

Two kinds of Women

In this meditation, we will be looking into the topic: "THE TWO KINDS OF WOMEN". Recall that for some time now, we have been taking our discussion from the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. And, we are doing so in proclaiming the message that Jesus Christ is sending to His church today. The principles of the relevant truth abound in all scriptures.

Now, there are two main divisions in the book of Revelation. We have said that over and over again. The first division deals with the Lord's inspection of the seven representative churches. In Revelation 1:11, you will find that in the vision God gave to the apostle John, seven representative churches, symbolised in seven golden candlesticks were shown, with the Lord Jesus Christ walking in the midst of these candlesticks, speaking to them concerning their conditions. That is covered in Revelation 1, 2 and 3. And in verses 19 and 20 of Revelation 1, we are shown that the book of Revelation would consist of the things, which are, and the things, which shall be hereafter. This is a very important observation and should be noted very carefully.

In the very first verse of Revelation 4, we are introduced into the second division of the book of Revelation, that is, the things, which shall be hereafter. We are called up in the spirit to ascend to a heavenly position to see things, as they shall be. Things as they shall be drawn from a considerations of the warnings the Lord had given to the churches in Revelation 1, 2 and 3, and the response he was calling from them. Those who faithfully respond to His warnings and turn in repentance and submission to His will comes to a heavenly course. While those who live their lives, ruling themselves and not giving attention to the warnings of the Lord Jesus Christ take on an

earthly course that leads to shame and dishonour.

And, in the recent few editions, we have been comparing the two kinds of developments issuing from that same congregation of God's people.

And, we have looked at the two kinds of cities, the two kinds of lambs and the two kinds of streets. In this meditation, we will be taking two kinds of women. Our consideration will be drawn from Revelation 12, for there we find the first kind of woman. She follows a faithful course, a life of repentance, and obedience to the Lord's call and warnings and receiving help from the Lord takes on a heavenly course. The second woman, the unfaithful woman is given to us in Revelation 17.

In this meditation, we will dwell measurably on the faithful woman.

This will enable us to see things in clear perspective. Revelation 12:1-5:

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

And she being with child cries, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

And she brought forth a man-child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up to God, and to His throne."

We begin our meditation by asking, Who is this woman? We begin to answer this by taking note of what this woman does not represent, so that we can better appreciate what she stands for in these scriptures.

First, it is generally believed that this woman is Mary. The consideration taken for this position is in verse 5. Verse 5 says, ".and she brought forth a man child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron, and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne.". Thus, identifying this child to be Jesus, it is commonly believed that the woman who gave birth to him must be Mary, the Virgin Mary, the Mary mentioned in the gospel as the wife of Joseph.

This will not be true, for, we know that Mary was a virgin and had not had any child prior to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ (the human Jesus). But, in the 17th verse of this chapter, we are told that this woman in question had given birth to many children before the birthing of this man-child. Thus, the woman cannot be Mary.

Let us read Revelation 12:17:

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman (that is the woman who brought forth the man-child), and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

So, here, we find that the woman have had many children before.

"The remnant of her seed" means "The remaining of her children". Thus, without doubt, we know the woman cannot be Mary.

Now, some suppose that this woman must be speaking of the fleshly Israel. And that since Jesus Christ came of the tribe of Judah, He is of Israel. Therefore, the woman is said to be a composite woman and stands for the church of the Old Testament. Again, this can be faulted, in two counts. First, we know that, the Lord Jesus Christ was the one who established the New Covenant (Testament). We are told that the woman is standing upon the moon and clothed with the sun. The sun represents the New Testament in its capacity to give life to the Lord's people when the Holy Spirit quickens it. Again, you will recall that Jesus Christ appeared to John the apostle in the isles of Patmos, about A. D. 95. And he was to write the things

which were and the things which shall be hereafter, that is, things that were future to that date. If you will turn with me to Revelation 4, we will read what we have referred to several times in this edition. Revelation 4:1 :

"After this, I looked....."

After what, one may ask? It is after events in the letters that the Lord Jesus Christ caused John to write to the seven churches have transpired. In that first episode, the Lord was concerned with discussing with John the failures, weaknesses or strength of those congregations that represented all of the Lord's people who were then physically alive. So, he says,

"after these, I looked.... And behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."

So, from chapter 4 to the end of the book of Revelation, all the things that were shown were things future to A. D. 95. For we know that the birthing of the man-child is something that takes place much later. That is important.

Now, let us go back to Revelation 12. If this woman is not Israel and she is not Mary, how do we explain verse 5, for verse 5 has an obvious reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. And, we answer in the affirmative that the man-child stands for Christ, but not Christ the head, but Christ the body. All scriptures speak of Christ, ".for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Revelation 19:10b) "Ye search the scripture, for in them ye think you have eternal life, but they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39). So all scriptures speak of Christ the head primarily, and then Christ the body.

Now, if you will turn with me to Revelation 2, you will find that the promise of rulership over the nations in the age to come is also

made
to the church. (Revelation 2:24-27)

"But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as
have
not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as
they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that
overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give
power over the nations:

And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a
potter
shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."

Notice the way verse 27 ends, ".even as I received of my Father."
So Christ has this position of being the head over the kingdom of
heaven. But those who overcome, who are brought into full grown
Sonship, who have a part in the kingdom that is to be revealed,
shall
share with Him in the rulership function. So, verse 5 of
Revelation
12 speaks of Christ, but not Christ the head, but Christ the body,
those in the church who overcome and are brought into full union
with
the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, Let us come back to the matter of who this woman is. You will
notice that at the beginning, we said that the Lord was interested
in
showing the apostle John, the future of those evil tendencies in
His
people when they are fully developed. He was saying to them
several
times in those seven letters, ".repent, repent from those things
that
are evil, a little leaven, leaveneth the whole lump, if you do not
repent, this is the way things will be hereafter.". So, the
visible
church systems, since John's day broke into two contrasting lines,
the faithful taking on such characteristics we saw of the true city
and of the true lamb. You will also find out that the unfaithful
becomes as the great city (Revelation 11:8) the street of the
earth,
and now, the harlot woman (Revelation 17).

So, we are looking at two kinds of women, the one in Revelation 12, the faithful woman, and the other in Revelation 17, and the harlot woman.

Now, let us come to the first five verses of Revelation 12 and attempt to give an exposition:

"And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars."

Now, this woman stands for the church. Somebody may ask, "if this woman stands for the church, how then can we understand verse 17 which showed that the woman had given birth to some children prior to the birth of the man-child?" We would answer that fully when discussing the characteristics of the seed, the triumphant seed that comes to the estate of the man-child, you will get an understanding.

But, let us first agree that in scriptures that the woman is sometimes used to symbolise the church. Both man and woman are sometimes used to symbolise the church, but the woman as a symbol for the church is the more commonly understood figure. In Isaiah 54 for example, we are told ".break forth O barren, thou that did not bear.", and the seventeen verses of the chapter discusses things that pertain to the church in a prophetic language. In Ephesians 5, that is also very clear. The church is set forth as a woman in relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, she as bride and the Lord as bridegroom. In the closing verses of that chapter, Paul tells us this is a mystery, Paul was teaching on the relationship between a man and his wife and ended up by saying ".this is a mystery, but I speak concerning the church and Christ."

So, we notice further that this woman was said to be pregnant. What made this woman pregnant? You will recall (see Language of Prophecy) that the moon, if the context so allows is the word of God quickened to the understanding of the believer by the ministry of the Holy

Spirit. The sun speaks of Christ as the living Word ministering and imparting life to the church. Galatians 4 helps us to know what makes this woman pregnant. Taking the history of Abraham, we are told that Abraham had two wives, the one was Sarah the rightful wife, and the other was Hagar. We are told that Abraham had a child of Hagar by the flesh. Hagar had Ishmael in the power of the flesh. It was a biological seed. But something curious was said of Sarah. It was said that Sarah gave birth to Isaac by the promise. Isaac was said to be a child of the promise. The ministration of the promises of the scripture, gives to church a burden for that which is indicated. This may be compared with a woman receiving seed in pregnancy. Now, the Lord makes us to see something of His will, as the promises are ministered. When we understand and desire them, we begin to long for their fulfilment in our lives. Consequently, we are pregnant with something. And as we continue to seek the face of the Lord and ponder over these promises, there comes a time when the pregnancy is fully developed and comes to full term.

Now, you will recall that in Christ's letters to the seven churches, certain promises are made. They are things that the Lord Jesus Christ was relying upon to secure an obedient response from His people. By deriving strength from these promises, the people were expected to break free from the things that were contrary to God. Later, we shall be able to talk more on these promises. We shall then be better positioned to understand what is meant here that the woman being with child travailing in birth and pained to be delivered. But these promises were made by Christ to provoke the listeners unto a faithful response. The promises do not speak of what we will receive when we go to heaven, when we share in the celestial glory of the Almighty God. Rather, the promises are indicative of things that the Lord will build into His people as they grow up into the fullness of Christ. With the seventh promise exempted, all others are to be fulfilled in the believer on this side of our walk with God, before we come into the fullness of life in Him.

For example, the first promise says ".to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the paradise of God.". The sixth promise says, ".he that overcometh I will make a pillar in the temple of my God, he will no longer go out and I will write upon him the name of the city of my God which is New Jerusalem and I will write upon him my new name.". Of course, we notice that in Revelation 14, the promise is fulfilled for the 144,000 other lambs that stand with the principal lamb (the Lord Jesus Christ) on mount Zion.

So, the promises are the things that provoke the woman to seek the Lord for a new life, a new level of grace and walk with Him indicated in the promises.

We will be closing with what we promised we would do. What are the characteristics of the seed? In Genesis 22, a promise is made to Abraham. It is made to Abraham and his seed. Galatians 3:6 assures us that the seed is Christ. And verse 29 of the same chapter says it is Christ the head and Christ the body. It says, ".if we be Abraham's seed, then we have put on Christ.". What will be fulfilled, what will be worked into the overcoming church when fully fulfilled in the believer makes him an overcomer. And, no power on earth, underneath the earth or anywhere can overcome such a one.

So, let us turn to Genesis 22. The reason why the remnant of the seed was messed up by the dragon was because they did not develop all of these characteristics to their full estate. Although they moved in the power, grace and glory of God, nevertheless, they fall short of that man-child life revealed in Revelation 12:5. So, come with me to Genesis 22:16

"By myself have I sworn saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of 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."

There are three distinct characteristics when fully worked into the believer make him as a seed of Christ indeed, a full-grown seed. And, we just quickly name these three:

1. First, the seed shall be as the stars of heaven and of the sand upon (not in the sea, but upon) the seashore, overcoming certain things.

2. The seed is to possess the gate of their enemies. Thus, it is a fighting and triumphant seed.

3. In the seed, all nations of the earth are to be blessed. It is a seed receiving capacity to minister The life of God unto others, bringing salvation, deliverance, healing etc.

These three characteristics, when fully developed in a people make them overcomers. Not one, not two, but all three. One of the weaknesses of the remnant of the woman's seed discussed in Revelation 12:17 is that they did not develop all three characteristics to their fullness.

The Lord bless you, the Lord cause His face to shine upon you. You can consider this meditation as just an introduction to Revelation 12. As the Lord leads us, we will take in fuller details several aspects of the message in this chapter. The Lord keeps you, in Jesus name. AMEN.

In our next meditation, we will be considering the topic "A WIFE GOING ASIDE". We once again covet your prayers. May the good Lord of this harvest prosper His harvest as He prosper His work in you and you in His harvest. Once again, remain blessed in Him.

