

HIS PORTRAIT ON A PIECE OF CLAY

A. WE ARE THE CLAY THAT GOD IS WRITING HIS MESSAGE ON

1. “Now, son of man, **take a clay tablet** (a brick, a tile), put it in front of you and draw (portray, inscribe) the city of Jerusalem on it”; Ezekiel 4:1

2. We are made in the IMAGE of God; Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7-8

3. We are created and formed by the hand of God; **Jacob was CREATED, but Israel was FORMED**; Isaiah 43:1. God creates the life and then He forms the life, the ministry, into the image that is pleasing to Him; Ephesians 2:10

a. Through Jacob’s life, we see how God revealed Himself to him, how divine grace FOUND HIM and how divine grace MADE HIM; Genesis 28:10-19

b. Jacob encountered “A MAN” Who wrestled with him (subduing his flesh) until the breaking of the day; he was reduced to a weakened state of helplessness, walking with a limp (a changed “walk”). Jacob’s confidence in his own scheming, devising and manipulation had come to an end; Gen. 32:24-32; 2 Peter 1:19

4. In scripture, A CHANGE OF NAME INDICATES A SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION:

a. After many dealings of the Lord, and a “close encounter” with the Lord Jesus Christ, Jacob was never the same. His name was changed to “Israel” (a prince who prevails); Gen. 32:27-29

b. On the road to Damascus, Saul (the unconverted Jew), had a dramatic conversion, an encounter with the risen Christ; Acts 9:1-18; 13:9. He became Paul the apostle; Rom. 11:13

c. **The “overcomer” is given a new name:** “He who overcomes...I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name”; Revelation 3:12; Isaiah 62:2

5. HIS LIKENESS IS REVEALED IN THE CLAY

a. “But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled (marred) in the hand of the potter; so **he remade it** (reworked it, made it over) into another vessel, **as it pleased the potter to make**”; Jeremiah 18:4; also Job 33:6

b. “Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker – an earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, What are you doing?...Yet, O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay, and you our potter, and we all are the work of your hand”; Isaiah 45:9; 64:8

c. “Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?...and He did so in order **that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy**, which He prepared beforehand for glory, even us, whom He also called...”; Romans 9:21, 23; John 9:5-15

6. YOUR LIFE IS THE MESSAGE

a. “Then spoke Haggai **the Lord’s messenger in the Lord’s message** unto the people saying, I am with you, saith the Lord”; Haggai 1:13

b. We are His Witness in the Earth; Acts 1:8 (witnessing is **not just telling others about Jesus**, it is also **showing others the nature of Jesus in our conduct**) as “Christians”; Acts 11:26

7. THE LORD INSCRIBES Upon Us And Within Our Hearts

a. A new covenant: “...I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people”; Jeremiah 31:33; Romans 2:15

b. You are a living epistle, **“a letter” that people read**: “You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts”; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

B. THE LORD MARKS US With His Signature (Seal):

1. In biblical days, a signet or **a seal was stamped or inscribed upon things of value**. These items included precious stones and metals, commodities, and clay vessels which contained valuable scrolls or documents for shipment to distant lands.
2. The word for “seal” means to stamp (with a signet or private mark) **for security and preservation**; Ezekiel 9:4, 6, it guaranteed the protection of property. It was a mark like a personal signature which denoted ownership and identity; Eph. 1:13; 4:30
3. The three “seals” of Aaron’s high priestly garments point to a “**3-Fold Sealing**” of the Royal Priesthood; 1 Peter 2:5:
 - a. Upon the breastplate - Exodus 28:21-22; this points to the new birth, a circumcision of the heart. The names of the tribes of Israel (which denotes their nature and character), were engraved upon stones, set in gold and placed upon the breastplate worn by the high priest; Romans 4:11
 - b. Upon the shoulders - Exodus 28:11-12; graven stones were fastened to a shoulder piece. The “shoulders” of the priests bore the “Ark” supported by poles; Exod. 25:14. The shoulder and arm point to God’s strength and speaks to us of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, giving us power for service and it reveals the extension of the authority released in and through God’s priesthood.
 - c. Upon the forehead - Exodus 28:36-38; a golden plate was attached to a turban worn on the forehead, with these words inscribed upon it: “Holiness To The Lord”. This third sealing points to a “renewed mind”, Rom. 12:2 the mind of Christ; 1 Cor. 2:16, full stature and maturity of the believer. It involves a baptism in fire by which gold is refined; Matt. 3:11

C. The FEATURES Of The Bride Of Christ PAINT A PORTRAIT Of His Likeness:

1. Her Head – speaks of a mind that has a knowledge of, and is renewed by the Word of God; Rom. 12:2. She thinks and meditates upon eternal, heavenly things; Colossians 3:1-2
2. Her Hair – is symbolic of her “head being covered”, 1 Cor. 11:15, consecrated and dedicated to God, like the vow of a Nazarite, one who is set apart from birth; Judges 16:17. It speaks of her full submission to Christ.
3. Her Eyes – symbolically speak of her perception, and her steady focus upon her Savior. She has “eyes to see”, having been anointed with “eyesalve” (the oil of illumination); Rev. 3:18, and has the ability to see beyond the natural realm, into the unseen realm of the spirit; Luke 24:31
4. Her Nose – speaks symbolically of her spiritual discernment. This is an ability to distinguish, to analyze, and the ability to detect; Gen. 27:27. She has a supernatural sense which allows her to evaluate and judge accurately; Amos 4:10
5. Her Ears – her ears have been opened to hear His voice, having been “touched” by the blood; Exodus 29:20. The repentant one will be given “ears to hear”; Revelation 3:22
6. Her Lips – refers to her speech and conversation, which is the fruit of her lips. Her mouth speaks truth, offers prayer and thanksgiving, and brings praise and worship to God; Heb. 13:15
7. Her Teeth – she can properly consume and digest the “meat” of the Word of God. This symbolically refers to her ability to eat solid food, having been weaned from the “milk”; Hebrews 5:12-14
8. Her Neck – speaks of her will, her resolve and determination to serve God. She is flexible and pliant, the opposite of those who are called stubborn, “stiff-necked” people; 2 Chronicles 30:8
9. Her Stature – her height is her level of attainment, her growth of spiritual maturity. She comes to “the measure” of the stature of the fullness of Christ; Ephesians 4:13. Her stature reflects her standing, her spiritual achievement by the grace of God.

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