

"In all their suffering he also suffered, and he personally rescued them. In his love and mercy, he redeemed them. He lifted them up and carried them through all the years" (Isaiah 63:9).

God our Father in heaven, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob feels our pain and He weeps when His children die spiritually.

Hidden in God's multi-dimensional mastery of writing is a story of great sorrow and suffering. Seldom read or understood is the historical record of the complete fall of God's heavenly court. Every member small and great fell from righteousness to ally with Wickedness. Though foreknown, on the day the great fall took place, God wept bitterly for He loves His creation in both heaven and on earth.

The historical record of this painful and dark event is recorded in Ezekiel 31. God begins the story warning the heavenly ruler over Egypt that his fall from righteousness is coming. He urges this heavenly ruler to consider the most notorious leader in His heavenly court, the heavenly ruler over Assyria. That ruler, God describes as a great cedar. The use of the imagery of a cedar is to provide the creation on earth with an image they understand. Imagery of the great cedars bring an immediate rich visual of the most spectacular trees on earth. These tall and grand trees are dimensionally stable with a built-in thermal insulator. With oils that act as natural preservatives, these trees are resistant to bacteria and fungus. To top it off, they release a fresh aroma that deters pests. God created sons in heaven with all of these eternal qualities and superior strength to lead His kingdom in truth, understanding and wisdom of His law and His way. God gave the name of His headquarters in heaven, 'Lebanon' to mirror on earth His stately and regal leaders—a pride and joy.

The heavenly ruler who received the nation of Assyria as an inheritance (Deuteronomy 32:8) was envied by all the leaders in God's family (Eden) (Ezekiel 31:9) and it was God who made this leader beautiful; He nourished it with abundant waters [His Holy Spirit] from the deep springs (Ezekiel 31:4). But soon after receiving his rulership over Assyria, he grew proud and arrogant due to his great height, the power he had acquired (Ezekiel 31:10). He, like Satan who had grown proud and arrogant over his beauty, fell from righteousness and humility. God loved this heavenly ruler and in great distress He was forced to hold back His Holy Spirit and watch this leader die spiritually, and **He wept**.

"On the day it was brought down to the grave, I covered the deep springs with mourning for it; I held back its streams, and its abundant waters were restrained. Because of it, I clothed Lebanon with gloom... Then all the trees of Eden, the choicest and best of Lebanon, all the trees that were well-watered, were consoled in the earth below" (Ezekiel 31:15-16).

All of the members of God's heavenly court, the sons given an abundant flow of His Holy Spirit, fell out of righteousness and God overthrew them and imprisoned them in the Abyss [the Pit, inside the earth].

God Almighty loves, cares and dearly protects those who serve Him. He feels their distress when they are suffering and He suffers intensely when His children die.

There is a principle recorded in Matthew 25:40 that states as you treat the least of God's children you have done to the King [of kings], Jesus Christ and in turn God our Father in heaven.

"And the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.'"

Jesus Christ is the conduit for all of mankind. He bought and paid for their lives and now, only through him, access to Almighty God is possible.

Christ is the lamp, the mechanism of which God Almighty's burning glory flows.

"I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp" (Revelation 21:22-23).

The treatment of those considered vulnerable members of God's family is felt by Jesus Christ and continues up to God Almighty.

"Whoever oppresses the poor taunts their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors Him" (Proverbs 14:31).

"Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD, and He will repay the lender" (Proverbs 19:17).

A king from the house of Judah, upon his resurrection, will testify to the pain a father feels to witness the torturous deaths of his sons. King Zedekiah is that father.

"The Chaldeans seized the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, where they pronounced judgment on him. And **they slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes**. Then **they put out his eyes**, bound him with bronze shackles, and took him to Babylon" (II Kings 25:6-7).

The witness of the deaths of his sons were the last visual memories of King Zedekiah. A loving father feels their suffering. Almighty God scanned the face of the earth and likens His sacrificing love for His children to a loving and vulnerable mother.

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you" (Isaiah 49:15).

God, our Father in heaven, loves His children and desires that nobody is lost and that everyone enters into His kingdom. This great love for all of mankind is demonstrated in the action of allowing His unique Son, the Son through whom all creation in heaven and earth was made, to suffer and die. God Almighty felt the suffering of His beloved Son as intensely as Christ. King Zedekiah will testify to that along with every loving mother.

To the house of Judah who rejected this Son and initiated the scourging and crucifixion, our Father will say, "As much as your scourged and crucified the Son of God, you scourged and crucified Me."

Still in the future, these words will sound and then the house of Judah will awaken to their darkest fear and weep bitterly. God will apply His principle of love. "They will look on me, the one they have pierced" (Zechariah 12:10) and they will weep bitterly. Truly, as they pierced the Son of God sent to earth to heal and save, they pierced the God the Father of whom they have long claimed to love and worship. God's principle of love is to treat others the way you want to be treated because nobody hates himself/herself. "Indeed, no one ever hated his own body, but he nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church" (Ephesians 5:29). Those who sacrifice for others feel their suffering and give to those in need. They will be remembered by God and blessed for it. God's principle of love is rewarding. Those who are willing to die to save others fulfill in full the meaning of God's love. Through suffering, God's circle of love brings in everyone who loves one another and they all become ONE. The lines distinguishing one from the another become blurred because the whole body of many become so tightly unified by speaking the same thing, behaving and living the same way.

A time is coming soon when God's great love will flow out like a rushing river over two broken houses. The house of Judah will receive grace. "I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication" and all of the house of Israel will learn that they are again part of the covenant family and are indeed loved by God.

"At that time, I will plant a crop of Israelites and raise them for myself. I will show love to those I called 'Not loved.' And to those I called 'Not my people,' I will say, 'Now you are my people.' And they will reply, 'You are our God!'" (Hosea 2:23)

At that time, God's enduring love will manifest in the establishment of God's NEW heavenly court comprised of members from ALL 12 tribes of Israel.

God is already assembling a new government of faithful and loyal children. Children who are humble, God-fearing and God-serving.

"In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?" (Isaiah 29:17).

"The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; **he will grow like a cedar in Lebanon**. **PLANTED IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD**, they will flourish in **the COURTS OF OUR GOD**. They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green" (Psalm 92:12-15).

"I [God] will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like the lily, and he will take root like the cedars of Lebanon [giant leaders in God's heavenly court]. His shoots will sprout, and his beauty will be like the olive tree [priestly] and his fragrance like the cedars of Lebanon [deterrents of pests and bugs = sin]" (Hosea 14:5-6).

God's new government is sprouting and it will grow into a thick forest in heavenly Lebanon full of faithful and loyal leaders with many beautiful gifts and wonderful qualities.

Who is mankind that God is mindful of them? They are a kingdom of holy, royal, ruling priests in the making and all of their suffering God feels and longs to bring them close to Him and hover over them as the apple of His eye.

"He found him in a desert land, in a barren, howling wilderness; He surrounded him, He instructed him, He guarded him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, He spread His wings to catch them and carried them on His pinions" (Deuteronomy 32:11).

Soon Jacob's troubles will be over and the world will be free. Rejoicing lies on the near horizon.

"Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; break forth in song, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, and He will have compassion on His afflicted ones" (Isaiah 49:13).

What a wonderful future awaits repentant mankind!

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