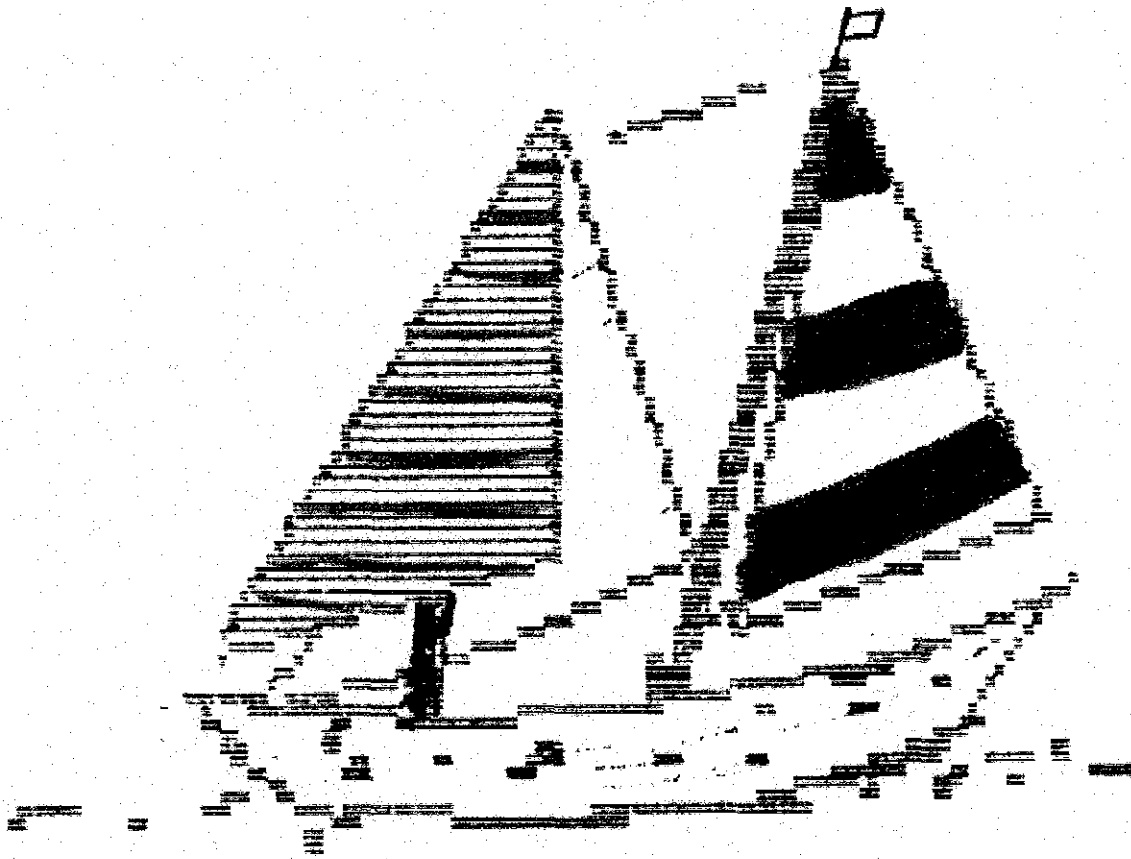


The Straits of Love



*PSA 107:23 They that go down to the sea in
ships, that do business in great waters;
24 These see the works of the LORD, and his
wonders in the deep.*

The Straits of Love

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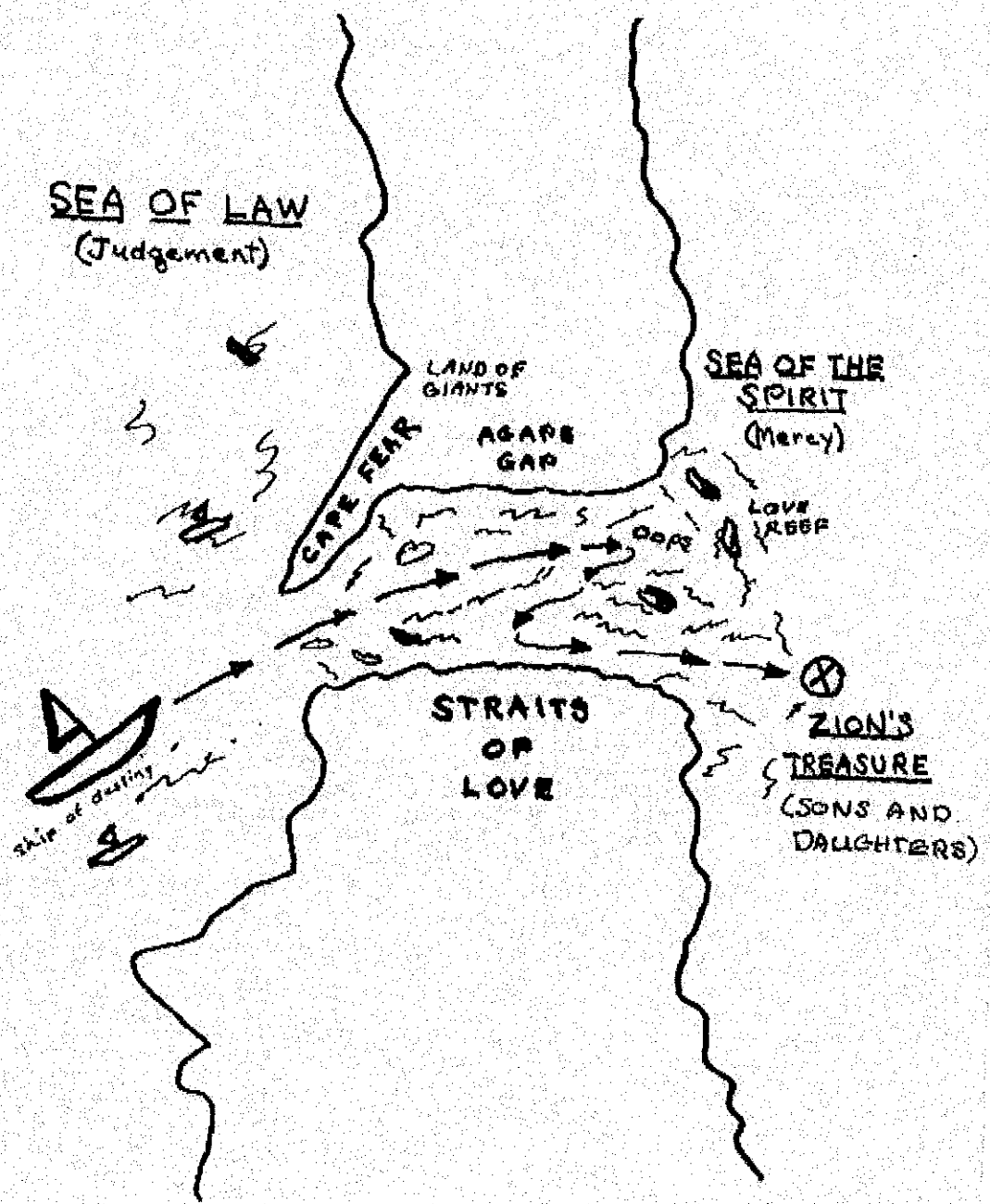
THE STRAITS OF LOVE

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TREASURE MAP



THE STRAITS OF LOVE

CHAPTER ONE

The son or daughter begins the time of dating and courtship leading toward marriage with unrestrained optimism. The older and wiser parents share the bright hope for their offspring, but also know that many hazardous rocks lie in the path of those who would sail the seas to a successful marriage. They know that a son or daughter must negotiate a particularly hazardous passage just beyond Cape Fear called The Straits of Love - a place of many submerged rocks and shipwrecks. Will they hold on to their faith and conscience and make the passage? Paul gave this admonishment to his spiritual son Timothy:

"This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith."
I Tim. 1:18,19-NASB

As the son or daughter goes off toward the first date, the parents rejoice and yet think "Have we told them everything they need to know about the birds and bees? Are they really prepared for what lies ahead? Maybe we should remind them again." Do you suppose that our heavenly Father feels the same way about his sons and daughters? Do you think He must feel the same joy and concerns as those parents on earth? Does He feel the same sorrow as earthly parents when tragedy arises?

In Luke 11:11-13 the Bible compares the gifts given by an earthly father as compared to the gift of the Holy Spirit by the Heavenly Father. Hebrews 12:6-11 discusses chastening given by our earthly father and admonishes us to "be in subjection to the Father of Spirits and live". Galations 4:26 refers to the Jerusalem from above as the "mother of us all". When man was created in the image of God, he was a mirror image of the Creator whose name in the original Hebrew is Elohim.

"So God (Elohim) created man in his own image, in the image of God (Elohim) created he him, male and female created he them."
Gen. 1:27 (See also Gen.5:1&2)

If man mirrored the image of the Creator - then is it not true that the Creator must be both male and female?

Did not Adam have both the male and female attributes resident within him until Eve was formed? Is it possible that when Adam fell into a "deep sleep" and Eve was formed that Adam and Eve from that point were no longer in the mirror image of God (Elohim)? Is not the El Shaddai nature of God described in the feminine as the "large breasted one" a "nourisher and provider"?

In Psalm 91, we are given a beautiful picture of our Godly parents. (Note that names in parenthesis are in the original Hebrew).

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High (El Elyon) shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty (El Shaddai). I will say of the Lord (Yahweh), He is my refuge and my fortress: my God (Elohim); in him will I trust." Psalm 91:1&2

So here, we see a picture of Yahweh as the head of the household, the Father, one who protects the household. El Shaddai is like the wife, the nature of the one of whom the Savior spoke when He said,

"...how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings..." Matt. 23:37

It is obvious that Elohim is used in the same context as parents - the father plus the mother. Elohim is the "us" of the scripture "Let us make man in our image..." And somehow, El Elyon (the Most High) describes the "all in all" spoken of by Paul.

"And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all." I Cor. 15:28

The various names of God are like facets of a diamond. Some have seen only the light gleaming from one name or nature of God. But why not enjoy the sparkling of light from the many faceted natures and names?

Now if we have heavenly parents, does it not follow that the scriptures would speak of sons and daughters?

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." II Cor. 6: 17,18

Note in the above scriptures, we have the context of the Father and also the mother for El Shaddai is translated as "Almighty" in the old testament.

"I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south,

Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth. Even everyone that is called by my name for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."
Isa. 43:6&7

Now while it is clear that natural sons and daughters marry each other, what kind of relationship are we talking about for spiritual sons and daughters? It seems clear from the scriptures that this relationship is not in the same realm. You remember the story in Matthew 22 about the woman who had seven consecutive husbands all of whom died. Then the Pharisees asked Jesus (or Yahoshua if you prefer the Hebrew name) whose wife she would be in the resurrection.

"Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures or the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.
Matt. 22: 29,30

So, it would appear that the present system of reproduction after natural means which brings forth children in the pain of child birth would be replaced by a higher realm. For in Genesis we were told:

"Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children..."
Gen 3:16

Then, it would also follow that there will be tremendous changes in our bodies. We would no longer depend on natural food or eliminate waste as in our present bodies.

"Meats for the belly and the belly for meats: But God will destroy both it and them..." I Cor. 6:13

As God's sons and daughters have begun to "discover" each other it has opened up a tremendous flow of agape love. But the problem has been that many are still operating in the natural, carnal realm - but see the vision of coming "into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the

Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves,
waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of
our body. Rom. 8:19-23

While the spiritual realm of sons and daughters is glorious many have been so taken by this "love" that they have tried to apply it to the natural realm with disastrous results. In a number of cases, there has been a tragic trail of broken marriages, immoral conduct, and broken-hearted friends, families and relatives - sadly enough carried on under the banner of "serving God".

Recently, in Waller County, Texas a school Superintendent arose before dawn one morning and started driving toward his destination. In the darkness, he came to a bridge that was broken down. His car crashed to the river bed and he was badly injured. Yet, he knew that before long a school bus of precious sons and daughters would be taking the same road. So, in spite of his injuries, he managed to drag himself a half-mile to get help and warn those who would soon be traveling the same road. He succeeded.

God is now doing a new thing.

"Behold I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
Isa. 43:19

It takes pioneers to do a new thing. A pioneer is one who blazes the trail, sets up way markers, and draws charts and maps for those who would follow. How much easier Magellan's passage around South America would have been if he had a map of the Straits of Magellan. If he had known the winds, the currents, the submerged rocks; how much easier it would have been!

In the same way God's sons and daughters must sail from the Sea of Law through the perilous Straits of Love into the Sea of the Spirit. Maps are beginning to be made of the rocks and reefs. Accounts are now available of where ships have been wrecked and the reasons why.

CHAPTER II

The Purification of the Sons and Daughters

Before we begin to examine the relationships between Sons and Daughters, it is profitable to examine scriptures about the purification they must undergo.

Many of the scriptures talk about the sons and daughters of Zion. This seems to be the realm which God desires his children to come into. Zion, by definition, is a sunny place. Zion is referred to as a "holy hill" and as a mount or mountain.

"Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion."
Psalm 2:6

What are the spiritual characteristics of this Zion?

"Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." Psalm 24:3-5

Then in very simple terms, Zion is a place where those with a pure heart (thoughts) and clean hands (acts) dwell. It is not so much a physical place as it is a spiritual realm.

Not everyone is called or will be in Mount Zion - at least in this age. The children designated by God are born in Mount Zion.

"And of Zion it shall be said, this and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah. As well as the singers as the players on instruments shall be there: all my springs are in thee." Psalms 87:5-7

Springs are symbolic of children or offspring. The Lord is saying that all of his children will be in her. Zion is a place that will be established by El Elyon - the Most High God.

Now just because a person is born in Zion doesn't mean that they start out in the earth realm with a pure heart and clean hands - far from it! David, the sweet psalmist of Israel who wrote of Zion wrote these verses after Nathan confronted him about Bathsheba.

"Behold I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my

mother conceive me. Behold thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." Psalms 51: 5-7

God's Sons and Daughters truly have a tremendous destiny and many prophecies are spoken over them - and sometimes it goes to their heads. But if you really want to know their spiritual state before purification read the following scriptures.

SONS

"How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street. The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!" Lamentations 5: 1-2

DAUGHTERS

"Moreover, The Lord said, "Because the daughters of Zion are proud, and walk with heads held high and seductive eyes, and go along with mincing steps, and tinkle the bangles on their feet, Therefore the Lord will afflict the scalp of the daughters of Zion with scabs, and the Lord will make their foreheads bare. In that day the Lord will take away the beauty of their anklets, headbands, crescent ornaments, dangling earrings, bracelets, veils, headdresses, ankle chains, sashes, perfume boxes, amulets, finger rings, nose rings, festal robes, outer tunics, cloaks, money purses, hand mirrors, undergarments, turbans and veils.

Now it will come about that instead of sweet perfume there will be putrefaction; instead of a belt, a rope; instead of well-set hair, a plucked-out scalp; instead of fine clothes, a donning of sackcloth; and branding instead of beauty." Isaiah 3:16-24 RU

But in spite of the trials and tribulations, we read on to find out the final and glorious state of Zion.

"And it will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy - everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem.

When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgement and the spirit of burning, then the Lord will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies, a

cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy.

And there will be a shelter to give shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain. Isaiah 4: 3-6 RU

So God's sons and daughters have almost mind boggling prophecies concerning them. But like Sarai and Abram - Sarai's womb of the spirit remained closed until Abram was circumcized of his flesh nature and had a pure seed. So, try as hard as they might - nothing much but Ishmaels will come forth from the sons and daughters until they willingly submit themselves to the necessary purification.

How does God bring about this purification? Even as he used natural nations to chasten Israel of old, he uses spiritual nations (or peoples of a given realm) to chasten his sons and daughters. Enter the Assyrian!

"Ho, Assyrian! the rod of my anger, and the staff in their hand is my indignation. I will send them against a hypocritical nation and against a wrathful people will I give him a charge, to take captives and to take spoil and to tread them down like the mire of the street. But he does not look so, neither does his heart think so, but it is in his heart to destroy and annihilate nations not a few.

And as I have done to Samaria and her idols, so will I do to Jerusalem and her idols. Therefore it shall come to pass that when the Lord has performed his whole work on mount Zion, and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the proud heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his pride."

Isa 10: 5-7,11-12 Lamsa

The Lord apparently uses the Assyrian to thin out the ranks of those who would aspire to Mount Zion. Even as Job was tested to determine if he loved the Lord only for the benefits or if he would love him with no blessing being given, so will be the testing of Mount Zion's inhabitants. Only a remnant will remain.

"And it shall come to pass in that day that the remnant of Israel, and those who are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall not trust upon him that smote them; but they shall trust in the Lord, the Holy One of Israel in truth. The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. For though your people Isreal be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return; their number decreased, cut off, but flooded with righteousness.

For the Lord God of hosts shall bring destruction and make decrees throughout the earth. Therefore thus says the Lord of Hosts: O my people that dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian, who shall smite you with his rod, and shall lift his staff

against you after the manner of Egypt. For yet a little while, and my indignation will be accomplished and my anger because of their destruction."

Isa 10:20-25 Lamsa

"I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot; then his yoke shall depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders."

Isa. 14: 25 Lamsa

In summary, the sons and daughters start out in an impure, fleshly state. God uses circumstances, people and events in the form of the rod of the Assyrian to chasten and purify them. Only a remnant remains after this testing is completed. Then the Assyrian is removed and God's sons and daughters who have tried oh-so-hard to bring forth a spiritual child are finally ready to abandon Ishmael and bring forth the Isaac of promise. Next we will examine their glorious destiny.

CHAPTER III

The Caesarian Section

Like Abram and Sarai - the sons and daughters have had to go through a circumcision to cut away the flesh. Then the pure seed of the word comes forth and the womb of the Spirit is opened.

"Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no child; Break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not travailed; for the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous than the sons of the married woman", says the Lord." Isa. 54:1 NASB

Within the last forty years, there has been an awakening concerning the promises revealed to the sons of God as given in Romans chapter 8. And yet there has been a missing ingredient. Sons by themselves can not create. We need only to look at the natural to know that it takes a son and daughter to create. Much of the message of "sonship" has spoken about a "corporate man" or a pattern son which the sons of God will bring forth. However, if there is a reversal of the changes in Adam (which resulted in the fall), the corporate man or pattern son will have a daughter within in order to come back into the image of Elohim. There must be a marriage between the bridegrooms (sons) and the brides (daughters). Until then, in spite of the best efforts of the sons to work on their own, nothing much will happen.

Yes, there is to be a marriage in Zion. The Lord speaks these words to the inhabitants of Zion which includes the sons and daughters. He tells Zion that her sons will marry her daughters.

"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, and her salvation like a torch that is burning. And the nations will see your righteousness and all the kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord will designate.

You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. It will no longer be said to you "Forsaken", nor to your land will it any longer be said "Desolate",; But you will be called, "My delight is in her", and your land "Married", for the Lord delights in you. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so your God will rejoice over you.

Go through, go through the gates; Clear the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; remove the stones, lift up a standard over the peoples. Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth, say to the daughter of Zion, "Lo, your salvation comes; behold his reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him. And they will call them "The Holy People, The redeemed of the Lord": and you will be called, "Sought out, a city not forsaken."
Isa. 62: 1-5, 10-12 NASB

Note that the scriptures speak of a highway. This is the highway of holiness - no one can walk there but he who has a pure heart and clean hands.

Now we said that when Eve was formed from Adam that he was put into a "deep sleep". Next we will see the event that removes this sleep and restores God's sons and daughters back into the original image of Elohim.

"And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep."
Zech. 4:1

In order to understand what it was that awakened Zechariah out of his sleep, we need an insight into certain symbols. The key is given in Psalm 144:12.

"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth, that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:"
Psalm 144:12

Now that we understand that plants are symbolic of sons and cornerstones are symbolic of daughters, let us examine these scriptures.

"Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for behold I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua, upon one stone shall be seven eyes; behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day." Zech. 3: 8.9

Now we will go back to Zechariah 4 which described the man being wakened from his sleep. As you read the following verses you will note that candlestick with seven lamps is also described as the headstone. This is the same stone that had seven eyes. Remember, in Psalm 144:12 that daughters are as cornerstones. For example, it is cornerstone that fits on top of a pyramid. You will see in the following scriptures from the footnote that the olive trees are the "Sons of Oil" as given in the NASB.

Okay, if you've got everything straight, then let's read Zechariah chapter four with understanding.

"And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep,

And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.

So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my Lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you.

For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth. Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?

And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my Lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.
Zech. 4: 1-14

So here we have a picture of the sons as the olive trees that pour their oil into the lamps of the candlesticks to bring forth the light. What good is olive oil (sons) unless there are lamps (daughters) to burn the oil and bring forth light? Of course, there were five foolish virgins who saw no need for the oil. They preferred to burn their own oil but the oil ran out at an inopportune time.

Note: The two witnesses in Revelation Chapter 11 are sometimes referred to as the Olive trees. But they are sons (or olive trees) who are still wearing the sackcloth of repentance (Rev 11:3) and have not been clothed with a change of raiment like Joshua. (Zech. 3:4) The two candlesticks of Rev. 11:4 are daughters clothed in sackcloth. Those sons and daughters clad in sack cloth will hear the words of Rev. 11:12 "Come up hither" and they will receive a change of raiment. These are those of Revelation 7:14 who received white robes after coming out of great tribulation.

Now back to the five foolish virgins who had no oil for their lamps.

"And when they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." Matt. 25:10

So, no matter how you look at it the sons need the daughters and the daughters need the sons in order to be restored back into the image of Elohim.

Some thought that there would be a manifestation of sonship as scriptures concerning the sons of God began to be revealed in the late forties. But, perhaps it was in the mercy of God that this did not happen to a significant degree. The sons were strong on judgement and truth - but perhaps somewhat lacking in love and mercy. In the nature of Jesus is not only the Lion of Revelation 5:5, but the Lamb of Revelation 5:6. The revelation of the daughters will more fully reveal the Lamb-like nature. Thus the nature of the Lion (judgement) will be balanced with the nature of the Lamb (mercy).

Judgement without mercy can be harsh and cruel - an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Mercy without judgement is like a spineless jellyfish - because true love involves discipline and truth. But, together, judgement (truth) and mercy (love) are in perfect balance.

"Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Psalms 85:10

Truly, the sons need the daughters and the daughters need the sons to be in that perfect balance in the image of Elohim.

You will note that the headstone was brought forth with shoutings. It is an interesting thought to consider the possibility, that like Jesus whose spirit existed before he was born to Mary, the spirits of the sons and daughters were born long before they were born in the flesh. At that time the daughters were known as the

morning stars and the sons of God' shouted when the headstone was brought forth.

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth! Tell me if you have understanding. Who set its measurements since you know? or who stretched the line on it. On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
Job 38: 4-7 NASB

Perhaps the Sons and Daughters in spirit form viewed the laying of the foundation of the earth. And now they are being restored back into the knowledge that they once had. They are waking up out of the sleep that Adam fell into.

Did you know that what Jesus did on the cross is the pattern of the daughter being put back into or birthed back into the son which is in the image of Elohim?

"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."
John 19:34

This was like the sorrow of childbirth to Jesus. For blood and water come forth upon birth. This is like the straits of love for a birth takes place by coming through a narrow place. However, this birth was truly a caesarian section that was administered by the spear point of the legions of Caesar. This was done so that the "sleep" of Adam might be taken away. When the sons and daughters are truly united, we will be as the man of Zechariah 4:1, who was wakened out of his sleep and Adam will be taken out of a "deep sleep".

CHAPTER IV

A Giddy Sixteen Year-Old

So there comes a time when the sons of Zion discover the daughters of Zion - and vice versa. If this has happened to you - and you feel like a sixteen year-old in love - wonderful - what a glorious future you have ahead of you! But, by the way, it is also a time of testing - you will be tested like you have never been tested before. But, at this point you don't care - you're in love - so what? Well, perhaps, we should draw back the curtain just a bit and take a peek at the tests that lie ahead. Remember when the Spirit of God descended on Jesus in the form of a dove? What a blessing - and then what happened?

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Matt. 4:1 NASB

There also came a time when God spoke to the Israelites, "You have circled this mountain long enough. Now turn north." The day came when all the old generation (those afraid of the giants) died and God told them it was time to move on.

"You shall cross over Ar, the border of Moab, today. And when you come opposite the sons of Ammon, do not harass them or provoke them for I will not give you of the land of the sons of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot as a possession. (It is also regarded as the land of the Rephaim, for Rephaim formerly lived in it, but the Amorites call them Zamzummin), A people as great, numerous, and tall as the Anakim, but the Lord destroyed them before them. And they dispossessed them and settled in their place." Deut. 18-21 NASB

Here we see that they were going into the land of Moab and Ammon (the sons of Lot). Lot just barely escaped from Sodom and Gomorrah and had Moab and Ammon - by his own two daughters - unusual to say the least. Now, note that Ammon and Moab had some spiritual power in that they overcame the Rephaim or giants that were the result of the unfortunate union between the fallen sons of God and the daughters of men (see Gen. 6:4). They overcame all these giants - except one who was the spiritual problem of the land of Moab and Ammon - we'll discuss this giant more later on.

You might say that Ammon and Moab were the cousins of the Israelites - perhaps more carnal because their father hung around Sodom and Gomorrah too long. In a way they were like born again Christians that have much growing to do to overcome the carnal mind because they like the

grassy (fleshly) valleys of Sodom and choose to live there.

God uses the Assyrian to get the son and daughter of Zion out of Egypt (Isa 10:24). But He uses the Ammonite and Moabite to test whether the sexual practices of Sodom and Gomorrhah have been removed from Zion.

Moses knew that God did not want his people contaminated by the practices of the land and spoke these words to Sihon, the king of the Ammorites about passing through the land.

"Let me pass through your land, I will travel only on the highway. I will not turn aside either to right or the left." Deut. 2:27 NASB

The highway that God wanted them to walk on is described in Isaiah:

"And a highway shall be there, a roadway, and it will be called "the highway of holiness". The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go upon it.

These will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. Isa. 35:8-10 NASB

Unfortunately, the children of Israel did not stay on the holy highway and did turn to the right and left - with these results.

"And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they invited the people to the sacrifices offered to their Gods; and the people did eat and worshipped their gods. And Israel joined himself to Baal-peor; and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel. And the Lord said to Moses, take all of the people and expose them before the Lord in the daylight that the fierce anger of the Lord may be turned away from the children of Israel. And Moses said to the judges of Israel, slay every one of you his men who have joined themselves to Baal-peor.

And behold, one of the men of the children of Israel came to his brethren, and he went in to the Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel while they were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of the

congregation. And when Phinenas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest saw it, he rose up from the midst of the congregation and took a spear in his hand. And he went in after the man of Israel into the private chamber and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. So, the plague was stayed from the children of Israel. Num. 25:1-8 Lamsa

So, you feel like a sixteen year-old in love - perhaps you've found some one who shares your spiritual interests even more than your spouse. You have an instant rapport in the Spirit. But as you began to walk down the Holy highway through the midst of Moab - will you stay on it - or will you turn to the right or left?

As the Israelites came through the wilderness - were they not led by the cloud (or the Spirit)? Then, why would God lead them through a land with many temptations? Simply, because they were to learn to overcome these temptations instead of being seduced by them. Jesus is the pattern and if we desire to follow in that pattern we will be tested.

"For we have not such an high priest which can not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Heb. 4:15

Sometimes our reasoning becomes faulty. Just because God has led us to someone, it does not mean that He will bless all the carnal desires that may spring forth as a result of the encounter.

Next, we will leave the Israelites in the wilderness for a while, and look at the doctrines of Moab as they are being taught in the modern day Christian world.

But before we do, there is one other point that should be covered. In this discussion, we are talking about the spiritual characteristics as displayed by the natural nations of Moab and Ammon in the Old Testament.

It is far from our intention to make any implications of a racial nature in any way against those descendents of Moab and Ammon today.

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;" Rom. 3:23

The power of Christ is perfectly sufficient to make any man in Christ more than a match for anyone who may regard himself as having a superior racial background. Balaam, who was hired by the Moabites to use divination against Israel, was not a man of low intelligence. Yet,

he ended up humbling himself before a jackass, because the jackass spoke a clearer word and had clearer vision than he did. (Num. 22:31)

God has seen fit to redeem his kings and priests out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation. Therefore, we dare not risk offending one of his kings or priests just because of a racial prejudice.

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and has redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."
Rev. 5:9,10

The Bible tells us that by the same measure we mete to others, it will be measured back to us. Sometimes, we become the butt of our own "but books".

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given unto us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."
II Cor. 5:18,19

Christ doesn't have a "but book" of saying that I will reconcile all the world unto myself "but" for these races - and then jots down this race and that race in a little book. We shouldn't have a "but book" either. God has reconciled us to himself in mercy. When we are unwilling to extend it to others, we could forsake our own reconciliation.

"Give us our bread for our needs from day to day. And forgive us our offences as we have forgiven our offenders."
Matt. 6:12 Lamsa

"They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy."
Joel 2:8

In case you would like a little preview of some of the temptations and trials from Moabite and Ammonite kings - here it is:

The Meaning of the Names of Some of the Kings:

Lot - Veil
Moab - of his father

Ammon - inbred
Sihon - rooting out
Balak - destroyer
Zippor - little bird
Eglon - calf-like
Nahash - serpent

Are you ready to sail on - or are you becoming
fearful? If you want the veil (Lot) removed, we must
press on.

CHAPTER V

Sailing the Straits of Love

We have discussed how the Israel of the old testament was seduced by the doctrines of the Moabites and Ammonites. Let's look at this in a modern day context and see how the same doctrines are being used today against the Christian church. The doctrines are even more subtle because they are being used by Christians against Christians. God thought enough of Lot to rescue him out of Sodom and Gomorrah.

"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.

And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

The Lord knoweth how to deliver the Godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished." II Peter 2:6-9

Isn't it amazing that God called Lot "just" and "righteous"? Isn't it amazing that we are called "just" because "the just shall live by faith" and how we are called righteous by the righteousness of Jesus Christ?

When Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, he made these statements.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I I say unto thee except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he can not enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:3,5

These scriptures show a difference between being born again and "seeing" the kingdom versus being born of water and the Spirit and "entering" the kingdom. Being born again is only the first step and is as far as Lot progressed in type and shadow.

It is likely that strife will arise between those who are content to stay where they are and those who want to go on - even if they are Christian brothers.

"Then said Abram to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers.

Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me: if to the left, then I will go to the right; or if to the right, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of Jordan, that it was watered everywhere - this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah-like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.

So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other. Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled in the cities of the valley, and moved his tents as far as Sodom."
Gen. 13:8-12 RV

So we see that Lot chose the green grass of the valley while Abram took the high ground. Later on Lot was taken captive and Abram had to defeat the kings which held Lot captive (Gen. 14). It is interesting to note that after Abram defeated the kings that held Lot captive, he was blessed by Melchisedek.

It is not difficult to see a parallel between Lot and Abram and those in the Christian Church today. This is why the doctrines of Moab and Ammon are so subtle - they come from inside the church.

Now that we have established old testament concepts in a modern day context, let's look at sailing the Straits of Love.

Referring to the Straits of Love diagram, you will note that the ship of destiny is sailing from the Sea of Law to the Sea of the Spirit. A sea is a group of people. We often speak of the sea of humanity. So those in the Sea of Law are the people of the Law.

The ship of destiny must first go past Cape Fear into the Straits of Love. These straits are filled with many jagged rocks and hidden reefs. As you follow the arrows, you come to a place where reefs and rocks abound on all sides. How can one ever get through the Straits of Love to sail the seas of the Spirit? And yet, it can and must be done.

So let's go back to the beginning of the journey and work our way through it step by step.

The first leg of the journey is to sail past Cape Fear. This is a place of numerous shipwrecks and conventional wisdom is to not even think of sailing near

Cape Fear. Stay in the safe waters where we know the currents and the rocks are few. Don't even go near the place for we have heard that should you become shipwrecked on the rocks and swim to land on Cape Fear - a terrible destiny awaits you. Giants live there - men so tall that they make us look like grasshoppers - they will kill you!

Please stay in the safe seas of the rules of social conduct that we have developed - then you will not be shipwrecked on the rocks of sexual impurity. We have developed laws of conduct that are proven. The first law is not to go near Cape Fear!

"Then they told him, and said "We went in to the land where you sent us, and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.

Amalek is living in the land of the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan.

Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, We shall by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it.

But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us."

So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out saying, "the land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size.

There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." Num. 13:27-33 NASB

"The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came into the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown." Gen. 6:4 NASB

So we see how we can become paralyzed by fear of giants of the land. It is most interesting to realize that God did not take the Israelites into Moab and Ammon