Jacob's Awakening Part 2

Introduction

Eph. 1:18 "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."

The purpose of this article is to challenge it's reader to seek, to search, to cry out to see Jesus.

"I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled (Song of Songs 5:2)"

If your heart is asleep right now, then my prayer is that at the voice of your Beloved you would get up out of your bed and start calling out to see Jesus. The end of such a search is the glorious union of Christ and His Church. This union not only fulfills the heart of Jesus, it fills us with His Life, and is able to flow forth filling the earth with His glory.

Please Wake Up!!!

There are many in the Body of Christ who appear asleep outwardly but have Life on the inside. They need to be more than simply stirred by a powerful sermon or temporarily shaken to attention by some outward crisis, they need to awaken out from their death-like trance. They need to awaken from a slumber that has kept them in a state of blindness to their oneness with the Risen Son. They need to awaken to the fact that they are a part of the Lord's Body and know that God's very house is us. These sleepers need to awaken to righteousness. Jacob was a sleeper until God woke Him up. God wakes us up by opening our eyes to see Jesus in such a way that brings us to life again; His Life in us! Those who are awake might seem foreign among a society of sleepers. Those who are awake are aware of the Living God in the manner that a body is aware of it's Head. They move in a way that is free from religion yet full of fruit. To know God's will comes easily for they can see His works to do them, much as Jesus did what He saw His father doing (*Jn. 5:19*). This doing comes from a flowing in oneness, where it is the Life of Christ in us fulfilling these works (*Col. 1:29*).

Imagine what the world would look like if you had been in a coma your whole life. Even the smallest ray of sunshine and the tiniest flower would hold great beauty to your eyes just for the ability to see it. If all you could fathom in your coma was an imagination of what reality looked like, how glorious to not only be able to see, but also "rise up and walk" in it! We have heard a lot about Jesus, about the glorious land of promise. Our hearts have leaped within us to know that we are born again unto such a living hope as to

be unto the Lord as a Bride, even the temple that He inhabits. The greatness of this salvation is overwhelming in just the reciting of it's details. But the time must come when we refuse to be satisfied with merely hearing about this wonderful reality to SEEING JESUS! To see Jesus in such a way that we awake from our sleep and find ourselves changed into His image, the very Son Himself forming and alive within! Now that is a glorious gospel!

Do we really know as our daily experience what it means to be alive in Christ? We need to be reminded about the wonder of life, the joy of life, the gift of life,... the freedom of being alive in Christ. How sad to sleep through an entire lifetime when God has freely given the gift of Life abundantly, yet our experience never passing beyond knowledge.

It's Time for New Life

"Jesus said, Take away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto Him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God (Jn. 11:39-40)?"

Jesus told Martha, "I told you that if you believed you would see the glory of God." He told her this when she did not want the stone rolled away from Lazarus's grave. Here again we note in the scriptures another large stone enclosing one who looks dead but really has God's Life deep within. Functioning as Jacob's ladder involves being a person who rolls these stones away. There must be those who can discern what has life in it according to heavenly understanding. It is easy for even the natural eye to discern death and stinky attitudes among the brethren, but it takes eyes that are enlightened by the Holy Spirit to discern the Body of Christ, and thereby care for the Body of Jesus during the time that His Life is being formed within.

To "roll the stone away" will involve faith in the work of God, that God is able to bring forth His Son in an earthen vessel from "glory to glory". It will involve the sensitive job of removing grave-cloths knowing that there is new Life underneath. It will take those who are so joined to the Head of the Body that they understand the work He is doing in His Body, and are able to care for His Body in understanding, protecting and nourishing the Life that is being brought forth.

Years of Frustration and Grief,... Or One Day

"And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her (Gen. 29:20)"

Although Christ may yet be unformed in many areas, and we may still appear quite "rough around the edges" at times, in the eyes of Jesus we are His Bride, the one He loves as His own self, and the one He died to bring forth out from Himself. To look at one another in the flesh we may simply see unformed earth with darkness upon the face of the deep. Jesus looks and sees His Bride. We will never be able to see the way Jesus

does until the Holy Spirit opens our eyes. It is one thing to understand intellectually that we are the Body of Christ, it is quite another to see the Body from within the heart of Jesus and begin to fathom the love He feels for them. If we do see as He sees, we will find our responses ordered by His love rather than our logic. Frustration and criticalness can turn into longsuffering and faith with the mere opening of our eyes. Endurance comes from vision that sees beyond the natural eye (*Heb. 11*). In the darkest of pits the eyes of our hearts can be flooded with heavenly light that brings precious communion with the Lord and love towards His Body.

Jacob saw a ladder that ministered the heavens to the earth. He saw what was true in heaven being administered to those who were still earthen in their understanding and conformity. At the top of that ladder was a glorious view of the Lord, but at the bottom of that ladder was a rock! If we want to be a messenger with wings bearing the heart of the Lord concerning His Bride the Body that He has raised up as one with Himself, then we are going to have to be filled with His heavenly vision first. If we are not bearing that viewpoint in our being, then we will become sorely disillusioned with the outward condition of those we are to minister His reality to. We are not ministering to that which is fully mature, but we are to persevere until all come into this glorious identity and conformity in the risen Son (*Eph. 4:13*), knowing that in God's reality they already are one with Jesus.

Jacob may have seen the Bride he was looking for more clearly that night the heavens were opened than at any other time. In Rev. 21:10-11 the Bride is described as that which is coming out from God bearing His glory. In many ways what Jacob saw that night appeared as those who were coming out from God bearing His glory, and bringing Him forth to minister to the earth. Although Jacob's parents sent him on this journey to find a bride, and also told him where to go, they did not tell him what she would look like. Perhaps God was also preparing Jacob's heart to understand what the true Bride looks like.

Jacob saw the House of God, the Bride from above, and he had vision that was able to discern beyond outward appearances. Because of his heavenly vision he could see through earth into the reality of what is. Even Paul said himself that he would not be disobedient to the heavenly vision (*Acts 26:19*). Therefore, instead of looking at a stone laying in the dirt, he saw a well of living waters. Instead of seeing something formless and lifeless, He saw what was connected to the Living Head in Resurrection and poured oil over it.

Such was the case with Rachel. From the first moment he laid eyes on her by the well he saw her from above in her true and finished state. In manifestation Rachel had a long way to go as can be seen in her attitudes towards Leah, her deception towards Laban as she stole and hid an idol, and her pressure towards Jacob to produce a son. It took Jacob fourteen years just to get her, but that whole time was as the day he saw what her true identity was in her union with Christ, the day that he saw her according to the heavenly vision.

Asleep on a Stone or Part of Jacob's Ladder?

We must pattern and order our lives after what is happening in heaven and not according to what is happening in the earth. To do so we must have our eyes opened. To stop short of having the Son revealed in us is much like falling asleep on a stone. If the scriptures have not become the place where Christ is revealed in us, then they are yet as hard, cold tablets of stone. To stop short of seeing Jesus in such a way that we are changed into that same image from glory to glory is to be satisfied with something that is not yet fully alive by Christ (II Cor. 3:14-18).

The true spirit of sabbath is when it is no longer "I" but Christ doing the works through me. Although I may be resting from my own works, I am filled and flowing forth with His works! This rest, therefore, speaks more of source than activity. If we desire for the Lord to be able to enter into His rest, then we must first awaken from our slumber.

To Stand as this Ladder

God's reality overshadows our natural viewpoints when we see junk in the earth, for our minds have been renewed according to the truth as it is in Jesus. When we wake up and see the House of God, then we can become a part of Jacob's ladder. Without Jacob's ladder what is true in the heavens would have no way of coming forth into the earth.

Jesus became as Jacob's ladder when he was both God and man at the same time. The Lord's initial stand as a ladder between heaven and earth was on the cross. He bore our earthly nature and became sin that we might bear His heavenly image and become His Body and Bride. This stand was not outwardly glorious and wonderful, rather it caused the Lord to enter into deepest death and rejection that we might have His Life. And so it is today, those who allow His death to work in them that His Life might work in others will only be seen to be glorious winged messengers by those who have eyes to see what is true in the Spirit, and hearts that can discern the Spirit of the Lamb flowing through men. Because God has given dominion of the earth to man (*Ps. 8*), it is through man that the Life of His Son now flows forth to touch this earth.

We can either bear one another's lack, or condemn each other. To stand as a part of Jacob's ladder will cause you to bear one another burdens in love as you reject the earth ministry of condemnation (stoning). The mind and nature of the Lamb will become more than a teaching about Jesus, but the very Jesus Who lives through us by His nature to others. Christ is not only our risen Lord but also the Head of His Body that is full of His nature. To truly and completely awaken and arise from a state of spiritual slumber is to allow Christ to be Lord, Life, and fulness in His Body.

Heaven's Gate

"And he was afraid, and said, how dreadful is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. (Gen. 28:17)."

Is the gate of heaven a magic door that we are looking for so we can walk through it and step out of this realm into God's?

Is the gate of heaven a place we must search to find, a place where we can finally get positioned properly and be in the right location so that we can enter into the land of the living?

Is the gate of heaven only opened when we pass into the after-life through physical death?

Or is the gate of heaven already open and access already fully made, but the eyes of our heart's know it not for they are yet still closed to the Lord's reality?

When you ask someone, "Have you seen Jesus?" You may receive a response such as, "Oh yeah, I saw something deep in the Word today that was really cool." Maybe we need to rephrase that question to bear a bit more meaning... such as, "Did Reality so break through your darkness in it's brilliant all encompassing onlyness that it overshadowed everything with it's coming and so filled your eyes that you are now blind to all else?" If you can answer "yes" to that then may be you can say along with Jacob, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. How awesome is this place! This is none other but the House of God, and this is the gate of heaven." In order to exit the temporal realm in our daily walk we must see the Lord. We are not just to momentarily glimpse at eternity, but we are to dwell there in Christ.

It is possible to fall asleep in a religious stupor losing the awe that "God is here", our condition more resembling, "I knew it not."

This gate up and out of the earth and into heaven was made known to Jacob when God opened his eyes to see the Risen Christ. The Scriptures declare in the book of Revelation that there is a feast going on for those who dwell in the heavens (). Although mass darkness may manifestly fill the earth, the sound of joyful shouting fills the halls our heavenly house in Christ! () The communion those who dwell above the earth are experiencing is likened unto a wedding feast. This wedding feast in the heavens is so wonderful that the bride comes out from God full of His glory to share it as a testimony of the glorious union we have in Christ.

The Way of A Snake on a Rock

"There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid (Prov. 30:18-19)"

We have been discussing the wonders of having our eyes opened by God to see according to God's reality. Jacob's grace-filled response of pouring oil over the rock rather than condemning it according to it's outward appearance came forth from a man who had just been awakened to God's viewpoint.

Yet the scriptures declare that there is another way that is "too wonderful" of which it's writer knew not. Amidst the awe of the way of an eagle in the air, a ship amidst the sea, and a man with a maid, is the "wonder "of the way of a serpent upon a rock.

Satan, that crafty serpent, is also the god of this world for the scriptures declare that the whole world lieth in the wicked one(). To not have our eyes opened to God's point of view may leave us susceptible to the darkened viewpoint that comes from gathering our information from another source besides God.

When our hearts are hard and we are functioning as out from the earth, we become as a table for the enemy to move upon. His agility and ability to deceive us when we abide in his realm is greater than this writer in Proverbs could know. He knows how to communicate and move upon our carnal senses with incredible skill, yet against the Light of God's opened heavens he has no defense.

Although we rejoice to know and see that we are complete in Christ, our earnest desire should be not to remain earthen in our understanding and not conformed to the image of Christ, for remaining in this unrenewwed state can leave us susceptible to the wiles of God's enemy.

It can be amazing to see how the enemy can move upon and motivate those who walk after the flesh and not by the Spirit. To abide in the earth apart from seeing the Lord is to be asleep to God's reality and aware of the darkness of this temporal and fading realm. The Serpent can move easily and wonderfully upon our carnal senses if that is our source of information and way of understanding.

We are not to have hard hearts that the enemy can move upon, but soft hearts that are like tables for the Holy Spirit to write upon. May our spiritual eyes not be dulled with slumber, but like Jacob, may we see the Lord and begin to manifestly function as the House of God.

God is not wanting to make stones praise Him, but to awaken our hearts to our true identity in Him so that we can leave our earthen form to embrace oneness with Him forever.

Lower Your Bucket

Many of the principles we have been discussing in this article concern the principle of knowing and seeing on a deeper level than your senses. To understand we are joined to something higher than ourselves (our Risen Head), and that we have a Source in us that is deeper than our own resources.

Much of the time our first response is to react according to what we see by how we feel. Can you see how shallow this response is. We have not pursued the Lord's view, neither have we drawn forth from His Life within. Our eyes need to be opened so that we can really see, and then our hearts need to be separated unto the Lord so that we will only draw forth from His Life in response.

Being hasty can cause us to simply just react in a situation. But we need to "lower the bucket" deeper and deeper until we hit the pure waters of Christ in us, drawing forth only from His living waters instead of the polluted waters of our own opinions, thoughts, and emotions.

Awakened eyes and unplugged wells allow Christ to be our practical walk through every situation.

Rachel the Shepherdess

"And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep for she kept them (Gen. 29:9)."

In our first encounter with Rachel we find her bringing her father's sheep to water. What a beautiful picture of the bride of Christ caring for His body. There are many who declare devotion to Christ, but Jesus said if you love me, feed my sheep. This bride has a love that reaches forth to care for all of Him.

Just as Jacob removed the stone from the top of the well to unblock the waters within, Rachel many times may have lowered her bucket to draw forth the waters that lay deep inside to care for the flock.

Even when blockages are removed that stop up wells, the waters within still need to be drawn out. Instead of stirring up wrath and strife among the sheep, a shepherdess may choose to stir up the Living waters within the sheep. She knows that what the sheep need is for these living waters to bubble up and refresh, nourish, and wash her father's flock. She helps people to find those waters that they have within. This truly is the way of the Bride. She has the clarity of God to see much deeper than flesh and problems into the indwelling Christ that is the flock's true identity. The younger sheep need to learn how to enter into this relationship of oneness with the heavenly Groom (*Song of Songs 8:8-9*).

Rachel, like Jacob, doesn't see a hard stone but deep within the Life of Another. Even as Jacob poured oil over the Rock, Rachel lowers her bucket to draw out from deep within the waters of His Life. Both are functioning as Jacob's ladder to the Body of Christ. Their ministry is coming from seeing His Body through His eyes as the House of God wherein God resides. They do not function in the darkness and slumber of the natural eyes, but choose to walk in the Light of the Risen Christ. Because they see they know how to minister. They see what others do not, and draw out what others did not believe was truly there. "God is here and I knew it not". How many times have we silently judged our brothers and sisters in Christ based on obvious outward problems and lack, only to turn around a few moments later and see Jesus come forth from those same ones?

Rather than being found in the company of mockers, how much more satisfying would it be to function as part of Jacob's ladder flowing down from God's point of view and encouraging others in a way that even draws forth the Life of Christ that you know dwells deep within them? When our Master returns may we be found watering His flock and washing one another's feet with this same Living Water, rather than criticizing and judging one another after the flesh. May Jacob's Vision become more than a spiritual understanding to us, but a lifestyle ordered and filled with the true Reality from above.

If You Flow ... You Grow!

If you flow ... You grow. In her beginning, just like David, Rachel watched her father's sheep. She watered many and brought forth the Lord in that way. David also understood that God's people were more than just the sheep of His pasture, but that the House of God is here. David poured out his life in a way for that house to manifest, even as Rachel was a mother in Israel that brought forth sons who would build up the house of Israel. The more clearly we see Jesus, the more deeply our lives will be poured that the Lord might fully inhabit His house. Even as David when he was King of Israel, was no longer just caring for sheep but gathering them in such a manner as to build the house of God. May we also be found doing all things according to pattern, according to the true tabernacle, and being found faithful to the heavenly vision (*Heb. 8:2*).

Give Jesus Water for His Journey

"A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon. I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse (Song of Songs 4:15, 5:1a)."

In the Song of Solomon it is evident that to the heart of the Groom the Bride's care for Him is much more than just taking care of His needs or quenching His thirst. She has become His garden, the place where He finds refreshment. As His garden she has precious fruit stored up for Him. This fruit has formed from abiding in Him that she could bear His Life. And now this Life can flow forth from within her even as a fountain of gardens. The place of His planting is now flowing forth as a river of His Life becoming a garden of delights to the Lord Himself. Oh what joy to quench His thirst and

bring Him pleasure. To be unto Him as one that brings forth fruit unto God by abiding in our heavenly Vine. By the end of their loving relationship you see that their focus is to bring His Life to those that do not know Him yet. Their union flows to others that all may be fruitful in Him. Through this union she is not just refreshing the Lord but watering His flock, even the least of them.

"Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus said unto her, Give me to drink. (Jn. 4:6-7)."

In John chapter four we find Jesus wearied by His journey sitting down on Jacob's well. Jesus in sitting on the place where Jacob's journey to find His bride ended, for this is where Jacob found Rachel! It was in this place where Jacob took the stone of that well and kissed Rachel.

Here we find Jesus Himself weary with His journey to get His bride. It is at this specific place that Jesus stops and asks for refreshment from this particular well. Jesus is longing to taste of His bride, and yet she must come into His understanding of that relationship before she can truly refresh him. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman that the water He gives her would be in her a well of water springing up. Jesus is seen here to be greater than Jacob (v. 12,13) for this union will never run dry. He is also seen to be the true Husband that we are seeking for (v. 17, 18).

Jesus was always refreshing and caring for everyone else's needs. His was a life of ministering to others where all came to Him for a drink. Yet on this special occasion we hear Jesus longing for one that would come and give Him waters to drink from. This would require His bride who was as a well that from deep within flowed forth with rivers of His Life. He waited for one that could draw forth such waters and bring that water to His lips.

Throughout this booklet we have discussed how Jacob's ladder and Jacob's well are pictures of those who flow forth with the Lord's Life in a manner that edifies the Body of Christ as well as refreshes the heart of the Lord. When we function as Jacob's ladder we not only bless the Body that Jesus loves as His own self, we also give the Lord a drink. How beautiful it is to live from above and walk in the Spirit. We not only nourish the Body of our Dear Lord, but we also minister and refresh His precious heart. Truly our deepest motivation should be to love our Jesus and the Body that He died to bring forth.

Some Final Thoughts!

We may call something unclean due to a judgment after the physical appearance. It took a vision from God to open Peter's eyes to God's view of the Gentiles after our Lord's resurrection from among the dead (Acts 11:5~10). We can also judge

ourselves after the flesh rather than by God's revealed Word concerning our true identity in Him.

When it comes to our view of the Lord's Body, may our eyes be opened to see beyond the flesh and the earth into knowing one another and ourselves after Christ!

- Rather than seeing unformed earth, see what came out from the Lord's death.
- Rather than calling it unclean, call it clean.
- Rather than seeing a hard rock, call it a well with His living waters inside.
- Rather than calling it separate and lifeless, pour oil over the top of it and call it joined to the Risen Son, even the house of God.
- You are not enveloped in dirt and a part of the earth, you are a living stone built into the Body of Christ.
- You are not condemned by your lack, and God's messengers are not casting stones of judgment at you. Rather you are part of the Bride of His Heart and God's messengers are descending forth from His heart to wash you with His Words of Oneness.
- You are not as you appear now, but when He appears you will appear also (1
 Jn.). When you awaken to Him as He now is, then you will also awaken to the
 reality that you are a part of His Body and will conform to His image.
- Darkness does not lay hopelessly upon the face of your deep, but the Holy Spirit desires to move deep within you to shine the knowledge of the glory of God in the Face of Jesus (II Cor. 3?). Arise and Shine for your Light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

- The Church is not a concept, doctrine, teaching or an organization... she is joined to the Lord and bears His life.
- You have not been left to die, dry and hopeless in a dark and empty
 wilderness. God is here and it is awesome! You have been raised up in Him
 and all that is in Him will flow into you as you awaken to the reality of the Risen
 Christ.

THE END!