

THE REVELATION OF RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT SERIES

PART 13

"JUDGMENT AT THE HOUSE"

(CONTINUED)

I Peter 4:17... *"For the time is come that JUDGMENT MUST BEGIN AT THE HOUSE OF GOD..."*

II Thess. 2:6-7... *"And now ye know what withholdeth that he (the man of sin) might be revealed in his time. For THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY DOTH ALREADY WORK: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. AAnd then shall that wicked be revealed, WHOM THE LORD SHALL CONSUME BY THE SPIRIT OF HIS MOUTH, AAND SHALL DESTROY BY THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS COMING..."*

No matter where you might travel...from the deep, dark heart of the Amazon jungles, to the towering cement jungles of New York; from the simple native villages of South Africa, to the high-rise, high-tech world of Tokyo; from the ancient, first-century surroundings of Rome, to the modern, twentieth-century environment of Hollywood; there is one thing that you will invariably discover: Adam's influence has been universal! Talk to the Ukrainian, the Arab, the Australian, or the Texan; observe the Korean, the Irishman, the Mexican, or the Alaskan; inquire of the Indian, the Greek, the Asian, or the American; there is no denying this underlying truth. For those who are honest about the situation, the conclusion is unavoidable: the image of the first man, the old man of sin, has covered the globe! Like a massive stone figure that refuses to be ignored, it rises up from the dust of the earth, intruding upon the panorama of humanity's history. Without exception, it has been evidenced in every generation that has ever come and gone through the annals of time! It is certainly not a new thing; nor can it be relegated to the past. The image of him who was of "the earth, earthy" still remains largely seen. In fact, it is bigger than ever! We might say that as humanity grows---so grows Adam! His image is increasing daily, as the population increases!

Beyond the racial, religious, political, class, and cultural differences that exist between nations and peoples, it is obvious that there are basic human tendencies that are common among us all. It matters not whether we be prince or pauper, bureaucrat or beggar, scientist or scavenger, this distressing fact is attested to on every level of human life! It is just there...looming up before us...overshadowing the landscape of mortal existence like an overstated, obnoxious, and offensive billboard on the freeway of life. It daily demands our attention, routinely reminding us of it's all- pervading influence! Regardless of the direction we turn, we are nevertheless confronted by it. There is just no escaping it's presence! Yet no matter how much we hate it, the truth of the matter is that at one time or another, we have all made our own private contribution to Adam's worldwide identity. In

our own small, personal way, each of us has helped to define his ever- expanding image in the earth...simply by "following the leader"!

In our last message, we began addressing this matter of image building; that is, the tendency we all have to develop our own self-image (which directly contributes to the construction of the universal image). From the earliest times of recorded history, men have naturally been inclined to build images. Through the unbounded use of their imaginations, they fashioned their gods with great supernatural abilities; yet it seemed they were always restrained to present them with the familiar characteristic likenesses of themselves. The heathen gods of Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, Mesopotamia; the mythological gods of Greece and Rome; the ancient deities of the Aztecs; the innumerable gods of Africa; many of these were imagined to have possessed fantastic powers; yet all were endowed with the nature and features of carnal man (or sometimes a mixture of man and beast). Because this was the highest form of life they could possibly envision (as far as their mind's eye could see), their objects of worship never exceeded the image of their own corrupted hearts! But why this need to build images? What compelled men to do so?

Our answer is found in the beginning. When God first created man, He did so with a specific purpose in mind. Long before He ever made the first element in the physical universe; before He ever formed the first planet, or star, or heavenly body, and set them in their orbits; and before He added detail to our own planet earth, sprinkling it with life forms of flora and fauna; He had this purpose within Himself. Everything that came forth from the creative hand of God during the first six working days of "creation week" was leading up to this grand and glorious purpose. This higher-than-all purpose was summarized by the simple command: "Let us make man in our image, and after our likeness: and let them have dominion..." (Gen. 1:26). Here we see that God's main intention, His highest aim, His chief desire was to have a man in His image, fashioned after His likeness, who would be able to express His life and nature to the rest of His creation. He desired a man who would stand upon the earth with the life of God coursing through his members; who would link heaven and earth within himself, who would unite the Creator to His creation. He sought for one whom He could embody; who would personify His characteristics perfectly; who would possess His thoughts, speak His words, and act in accordance with His high and holy standard. In other words, He purposed to have a man who would literally become THE REVELATION OF GOD to all other realms and forms of life. So after the Lord God formed man's body from the dust of the earth, He "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" (Gen. 2:7). Just as the natural formation of the earth came about by the Spirit of God moving like a mighty Wind over "the face of the deep", even so, this wondrous, creative process of image-building began by the breath of His mouth!

As the man daily walked and talked with God in the garden, he was progressively learning the right ways of the Lord; he was steadily gaining insight into the mysteries of His life. He was given the rare and unique privilege of beholding God's image, in Spirit and in truth; and as a result, he was being changed into that same image from one degree of glory to another. It was precisely in this manner that God was building His image into

Adam. He was taking the things that Adam was discovering about himself through his self-consciousness (which was located in his soul), and those things that were being "breathed" into him through his God-consciousness (in his spirit), and perfectly blending them into one holy personality! Truly, Adam was the first of a new and different type of creation, unlike anything that had come before him! He was uniquely designed to bear God's image!

As the Lord continued this process, and Adam responded positively to it, there was formed within his consciousness a sense of security. He knew that he was safe from hurt or harm, as long as he walked in the path of God. He found his identity in union with God...and the bright radiance of his personality attested to the light within. (We might say that Adam, in his original state, born from the womb of the morning of time, was the "STAR" of God's show! He was, in very truth, "THE MORNING STAR", shining forth with the life of God!) We find that he was perfectly innocent; and totally uninhibited. The Spirit of holiness covered his brow! He understood who he was in the divine scheme of things...and knew that he was who he was by the definite intentional purpose of God. He had a sense of dignity about him, as well as a sense of value...for he knew he was a king, the son of the King! Furthermore, he had an unshakable confidence, while he was under the direct authority and headship of the Divine. He had it all going for him! The moment he stepped out of union, however, and chose to create his image independently, rather than conform to the image of God, he suffered from an identity crisis! He became lost, confused, disoriented, without any sense of significance or direction for his life...yet keenly aware of his exposure and vulnerability. Therefore, instinctively, out of sheer necessity, he reached for a substitute covering, to hide his nakedness...and his offspring have been doing the same ever since!

THE COVERING CHERUB

Long buried under a mound of man-made theology is what we believe to be a very rare and valuable portrait of Adam's first estate (as well as his plummet into perdition). This prophetic picture is just waiting for us to excavate it from the twenty-eighth chapter of Ezekiel. If you have your spiritual "pick and shovel", we invite you to do a little Bible "archeology" with us. Are you ready? (We only request that you remain with the "search party" until the exhumation is over. Then you may draw your conclusions).

As we arrive at the "excavation site" (we will assume that you've turned there in your Bibles), one of the first things we can all safely determine is that there is a two-fold meaning intended here. While we believe that this prophecy was basically directed toward individuals then living in Ezekiel's day, having an immediate application to that particular time period (though couched in highly symbolic language), it seems apparent to us that a deeper meaning and reference was also intended. As you recall, two characters were addressed in this chapter, "the Prince of Tyrus", and "the King of Tyrus" (many commentators think that both references applied to the same person). However, it is our persuasion that in a general sense, these titles referred respectively to the then enthroned sovereign of Tyre, Ithbaal II, and his immediate spiritual superior, the High Priest of Israel. Why would we say that? Well, historically, Israel was recognized as the

true head of the nations (Gen. 12:3; Deut. 28:13), and Tyre had been a spiritual ally with her since the time of King David. In fact, they even assisted Solomon in the building of the Temple (I Kings 9:26-28). At the time of this prophecy, however, Tyre had gone astray (along with several other nations), as a result of Israel's apostasy (this is shown at length in the first twenty-three chapters of Ezekiel). And it was the sins of the High Priest, the spiritual guardian and protector of the Temple, that had influenced the Prince of Tyre. (This would explain how much of the language could be used symbolically in this chapter: the Most Holy Place, where the High Priest alone walked, likened to "the garden of Eden"; the gem-covered breastplate of the High Priest, described in the words, "every precious stone was thy covering" [note that nine of the very same jewels worn by the High Priest are listed here in verse 13]; and Mount Moriah, the Temple site, referred to as "the holy mountain of God"). These were prophetic terms the Israelites would have all been familiar with, and recognized immediately.

Be it known that it is not a major concern to us whether "the Prince" and "the King of Tyrus" were one person or two. (The only reason we felt it necessary to even mention it was to remind our readers that the High Priest, majestically arrayed in his garments "for beauty and glory", did serve as a representative. He was undeniably a symbolic figure, whose every minute detail described the glory of one who was before him). Nevertheless, what is needful is that we recognize both addresses to be drawn from A SINGLE CHARACTER. Make no mistake about it: the imagery was definitely borrowed from another time, taken from another setting. Now, we know that this passage has traditionally been used as one of the "proof-texts" for the teaching that the devil was once a holy angel, who presided over an earthly kingdom (supposedly during an undetermined amount of time between Gen. 1:1 and verse 2). This belief has led many to err, forcing them to leave the revealed testimony of Scripture, and venture off into wild speculation. While it is not our intention here to deviate into a lengthy debate about the origin of the devil, or to refute the so-called "Gap Theory", a simple fact should show that these scriptures cannot be descriptive of some pre-existent state of satan (intentionally not capitalized); nor does it speak of some presumed pre-Adamic reign he is imagined to have had. Think about it for a moment. According to the popular account, this was supposed to have been satan's condition sometime before Adam came into the picture, at a time period when he was to have been in power over the earth. But because of a failed attempt to "ascend into heaven", and "exalt his throne above the stars of God" (Isa. 14:13), he was said to have been cast back down to earth, and stripped of his authority and glory (we will not take time to go into the details). This all sounds reasonable, considering what we have had programmed into our minds over the years. There is only one problem that surfaces with this hypothesis, however; and that is that this foregoing description in Ezekiel is given of one who had "been in Eden the garden of God" (Ezek. 28:13). It was here that all these conditions was to have existed...and yet, the garden of Eden did not exist until after the creation of Adam! "And the Lord God formed man...and planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed" (Gen. 2:7-8)! Do you see the conflict here? Now, unless we make the foolish and unbiblical assumption that there was a place called "the garden of Eden" somewhere before the Genesis account (which, believe it or not, some have ignorantly done, in order to explain away this doctrinal dilemma), there was only one individual in "Eden the

garden of God", who was commissioned to "dress and keep (Heb. guard) it"; there was only one who was ever given dominion "over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth"; and there was only one who was present there that was ever "set up by God", and "anointed" to "cover", or protect His creation (Ezek. 28:14); and that individual was ADAM! Despite what you may have been taught in the past, the devil was never given such authority...not any time before, or any time since! (Some stumble at the word "cherub", saying that this automatically disqualifies Adam. But according to Dr. Strong, the word in Hebrew means, "an imaginary figure". Dr. Young gives it as, "one grasped, or held fast". In other words, a "cherub" speaks of one who is held fast to serving as a symbolic representation, or of a figure which is apprehended and used for the purpose of illustration. It's name does not specify whether the figure be male or female, angelic or human. To argue one way or the other is really missing the point. Besides, it's appearance is not intended to be taken literally. It is specifically designed for the purpose of symbolism. The best definition we have come across for "cherub", or it's plural form, "cherubim", is that they represent the ruling powers through which God acts in the moral and natural world. Now, that would include Adam, the one whom God intentionally made to represent Him in the earth, wouldn't it? But, of course)!

Let us take notice. Here is one who says, "I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas" (though God says to him, "yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God"; Ezek. 28:2); and here is one who is said to have "sealed up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty" (verse 12); who was perfect in his ways from the day that he was created, till iniquity was found in him (verse 15); whose heart was lifted up because of his beauty, and corrupted his wisdom by reason of his brightness (verse 17); and who, as a result, was cast as profane out of the mountain of God (verse 16). Who could possibly match the profile better than Adam? Seeing that God Himself called this individual "a man", we really don't have any other choices, do we?

Now that we have safely reached this deduction, we are free to examine this ancient figure without distraction. Exactly what is meant by the words, "thou sealest up the sum"? The Hebrew word for seal, "CHATHAM", means, "to close up, to seal: make an end, mark, or stop". It has to do with coming to the end, or completion of a thing, so that nothing more can be added. The word for sum, "TOKNIYTH", means, "admeasurement, i.e. consummation: pattern, sum". This is taken from another word, "TOKEN", which means, "a fixed quantity, or measure". Finally, the root word that both of these words stem from is "TAKAN". It means, "to balance, i.e. to measure out (by weight or dimension); to arrange, equalize, through the idea of leveling". Therefore, by bringing these words together, we come to the singular meaning of one who marks, or makes an end to the pattern; one who has been sealed with the fixed quantity of the sum, or who bears the seal of full measure. It speaks of one who is properly balanced, equally arranged, or correctly leveled. We also read that he was "full of wisdom, perfect in beauty". By taking this into the account, then, we might say that, up to the point to which he had advanced, Adam was originally level-headed in his judgment. He was emotionally well-balanced; and he was adequately equipped to accomplish the task he was set up to

perform. He was considered to be filled with godly wisdom, radiating the bright and beautiful state of perfection to the rest of the creation.

We likewise read of him, "Every precious stone was thy covering..." (verse 13). There may be different ways we could view this, but we believe that in order to apprehend its proper meaning, it must be directly linked with verse 14: "thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire". As is revealed through the pattern of Scripture, these "stones of fire" represent the foundational truths, or brilliant revelations God was imparting to Adam, as they went for their daily "walks". The "precious stones" were the works, or outstanding characteristics which developed as a result of those truths (we will further confirm these thoughts a little later in our studies). As Adam walked in the midst of these sparkling revelations, they were also producing his "covering". The Lord was progressively unveiling the various facets of His image to his wondering heart by the witness of the stones; and in turn, they were becoming a vital part of his personality. As he built upon these foundational principles, they were directly effecting Adam's life. In fact, we could say that his steps were actually ordered by the Spirit of the stones. He was led by the revelatory principles and precepts which spake from within them. Of a truth, his image was being "hewn" from the Solid Rock of God's incorruptible Word; and what a magnificent "sculpture" this was! He was developing quite nicely!

He was, as the prophet described him, "the anointed cherub that covereth" (verse 14). The Hebrew word for "anointed" carries the meaning of "expansion; outspread (i.e. with outstretched wings)". And the word for "cover" means, "to entwine as a screen; to fence in, cover over, protect, or defend". Figuratively speaking, then, we might say that as Adam stood upon the Mount of God, his "wings" were extended over all the works of God's hands. That is, his anointing encompassed the globe! As God's chosen representative, as His anointed king and priest, he was ordained to protect and defend it, to maintain a proper balance in nature, and to influence it with righteousness. This was all a part of his covering responsibility, while he abode under the shadow of the Almighty. He was given the oversight thereof.

"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee". Note that the word "ways", from the original, is defined as: "a road (as trodden); fig. a course of life, or mode of action". That is to say, from the beginning of his creation, his course of life and mode of action was perfect in the sight of God...right up to the time when iniquity was found in him. Then he took the wrong road!

What happened? Adam took his eyes off of the image of God, and fastened them on himself. Like the mythological Narcissus, who, while gazing into a pool of water fell so deeply in love with his own reflected image that he eventually fell in and drowned, Adam became so infatuated with the beauty of his image, so challenged by the suggestion that he could continue to become like God without God's assistance, that he lost his balance, and fell from his holy place of union with God, and from the proper perspective he had attained through his God-consciousness, into the dark, murky waters of self-consciousness. As the Scriptures say, his heart was lifted up because of his beauty, and his wisdom was corrupted because of his brightness. Or, to put it simply, beauty

distracted him, pride engulfed him...and so he plunged headlong into the depths of himself. He was helplessly, hopelessly lost in self-love!

(Now, some might wonder, if Adam was perfect, how could he fall from this state? And, if it is true that he did, what hope does that leave us? There is a simple explanation for this. While Adam was perfect in the sense of complete or entire, possessing all the essential elements that would be required to develop into God's image, he was not yet perfect in the sense of maturity. As we all well know, this requires both time and testing. He had everything that he would ever need to develop into spiritual manhood...except for experience! This was the one thing that he lacked!)

Therefore, because of his departure, the Lord said to him, "therefore I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire...I will cast thee to the ground...I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: THOU SHALT BE A TERROR, AND NEVER SHALT THOU BE ANY MORE"!

What God was saying was this: because Adam had chosen to go his own way, and to develop his own image independently of Him, he would no longer be free to walk in the midst of the high realm of revelation, upon the foundational "stones of fire". He would be driven out from this place where he received divine direction, where God's image was revealed to him. (The word "destroy", as used in the King James Translation, is "ABAD" in Hebrew. It means, "to wander away, i.e. to lose oneself; by impl. to perish"). He would be cast down to the lower realm of carnality (the ground); he would lose his beauty (glory); and, when put to the test, the image he would build for himself would assuredly be reduced to "ashes" in the consuming fires of God's judgment. To be sure, all who recognized him throughout the ensuing ages would be astonished at him; but the time would come when his identity would be no more! It was destined to go up in smoke, when once God blew upon it with His fiery breath (Psa. 18:8)!

Incidentally, there is a good reason why the Lord would refer to Adam here as "the king of Tyrus". The name "Tyrus" literally means, "a rock" (this is attributed to the fact that the city of Tyre was actually built on a rocky island, about a half-mile from the mainland). It comes from another word, which means, "a stone---pressed hard or to a point like a knife". And this word comes from a primary root word, meaning, "to cramp, confine (usually hostile), adversary, assault, beset, besiege, bind up, distress, inclose, lay siege". How very appropriate! In spiritual terms, then, we could well say that he, who had once "walked among the stones of fire", who once had every precious stone for his covering, who had experienced the light and perfection of God's glory, and was being built upon "the Rock of ages", had now become THE KING OF AN ADVERSE ROCK! The revelations he now walked according to, and the principles he now stood upon were hostile to the purposes of God; for they were limited to producing the works of the flesh. This explains why they would confine, distress, and assault those who would afterward be subjected to them. They collectively comprised THE ROCK OF OPPRESSION!

"ADAM'S ROCK"

Beloved, there is much we can learn from this remarkable discovery...and much we could say at this point. The sound and stable condition Adam enjoyed at the first is almost beyond our words to describe. His glorious experience of walking upon the glowing, illuminating "stones of witness", with the Spirit of inspiration blowing upon his understanding, was surely breath-taking, to say the least! However, when he fell from this place of divine awareness, and descended into the narcissistic state of self-centeredness (thereby producing "the man of sin"), he took all of humanity with him. Because he was the head of the human race, his decision effected every last member of his species. Is not this truth self-evident? We might say that when he left "the mount of God", he led his offspring down to an isolated rock, unto a lonely isle apart from God ("in the midst of the seas", Ezek. 28:2), unto a land whose foundational principles opposed the way of the Spirit. He subjected them to the realm of vanity; where the emphasis is on self. What shall we call this God-forsaken place? And what shall we call this land where Adam so inconsiderately led his children into captivity, where he secretly controls the souls of men? For want of a better name, we might call it, "the rock of I"!

Without drawing too much attention to it (it does enough of that by itself), we will say this much about the "rock of I". At first glance, it seems as if there is great freedom and liberty of expression there. Everyone appears to be free to build his or her own personal image according to their discretion (this is exactly the way Adam wants it to seem). It is the place where "I" can do it "my way"; where "I" can act however "I" choose to act, where "I" can think whatever "I" desire to think, and "I" can portray myself any way "I" choose (regardless if it is based on truth or not)...without any outside help or influence. It is the place where "I" get to sit in the seat of God...where everything centers upon, and revolves around "I"! Sounds like the perfect place to express one's self, doesn't it? This is, as we said, at first glance. The truth of the matter is that those who build on "the rock of I" are actually members of Adam's genetic "chain-gang"! They are "inmates" on Adam's "Alcatraz"! For while they think of themselves as free, they are really prisoners within themselves; "convicts" of carnality; slaving away in the "quarries" from whence the old man's image is produced! Whether they are aware of it or not, they are simply contributing to his cause!

Though in Adam, all men were sentenced to hard labor on the "isle of self", not all have been content to remain there. Throughout history, a cry has come up before God. This cry has come from those who have recognized the futility of building up their own images, and have sought to escape from themselves. The accumulative voices of saints from all ages can be heard in the lone prayer of David, "From the ends of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the Rock that is higher than I" (Psa. 61:2)! In times of trouble, when men's hearts have been overwhelmed, when God has arisen "to shake terribly the earth" (Isa. 2:19, 21), and they have come to "the ends of their earth", they have learned that they could not count on some image which had been carved from "the rock of I". Yea, they have come to realize (many times the hard way) that they could not "enter into the rock, and hide themselves in the dust" (Isa. 2:10); nor could they trust in "the holes of the rocks, and the caves of the earth" for their safety (Isa. 2:19, 21; see also Rev. 6:12-17)! There was but one Rock they knew they could take refuge in, and that was, "the Rock that is higher than I"! Truly, for those who have sought

Him in times of need, our God has provided "the shadow of a great Rock in a weary land" (Isa. 32:2; the amazing thing about this, however, is that many times He has done this for us, even while we were still captives in "the weary land"! His mercy is simply unfathomable)!

It seems like a little-known truth, and certainly one that the old man would like to keep from us indefinitely, but when Christ came, He offered an alternative to Adam's prisoners. Not only did He demonstrate what it was like to live a life that was totally abandoned to the Father ("I of Mine own self can do nothing"); He also made it possible for as many as would receive Him to escape from "the rock of I", as well. He came "to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isa. 61:1)! Therefore, no longer do we have to hide behind our old Adamic identities; and no longer do we have to rely on the strength of our human wit and reason for survival. This is because in Christ, the old things are passed away, and behold, He makes all things new (II Cor. 5:17)! What a reason to rejoice! We can have our images rebuilt in Him! He restores us to the place where we can behold the image of God for ourselves, and, as a result, we can produce His likeness in the earth. So contrary to what Adam may tell us, we DO NOT have to base our lives on the principles of the past! We DO NOT have to live according to his lines of reasoning! We DO NOT have to be led by the spirit of selfishness, lust, and greed, as do the sons of disobedience! Christ has provided us with an option! We can live in Him!

Even in it's most appealing form, the best Adam's image can ever offer us is ashes. It cannot survive the fires of testing! Though it may seem strong, secure, and self-confident from the outside; and though it might feel comfortable to us for a season, bringing a certain amount of attention and glory to us; underneath are still the same tendencies Adam experienced when he first fell...insecurity, insignificance, inferiority, etc. This becomes evident when the heat is on! He is absolutely helpless to change this!

However, Christ offers to give us "beauty for ashes" (Isa. 61:3). That is, He offers us the opportunity to break free from our former selves now, to abandon the personality traits that we have formed independently of Him in the past, that we might be hid "with Christ in God" (Col.3:3). Praise God! While it must be understood that we cannot retain our old lives, nor any of their expressions, we can exchange the ashes of Adam's faulty image for the beauty of God's divine nature! In Christ, "the Rock of our salvation", we can find the security we all need and long for. In Him are all the provisions we could ever need! In Him are the answers to every problem in life! So while others look to the growing number of psychiatrists and psychologists for help in understanding themselves, we will "look unto the Rock whence we are hewn, and to the hole of the pit (quarry) whence we are digged" (Isa. 51:1)! Seeing that we are His workmanship, "mined" out of the rich vein of His divine life, why should we look elsewhere?

As we rapidly approach the end of this present age, there is another image rising on the horizon. It is increasing in stature even as we speak. This glorious image is comprised of various individuals scattered throughout the globe, who, for the most part are unknown to one another after the flesh, but have been joined together by the Spirit. These are they

that are escaping "the rock of I"; that are judging the flesh, and are ascending God's holy hill in Zion. Hallelujah! This blessed company of unidentified ones has been led to the Rock that is higher than "I", where they are willingly falling upon the Rock, deliberately breaking themselves, and are finding their true identities in Him (Matt. 21:44)! They are no longer interested in making themselves a reputation...of any sort! They just want to please Him!

Furthermore, as they are privileged to behold the image of God, they are currently being changed to conform to that image. As was testified by those who "saw the God of Israel", that "there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness" (Ex. 24:10), these, too, are learning to walk upon "the stones of fire" (the revelation), and, as a result, are being adorned with "precious stones" (reality). They are beginning to look like the Rock Himself!

Dear friends, we have everything to be encouraged about! A new day is about to dawn! We are about to witness some of the most dramatic changes in all of recorded history; and the changes begin with us! We have a promise, which glistens like a fiery stone in our pathway. It says, "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" (I Cor.15:49)! Now, that's one jewel we can stand on! Rejoice!

to be continued..

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