

SERMON 11

TEXT

“And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: and I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn” Exodus 4:22-23.

The reader will perceive that this text divides itself into two parts:

1. there is the firstborn of God;
2. there is the firstborn of Pharaoh.

The first being set a type of the latter Israel, who will become the son of God, by receiving that change spoken of by Paul where he says, *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed”* 1st Corinthians 15:51. And the second being set a type of those that remain unchanged, who will be utterly consumed at the second coming of the Lord (1st Thessalonians 5:3). And the manner in which these two different characters came to exist in the world is also pointed out by Jesus in the following parable: *“A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father (God), Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat”* Luke 15:11-16.

The reader will here see that the youngest son of God sought to be separated from his father, and it now remains to show what he joined himself to.

Now, this younger son was the first Adam, being younger according to the Spirit, though elder according to the flesh; and

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Jesus Christ, the second Adam, being the elder according to the Spirit, though younger according to the flesh. The citizen was the evil which God had placed in the city: fulfilling the words of Amos, “*Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?*” Amos 3:6. And He commanded the man not to touch it, for in the day he ate of it, in that day he should surely die (Genesis 2:17); and through touching it he became the adopted son of Satan, the body being given unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh (1st Corinthians 5:5), that the *spirit* might be saved at the first or final resurrection.

“*But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul (or the life of his natural body): all they that hate me love death*” Proverbs 8:36.

And this is applicable to the whole race of the incorruptible bodies, while they remain with the citizen: evil being placed in the city of the woman, to divide the living between the two sons of God, who had no earthly father.

But unto the eldest son, Jesus, who never forsook the right way, God said, “*Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead and is alive again; and was lost, and is found*” Luke 15:31-32.

Now when the man of sin was revealed to the son of man (which was the son of God), who had joined himself to the citizen, who fain would have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat, which was the fruit which was placed in the midst of the garden – the impurity of the tree of the woman – he began to cry out, and he said: “*I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son*” Luke 15:18-19. He sought to become as the angels: to be a servant to his elder brother, Jesus.

But when God saw his Son returning from the citizen he went out to meet him, and he fell on his neck and kissed him. And “*the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet*” Luke 15:22.

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“The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return” Isaiah 10:21-22.

“For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance” Romans 11:27,29.

“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” Romans 11:26.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 12:17.

“And thou shall return and obey the voice of the Lord, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day” Deuteronomy 30:8.

And be joined to the eldest Son, Jesus, whom the Father has appointed heir of all things (Hebrews 1:2). *“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ”* Romans 8:17.

“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones” Ephesians 5:30.

We must now return unto the text. The Lord said unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say, Thus saith the Lord, If thou refuse to let Israel, my son, even my firstborn, go, that he may serve me, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn. This Pharaoh refused to do.

Now, the reader must observe, in the first place, that this son was Jesus, who was in the loins of his father, of the tribe of Judah, which was then with the rest of the twelve tribes in bondage under Pharaoh. Now, when Pharaoh had received all the plagues, and the death of his firstborn, of man and cattle, he thrust Israel out: still the man of sin prevailed, and followed after them. And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And

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Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned, and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea (Exodus 14:26-27).

This being done as a figure of the return of Israel. For Paul, speaking of the evil world, says, *“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape”* 1st Thessalonians 5:3.

Fulfilling the words of Jesus, the eldest Son of God, who said, *“I am come to set a man at variance against his father (the man of sin), and the daughter against her mother (the mother of harlots)”* Matthew 10:35.

That the son and daughter of man might be left with their bodies, they being presented a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1).

“For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt” Mark 9:49, being the baptism of fire (Matthew 3:11).

Here we find that these two sons are joined together again, at the return of Israel.

“Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body” Ephesians 5:23.

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death” Romans 8:2.

“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another” 1st Corinthians 12:25. Then will be fulfilled God’s words, *“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”* Genesis 1:26. And then he will breathe into his nostrils the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). Geing the immortal SPIrit.

The reader will find while the youngest son of God, Adam, was with the citizen, his living was divided from the living of Jesus, the eldest Son of God, fulfilling his words: *“Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world”* John 8:23.

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And in another place he says, *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it”* John 8:44.

But the return of the youngest son is when he separates himself from the citizen and seeks for the immortal Spirit to make him like unto his brother Jesus, having a natural immortal body – not an incorruptible body as the angels (Matthew 22:30). But the angels being in subjection to them. *“Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?”* 1st Corinthians 6:3.

“But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?” Hebrews 1:13. But Jesus says, that to sit on His right hand and on His left shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of His Father (Matthew 20:23).

The sixth thousand years being come, which is as the sixth day of the creation (Genesis 1:31), it is given to those who are separated from the citizen, they being the spirits of just men made perfect (Hebrews 12:23). Fulfilling Jesus’ words, *“For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother”* Matthew 12:50. And every one that is separated from the citizen, the Spirit will do the will of the Father in them as it did in Jesus, fulfilling the words, *“He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do”* John 14:12. Because he had not evil to overcome in himself. So when the Lord causes man to overcome the citizen, which adopted him to be the son of Satan, Christ will have wrought a greater work in him than He did in Jesus, the woman’s seed.

“And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick” Matthew 9:11-12. So, the last shall be first, and the first last (Matthew 20:16).

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The youngest son of God, while he remained with the citizen, fain would have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat; but those to whom the man of sin is revealed receive the kernel, being the cleanness of the woman, without the husk: and when they are separated from the citizen they become as the glory of the sun, which a mortal eye cannot behold, but only they can look on that hold the faith, and in whom the Spirit does the work.

The reader must observe, that the seed of the youngest son, who was lost among the Gentiles, will be found in Zion at their return from among them at their fullness, their mortal lives being swallowed up of immortality, being separated from the citizen whom they had joined themselves to – their “*spirit, soul, and body being preserved blameless*”.