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The Transfiguration, John The Baptist And Elijah, Elisha And Elijah, Holy Ghost Power, God's Perspective Or Man's View?, Gabriel Michael And Other Angelic Visitations, Great Cloud Of Witnesses, Heroes Of Faith, Crucified With Christ, What Is Meant By Perfect, Firstfruits And Final Harvest, Defining And Identifying The Cloud, Run The Race With Patience, Great Multitude, Elisha's Chariots Of Fire And The Invisible Realm

Many Christians are familiar with the awe-inspiring story found in three of the four Gospels which deals with Jesus' miraculous Transfiguration. During that wonderful event, Peter, James and John awoke from sleep to find the Lord conversing with the Prophets Moses and Elijah who, like Jesus Himself, appeared in majestic Robes of Light. Here is the account as recorded by Matthew:

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only." (Matthew 17:1-8)

Following these miraculous events on the mountaintop, aside from the fact that His three most-trusted followers were probably still experiencing a bit of shock; they were apparently also confused by the things which they had heard and seen. Due to their slowness in comprehending certain things, they found it a bit difficult to understand why the Scribes insisted that Elias, that is, the Prophet Elijah, must come first, being as Jesus had already proven Himself to be the Messiah. Thus, as they were descending from the mount, the following conversation occurred:

"And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead. And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall

also the Son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist."  
(Matthew 17:9-13)

This was not the first time that the Lord had made a clear connection between John the Baptist and the Prophet Elijah. Only six chapters earlier, the Lord had made the following comments to the multitudes:

"And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."  
(Matthew 11:7-15)

As I point out in the in-depth series 'Elijah: Where Are The True Prophets Of God?', as well as in the revelatory series 'The Two Sackcloth Witnesses Of Revelation 11', I believe that when Jesus said 'this is Elias, which was for to come', what He really meant wasn't that John was actually Elijah born again in the flesh, but rather that John carried the same spiritual anointing as Elijah of old. It is for this reason that right after the Angel Gabriel told Zacharias to call his son John, he then added a few verses later:

"...and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb...And he shall go before him, in the spirit and power of Elias." (Luke 4:15b, 17a)

This idea finds further support when we consider the story of the Prophet Elisha, who was Elijah's successor. While Elisha was chosen by the Lord in advance, it wasn't until Elijah's dramatic exit from this world via the chariot and horses of fire, that Elisha actually received the spiritual anointing which had been upon his mentor. In the following verses, please take note of how this transfer of power is described by the sons of the Prophets:

"He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him."  
(2 Kings 2:13-15)

Notice the similarity between their remarks, and what the Angel Gabriel said regarding John the Baptist. In one case we are told that 'the spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha', and in the other we are told that John the Baptist will go before Jesus 'in the spirit and power of Elias'. It seems to me that they are both saying the very same thing. That word 'rest' is derived from the Hebrew word 'nuwach', pronounced noo'-akh, which means to rest, or to settle down and remain. In short, God merely transferred the spiritual anointing from Elijah to Elisha; and hundreds of years later, He gave that very same anointing to John the Baptist; even before he was actually born; because that Power was the Power of the Holy Ghost. John the Baptist was no more Elijah born again in the flesh, than was Elisha hundreds of years before.

In fact, if we continue to study the Scriptures, we can quickly see that this very same Power of the Holy Ghost is available to all of God's children to varying degrees. You will recall that just before His Ascension to Heaven, the Lord Himself made the following promise to His followers:

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

As we all know, this promise of receiving Power from On High was fulfilled a short time later on the Day of Pentecost, as the Disciples were assembled together in one place in the second chapter of the Book of Acts:

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:1-4)

It should be clear to you then, that this endowment of Power, or Spiritual Anointing, is something which comes down from above. As I mention in 'The Two Sackcloth Witnesses Of Revelation 11', it is this very same Power which will also be given to these two witnesses sometime in the near future. In the words of the Apostle James, this Power of the Spirit is a Gift which comes down from the Father of Lights. Please consider the following verses:

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth." (Revelation 11:3)

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17)

While this is all Scripturally-sound doctrine, there is still a nagging question which we need to address. Please carefully consider the following information. In the Old

Testament prophecy found in the Book of Malachi, which deals with the coming of John the Baptist, we read the following:

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:"  
(Malachi 4:5)

If John the Baptist simply received a powerful anointing of the Holy Ghost, just like Elijah and Elisha before him, then why does this prophecy specifically state 'I will send you Elijah the prophet'; and why did Jesus say 'this is Elias, which was for to come'? In other words, why didn't the Lord inspire the Prophet Malachi to simply write 'I will send you John the prophet'? Surely this would have made the prophecy much easier to understand. Was the Lord purposely trying to conceal His Plans from humanity? I don't think so. I have become convinced that it is really a matter of perspective. Allow me to share a few verses with you. In the first verse, we find the Patriarch Job arguing with the Lord; and in the second verse, we have the Lord teaching the Prophet Samuel an important lesson when he goes to anoint the next king of Israel who will replace King Saul; that is, King David. As you will see, the second verse answers the question asked in the first verse:

"Hast thou eyes of flesh? or seest thou as man seeth?"  
(Job 10:4)

"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."  
(1 Samuel 16:7)

While we humans tend to look at things and understand them from a purely physical perspective, the Lord plainly tells us that He looks at the heart. In other words, God looks at things from a much deeper spiritual perspective. This truth becomes quite evident when we consider some of the visions and prophecies of Daniel and John the Beloved. For example, in Daniel chapter two, the Lord allows King Nebuchadnezzar to see a night vision, or dream, in which the empires of the world are depicted as different parts of a towering statue made of various kinds of metal. Proud King Nebuchadnezzar is represented by a head of gold. This is how man tends to view his accomplishments; that is, with majesty and greatness. On the other hand, only a few chapters later, the Lord shows us how He really views the various empires of the world; and that is as an assortment of beasts which fight and destroy each other.

This same contrast can be found in the Book of Revelation. In the seventeenth and eighteenth chapters, the worldwide Zionist-controlled commercial system known as Babylon the Great Whore, which is founded upon the principles of the Babylonian Talmud, is physically described as being a rich pompous queen dressed in the finest apparel, wearing an assortment of expensive jewelry, and having a golden wine cup in her hand. While this is how the world views her, the Lord sees her as a filthy whore, who has not only committed spiritual adultery with the world, but who has also filled

her cup with the blood of His Saints. So you see, unless we have the Spirit of God, we cannot begin to see things as God sees them; and much less understand His ways. These thoughts are supported by verses such as the following:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9)

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."  
(1 Corinthians 2:14)

Having now shared these thoughts with you, allow me to ask you; is it possible that there might be some deeper meaning behind this relationship between the Prophet Elijah and John the Baptist in the Scriptures? Might there even be a hidden process which allows a person to be anointed with the same Spiritual Power as an earlier Prophet; so that, as we see in the case of John, he was specifically called by that name in prophecy?

Naturally, my questions are rhetorical in nature; for I am persuaded that I have found the answers to both of these questions; and it is quite profound. Based upon the Biblical evidence, I am sure that most Christians will agree with me when I say that celestial spirits are sometimes permitted by God to intervene in our lives, if it will help to promote His overall Plan in some way. The verse of Scripture which immediately comes to my mind, is found in the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews. In the thirteenth chapter, Paul wrote:

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrews 13:2)

Exactly what is an Angel? For most people, an Angel is a spiritual being who has never lived an Earthly life in the flesh; however, Biblically-speaking, an Angel is any envoy or spiritual messenger sent from the Lord. As I point out in other articles, in the Old Testament, the word 'Angel' is derived from the Hebrew word 'mal'ak', pronounced mal-awk', which means a messenger, or a representative. In the New Testament, it is derived from the Greek word 'aggelos'; which also means messenger or envoy.

I think we can also agree that such incidents have, for the most part, been quite rare down through Biblical and modern history; or at least the written record of such encounters has been rare. The Angel Gabriel, discussed earlier, is but one of numerous examples I present in some of my articles; and as we know, his appearances to Zacharias, and then six months later to Mary, are not the only times we find him performing missions for the Lord in the Bible. It was also through his assistance that Daniel received his wonderful visions and prophecies, as we see in the following verses:

"And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the

vision." (Daniel 8:16)

"Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation." (Daniel 9:21)

Next to Gabriel, undoubtedly the second most widely-known of the Lord's Angels, is Michael. While Gabriel is primarily portrayed as a deliverer of messages, Michael is definitely more the warrior type. We see him fighting in the Spirit so that Daniel can receive his dreams and visions; we see him standing up for the Lord's children in the Endtime; we see him fighting with Satan in order to gain possession of the body of Moses, and we see him fighting against Satan again in the Book of Revelation. Consider the following verses:

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia...But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince."  
(Daniel 10:13, 21)

"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." (Daniel 12:1)

"Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."  
(Jude 1:9)

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,"  
(Revelation 12:7)

Other Angelic Visitations found in the Bible include Abram's encounter on the plain of Mamre, the rescue of Lot's family by Angelic Messengers, Jacob's night vision of the Heavenly Ladder, and his all-night wrestling match with an Angel, the Heavenly Envoy who informed Manoah and his wife of the birth of Samson, the Captain of the Lord's Host who visited Joshua during the battle of Jericho, the awe-inspiring dreams and visions of other Prophets like Ezekiel and Zechariah, the Angel who prepared a meal for the Prophet Elijah, and the Angelic Rescues found in the Book of Acts.

While I have thus far discussed Celestial Visitations by the Lord's Angels, the Bible also indicates that sometimes His servants are assisted by Departed Spirits as well. If you are one who finds this concept difficult to accept, allow me to remind you that in addition to the previous verse from his Epistle to the Hebrews, the Apostle Paul also spoke of 'a great cloud of witnesses' in the twelfth chapter of the very same letter:

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," (Hebrews 12:1)

Exactly who is Paul referring to in the previous verse when he talks about being compassed about with 'so great a cloud of witnesses'? If you open your Bible to the chapter which comes right before this one, you will see that Paul has just given an inspiring account of the heroes of faith, such as Noah, Abraham Isaac and Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Gideon, Barak, Samson, King David and Samuel and all of the other Prophets of the Old Testament; many of whom offered their lives, in life, as well as in death, as a testimony of their faith. These valiant men fulfilled such verses as the following; as well as many others which you'll find throughout my articles which deal with the topic of Discipleship; such as 'Are You Crucified With Christ?':

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."  
(Romans 12:1)

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." (Luke 9:23-24)

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

"...I die daily." (1 Corinthians 15:31b)

It is these heroes of faith, who sacrificially gave their lives, because they all sought a better Heavenly Country, who have served as a great source of inspiration for many of God's children who have lived down through the ages, since Paul first penned his words. Paul concludes Hebrews chapter eleven with the following words:

"And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect." (Hebrews 11:39-40)

In the previous verses, Paul is making a clear link between the Departed Saints, and those who were alive at the time he wrote his Epistle. The word 'perfect' is derived from the Greek word 'teleiōo', pronounced tel-i-o'-o, which means to complete, to accomplish or to finish. It does not mean to be a sinless saint as some wayward Bible teachers would have you to believe. Like the Scribes and the Pharisees of old, some of those Bible teachers set the doorknob so high with their doctrine of sinless perfection in the flesh, that it is humanly impossible to reach it. In short, what Paul is really saying, is that God's Plan of Redemption will not be perfected, that is, fulfilled, or complete, until every last

one of His preordained and predestinated children have taken their place in His Kingdom. The Apostle James made this very same point when he wrote the following lines:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain." (James 5:7)

As I explain in other articles, such as 'Is Jesus The Only Begotten Son Of God?', this is why the Bible also talks about Firstfruits, of which Jesus was the First Begotten of the Dead, as well as the Final Harvest of souls in the Book of Revelation. Consider the following verses:

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood," (Revelation 1:5)

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." (Colossians 1:18)

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped." (Revelation 14:14-16)

Obviously, the Apostle Paul's words at the end of Hebrews chapter eleven apply to us, the Last Generation Christians, as well; so we are also included in his 'without us' when he states that the Saints of the Old Testament 'should not be made perfect'. It is right after these words, in the first verse of the next chapter, that he mentions the 'great cloud of witnesses'. While Paul's words are separated by a chapter division, created by the translators, the fact of the matter is, that he is continuing his very same discussion. In other words, the 'great cloud of witnesses' which encompasses, or surrounds us round about, from the Greek word 'perikeimai', is none other than the Departed Saints Paul has described for us in the previous forty verses.

As proof that this is so, consider the fact that the word 'cloud' is derived from the Greek word 'nepheos'; which in addition to meaning an actual cloud in the sky, also means a large dense multitude, or throng, of people. In other words, Paul seems to be referring to the great spiritual cloud, or multitude, of Departed Souls, who not only gave their own lives as a witness, or testimony, of their faith in the Lord and His promises, but who now watch us with abated breath as we, the Christians of the Endtime, help bring to a close, this final chapter of human history. Because these departed souls are watching us, what does Paul tell us to do? He tells us to run the race with patience:



"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"  
(Hebrews 12:1)

As I point out in some of my other articles, Paul enjoyed using such examples as running a race, putting on armour, etc., in order to more easily explain spiritual principles to his followers. In this case, he appears to be telling us that, because we are surrounded by this great spiritual cloud, or multitude, of witnesses, who have already led the way of faith before us, we must follow their example, and run our own race with patience; until we too have reached the end of our course. Paul talked about this very same thing in the following verses found in his first Epistle to the Corinthians:

"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

Not only that, but Paul's implication in the previous verse from his Epistle to the Hebrews, is that this great cloud, or multitude, of Departed Souls, is actually cheering us on as we get closer to the finish line. This great multitude of souls who lived their lives in faith, and who gave their lives in faith, are actually waiting for us to complete our task, so that the Mystery of God can finally be fulfilled. If this is difficult for you to accept, please consider the fact that the Apostle John described this very same great multitude, or spiritual cloud, in the following verses found in the Book of Revelation:

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." (Revelation 6:9-11)

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;"  
(Revelation 7:9)

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth." (Revelation 19:6)

Please notice that these Departed Souls who are under the Lord's symbolic altar of sacrifice, meaning that they gave their lives for the Lord, are given White Robes. Obviously, they are the very same great multitude in White Robes who we see in the last two verses as well. They represent all of the souls who have lived and died in Christ. In describing the heroic deeds and sacrifices of this great cloud of witnesses in Hebrews chapter eleven, the Apostle Paul wrote in part:

"Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth." (Hebrews 11:35-38)

You see, part of the problem is that many Christians have been given the erroneous impression that Heaven is just some far off place lost somewhere in the depths of space, or more properly stated, above space. While I do believe that the Lord's Heavenly Headquarters, that is, New Jerusalem, is now located in some defined place beyond our current reach, we also know from the Scriptures, that the Kingdom of Heaven is here and now. It is not only all around us, but it is in us as well. We are surrounded by it; but we simply cannot see it at this current time; unless the Lord temporarily lifts the veil from our physical eyes, and allows us to catch a glimpse of it, as He did with the servant of the Prophet Elisha in the following verse:

"And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."  
(2 Kings 6:17)

To deny this reality is to deny the plain truths found in the Scriptures. Remember, we are told that the Lord is a present help in trouble. His Angelic Agents and Departed Spirits are ready to assist us at a moment's notice. They are not limited by time, distance or space as are we humans. They are a present help in trouble. They can be here in a flash; and some are probably assigned to us all the time. The following verses speak for themselves:

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." (Psalms 34:7)

"&lt;&lt;To the chief Musician for the sons of Korah, A Song upon Alamoth.&gt;&gt; God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalms 46:1)

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." (Psalms 91:11)

"For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire." (Isaiah 66:15)

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid....And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."  
(Luke 2:9, 13-15)

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."  
(Matthew 18:10)

Again, if you doubt these things, simply read some of the examples of Angelic Visitations which I mentioned earlier. Read the Book of Acts. When God's servants were in need, His Angelic Agents were immediately there to assist them; and it didn't take light years for them to get there.

In part two of this series, we will continue this discussion by taking a look at such topics as body, soul and the breath of life, the separation at death, the lies and delusions of modern science, being present with the Lord, John's Angelic Messenger, the Resurrection in Matthew, Jesus's Ascension, Celestial Rest, Ministering Spirits, the Gift of Prophecy and how it works, heart soul and conscience, the Voice of the Spirit, our spiritual antenna and the evil heart, being washed and renewed, Spiritual Discernment, King Ahab's false prophets and Micaiah, and finally, the demoniac, Legion and the unclean spirit. I trust that you will join me.

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Body Soul And Breath Of Life, Death And Separation, Demonic Possession, Delusion Of Modern Science, Present With The Lord, John's Messenger, Matthew's Resurrection, The Lord's Ascension, Celestial Rest, Ministering Spirits, Gift Of Prophecy And How It Works, Heart Soul And Conscience, Voice Of The Spirit, Spiritual Antenna And The Evil Heart, Washed And Renewed, Spiritual Discernment, Ahab's False Prophets And Micaiah, The Demoniac, Legion And The Unclean Spirit

While I have thus far highlighted the function of Angels, let us turn our attention to Departed Spirits. As I explain in the in-depth article 'What Really Happens To Us When We Die?', contrary to what is claimed by modern atheists who deny the realities of the Spiritual Realm, the life-giving force known as soul, or 'psuche' in Greek, is a real thing. It is the realus which dwells within this tabernacle of clay; that is, our body of flesh. It is the Breath of Life which we see mentioned in the following verses found in the Book of Genesis. In some cases, this phrase is derived from the Hebrew word 'neshamah', pronounced nesh-aw-maw', while at others, it comes from the Hebrew word 'ruwach'; which is pronounced roo'-akh. In both cases, it means breath or spirit:

"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Genesis 2:7)

"And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die." (Genesis 6:17)

"And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life...All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died." (Genesis 7:15, 22)

I believe that at the time of a person's death, there is a sudden separation of the body and the soul, or the spirit. How well one prepares himself for this division, has a lot to do with how easily it will occur. For some people, maybe because they are so attached to this life, and the things of this world, or perhaps because they have not accepted the Saviour, and thus fear the Afterlife, the separation at the moment of death can be a very traumatic experience. It is because, rather than welcome it, and view it as a wonderful time of graduation into the next life, they resist it; and it becomes a very dark, dreadful experience for them.

It is because the soul, or spirit, is an integral part of our whole being, that in the Bible, when a certain person

was possessed by a demonic spirit, at the moment of their deliverance by the Lord, sometimes they were torn, or rent, by that spirit; and the evil spirit would cry out with a loud voice through the tongue of the demon-possessed person. In this case, the words 'tare' and 'rent' are derived from the Greek word 'sparasso', pronounced spar-as'-so, which means to convulse, as in a spasmodic contraction. Not only that, but sometimes the person would immediately fall down as one dead, until Jesus would revive them. Apparently, some evil spirits are so strong, that they can actually overpower and dominate the spirit of life which has been given to a person by God at the time of their conception. Consider the following clear example found in the Gospel of Mark:

"And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose." (Mark 9:26-27)

Sadly, in our modern world of technology and medical wonders where hardhearted men of science reject the realities of the Spirit World and demonic possession, such blatant attacks by Satan have been given confusing Latin names; and instead of treating them with prayer and fasting, the poor victims of these attacks are treated with drugs and shock therapy. If only these people would realize that treating the physical results of the possession is not the solution, but rather they must treat the demonic possession itself. As we read of the poor woman who was afflicted with an issue of blood for twelve years:

"And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse," (Mark 5:26)

Returning to the subject of the separation of body and soul at the time of one's death, it is because we are comprised of both a body and a soul, or a spirit, that when speaking of the horrible fate which awaits those who stubbornly reject the message of Salvation until the very end, Jesus gave the following serious admonition found in the Gospel of Matthew:

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28)

So as you can see, even the Lord Himself clearly tells us that we are dual entities. For a clear explanation of what the Lord meant by the word 'hell' in the above verse, allow me to refer you to the article 'Hell And The Lake Of Fire'.

Based upon my study of the Scriptures, as I explain in 'What Really Happens To Us When We Die?', I believe that while the bodies of deceased Christians remain in the ground in an unconscious state of 'sleep', and even experience decay, or corruption as it is referred to in the Bible, our souls, or spirits, return to our Creator; where we patiently wait to be reunited with our transformed bodies. This will occur at the time of the First Resurrection of the Dead when Christ returns for His beloved children. In addition to the verses

I shared in part one from the Book of Revelation which dealt with the souls under the symbolic Altar of God, the idea of being in the Lord's presence following physical death, finds further support in the following verses found in Paul's second Epistle to the Corinthians, as well as in his letter to the Philippians:

"Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:5-8)

"...so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." (Philippians 1:20b-24)

I believe that what Paul is saying is very obvious. The reason that he says 'to live is Christ', but 'to die is gain', is because he knows full well, that 'to be absent from the body' is 'to be present with the Lord'. If Paul really believed that when he died, his entire being, both soul and body, would remain in some unconscious state in the ground, for many years until the Lord's Return, do you think he would really find himself in this predicament? Would he really even have 'a desire to depart'? I think not. That is why he states 'to be with Christ...is far better'. Paul had absolutely no doubt, that upon his demise, maybe his tired old flesh would sleep in the ground for a while, but his real spiritual essence, his soul, would zoom right up to be with the Lord, under His symbolic Altar. I have no doubt about this whatsoever.

What a joyful prospect for all of us; but as Paul wisely concludes, 'Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you'. It would be truly wonderful to take our leave from this life now, but as I explain in the article 'Heaven's Gate: Suicide, The Right Way To Go?', to cut our own lives short due to our selfish desire to be with the Lord now, is not the right thing to do. Those who do such things might be a great disappointment to the Lord. How do we know that God doesn't have some special purpose, or some special mission for us to yet fulfill in this life? Let us not forget that many men of God in the Bible didn't even begin their ministries until they were in their forties. That is how long it took to break their pride, and to get them ready to do His Will in a spirit of true humility. Allow me to suggest that you read the series 'So You Really Think You Are So Humble?'.

As we saw from the verses found in the Book of Revelation, our souls are apparently in a very conscious state of being in the Halls of Heaven. John tells us that they are clothed in White Robes, and that they are able to speak to the Lord.

In fact, they cry out to Him for justice over their enemies. Based upon this Scriptural evidence, I must conclude that these Departed Souls form a part of Paul's 'great cloud of witnesses'. While we are told that these souls are resting under the Altar of God, there is a clear Biblical indication that this is not the only thing that they do. It seems that, just like other Angels of God who have never inhabited a human body of flesh, these Departed Souls can be sent on special missions for the Lord; that is, they can be sent forth as Angelic Messengers.

To prove that this is so, consider the fact that in the beginning of the Book of Revelation, we are told that John the Beloved received the Apocalypse via the Lord's Angel. While at first we might conclude that this was an Angel who had never experienced Earthly life, as most people normally assume, it isn't until the very end of the book that we are informed that John's guide, or helper, is actually a Jewish Prophet of the past. In other words, it appears that he was a Departed Spirit. Consider the actual text:

"And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."  
(Revelation 19:10)

"And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."  
(Revelation 22:8-9)

Please take note that this Angel clearly refused to be worshipped by John. Not only that, but twice he told John that he was his fellowservant, that he was of the Prophets, and that he was of his brethren, obviously meaning the Jews; as those were the only true Prophets that there were back then. There can be no mistake here. This Angelic Messenger was a former Prophet of old who had been sent forth by the Lord to deliver this powerful revelation to John. He was a Departed Soul. Maybe his flesh body was still asleep in the ground somewhere, but his soul, his real spiritual essence, was actively serving the Lord. The only possible way to get around this possibility, is to suggest that he was a part of the Resurrection which occurred at the time of the Lord's own Resurrection, as is described by Matthew towards the end of his Gospel:

"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." (Matthew 27:52-53)

Please notice that this was a bodily Resurrection; it was a reunion of body and soul; precisely as had happened to our Lord Himself. These were not just disembodied spirits which were seen by the Jerusalemites. Whoever these Saints were, and however many they were, they apparently received the

full promise of Eternal Life in their Resurrected Bodies at that very time as per the following verses. Please notice the verse references; as this is yet another example of the Lord's apparent like for matching numbers; as I mention in the article 'Famous Forties: One Of God's Special Numbers?':

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (Philippians 3:20-21)

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2)

Isn't that amazing? They talk about the same topic, and they use the same numbers. As I pondered this Resurrection at the end of the Gospel of Matthew, I began to wonder what might have happened to these Resurrected Saints after they went into the city of Jerusalem and performed what most certainly must have been a very powerful witness for the unbelieving Jews. Surely they didn't return to their graves afterward. In His faithfulness, the Lord, by His Spirit, reminded me of the following verse; which clearly fits into this whole idea of a great spiritual cloud of witnesses:

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight." (Acts 1:9)

Is it possible that this 'cloud' which received Jesus out of the Disciples' sight was nothing less than the multitude of Resurrected Saints who surrounded and accompanied Him as He returned to the Heavens, where He remains until this present time? If the shepherds who were told of the Lord's Birth witnessed a multitude of Angels, then doesn't it also seem appropriate for His followers to witness a similar scenario at the time of our Lord's return to Heaven?

Whatever the case might be, even if John's Angel was a part of this cloud of Resurrected Saints who returned to Heaven, it still does not alter the truth of all of the other verses I have presented. We still know that Paul said to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord; and that there are now disembodied souls resting in Heaven under the Altar of God; where they wait for the day in which they will be reunited with their new improved bodies, which currently sleep in the Earth; exactly like the Prophet Daniel:

"And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end...But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days." (Daniel 12:9, 13)

"And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled." (Revelation 6:11)



"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."  
(Revelation 14:13)

What I wish to bring to your attention, is the fact that this Departed Saint, this former Prophet of the Lord, was what the Apostle Paul referred to as a 'Ministering Spirit'. In the following verses, Paul informs us that God makes His Angels spirits, who are 'sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation'. In other words, they are sent forth to minister to we humans, and more specifically, to we Christians; because we are the only heirs of Salvation that there are. If a person doesn't accept Christ in this life, then the only thing they can hope to inherit is the Lake of Fire. Consider Paul's words carefully regarding these Angels who are sent forth as Ministering Spirits:

"And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire...Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:7, 14)

To what degree, and with what frequency, such spiritual intervention is permitted to occur, is probably dependent upon each individual situation. In some cases, it might be limited to an Angelic Visitation, such as I have already described for you. If we pause to consider how many such incidents are recorded during the first four thousand years of Biblical history; we could assume that such encounters are extremely rare; on the other hand, if we consider the words of the Apostle Paul when he said 'for thereby some have entertained angels unawares', is it possible that they are much more common than we suspect? Let us also not forget that 'great cloud of witnesses' which encompasses us about.

Aside from the frequency of such spiritual occurrences, the kinds of experiences, or the degree of Angelic Involvement in our lives is also an important issue. In other words, exactly how are these Ministering Spirits helping us? Please pay attention to the fact that Paul specifically states that the Lord makes His Angels spirits. In other words, God makes His messengers spirits. Exactly what does that mean? Part of the answer can be found in the following warning issued by the Apostle John. Many of us are already familiar with it:

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:" (1 John 4:1-2)

Why does John advise us to try, or test, the spirits? It is because many false prophets are gone out into the world. How do these false spirits manifest themselves? John gives us a very specific answer when he employs the verb 'confess'. In other words, spiritual beings do not just become involved in our lives by appearing to us; they can also influence our thoughts, emotions and actions, if we yield ourselves to

them. I talk all about this spiritual battle of thoughts and words in such articles as 'John Lennon's Imagine And Secular Humanism'. This is why the Apostle Paul specifically tells us the following in his discussion on the manifestations of the Spirit:

"And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." (1 Corinthians 14:32)

Do you understand what Paul is really saying here? It is the very same thing that John has told us in the previous verse; and that is that spiritual entities, whether they be good or evil, can use our bodies as mediums, and speak right through us if we allow them to! Isn't this what we saw earlier with the example of demonic possession? This may also be part of the reason why in his Epistle to the Corinthians, Paul tells us to keep our bodies under subjection; because our carnal lusts and desires are influenced by spiritual forces; just like the thoughts we think and the words we speak:

"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." (1 Corinthians 9:27)

Really stop and think about this for a moment. This may shock you, but have you really ever paused to consider what is the true nature and origin of your thoughts? Yes, you can blindly accept all of that nonsense taught by Freud and the other false prophets of modern science and psychology; but if you do, then you will fall under the very same deception as them. What they refer to as 'psyche', or 'alter ego', or some other fancy name, is really 'psuche'. Perhaps you will recall that 'psuche' is the Greek word for your soul, your spirit, your inner spiritual man, your breath of life given to you by your Creator. In speaking about our inner man of the Spirit, sometimes Jesus and the writers of the Bible also referred to it as our heart, or as our belly, or as our conscience. They weren't really referring to our heart of flesh being a pure thing, any more than Jesus was referring to our physical stomach. They were referring to the seat of the Spirit; that is, to our soul. Consider these verses:

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."  
(Matthew 5:8)

"He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38)

"Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:"  
(1 Timothy 1:5)

"Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience."  
(1 Timothy 3:9)

"I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;" (2 Timothy 1:3)

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience,

and our bodies washed with pure water." (Hebrews 10:22)

Just like a radio receiver, our soul, or spirit, acts as a constant receptor to spiritual forces around us. The reason that thoughts seem like words which we hear in our head, is because that is exactly what they are. They are either our own spirit speaking to us, or else God's Spirit speaking to us, what we sometimes refer to as the voice of conscience or the Voice of the Spirit, or else they are other voices from other spiritual forces speaking to us. Please consider the following interesting verses which clarify this point:

"And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."

(1 Kings 19:12)

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." (Isaiah 30:21)

"And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth." (1 Samuel 3:3-10)

"And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst." (John 8:9)

"Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)" (Romans 2:15)

So you see, whether we do evil or good, it is because we are allowing ourselves to be influenced by the spiritual forces around us who wish to control our thoughts, either for God, or else for Satan. Sadly, in the case of many of the people of the world, they have their spiritual antennas tuned in to the wrong frequency. This fact becomes quite evident in the physical realm when you consider what most of them watch on the television set, what kind of movies they go to see, what kind of videos they rent, what kind of music they like to listen to, how they talk, how they dress, etc.; because the physical is a manifestation of the spiritual. In fact, we

are all out of tune to God's Spirit until the day in which we accept the Lord into our lives; and allow His Blood, and His Word, to wash clean our spirits, to purify our hearts, to renew our minds, and to totally regenerate our beings. Consider the following verses:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man." (Matthew 15:18-20)

"BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."  
(Psalms 119:9)

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." (John 15:3)

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14)

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."  
(Romans 12:2)

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"  
(Titus 3:5)

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." (James 4:8)

Once we do accept the Lord into our lives, and allow His Word to cleanse us, to reshape us, to renew our minds, to transform us, and to regenerate us, then we too can begin to see beyond the outward appearances of men, and into their hearts, into their thoughts, and into their spirits; exactly as Jesus did. The Bible refers to this wonderful Gift of the Spirit as Spiritual Discernment. Consider the following verses:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

"And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every

kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:" (Matthew 12:25)

"But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth." (Luke 6:8)

"Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man." (John 2:23-25)

"To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:" (1 Corinthians 12:10)

If we apply all of these things to Prophets and the Gift of Prophecy, collectively-speaking, what the Apostles John and Paul are stating, is that when one of the Lord's Prophets is prophesying, he is allowing himself to serve as a conduit for one of the Lord's Angels; whom God has sent forth as a Ministering Spirit, in order to deliver a message to His children. While it is the Prophet's mouth and tongue which utter the message, it is really God's Agent who is doing the speaking through the flesh of the Prophet, by directing his thoughts; and possibly even by controlling his tongue. This should not come as a surprise to any of us; after all, the Bible is literally full of such examples, both good and bad; as we have already begun to see.

In several other articles, I share the example of evil King Ahab, his wicked false prophets, and the true Prophet of the Lord, Micaiah. Being as the Lord knew that King Ahab would stubbornly refuse the godly counsel given to him by Micaiah, He purposely sent one of His Ministering Spirits to be a lying spirit in the mouth of the false prophets. Following are the key verses from the story:

"And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee." (1 Kings 22:19-23)

Clearly then, this spirit from God spoke through the mouths of the false prophets. It used their bodies as a medium to communicate a false message to the king. As I also mentioned earlier, the New Testament contains a number of examples of

demonic oppression, or outright possession, where various people were completely taken over by evil spirits. In some cases it resulted in bodily afflictions and diseases such as being deaf and dumb. Consider the following example found in the ninth chapter of the Gospel of Mark which we looked at a few minutes ago:

"And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose." (Mark 9:17-27)

As with the false prophets of King Ahab, Jesus was also forced to deal with evil spirits which spoke through the mouths of their victims. One classic example is that of the story of 'Legion'; a host of demons which possessed a man who wandered amongst the tombs. Another involves a man in the synagogue who harassed Jesus around the beginning of His Ministry:

"And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked." (Luke 8:27-33)

"And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean

spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him." (Mark 1:23-26)

In the final installment of this series, we will discuss the Lord's warning to those who have been delivered from demonic possession. In addition, we will also look at such topics as Revelation's three frogs and the blasphemy of the Beast, the Apostles' blunders, spiritual vigilance, being ghostwriters for Jesus, Heavenly Possession, the physical effects of the Spirit, bought with a Price, spiritual lovemaking, Herod and Herodias, Ahab and Jezebel, John and Elijah, Jesus and Moses, a warning regarding necromancy, and the seven sons of Sceva. I trust that you will join me.

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Warning To Those Who Are Delivered, Revelation's Three Frogs  
The Beast's Blasphemous Tongue, The Apostles' Blunders, Stay  
On Guard, Ghostwriters For Jesus, By The Spirit, Heavenly  
Possession, Physical Effects Of The Spirit, Bought With A  
Price, Spiritual Lovemaking, Herod And Herodias, Ahab And  
Jezebel, John And Elijah, Jesus And Moses, Necromancy, Sceva

In the twelfth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord gave His followers a very stern warning regarding those who had been delivered from evil spirits, and healed of those sicknesses associated with them. In the Gospel of John, He applied this warning to a man who He had healed, after the man had been sick for thirty-eight years. In like manner, in his second Epistle, the Apostle Peter reminded the brethren of the pitiful state of those Disciples who, after having once dedicated themselves to the Lord's service, fell back into the spiritual and physical pollutions of the world:

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation." (Matthew 12:43-45)

"Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." (John 5:14)

"For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." (2 Peter 2:18-22)

There are many more Biblical examples of demonic possession which I can cite, but let us move up to one which is yet to happen in the near future, as it will be the worst, and the



most deceptive of all. We find it in the sixteenth chapter of the Book of Revelation:

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

(Revelation 16:12-14)

Here we again see the satanic forces speaking through the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet, in order to bring the antichrist armies of the world to the Battle of Armageddon. As I point out in other articles such as the series 'John Lennon's Imagine And Secular Humanism', as well as in 'Speak The Pure Language Of Truth', just as the Lord's true Prophets and children yield to His Spirit and speak the Truth, the Beast will speak with the poisonous and deceptive tongue of the serpent; Satan himself; and he will blaspheme against the God of Heaven. Consider these verses:

"And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

(Daniel 7:25)

"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done." (Daniel 11:36)

"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven." (Revelation 13:5-6)

Let us return now to the warning issued by John regarding testing the spirits. Don't forget that John's Epistle was addressed to the Lord's own children, as was the Apostle Paul's. They both wanted to let their followers know, that they must be extremely careful regarding to whom they yield themselves; because not all spirits, and not all voices, are of God; and even the Lord's own children can be tricked if they are not careful. Even we can allow ourselves to be influenced and used by the wrong spirits if we do not stay close to the Lord, close to His Word, and submitted to His Will. If you doubt that this is so, consider these two examples found in the Gospels:

"And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of

spirit ye are of." (Luke 9:54-55)

"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." (Matthew 16:21-23)

If the Lord's very own Disciples had such problems, who are we to think that we cannot be tricked by a false angel of light into saying, or even doing, the wrong thing? If they yielded their tongues to ungodly spirits, and even to Satan himself in Peter's case, how much more should we be on the alert, and guard ourselves continually against such attacks? This is why the Apostle Paul tells us to bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ; because, as we have already seen, they are spiritual things; they either come from God, or else they come from Satan. Consider the following verses:

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." (2 Corinthians 11:14)

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8)

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (2 Corinthians 10:5)

We can thank the Lord that, aside from a few slips from the Disciples during their training period, the holy men of the past yielded their minds, hearts, bodies and tongues to the Lord's Spirit. They literally became spiritual mediums for God's Holy Spirit and Ministering Spirits. If you are able to receive it, they were ghostwriters; that is, they were Holy Ghost writers for the Lord; and it is due to this fact, that today we have the Divine Record known as the Bible. Consider the following inspiring verses which testify of the powerful intervention by God's Holy Spirit and Ministering Spirits:

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21)

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" (2 Timothy 3:16)

"...My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer." (Psalms 45:1b)

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost

said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." (Acts 13:2)

"Afterwards the spirit took me up, and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to them of the captivity. So the vision that I had seen went up from me." (Ezekiel 11:24)

"But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin." (Micah 3:8)

"And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law," (Luke 2:27)

"And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar." (Acts 11:28)

"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;" (Ephesians 3:5)

"And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us." (1 John 3:24)

It should be clear to you then, that we all live in a very spiritual world; and that we are all influenced by spiritual forces. The idea of an evil angel on our left shoulder, and a good Angel on our right, is not such a far-fetched idea after all, is it? To whom we yield ourselves, and how much we yield ourselves, is all a matter of personal choice. I would also like to point out that just as we readily accept the idea of demonic oppression and possession, possession by God's Holy Spirit is also a reality. While the term itself might be offensive to some of you, please stop to consider the following. Exactly what is demonic possession? As we have now seen, it is being overpowered and filled by an evil spirit, which then controls one's being. So let me ask you; if one is filled with, and controlled by God's Holy Spirit, is this not also a form of spiritual possession? Consider these verses:

"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb." (Luke 1:15)

"And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:" (Luke 1:41)

"And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying," (Luke 1:67)

"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4)

"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel," (Acts 4:8)

"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31)

"And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost." (Acts 9:17)

"Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him," (Acts 13:9)

"And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost." (Acts 13:52)

From the previous verses, aside from the fact that we can plainly see that we are indeed filled with, or possessed by, God's Holy Spirit, another thing we can see is that, just as demonic spirits are able to control physical matter, such as in the case of the poor victims who convulsed in epileptic or spasmodic fits, or who acquired the strength, by their demons, to break their fetters, or who threw their victims into the fire so that they were burned, or who controlled the tongues of their victims, God's Holy Spirit not only takes control of those who yield themselves to Him, but He also has an effect on other physical matter as well. Notice that the house where the Disciples were staying was actually shaken; and this was not the first time that such physical manifestations occurred. In the following example, there was the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and cloven tongues of fire were physically visible to the observers:

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:1-4)

God's Spirit is indeed extremely powerful; and I am not just referring to the Gifts of the Spirit with which we are all familiar. By the Power of God's Spirit, Jesus walked on the water; He healed people of many diseases which had physical symptoms; He calmed the rough sea; He placed a coin in the mouth of the fish so they could pay their taxes; He withered a barren fig tree; He walked through walls; and He may have even moved an entire boat through time and space so that it was suddenly at shore. Let us also not forget such wonderful events as moving back the sun on two occasions, holding back the rain for three and a half years, or the great earthquake in the Book of Acts which liberated Paul and Silas; and the prophecies of the Endtime tell us that we should expect many more such events; if they are all to be understood literally:

"Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down." (Isaiah 38:8)

"And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day." (Joshua 10:13)

"And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word...And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth...And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain." (1 Kings 18:17:1, 18:1, 41)

"But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;" (Luke 4:25)

"Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." (James 5:17-18)

"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed."  
(Acts 16:25-26)

On a more personal level, the reason God has the right to possess us with His Holy Spirit, and control our lives, is because in actuality, we are His property. The Scriptures clearly tell us that we are bought with a price, that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost, and that God can do with each one of us as He pleases. Carefully consider the following verses, and you will see that this is so:

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."  
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" (Romans 9:20)

"...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

(2 Corinthians 6:16b)

"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."  
(1 Corinthians 7:23)

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."  
(Matthew 20:28)

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

As I explain in other articles, just as a wife is expected to yield herself to her husband, our Bridegroom expects us, His Bride, to yield ourselves to Him, and to be ravished by His Spirit. Perhaps that is a bit direct for some of you, but that is basically what the Scriptures tell us. We must allow ourselves to be possessed by the Lord, so that we can produce spiritual children for the Kingdom of God; that is, new souls who are born again by His Spirit working through us. This can only happen if we yield our bodies, through sacrificial service, and our tongues, through witnessing to others, by speaking the Words of Truth which bring Life.

This brings us to one of the final points of this series. Why did Malachi's prophecy specifically say 'I will send you Elijah the prophet'; and why did the Lord also say 'this is Elias, which was for to come'? I suggested in part one that there might be some kind of a hidden process involved here; and I have spent the greater part of this series explaining to you exactly what I believe that process to be. As I also stated in the first part of this series, it is all a matter of personal perspective. Do we look at things in the flesh; or do we look at them the way God sees them, in the Spirit? I find it quite interesting that apart from the first three Gospels, the only other place in the entire Bible where the names Moses and Elijah even come close to each other in the text, is in the very prophecy from the Book of Malachi which we have been discussing. Allow me to share it with you:

"Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." (Malachi 4:4-6)

Exactly what was the main purpose of John the Baptist's ministry? It was to bring the people to a humble state of repentance, in preparation for the coming of the Messiah. Exactly how did John do this? The answer is found in the previous verses; by bringing to their remembrance the Law of Moses. We are all familiar with the final incident which eventually resulted in John losing his head. It was his stiff and vocal opposition to the fact that King Herod had married his brother Philip's wife, Herodias; which was an act of adultery according to the Mosaic Law. It was because of this expose, that Herodias wanted John's head, and for no other reason:

"For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee; And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee. And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom. And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist. And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist. And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her. And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison, And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother. And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb."

(Mark 6:17-29)

It is interesting to note that the Prophet Elijah also ran afoul of the governing authorities of his day; that is, evil King Ahab and his wicked queen-wife Jezebel. Just as wicked Herodias led her husband-king astray, and was responsible for the murder of John the Baptist, Jezebel also influenced King Ahab to worship Baal and to commit other wickedness. In addition to that, we are told that she practiced witchcraft, that she murdered the Lord's Prophets, that she had a man murdered in order that her husband could obtain the man's vineyard, and then she swore that she would also kill the Prophet Elijah. In the end, she was thrown from a window by her own servants, and was eaten up by dogs as per Elijah's prophecy:

"And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him."

(1 Kings 16:31)

"But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up." (1 Kings 21:25)

"For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.) ...Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and

water?" (1 Kings 18:4, 13)

"Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time."

(1 Kings 19:2)

"Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead. And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead." (1 Kings 21:14-15)

"And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?" (2 Kings 9:22)

"And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel." (1 Kings 21:23)

"And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her. And he opened the door, and fled." (2 Kings 9:10)

"And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter. And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel." (2 Kings 9:31-37)

In light of everything we have now discussed regarding the Holy Spirit, Ministering Spirits, and the lives of Elijah and John the Baptist, is it possible that the Lord meant exactly what He said when He had the Prophet Malachi write 'I will send you Elijah the prophet'? In other words, is it possible that the Lord didn't send Elijah to be born again in the flesh, but rather to assist John the Baptist as a Ministering Spirit? Is it even possible that, just as the prophecies of God's Prophets were and are a result of being directly influenced, and even controlled by the Holy Spirit, or one of the Lord's 'Holy Spirits', or Ministering Spirits, that Elijah may have even spoken through the mouth of John the Baptist? Perhaps this is indeed strong meat for some of you, but allow me to again remind you of something which the Apostle Paul wrote, and place it along side of certain things spoken by our Lord:



"And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire...Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:7, 14)

"If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."  
(Luke 11:36)

"Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth...He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light." (John 5:33, 35)

Was John 'a burning and a shining light' because behind the scenes in the Spirit World, he was being assisted by none other than Elijah the Prophet, who was indeed 'a flame of fire' in his own day? It seems to me that it is more than a matter of coincidence that we see Moses and Elijah mentioned together in the Book of Malachi, and they appear together on the top of the Mount of Transfiguration. It almost seems as if the Lord wanted to give Peter, James and John a sneak peek into what was really going on in the Spirit World. In like manner, if Elijah was assisting John the Baptist in some way, might it be possible that Moses was also assisting Jesus as a Ministering Spirit? Let us not forget that Moses did say the following; and Jesus did spend a lot of time quoting from the Mosaic Law, and teaching it in the way that it was really meant to be understood:

"The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;" (Deuteronomy 18:15)

I will leave it up to you to determine exactly how much you are personally willing to believe. Before concluding this series, I think it is important that I issue a warning to you. While we have spoken a lot about the Spirit World, the Holy Ghost, Ministering Spirits, Departed Souls, and the workings of the Spirit, this series should not be construed as being an invitation to dabble in areas where one should not go; particularly if it happens to be in Satan's Realm of Darkness. The Bible very clearly warns us against doing such things, as we see by the following verses:

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God." (Leviticus 19:31)

"And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people." (Leviticus 20:6)

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer." (Deuteronomy 18:10-11)

"And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed

times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger." (2 Kings 21:6)

"Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD."

(2 Kings 23:24)

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?" (Isaiah 8:19)

"And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards." (Isaiah 19:3)

Even as Christians, unless we are mature in the Spirit, and have protected ourselves with the armour of the Spirit, and have claimed the Lord's Divine Protection, and really know what we are doing, we should not seek to exorcise demons out of anyone. Before you are so foolish as to try such a thing, you might want to consider the following incident:

"Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."

(Acts 19:13-16)

With that warning, I am going to bring another series to a close. I trust that it has been educational, as well as a great inspiration in your life.

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