

LESSON #1 SANCTUARY STUDIES

THE REAL ISRAEL OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

All italics are in original text. All other emphases are the authors unless noted. All Scriptures are from the K.J.V. Bible unless stated otherwise.

We know that God made a covenant with Adam in the Garden of Eden that was to include all mankind. Later God repeated the same covenant with Israel because of His promise to Abram and to his descendants. God wanted a people to preserve a knowledge of God, His law and truth in the world.

The descendants of Abram became the nation of Israel and were special as God's chosen people for that purpose. It is significant that God has never made a covenant with any people but the children of Israel. In order to be saved one must be grafted into the parent stock or olive tree representing Israel.

Romans 11:17, 24, 26. "And if some of the branches be broken off, and **thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them**, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; V. 24. For if thou wert **cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree**: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? V. 26. **And so all Israel shall be saved**: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

Let us pray:

Holy Father may we not be distracted as we study Your true Israel. May we receive the holy spirit of God for wisdom to discern the truth and receive that truth into our very being. Forgive our sins and cleanse us from all uncleanness. I ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

Let us look at some of the things that make Israel of such importance in the last days of earth's history.

God told the Patriarch Abram that he must leave his home in Ur (Babylon) and God would make his descendants a great nation if faithful. They would be His chosen people and the whole world would be blessed through his Seed. So also, it is today as in Abram's day. God's people are called out of Babylon into the Israel of God.

Abram was tested, after 10 years he still had no offspring. Sarai suggested he marry Hagar her hand maiden as a second wife, trouble immediately began. Ishmael was born from that union and we still have the family feud to this day. That is the way it always turns out when we try to help God fulfill His promises. God cannot use man's help because man can only pollute the promise with sin. God cannot use anything polluted with sin in His work of redemption.

When Abram was 99 God visited him again and established the rite of circumcision. God changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning father of many nations. Sarai's name was also changed to Sarah, meaning mother of nations. By this action God reaffirmed His promise of Abraham being a great nation. Abraham fell on his face laughing because Sarah could no longer bear children, she was 90 years old. Sarah laughed at God also.

Never-the-less one year later Isaac was born. Genesis 21: 2. This word tempt can also be translated test (see Strong's concordance word #H5254.

So, God tested Abraham, God wanted Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. Isaac was the promised son and Abraham loved him very much. How could he give his son up for a sacrifice? What a test of faith and obedience that was. Abraham knew God had opened Sariah's womb so she could conceive. If Abraham offered his son, how could he become a

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great nation? Abraham determined to trust God; the decision was final to obey God. He must trust God to work it out, he must not interfere with God's commandment as before. Somehow God would work it out for the good and keep His promise. He knew God could raise Isaac from the dead. Whatever the outcome, he must obey God and leave the results with Him. No wonder Abraham is called the father of the faithful.

You know the story, how the angel intervened and saved Isaac's life, thus Abraham was saved from the agony of sacrificing his son. You must understand that Abraham was a sinner just as we all are. He lied to the king when he told him that Sarah was only his sister. Abraham did this on two different occasions. He was an adulterer. He took Hagar to wife while married to Sarah. Yet God knew Abraham would be an overcomer and sacrifice all, even his most loved son to God. And so, the test must come to all. For all must prove their loyalty to every word that God utters to prove to Satan, and also the whole universe that we, like Abraham, are faithful to our heavenly Father and therefore safe for salvation. Only those who are faithful like Abraham are **counted as real Israel.**

Patriarch Jacob

This is the patriarch from which Israel derives her name. He stole his Brother Esau's birthright. Look how he pled for forgiveness. Yet it is true that every sin will produce a harvest of which the sinner must meet at the last. Though Jacob was forgiven the wrong yet the seed sown created a harvest when matured. It was the same with King David's sin. And so it will be with every sin that we commit. The harvest of wrong will come but God buffers the harvest of evil for the repentant sinner. Yet the penalty must be met.

Galatians 6:7. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Isaiah 40:1, 2 "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, **that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins."**

NOTE: The penalty must be met, even the redeemed, must meet the results of their sin to show and prove they will never rebel again. Yet the death penalty is not obligatory for the truly repentant.

Jacob was treated falsely by his uncle. Fourteen years he worked for his wife Rebecca. Just like Jacob deceived his brother so Laban, his uncle, deceived him. His wages were changed 10 times. When he finally left his father-in-law, he stole away in the night while Laban was absent. Jacob seemed to have no courage at all.

When Laban caught up to Jacob, he could not do harm to him, God, in a dream had forbid him to harm Jacob. Yet he was to have a more serious problem.

He learned that Esau was marching to intercept him with 400 armed men. What was he to do? He arranged his family and flocks in such a way to indicate that they were to be received of Esau as a gift to appease Esau if he were coming for revenge. Many say that Jacob was smart in doing this and I am sure it was a wise move on Jacob's part. But if looked at from a worldly point of view, it was also a cowardly thing to do. He sent his wives and children forward without any defense whatever while he remained in the rear hoping that this would appease his brother. How badly Jacob must have felt because of this. It was because of his stealing the blessing and supplanting the birthright that had caused all this evil to befall him, if he just had been honest to begin with none of this would be happening. And so, the night of wrestling with God for forgiveness. Then it seemed an enemy had found him and was accosting him for his life, so Jacob thought.

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As dawn began to break Jesus revealed Himself touching Jacob's thy and dislocating it. Jesus then said "let me go for the day breaketh." Jacob, finally realizing who it was, cried "I will not let thee go except Thou bless me!" Jacob knew he was wrestling with the angel of the covenant. What a God we serve! Christ granted Jacob's petition for blessing. His name was changed from Jacob (supplanter) to Israel (a prince of God) one who prevails with God. Jacob was assured forgiveness of all past sins.

This experience is the same experience that the final generation of the saved will go through as the night of Jacob's trouble in the final struggle with God when agonizing for total victory over our guilt of sin. The same victory of Jacob will be received and so true Israel will be saved.

It was by persistence and determined faith that Jacob's name was changed to Israel. So also, it will take the same persistence and enduring faith and struggle with Jehovah to become a member of the Israel of God. Let us see how this name will represent God's true children in the Christian era.

Acts 3:22-26. "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, **A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things** whatsoever he shall say unto you. V. 23. **And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.** V. 24. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. V. 25. **Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.** V. 26. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, **sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.**"

NOTE: It is evident that prophet to come was Christ, those who would not accept (or hear Him) were to be

"destroyed" from Israel. Those who refused to hear Him were not true Israel. In Daniel 9:24 it is firm that after the 70 weeks Israel was to be cut off if they refused to accept the messiah. By this it is clear that being of the bloodline of Abraham, or Jacob (literal Israel) does not necessarily make one a member of the true Israel of God.

Matthew 23:37, 38. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, **how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!** **Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.**"

NOTE: The Jews rejected Christ therefore they are no longer counted as the Israel of God. Only those who accept Christ and obey and follow Him by faith can be counted as true Israel. Let us look again at Acts 3.

Verse 25. "**In thy seed shall all the kingdoms of the earth be blessed.**" It is evident from this verse that the Gospel to the Gentiles was part of the covenant to Abraham. Only those who had faith like Abraham could be counted as real Israel.

Verse 26. "Unto you (Israel) first." But because of their rejection the blessing was to be given to another nation. Please read carefully this next text.

Romans 11:25, 26. "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so, **all Israel shall be saved:** as it is written, **There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.**"

NOTE: Gentiles and literal Israelites who accept and obey Christ are now true Israel. Those who are only relatives to Abraham have been disowned because they did not receive Christ, their house is left unto them desolate. Desolate means "deserted by the

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shepherd! It is reasonable to believe that the nation of Israel no longer has any special consideration as God's chosen people. The special privileges of being called the nation of Israel is now transferred to the born-again Christian.

Galatians 3:29. “And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Galatians 6:15, 16. “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.”

John 14:6. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

NOTE: Only in Christ is Israel found, and truth is inseparably connected. “I am the way the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” To remain in Christ, one must accept truth and remain in the truth. This is “the way...and the life”. This is the way true Israel is recognized and formed.

If we do not accept truth when it is presented, then God will give time for the truth to be compared with the weight of evidence from scripture and if not accepted God will eventually withdraw and does not send more light.

EW 55:2 sent.3, 56:1. “I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness.”

EW56:1. “I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, ‘Father, give us Thy Spirit.’ Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was

light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children.”

NOTE: When a person, or a group of individuals, refuse to accept the truth Satan will always step right in with his counterfeit deceptions to counter what God is trying to accomplish. And eventually deception will grow until we will think we are praying to God but in reality, our prayers are being answered by Satan instead. It is evident, to remain a part of true Israel, we must remain in and follow every truth of the Bible. We should never even listen to ministers whom we know are teaching deceptions. They may teach a portion of truth but be assured that deception is present somewhere in their discourse. The unholy influence of Satan is being breathed upon you! Not one ray of light passes from the Father to these fallen ministers. We must remember that Satan breathes on them **much light and power but no sweet love joy and peace.**

Those who follow all truth are counted as the Israel of God. It is from among the true Israel that Levi, the priesthood, are chosen. These are called in scripture the 144,000, they are the living witness to Satan and the world that it is possible for fallen sinful men to keep the law of God. No wonder Satan is determined to accomplish their downfall.

There is a procedure of determining who true Israel are. With each step the test becomes closer and still closer. First there was the nation of Israel that God used as channels for light for the world. But when they rejected their Saviour, true Israel had to be re-defined. The early Christian church became the Israel of God. By the third century the Roman church was in apostasy and Israel became the reformed churches. After the reformers died the reformation stopped reforming and regressed back to the doctrines of Rome until the pope declared that the reformation was no longer. Every church had again received her dogmas.

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After that Israel became the S.D.A. Church. But by 1980 the S.D.A. Church had also received the dictates of Rome and had also regressed back to the world and Israel must be redefined again. Now the nation of Israel are the ones that sigh and cry for all the abomination done in the church. So true Israel has always been those who follow the truth in every generation no matter to which Christian organization they belong.

It is a mistake to believe that God has revealed all His truth to any one organization or denomination, as soon as that belief is received, apostasy will follow. God's truth is infinite and can never be fully understood or comprehended by finite man. It is evident that as truth is revealed true Israel will follow it regardless of church affiliation. Eventually, when the call is heard and received God's true followers will "come out" of those fallen churches or Babylon.

John 8:22-59.

This is a long reading. You can read all of it in your spare time; I will only address certain portions for brevity's sake. First let us look at **Verses 23, 24.** "And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: **ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.**"

NOTE: The word Israel means "one who prevails with God" or one who overcomes sin. If you **die in your sins**, you certainly have not prevailed with God!

Acts 3:22, 23. "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, **A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.** And it shall come to pass, that every **soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed** from among the people."

John 8:31, 32. "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**"

Galatians 3:26-29. "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: **for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**"

John 8:32-34, 47. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." V. 47. **He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.**"

NOTE: They were not part of the true Israel! "He that is of God (Abraham's seed) heareth God's words. Ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." That certainly explains why people get so upset when presented the truth of the Word of God. For that reason, there are many who claim to be part of God's kingdom, but they are not all Israel that claim to be in Israel.

Romans 9:6, 7. "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. **For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.**"

NOTE: It is obvious, to be part of true Israel one must have full commitment and obey all that Christ has told us in His Word! Please pay close attention to these next texts.

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Philippians 2:5. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

1st Corinthians 2:16. “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

Hebrews 8:10. “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.”

OHC 108:2. “It is the character and mind of Christ which, by conversion and transformation, men are to receive. Through His Son, God has revealed the excellency to which man is capable of attaining. And before the world God is developing us as living witnesses of what man may become through the grace of Christ.” {OHC 108.2}.

NOTE: Listen to what we are told in the Spirit of Prophecy about what the law and character of God really are.

ST Sept. 4, 1884:15. “God's law is a copy of his mind and will. The sins forbidden there could never find a place in Heaven.” {ST, September 4, 1884 par. 15}.

RH May 3 1898:12. “God's law is immutable and eternal; for it is the transcript of his character, and by it God designs to bring the family on earth into harmony with the family in heaven. God has made it possible for men to obey his requirements, by making it possible for them to be partakers of the divine nature. Thus, our characters may be molded in accordance with the law of God. And by willing obedience to this law our characters are conformed to the character of God.” {RH, May 3, 1898 par. 12}.

NOTE: Can you begin to see the significance of God's law? How it is to be our governing principle.

When we allow Jesus by His holy spirit to write the law in our mind, then we have the mind of Christ!

Notice that the new covenant is based on God's law just as the old covenant was. The only difference is that law is written on the fleshly tables of the heart or mind of man instead of on tables of stone! Can you see that that law cannot be changed or abrogated or done away as most Christians believe today?

Ellen White comments about receiving the divine nature of God.

5 BC 1082 under the heading of Hebrews 2:11-18.

Paragraph 1. “Man must become a partaker of the Divine nature.”

Paragraph 2. “Man may become a partaker of the Divine nature.”

Paragraph 3. “We must be partakers of the Divine nature.”

NOTE: The whole matter of true Israel can be summed up by saying this: to be heirs according to the promise, we must have the faith and trust and belief of Abraham, and the faith of Jesus (see Revelation 14:12).

Revelation 14:12. “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

NOTE: It is clear in the New Testament, to be grafted into the nation of Israel we must allow Jesus to put that mind that was in Him into each of those who believe for salvation to occur. That acceptance of the mind of Christ is the whole of scripture including the law (Torah) of God. That includes all the law!

Our High Calling 138:5. “The law of God given from Sinai is a copy of the mind and will of the Infinite God. It is sacredly revered by the holy angels. Obedience to its requirements will perfect Christian character, and restore man, through

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Christ, to his condition before the fall. The sins forbidden in the law could never find place in heaven.” {OHC 138.5}.

1SM 21:2. “The divine mind is diffused. **The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will; thus, the utterances of the man are the word of God.**” Manuscript 24, 1886 (written in Europe in 1886). {1SM 21.2}.

NOTE: By this we can see the literal fulfilment of, and can better understand, Paul’s statement in Hebrews 8:10.

Hebrews 8:10. “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; **I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.**”

John 1:1, 2, 14. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. V. 14. “And **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,** (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

NOTE: “The Word became flesh” that “Word” is the whole of the Bible! It is God’s thought made understandable through the holy spirit, which is Christ, that word is incarnate in Jesus, it must also be made incarnate within each of His children here on earth. This is literally fulfilled in the 144,000 at the end of time.

John 14:7-11. “If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, **have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?** Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? **The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself:**

but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake.”

NOTE: It is the Father that is in Jesus doing the works, speaking the words. Jesus divested Himself of self and gave over to the Father His entire mind and will while on the earth. We must do the same if we want to be heirs with Abraham. That mind which was in Christ was the mind of the Father and can best be expressed in the law, statutes, judgments and ordinances of God given to Moses at Sinai.

These were placed in and beside the Ark of the Covenant in the most holy place which is a symbol of God placing them in our minds. That Word must be made flesh again in ourselves if we are to become the bride of Christ.

Galatians 6:15, 16. “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and **upon the Israel of God.**”

NOTE: “A new creature” the creative power of God dwelling within makes a new creature of us. “As many as walk according to this rule, mercy and upon the Israel of God.

If you are a born again Christian and remain connected with Christ in the truth and endure unto the end, then you are a grafted in member of the Israel of God, modern Israel.

In Conclusion

From the evidence presented in this lesson it is evident and clear that to be a member of the body of believers one must be grafted into the nation of Israel. That applies to both Jew and Gentile, we all have to be born again.

The descendants of Abraham, the physical nation of Israel, of them Jesus said, “your house is left unto

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you desolate! In other words, I am no longer accepting you as my chosen people, that privilege is transferred to the Christian Church that will obey my voice. One must understand and obey the truth, for truth is Jesus!

John 14:6. “Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**”

NOTE: to accept Christ everyone must learn what truth is and obey it and receive it into their very life. There is no other way to become a member of the Israel of God! He who attempts to climb in another way is a robber and a thief and is not of true Israel. All the promises of God made to ancient Israel will be fulfilled in modern Israel.

Let us pray:

Holy Father, I ask You for Your holy spirit to be poured upon all who contemplate Your Word today. May each one receive understanding that we all may accept You by assimilating the truth within our very being. I ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

Your brother in Christ

Virgil Prindle

ADDENDUM

MODIFIED 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

The people of the world are divided into 12 physics or categories of mental dispositions. These 12 physics are manifested in the twelve tribes of Israel. This means that the modified tribes of Israel are the physics of the characters all peoples manifest in these 12 tribes. Each tribe has their own physic manifested within that tribe. These are the 12 physics displayed in the 12 modified tribes represented in the 144,000 as overcomers to their evil mental dispositions. The

meaning of the names of these overcomers are combined to represent a message from God to the 144,000. What is that message?

1. 12,000 Judah (Gen. 29:30) Judah means, **“Now will I praise the Lord.”**
2. 12,000 from Ruben: (Gen. 29:32). Ruben means, **“The Lord hath looked on my afflictions.”**
3. 12,000 from Gad: (Gen. 30:11). Gad means: **“A troop cometh.”** (Amplified version renders it—“Good fortune; victory”).
4. 12,000 from Aaer: (Gen. 30:13). Aser means: **“Happy am I for I will be called blessed.”**
5. 12,000 from Naphali: (Gen. 30:8). Naphthali means: **“With great wrestlings have I wrestled with my sister.”** (Can mean anyone we are intimately connected with) and have prevailed.
6. 12,000 from Manasses: (Gen. 41:51). Manasses means: **“God hath made me forget my toil.”**
7. 12,000 from Simeon: (Gen. 29:33). Simeon means **“The Lord hath heard that I was hated.”**
8. 12,000 from Levi: (Gen 29:34). Levi means **“Now or finally will my husband be joined to me.”**
9. 12,000 from Issachar: (Gen. 30:18), Issachar means: **“God has given me my hire or my reward.”**
10. 12,000 from Zebulun: (Gen 30:20). Zebulun means: **“God hath endued me with a good dowery; now will my husband dwell with me.”**
11. 12,000 from Joseph (Gen.30:23, 24). Joseph means: **“God hath taken away my reproach”.**
12. 12,000 from Benjamin: (Gen. 35:18): Benoni—his mother’s name for him—means: **“son of my sorrow.”** Because of Rachels death at his birth. His father renamed him Benjamin meaning: **“Son of my right hand.”**

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THE MESSAGE TO THE 144,000

I believe this is God's message to the 144,000.

Underlined words have been added for clarity of thought.

Now will I praise the Lord for He hath looked on my afflictions and sent a troop for my help and I am victorious. Therefore, I am happy for I will be called blessed.

With great wrestling have I wrestled with my sister (the church or the Lord, sister can represent both) and have prevailed. He hath made me forget all my toil. The Lord hath heard that I was hated but my husband (Jesus) will be joined to me! God hath given me my reward for my husband (Jesus) will dwell with me and take away my reproach. In His sorrow and death was I brought forth, but he has made me the son of His right hand!