloud is symbolic of people is verified in scriptures such as Psalm 57:10, Psalm 68:34 and 35; Hebrews 12: 1; James 4:14 and Jude 12, as we have already seen. It is into this spiritual cloud that the saints will be caught up at the coming of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Matthew 24:30, 31). God said unto Abraham that his seed would not only be those born in his house, but also those strangers bought with money, the purchased ones, redeemed Gentile ones as well! Further, both must be circumcised in order to fulfill the covenant and not be cut off. Circumcised, not outward in the flesh which was only the shadow of the true, but inwardly, the true circumcision, is that of the heart in the spirit whose praise is of God (Romans 2:28, 29)!

We see in Genesis 17:25, "And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin." We see that both the child of the bondwoman and

the child of the free woman are circumcised. The difference, however, is spiritually discerned by the fact that Ishmael is thirteen when circumcised, whereas Isaac was eight days old when he was circumcised. In the numerology of scripture the number thirteen represents sin. Now Israel under the covenant of the law was still in sin, for the law could not take away sin (Hebrews 10: 1 - 4). It takes a new nature in us to take away sin. We must be born again! Being born again by the spirit, God quickens in us a new life (John 3:5, 6; Ephesians 2). The number eight represents a new beginning. Noah and his family was used by God for a new beginning after the flood took all others away. Notice scripture says he was the eighth person (11 Peter 2:5) and there were eight members in his family (1 Peter 3:20).

In Genesis 21:12 and 13 it says, "And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall **thy seed be called**. And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation (i.e., the nation of natural Israel), because he is thy seed." Most understand that Ishmael is the father of the Arab nation. However, that is not who Ishmael foreshadows. Ishmael foreshadows Israel after the flesh!

As Ishmael was the child of the bondwoman and not of the true wife, or free woman, he foreshadows the Jews after the flesh (Romans 9:3 - 8; Gal. 4:22 - 31). He is not a Jew who is one outwardly (Roman's 2:28, 29). The scripture makes clear who Ishmael foreshadows in Galatians 4:22 - 25. Ishmael was the natural type in the earth that God gave to show the difference between the children of the flesh who are not the children of God (Romans 9:7, 8), and the children of promise who are the promised seed and are the children of God: the Christian who has been born again by faith in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26 - 29), be he Jew or Gentile, and reconciled unto God in one body (Ephesians 2:11 - 22), where there is neither Greek nor Jew (Colossians 3:11), but Christ is all and in all!

In Galatians 3:16 we read, "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ." The characteristic of the seed to which God is referring from Genesis all the way to the fulfillment of it, is that this seed is one (John 17:20 - 23)!

You can see, however, that the one does not mean just one person, but implies many being made one, by being gathered together in one, even Christ (Ephesians 1:3 - 10; Ephesians 3:2 - 6)! Notice it says in Ephesians 1:10, "That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in

Christ . . ." The truth is that God is making us one. We are not one yet. If we were one, the mystery would be complete. For that is how it all ends! When the mystery is fulfilled, there will only be one that will be standing, the victor Christ, who is a corporate one, a many-membered one (1 Corinthians 12:12), the promised seed of Abraham! Therefore, the one to whom the promise was made, foreshadowed by Isaac, is Christ! The promised seed then consists of Jesus, the firstborn of the true seed, and all his brethren (Romans 8:29) who make up the fullness of that seed (Romans 4:13 - 18), both Jew and Gentile who have been born again, have put off the old man, and have put on the new man (11 Corinthians 5:17), so that the life of Christ is now made manifest in their mortal flesh (11 Corinthians 4:6 - 11) fulfilling circumcision, the sign of the covenant.

We read in Galatians 3:17, "And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, (which was the first covenant to be established) which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect." God established the covenant of the law with the Jews before He established the covenant, which is called **the everlasting covenant**, with His people The law was to be **temporary** and serve as a school master (Galatians 3:24 - 29).

If God had established **the everlasting covenant** with the people first, then there could not have been a temporary one established. Because of sin, the law was needed as a school master to teach man the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20; Romans 7:7). God used it as a preparation for the first coming of Jesus who was coming as the suffering savior to deal with sin. For all were in bondage to sin, both Jew and Gentile (Romans 3:9 - 12; Romans 5:12, 20, 21). However, man was not aware of his bondage to sin until God gave the law (Romans 7:7 - 25). Sin separates man from God and causes his mind to be blinded to the truth and to walk after the flesh in the lust thereof and after vain desires of his mind which serves to alienate him from the life of God (Ephesians 2:2, 3, 11, 12; Ephesians 4:17, 18). It is a mistake to think that the law could reveal Christ to the individual, but it is also a mistake to think that anyone will come to Christ without law. Because without law sin is not made manifest and unless sin is made manifest, you will not come under conviction concerning sin. There can be no judgment without law. Therefore, there is always first the application of the law in the natural, and to the natural man, that the man of sin might be made manifest, after-wards, comes the spiritual answer (Romans 5:8 - 21). You find that there is always grace and mercy at the mercy seat after the law has condemned (Romans 11:32; 11 Corinthians 3:7 - 18). Praise God!

Let us continue now with Galatians 3:17 - 19. "And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after (i.e. after the promise given to Abraham), cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till **the seed** should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator." It says a mediator is not a mediator of one. If you were already one

with God, there would not have to be a mediator and today there is a mediator in heaven, **the man Christ Jesus** (I Timothy 2:5), and he has to be there standing between us and God the Father because we are not yet one. He is there as a mediator to keep things moving between us and God until such time as God has brought us into the perfection of Christ, and then he will no longer be needed as a mediator. We will not need a mediator because we will be one, one with one another and one with God!

For a mediator is not a mediator of one, so we are headed toward that oneness Jesus prayed for (John 17:20 - 23), and that Paul declared to be the will and purpose of God (Ephesians 1:9 - 11).

That oneness will be as a result of Christ being fully formed in us (Galatians 4:19), so that at His coming we might be found in Him (Philippians 3:9). For us to be doctrinally correct is important, but not the most important thing. Neither is the most important thing to know all the revelation of God and to be perfect in knowledge and to understand all mysteries, but the most important thing is for us to have that love of God that alone produces the oneness, that love which John describes in 1 John 4: 10-12 and Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13:2.

You are going to find that the devil is working on every hand to destroy the oneness in your midst, because the testimony of Christ is that He is one (1 Corinthians 12:12), though many members. The image of God is that He is one (Deuteronomy 6:4).

Where there is envy, strife, and divisions, that is not the image of Christ (1Corinthians 1: 12, 13). When the scripture in 1John 5:7 speaks of God the Father, Jesus the Son as the word, and the Holy Spirit, it says these three are **one!** Though the three are distinct and separate personalities with distinct and different works (1 Corinthians 12:4 - 6), yet the same **life** flows through all, and all are **one!** One in will, one in purpose, one in work, one in thought, one in deed, and one in expression!

It is a characteristic that when we are moving in the evil way as an ungodly seed, we can never be one. The world has been trying to achieve oneness for over six thousand years. Why has it not been successful? Because everybody as an individual wants to be **the** one in the **oneness**. This produces conflict, envy, strife, division, and wars. When Joshua crossed the river Jordan, and was by Jericho, he found the angel of the Lord standing there with his sword drawn, and he (the angel) stood over against him. Joshua said to the angel, "Are you for us, or against us?" The angel straightened him out quickly and said, "I came to be captain."

God comes to be captain, to head us in the right way! He does not come to take sides, but to see whose side we are on, the side of evil or the side of good. His coming produces division (Matthew 10:34), the division of flesh and spirit, division of light and darkness, good and evil. If we follow Him, we must deny ourselves of the place of being the authority, the one to have our way or will done, and yield to Him (Matthew 16:24). We must give place to Him that His will be done. All who fall in under His authority and honour Him as captain of the host will be made one in Him as they give up their thoughts, their way, and their will in any situation or area of conflict. When each one involved in the conflict bows to the authority of the captain of the host and accepts His leadership through that area of conflict, we are lifted up out of strife, debate, and division and brought into oneness in Him! Praise His name! We will be led then to victory, and delivered from defeat. This then is our hope of glory!

We read in Galatians 4:22, "For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman." One of those sons has been identified in the earth today as the Arabs and the other as the Jews. Those are only the types of the true. These things are an allegory! These are the two covenants: the one from the Mount Sinai which gendereth to bondage which is Agar. In other words,

any religious group that is moving under law, or in the letter application of the word, can bring forth children; but they will be as those born in the house and as servants performing human works, the works of men's hands. They are not yet born from above, that is, of the Spirit and of the free woman. Therefore, they are not true children and heirs according to the promise. The true Ishmaelites are those who are living a circumcised life under law in the letter of the word, still in bondage to sin, and not yet free! The true heirs are those who worship God in the spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh. Paul says in Galatians 4:19, "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you."

This then is the sign of the covenant coming to fulfillment. He said, "I am in travail until I see that cloud come that has the bow in it (Genesis 9:14), until I see that generation come forth that has the covenant in its flesh (Genesis 17:13; 2 Corinthians 4:1 1; Colossians 1:27). Praise God!

The burden of the apostle Paul was not that you and I gain heaven, but that **Christ would be formed in us!** The burden of God is not that He **changes our environment** and takes us into some heavenly utopia realm, but that He **might change our nature** and make us **a new creature!** One who knows how to love as He loves and be one with another, serving one another in love, living together in harmony instead of discord. Do you see it? Do you see what we have been apprehended for? That we might become one (John 17:20 - 23), even as Jesus and the Father are one! Do you wonder why we find in the church divisions, envy, and strife? These are the devices that the devil uses through our carnal nature to defeat us from being one, and we let him get away with it. We are so stupid, so slow to learn, so rebellious, so insistent, so self-willed, so much wanting to have our own way about everything, that we still let him use those devices to keep us from being one and becoming **the glory of God, the manifested glory of God!** God has certainly given us the revelation of His purpose, as well as

**the** way. He will accomplish it. When we come into the fulfillment of what God has separated us out for, we are going to find that we have come into Him who is one. Man cannot accomplish this. We have to travail before God until Christ be fully formed in us which is our hope of glory! We who have the first fruits of the Spirit must wait on the Lord and co-labour together with Him or our labour is in vain. It is the Lord that gave the word and it is He that will perform it (Job 23:14, Ezekiel 36.-371- 1Thessalonians 5:24). Just because God has given us the revelation of what He purposes to do does not give us the ability to accomplish it. You can produce an Ishmael just like Abraham did. He was trying to bring forth a seed that would be the heir, but he did not make it as we all know. He had to wait on God! How important it is not to let our zeal eat up the house of God.

All of you who are opening up your homes, all of you that are going into homes, all of you that are contemplating going to farm communities, let me say one thing to you: Make certain that God is directing you. If He is not, it is not going to produce what we are after. It will be flesh and not spirit, and it will profit nothing. When you get there, you are going to be an instrument in the devil's hand to keep generating envy, strife, debate, and divisions. That will never become a testimony to Jesus Christ. Let us not be fools, but let us learn. What are we really after, having our own way or serving God? Are you willing to suffer the loss of all things that you might win Christ? Or are you going to insist on trying to hold onto your little possessions and lose all in the final end? Beloved, let us stop putting a false sense of value on those things which we call our possessions. My wife pointed out to me that she suddenly realized that when the rich man could not turn loose his possessions he did not go away happy about it, but he went away sorrowful.

In Galatians 4:23 - 26 we continue, "But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the Mount

Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar, for this Agar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." There are two Jerusalems. There is the one that is visible, natural, seen in the world; there is also the one that is invisible, spiritual, above the natural, that can only known by the spirit. The one that is visible is temporal, but the one that is above and invisible is eternal.

We read in verses 27-31, "For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bond-woman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free." This bondwoman and her son represent those who were under the first covenant, the law, and would be cast out, that is, not inherit with the son of the freewoman! The Old Testament church, the Jews, the natural Jerusalem under the covenant of the law was not the ones who would produce the promised seed. Just as that is true, so is it also true that the carnal church-system today will not produce the promised seed. Both have the same problem. They are of the flesh and not spirit! The carnal church system of today is pictured for us in her true state as she is seen and recognized by the world.

She glorifies herself and in her heart sits as a queen, claims she has a husband (no widow), and shall not see sorrow. Her judgment will come in one day (Revelation 18:8 - 10, 23, 24). By contrast the true church is above in the heavenly realm and pictured for us in Revelation 12:1 and 2. Those who make up the harlot are satisfied that they have attained already (Revelation 19:7, 8; Revelation 20:2, 9, 10, 11), and

are confident that they shall see no sorrow, but will be raptured out! Because of the abundance of her merchandise (Revelation 18:12, 13), they see themselves as blessed of God, increased with goods, and having need of nothing, and are not aware of their true conditions (Revelation 3:17).

The true church (woman) by contrast recognizes she is not yet married (i.e., has no husband yet); therefore, she sits as a widow and is barren (Galatians 4:27). She has lost her first husband (the old man) by death and is free to be married to another (Romans 6:6; Romans 7:2 - 4), but has not yet finished making herself ready for marriage to the Lamb (Revelation 19:7).

I trust that you can see by the spirit the truth that is here. There are two things that as long as they have dominion over us keep us in bondage and unable to be made one (married) with God. One is sin and the other is the law. Both were dealt with by Jesus while he was here. He took them to the cross (1 Peter 2:24; Colossians 2:11 - 14). Sin, because it separates us from Him who is holy, harmless, and separate from sinners (Hebrews 7:26); the law because it was a ministration of death and not life (11 Corinthians 3:7). The law was never given as a means to make men righteous, but to teach us our need to be made righteous. Once we are made righteous, there is no need for the law (1 Timothy 1:9). Since righteousness is required in order for us to be one with Him who is righteous (11 Corinthians 6:14 - 18; 7:1) and we cannot attain unto it ourselves, God solved the problem for us by making Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God **in Him** (11 Corinthians 5:21). Praise the Lord!

We know that in Him is no sin (1 John 3:5). In verse 6 it says, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not." How then can we know that we are in Him? Verse 7: "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous." Verse 10: "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth

not his brother." Man under sin (unrighteousness) cannot do righteousness and man under law (self-righteousness) cannot do righteousness. How then can we do righteousness that it might be manifest that we are the children of God? Romans 6:10 - 22 and Galatians 2:19 - 21 instructs us.

The first deals with sin, and the second deals with the law that we might be free to serve the Lord and be that seed that shall serve Him, the promised seed! (See Psalms 22:30, 31; Galatians 3:26 29.)

We can understand why Paul in Philippians 3:9 expressed his desire to be found in **Him!** All those saints who make up the true church have this understanding of their need to be found **in Christ**; and that what it means to be found in Him is to be found in His righteousness. Therefore, they hunger and thirst after this righteousness. They are in travail until Christ be formed in them, until that manchild life comes forth within them. The true church is barren yet because that manchild of righteousness, that proper seed, has not yet been brought forth in its fullness by her, but the promise comes from God: "Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband."

Praise God! It is going to take a righteous company of believers to be the standard that God will raise up in the endtime to stop the flood of iniquity and wickedness from destroying all flesh (Isaiah 59, Romans 9:28 - 33). What is it that is going to stay God's hand from destroying the whole world again as He did in the time of Noah? He will see **the bow in the cloud** and remember His covenant with the whole earth. Christ formed in a company of believers! The godly seed! A company of sons of God who know the way of the cross, who have suffered the loss of all things that they might win Christ and be found **in Him!** A company who have made themselves of no reputation, but have taken upon themselves the form of a servant and have become obedient even unto death, the death of the cross. This then is the mark

of Abraham's seed, the ones that are the heirs according to the promise (Galatians 3:29).

Let us look back in Genesis 22:15 - 18. "And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son (notice it says single son): That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall **all the nations** of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice." Again we see the promise to Abraham was a seed (singular) as the stars of the heaven, and also as the sand which is upon the sea shore. We find that it is the sand now, not the dust of the earth, but it is that sand of the sea shore. The sand of the sea shore is that which holds back the flood, which says you can go so far and no further. The symbolism here is plain, for the seed that was promised to Abraham was to be as the stars of heaven. (Note: It says in Daniel 12:3 that they that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars of heaven.) It says in Genesis, 1:14 - 18 that when God set the sun, moon, and stars in their place that they were to serve as **lights** to shine in darkness to give light upon the earth and to separate the night from the day. We find also in James 1: 17 that God is the Father of **lights** in whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. So again we see the symbolism in the language of the Holy Ghost, that those who turn many to righteousness shall be as the stars of heaven; that is, they shall be the light of the world in the time of darkness, and they shall be as the sand of the sea shore which holds back the tide of wickedness and keeps it from flooding the earth and destroying all flesh. For when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him (Isaiah 59:19). That standard will be made up of all those saints whom the Spirit of the Lord has brought to

perfection unto a perfect man unto the fullness of the stature of Christ!

In Genesis 24:60 we find that Abraham has sent forth his servant Eleazer to fetch a bride for Isaac. When Rebekah was about to leave to go with the servant back to Isaac, her family blessed her and said.. be thou the mother of thousands of millions . . . "

That is a lot of seed! When that promise was made to the barren which said, "Blessed art thou O barren, thou that hath not borne any children, and thou that hath not been fruitful, for you shall bare more children than the bondwoman." It is referring to these thousands of millions! (You know the interesting thing about that is when you rub out all the zeros, you just have one left, for **we** are **nothing** and **He is everything!**) Praise God! Lined up behind that captain of the host who is one are all those whom He has chosen and are nothing (1Corinthians 1: 26, 27).

Until the Spirit of God comes and gives us the full illumination of the truth of God and burns in us as the light and life of God, how can we declare His life? This is what God is waiting for, a seed that can declare His name, His life, His light, His truth, and can manifest it and can show it (1 John 1: 1, 2). This is what Jesus did when He came. He said, "I am the light of the world . . . " (John 8:12), and "I have declared **thy name** unto my brethren (John 1:8; John 17:26). Amen! And this is what we are called to also, as it says in John 20:21, "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." May God fulfill in us the purpose for which He has drawn us out of the waters of the sea of humanity and baptized us into the body of Christ!

We find now in Genesis 25:5 another very interesting thing that sheds light on much that has been happening in Christianity.

It says, "And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac." (The promised seed is the inheritor of all things.) Verse 6: "But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had,

Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country." (Now there are threescore queens and fourscore concubines and virgins without number in the king's court. Song of Solomon 6:8, 9) The concubines represent those which God engaged himself with for no other purpose than just to use them as concubines in his court. Look at what He did for them. "But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country."

This foreshadows for us all those gift ministries who are never interested in Sonship (the way of the cross, making themselves of no reputation, suffering the loss of all things, fellowship with the suffering of Christ). They are just interested in using their gifts that they received from God to make a name for themselves and to gain riches. This is because they are not in the true bride relationship with God while in that company. They are able to gather large followings for a season because of what Jesus said in John 5:43, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."

God says while there are threescore queens and fourscore concubines and virgins without number, my beloved, my undefiled, What is she? She is one! She is the choice one of her mother.

While there have been many denominations, many moves, many sects, and all have had a part in the king's court, the whole world is waiting for that one, that choice one, the one which is invisible, spiritual, above, that is going to produce her righteous seed to bring forth her manchild. We can understand why it is that the gift ministries have never brought forth the manchild. They were just interested in using their gifts and making a name for themselves in the earth. That is what they were limited to, for they were the sons of the concubines, and, therefore, limited to their gifts.

God was not ready yet, it was not yet the time, for the true bride to bring forth her manchild.

In Ezekiel 37:21 it says, "And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all."

This is the purpose of God in this hour. This is what He is calling us into. He is bringing us into our own land now and He is going to make out of us one nation and we will no longer be two nations anymore, and we will all have one king! We have been two nations, two kingdoms, the kingdom of self in the flesh, and the kingdom of God in the spirit. We have been divided within ourselves and with one another halting between two opinions, whether it is better to serve mammon or God! God is after getting us into oneness, making of us one nation, one people, under Jesus who is the King! For a nation shall be born in a day (Isaiah 66:7, 8)! Jesus is the day! It will be a righteous nation, a body of believers, though many, yet one! Made up of a seed called out of all nations (Romans 9:26 - 29)! Made up of those in every generation who have forsaken all to serve Him! Those out of every tribe and nation who have performed their reasonable service and presented unto God their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, that the life of His son Jesus might be made manifest in their mortal flesh (11 Corinthians 4: 10, 11), being not conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of their minds (Romans 12: 11 2). Proving what is that good, acceptable, and perfect will of God, doing from their heart the will of God!

Those who are His people, the sheep of His pasture who hear the voice of the shepherd (John 10:4) and a stranger will they

not follow (John 10:5). There will be one fold and one shepherd (John 10: 16). Praise God!

These then are the ones who make up the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb (Revelation 14:1 - 5). The number 144,000 is a symbolic number in the language of the Holy Spirit and represents for us all those who have come to fullness of light, unto the glory of God! God is light! Jesus taught in John 11:9 that there are twelve hours in the day. Now in the pattern of things taught in the scriptures, perfection is represented by squaring (i.e., making all sides equal). Thus, the holy city is pictured four-square. When you square the number twelve (which stands for the fullness of the day or light) (Genesis 1:5); and also stands for the life that Jesus came to give us (John 8:12; John 10: 10), you get 144. When you raise it in power, it comes out 144,000, symbolically representing all those who have come to know Jesus in the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable to His death, and have been raised in the power of His resurrection!

Following the Lamb whithersoever He goeth! Those who have gone before us and have already fulfilled their course now have the crown of life laid up for them and are pictured for us in Hebrews 12:1 as a great cloud! We who are alive and remain must now lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset

us and run with patience the race that is set before us, for after we have been tried, we shall also receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to them that love Him (James 1:12)! Praise God!

Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 what is going to happen at the end of this age when the Lord returns! "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them **in the** clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." Glory! God will have brought a cloud over the earth and the sign of the covenant will be seen in the cloud! A whole company of witnesses making up a **great cloud**, each one having **the sign of the covenant** in

their flesh! Notice in Genesis 9:13 and 14 that God said, "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen **in the cloud.**" This is why in the book of Acts 1:9 - 11 it says, "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and **a cloud** received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven: this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

How was He taken up? It says **a cloud** received Him out of their sight! How does the scripture teach He will come back? In like manner!

In closing this teaching, I would like to direct your attention to what Jesus Himself taught regarding His return at the end of this age. In Matthew 24:3 it tells us that the disciples came unto him privately saying, "Tell us, when shall these things be: and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the age?" Note the first thing Jesus answered was, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Unless we have the true understanding of what God's plan and purpose calls for, we will be deceived, and consequently, not ready! If you believe that His plan calls for you to be taken on a trip, a change of location, it would not require the same preparation as if you knew that His plan calls for His light, His life, to be burning in you (i.e., a change of nature in order for you to be ready to go in with Him)! What did the Lord teach concerning what we are to expect? He said many would come in His name claiming Him to be the Christ, yet deceive many with their teaching. He continues on listing the things that will be the characteristics of the end of this age through verse 22. Then He speaks regarding **the sign** of His coming in verse 27, "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the

Son of man be." He is speaking here of His coming in judgment upon a wicked world and apostate church! For He says in verse 29 that the sun shall be darkened, which is the symbolism the scripture uses for the teaching of the Holy Spirit in the believer.

Jesus taught in John 9:4 that the night cometh, when no man can work." It is the voice from heaven, the voice of the son, the bridegroom in the believer (Hebrews 1:2; 12:25) that He is speaking of here! (Ref: The fall of the harlot church and her daughters, Revelation 17 and 18) Notice in Revelation 18:23 that it says, "And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; **and the voice of the bridegroom** and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee . . ." Thus the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from heaven, speaking of the individual son of God who in this endtime have fallen from their own steadfastness with God (Revelation 6:12 - 17; Isaiah 34:4, 5), and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. Amen! Paul spoke of this also in Hebrews 12:25 - 29. "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."

Let us remember that the scripture is not speaking literally, but **spiritually**, in words which the Holy Ghost teaches and is not comparing natural things with natural, but spiritual things with spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:12, 14)!

When all these things happen, the Lord says in Matthew 24:30, "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven . . ."

For there will be a company of believers that will not be moved by any of these things, a remnant, those who endure unto the end, and shall be saved (Matthew 24:13), that will remain alive, who are virgins (Revelations 14:4), whose light (the life of Christ within) will not go out (Matthew 24:7 - 10), but having put on the whole armour of God are able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand! (Ephesians 6:13)! It will be a company who has come into ". . . the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13)! Christ fully formed in them and they fully established in Christ! Just as Jesus taught his disciples in John 14:20, "At that day ye shall know that **I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.**"

In verse 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, "Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?" What did Jesus answer? Verse 23: "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we** will come unto him, and make **our abode with him.**" The bow and string of the battle bow will take up residence **in the** clouds of heaven, fulfilling the sign of the covenant with the whole earth and every living creature, fulfilling also the prayer of Jesus in John 17:20 - 26, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and has loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto

them **thy name**, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be **in them**, and **I in them.**"

No wonder it says in Romans 8:18 that ". . . the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed **in us!**" Verse 19: "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God."

Verse 21 - 23: "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

The whole earth and all of creation is waiting for this grand event, for it knows that there will be no deliverance from the bondage of corruption until the Lord has brought forth his sons that will have been the first partakers of the fruit and thereby made ready to rule and reign with Him a thousand years in righteousness. At the time of the darkest hour that this world has ever seen, when all the lights of heaven will have gone out and the powers of the heaven will be shaken, Jesus says in Matthew 24:30, "And then shall appear **the sign of the Son of man** in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see **the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**"

Malachi saw it this way: Malachi 3:1 - 3, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to **his temple**, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them

as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Likewise, Paul wrote to the church, "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and **spiritual** understanding" (Colossians 1:9); "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that **ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.**" (Ephesians 3:19).

My prayer for all who read this study is that you might be filled with the knowledge of the Lord's will in all wisdom and **spiritual** understanding that you might walk worthy of the Lord and fulfill the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints.

Colossians 1:27, "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!!**"  
AMEN.