

THAT HOLY THING – by Paul M Hanssen – CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35) KJV

Take note, the Angel said to Mary, “that Holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God”.

This story is not just about what we call the Christmas story, it’s not just about the events that led up to the birth of Christ. It is more than that - as a matter of fact, every story in God’s Word is more than just the account of an actual event in history. Through the events that took place throughout Biblical history God drew for us Divine pictures and gave us explicit principles that fit into the narrative of our personal journey and spiritual lives. The “Christmas story” is no exception.

The New Testament era began with the birth of the Son of God. However, He most certainly was not born in December. He was 33 ½ years old when He was crucified during the Passover. The Passover is celebrated in March/April, therefore the birth of Jesus probably occurred around mid-September. Shepherds were historically not in the fields in December due to the cold deep winter months. Shepherds tended to the sheep as they grazed in the fields from April or May to early October. Shepherds would not have been on the hillsides Judea in December. Nonetheless, it is evident that Jesus was born and that with the birth of the Son of God began a new era.

The New Testament era will also end as it started, with the birth of the “sons of God”, or the “Man-child” as seen in Revelation. John saw the birth of the man-child and he described it in a similar fashion as the birth of Jesus was described by Luke. Read the following verses and see the parallel.

And she **being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.**
(Revelation 12:2)

And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. (Revelation 12:5)

*To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, **being great with child**. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished **that she should be delivered (Luke 2:5-6)**.*

Just like the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus are an example to us of the crucifixion, death, and resurrection life that we as believers also encounter in our spiritual lives, in like manner, so also is the birth of Jesus. It too is an example of that which is brought to birth from within the spiritual womb.

Creation is groaning and travailing for the birth of these sons. (I will be teaching more on this in the new year).

With these things in mind, the events surrounding the birth of the Son of God take on a whole new meaning. If we desire to be one of those who bring to birth the spiritual experience of the Man-child, then what happened to Mary in her physical body will also happen to us from within our spiritual wombs.

There is much to be considered in Mary's story. However, this lesson I want to draw your attention to one thing only. The Holy Ghost **came upon her!** (A few years ago I taught on The Power of the Highest Overshadowed Her).

To **"come upon"** means to **influence and find a place**. It is not possible to present an available place, a spiritual womb, for the living seed of Truth from the Heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus, (a clean and sanctified womb for the seed of His Word) if we have never given ourselves over to His Divine influence.

To influence means: **the act or power of producing an effect without apparent exertion of force or direct exercise of command**. His influence upon us should be sufficient for us to create a space where we can host, nourish, and grow the seed of the Manifested Sons of God, or the likeness of His character and image.

- He does not command our submission even though He desires it.
- He does not force Himself into our spirit.
- Neither does He exert His power on us with relentless effort.

No, rather, those who love Him melt at His influence as His Spirit and power "Come upon" us. How often have we aborted His Divine influence upon us due to pride, wrong choices, our traditions or religious forms, stubbornness, and ignorance? How often have we killed what He deposited within the womb of our spirits, and

how often have we walked away from a work He had started within us but was never completed because we denied the influence?

Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees and scribes one day when He said these words: *Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it (John 8:43-44).*

Basically, what Jesus was saying to these guys was that they were the sons of the devil. Clearly, they were not literal or physical sons of the devil. Rather, the devil was their father because he was the influence upon them. They followed the example of the lusts, the murder of the truth, and the lies that are prominent characteristics of the devil. Hence, they became like him and hence they became his sons.

Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD. (1 Samuel 2:12)
Eli was the High Priest during the time that the Tabernacle of the Congregation was in Shiloh. His two sons, Phinehas and Hophni, were called sons of Belial (another name for the devil meaning wicked, evil, ungodly, and without profit). What made them to be sons of Belial? They were just like the one under whose influence they lived. They took upon themselves the nature and character of Belial. Hence, they are called sons of Belial. The same principle works for those who become the sons of God.

The Manifested Sons of God are the evidence, the fruitfulness, and the visible manifestation of the influence of the Lord and Master upon their lives through the relationship they have with Bridegroom, Jesus – Him in you coming forth from you in the likeness and image of His divine character. His face is seen through your life! This is **THE HOLY THING** that God desires to see birthed from your life.

What an extraordinary Christmas we can have if we learn to *yield to His loving influence*. Allow Him to come upon you. The fruit will be “a holy thing”, a son of God – the manifested birth of the sons to the Father! Seek Him, seek to be like Him. You may know a lot of religion, you may have a head full of knowledge, you may

live a life of example, at least outwardly. But until you and I produce the fruit of His likeness our mission is not accomplished.

From South Africa, from my wife and myself, we pray that you all have a blessed Christmas filled with the glory presence of God coming upon you!

Merry Christmas!