SABBATH THOUGHT 2026-11-21—OUR FATHER'S ESTATE

May God bless you on His Sabbath day!

One of the roles of a steward in ancient times was to tutor a young child in the rules and ways of the household of his father:

> GALATIANS 4:1-7 Now I *[Paul]* say *that* the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, 2 but is **under guardians *[or tutors]* and stewards until the time appointed by the father**. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 **to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the [sonship]**. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave *[child]* but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Over time, the household rules become ingrained in the mind of the son. But as he matures his conduct becomes less and less governed by rules as his thoughts are molded by the principles and intent of those rules. The rules form a foundation for behavior and thinking later on; all children learn this way. This is because there is a special relationship between fathers and sons and mothers and daughters. The son wants to imitate his father and be just like him and the father has great plans for his son—to eventually take his place on the estate just as he did with his own father. As the son grows into the character of his father, he starts to have a vision of his father's purpose. When the son becomes a man, he will take his place on the estate, fulfilling the role his father always intended. This parable mirrors the life of those called by the heavenly Father starting when they are begotten:

> EPHESIANS 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children, but **bring them up in the instruction *[G3809* = paideia = *tutorage]* and admonition of the Master**.

In the beginning, like the young son, the children of God are tutored in the ways of the Father by the 'household steward'—the Holy Spirit—that teaches them "the Word of God."

> 1 CORINTHIANS 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which **the Holy Spirit teaches**, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
>
> [TS2009] 2 TIMOTHY 3:16 **All Scripture**, inspired of God, is profitable to teach, to reprove, to correct, **to instruct *[tutor]* in justice *[of the Law]***,

The Law is not meant to be a set of rules hung on the side of the refrigerator and checked off each day. Aside from specific directives called *statutes*, such as Sabbath-keeping and dealing with thefts, the Law includes principles that are called *precepts*, such as love your neighbor as yourself[1]. Knowing and keeping the Law influences the behavior of a child and, eventually, the child is no longer governed strictly by rules; instead, they start *thinking* as the Father does—they will learn to discern right from wrong, good from evil, just like their Father. Children mature from rule-keeping to *behavior* guided by principles of judgment and justice that reflect the Way of Life the Father purposes for His children:

[1] Lev. 19:18.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:11 When I *[Paul]* was a child, **I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things**.

Growing beyond rule-keeping to acting justly in accordance with the Law is how behavior becomes molded and guided by the principles (precepts) of the Law. Behavior that is aligned with the "thoughts and intents" of the Law[2] is agape love!

1 TIMOTHY 1:5 Now **the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart**, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith,

JOHN 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him *[Judas, not Iscariot]*, "**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him**, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

The heavenly Father has a purpose for His children and He reveals it to them through His promises so they will have a vision of His plans. This vision is their motivation to continually strive for the perfection of the Father so they can take their place in His Estate—the Kingdom of God!

EPHESIANS 3:8-11 To me *[Paul]*, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; 10 **to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the *ekklesia* to the principalities *[estates]* and powers in the heavenly *places [this is the vision]*, 11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished** in Christ Jesus our Lord,

This vision gives the children of God a "zeal for [the Father's] household"[3] that motivates them to "seek first the Kingdom *[Estate]* of God"[4]. Becoming agape love is the purpose of learning and practicing the Law but they must be zealous to pursue growing and becoming like the Father. Having a vision of their Father's purpose spurs them in their endeavors so they will be ready to take up their role in His Estate. Interestingly, all visions in the Bible are always mentioned in the context of prophecy except for one:

PROVERBS 29:17-18 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul. 18 **Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he**.

The context here is a father raising his son. The vision is not about prophecy but of the purpose behind keeping the Law. It warns that without that vision of the Law, people will perish. Those who lack it will not complete their training, overcome, and change to become like the Father. Lacking vision means they will not be ready when "the time appointed by the father"[5] arrives.

The Parable of the Steward shows the children of God are first tutored by the Holy Spirit in the Law of God. During this phase, they are simply learning the rules of the Household

[2] Heb. 4:12.
[3] John 2:17.
[4] Matt. 6:33.
[5] Gal. 4:2.

of the Father. As the Law becomes a part of them, agape love forms in their hearts and minds, which is the purpose of the Law all along. Becoming a mature son or daughter is not by simply mimicking rules but by acting and thinking after the manner of the Father; that is, being like Him:

> EPHESIANS 4:13-16 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, **to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**; 14 that **we should no longer be children**, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth **in love, may grow up in all things into Him** who is the head–Christ– 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the **edifying of itself in love**.

The Father's purpose has always been for His children to have a place in His Household. In fact, He is preparing His Estate especially FOR them:

> MATTHEW 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit **the kingdom prepared for you** from the foundation of the world:

> HEBREWS 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for **He has prepared a city *[New Jerusalem—Rev. 21:2]* for them**.

> MARK 10:15 "… **receive the kingdom of God as a little child** …"

Those preparations are not simply adding a multitude of rooms like building additions onto a house. The entire Estate of the Father is being designed for His children and the work is being overseen by His Firstborn Son:

> JOHN 14:2-3 "In My *[Jesus Christ's]* Father's [household] *[family residence]* are many ~~mansions~~ *[individual dwellings]*; if *it were* not *so,* I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.** 3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

In Old English, *mansions* meant a dwelling, residence, or room without regard to size, luxury, or grandeur. Over time it came to describe a large, stately, or palatial country house. It should be translated *individual dwellings*. Not only is the Kingdom made for the Father's children but each dwelling in the household of God is intended for, and uniquely suited to, *individuals*.

But these dwellings are not small rooms in a house. The size of New Jerusalem gives a sense of the grandeur that is possible. The city is 1380 miles on a side[6]. Assume that the city is shaped like a cube and it could accommodate 10 BILLION children. If the ceiling of each individual dwelling place is 100 feet high (!!) then each dwelling place will be just shy of 14 square MILES! Truly, as Scripture says:

> 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man **the things which God has prepared** for those who love Him."

[6] Rev. 21:16.

The Father is calling children to take their place and role in an Estate that is unimaginably and indescribably glorious. It is "the fullness of [the Father] who fills all in all"[7] so His Estate is uniquely designed for each child. "The time appointed by the father"[8] is the glorious moment when His perfected children are born into that city:

> HEBREWS 12:22-23 But **you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and ***ekklesia* of the firstborn *who are* [enrolled] in heaven**, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of **just men made perfect**,

> PSALMS 87:1-7 His foundation *is* in the holy mountains. 2 The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. 3 **Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God!** Selah … 5 and **of Zion it will be said, "This *one* and that *one* were born in her**; and the Most High Himself shall establish her." 6 **The LORD will record *[write],* when He registers *[in a book]* the peoples: "This *one* was born there."** Selah

That Day will be the greatest birth day to ever occur. The City of Our God[9]—New Jerusalem—is the birthplace for all the Firstfruit children of God. It will be a momentous event when the Father gives all those of the First Resurrection His name and records their new names[10] in a register—the title on the cover of that book is "The Book of Life!"[11]

> REVELATION 3:12 "He who overcomes, I *[Jesus Christ]* will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. **I will write on him the name of My God *[children are given the name of their Father]* and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem *[the name of the city where they are born]***, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name.

The purpose of the Father is for His children to take their place and role in His Estate. When that day arrives, the New Jerusalem will be at the center of it all because it is the birthplace of those in of the First Resurrection![12] That honor is not given to those of the Final Resurrection![13]

May God's grace and peace be upon you!

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[7] Eph. 1:23.
[8] Gal. 4:2.
[9] Ps. 48:1, 8.
[10] Rev. 2:17.
[11] Phil. 4:3; Rev. 21:7.
[12] Rev. 22:19—This is directed to the Firstfruits. It warns against God taking away their "part from the Book of Life" AND their "**part from the Holy City**."
[13] Rev. 21:2-26—The New Jerusalem comes down to the earth after the final resurrection of "the nations" on earth. They will "walk in its light" and bring glory and honor "into it" through gates that are never shut. All indications are that only those of the First Resurrection will be born in New Jerusalem.