

The Holy Temple - The New Man Part III

Brokenness Leads to Praise and Increase

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Summary Review

In **1 Thessalonians 5:23**, Paul gives us the composition of man as spirit, soul, and body. The composition is also the order in which man should govern himself. We call the **spirit** the *inner man*; the **soul**, the **outer man**; and the **body** is the *outermost man*. See diagram below



God, in designing man originally, intended for man's spirit to be *His* home or dwelling place, i.e., Temple. So, the Holy Spirit, by making His union with the human spirit, was to govern the soul. Further, the spirit, through the soul, would use the body as a means of expressing God's life and purpose.

The soul is stubbornly independent, and this is true for all men. Because God can only dwell in a Holy Place, the soul must become the broken organ or vessel for the release of man's born-again spirit. It is in this way that the soul becomes the functioning channel through which the Spirit of life seeks to flow out.

Therefore, it is the independence of the soul that must be broken, or to say it more mildly, it must yield itself to the unction of the mingled spirit. It is then and only then that man's soul becomes dependent, and his spirit is liberated.

As T. Austin-Sparks (1888-1971) has wisely pointed out:

"We must be careful that – while recognizing . . . the soul has been seduced, led captive, darkened, and poisoned with self-interest – we do not regard it as something to be annihilated and destroyed in this life. This would be asceticism. . . The result of any such behavior is usually another form of souliness to an exaggerated degree. . .

Our whole human nature is in our souls, and if our nature is suppressed in one direction, it will take revenge in another. This is just what the trouble is with a great many people, if only they knew it. There is a difference between a life of suppression and a life of service.

The life of Christ, in His submission, subjection, and servanthood before the Father, was not a life of soul-destruction. His was a life of perfect rest and sweet delight. Slavery... is the lot of those who live wholly in their own souls. We need to revise our ideas about service. It is becoming more and more common to think of service as bondage and slavery when it is really a Divine thing.

Spirituality is not a negative life of suppression. Spirituality is a positive life of newness and surplus. It is not the old life striving to get the mastery of itself."

Our goal is not to do an exhaustive study of the breaking of the outer man, but to look at two examples of brokenness. We will explore one example today from the Old Testament, and next week in the New Testament. In reviewing these examples, we hope to explore for ourselves how we are transformed into His likeness, because we have commended our spirits into His hands.

Again, T. Austin-Sparks writes:

"The soul as an instrument has to be won, mastered, and ruled in order to submit to the higher and different ways of God. It is spoken of so frequently in the Scripture as something over which we have to gain and exercise authority. For instance, note the following verses:

*'In your patience ye shall win your **souls**' (Luke 21:19). 'Ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth' (1 Pet. 1:22). 'The end of your faith, even the salvation of your **souls**' (1 Pet. 1:9)."*

This last quote by T. Austin-Sparks is a prelude to how brokenness leads to praise.

"Whether or not we are yet able to accept it as the way of going on with God fully, the fact is that all of the soul's energies and abilities for knowing, understanding, sensing, and doing will come to an end. And subsequently, we will stand bewildered, dazed, numbed, and impotent.

*Then, we will discover that only a new understanding, only another constraint, and only the Divine energy will give us the strength to keep us going. In such times, we shall have to say to our souls: 'My **soul**, be thou silent unto God' (Ps. 62:5) – 'My **soul**, come thou with me to follow the Lord.'*

*But what joy and strength there is when the soul has been constrained to yield to the spirit. Eventually, the higher wisdom and glory, derived from such a suffering experience, will be recognized as its vindication. **Then it is that praise and worship will break forth:** 'My soul **doth magnify** the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior' (Luke 1:46). First, the 'spirit **hath**,' and then the 'soul **doth**' – note the tenses." *Emphasis mine**

As soon as Adam ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, his inner man's constitution changed, but he still had the power to distinguish good and evil (which is the function of conscience). Adam's reaction was that he knew his relationship with God was not as it had been, and he felt guilty before God.

We may fail God in our walk, but God remains faithful to His plan. For us on this side of the resurrection, we are assured of the fact that God gives each one *the/a* measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 (ESV) ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Jacob is a good example of brokenness, and his response to the vision of angels ascending and descending a ladder shows that it took a long time.

Genesis 28:12-15 (NLT) ¹² As he (*Jacob*) slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway. ¹³ At the top of the stairway stood the LORD, and he said, "I am the LORD, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I am giving it to you and your descendants. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth! They will spread out in all directions – to the west and the east, to the north and the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. *Emphasis mine*

God knows Jacob's character through and through, but God knows that He cannot fail to bring about the change needed to fulfill the promises. God covenanted with Jacob with the *I am*, and the *I will*.

Genesis 28:15 (NLT)¹⁵ What's more, *I am with you*, and *I will protect you* wherever you go. One day, *I will bring you back* to this land. *I will not leave you* until *I have finished* giving you everything *I have promised* you."
Emphasis mine

Jacob names the place of his vision Bethel, which means "house of God." But then we get an immature Jacob-like response.

Genesis 28:20-21 (NLT)²⁰ Then Jacob made this vow: "*If God will* indeed be *with me* and *protect me* on this journey, and *if He will provide* me with food and clothing,²¹ and *if I return safely* to my father's home, **THEN** the LORD *will certainly be my God.*" *Emphasis mine*

I would love to hear others' comments on the Jacob ifs. Jacob is a good example of what is in God's chosen who have carnal minds. "*It's all about me.*"

I believe the next verse describes what we call the *sanctimonious* church.

Genesis 28:21 (NLT)²² "And this memorial pillar *I have set up* will become a place for worshiping God, and *I will present* to God a tenth of everything he gives me." *Emphasis mine*

The *sanctimonious* say, "We have a new vision from God, we have heard all of these *new* promises, just look how He has blessed us. God, we are going to sanctify this ground, this building, and we are going to honor you with tithes."

I often wonder if God is saying, "Oh, thank you so much, and I'm going to keep on blessing you until you see what is really in your heart."

What was missing in Jacob's response? The result of true brokenness. We hope to learn the different responses to brokenness from Jacob's wife, Leah. Probably all of you know the story, so let's review Leah's example. We pick up our story after Jacob has married Leah and Rachel.

Genesis 29:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ Then *Jacob* also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.

Jacob, the chosen of God, is about to be disciplined by God through Laban, an old-school trickster. We later learn that Laban still has some idols in his house and that his heart definitely has some issues.

I'm going out on a limb and say that Jacob may have told his wives about his experiences in his father's house. How Isaac loved Esau more than Jacob, and he was going to give the firstborn blessing to his crazy, hairy brother. He probably told them how his mother, Rebecca, devised a plan to steal the blessing from Esau. On top of all of that, he got his brother to give him his birthright because he was so hungry. Esau thought he would die if he did not eat.

First, what is the meaning of Leah? Strong's Concordance says her name means weary, to tire figuratively; to be disgusted; grieve; loathe, or make ourselves weary. Weak or tender-eyed is her description by others. Hindsight for us is 20/20; therefore, we can see the outcome of God's desire and read where the Old Testament points us to the Cross.

This scenario is not one of those that say beauty is only skin-deep. That would be flesh desiring flesh's intimacy. Isaiah, help us with this.

Isaiah 53:2-3 (NKJV) ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. *He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. *Emphasis mine*

Jacob may have shared the dream he had of a ladder reaching to heaven and told of God's promises made to him. Even though Jacob is blessed and highly favored, as we say, God still had the most skin in the game because of His eternal purpose, which is about to unfold.

Genesis 29:31-32 (NKJV) ³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah *was* unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel *was* barren. ³² So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name *Reuben*; for she said, "The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. *Now* therefore, my husband *will* love me." *Emphasis mine*

So, what was Leah's heart's desire? She desired that Jacob, the supplanter, would love her. She had a valid reason because she has a son, and Rachel, her sister, did not. Leah probably said to Jacob, "*Listen, Jacob, my beloved, the LORD sees my affliction and has blessed us with a son.*"

So, Leah named her firstborn Reuben, which means "See, a son." The HCSB commentary adds, "Reuben sounds like '*has seen* my affliction.'" Jacob, however, appears to be unmoved.

My thought was that Jacob's lack of a positive response stemmed from his father, Isaac's, love for his firstborn, Esau. It was Esau who had the manly prowess. What is it about the father who loved the athletic son versus the bookworm?

Genesis 25:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ And Isaac loved Esau because **he ate of his game**, but Rebekah loved Jacob. *Emphasis mine*

In most cultures, there is a saying, "If mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy." Moses would later record for our learning the ways of the Law.

Deuteronomy 21:15-16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ "If a man has two wives, one loved and the other unloved, and they have borne him children, *both* the loved and the unloved, and *if* the firstborn son is of her who is unloved, ¹⁶ then it shall be, on the day he bequeaths his possessions to his sons, *that* he must not bestow firstborn status on the son of the loved wife in preference to the son of the unloved, the *true* firstborn.

No, I am not saying this might indicate where Moses got some of his inspiration. For me, all things were written for our learning, and we have to trust God for our guidance.

The LORD had blessed Leah because He saw she was unloved. Leah must have sent up some prayers at this point, because of what happens next. She might have prayed, "LORD, things haven't changed between my husband and me."

Genesis 29:33 (NKJV) ³³ Then she (*Leah*) conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I *am* unloved, He has therefore given me this *son* also." And she called his name *Simeon*. *Emphasis mine*

The LORD had heard and answered Leah's prayer with another son. Leah names the second son accordingly, *Simeon, meaning "hearing" like "has heard."*

So, I had to ask. "Leah, how's that working out for you with Jacob?"

"You are being blessed with something you thought your husband wanted, but Jacob remains unchanged."

Has anybody been there before? The good news is that when we take into account the sovereignty of God and learn from these experiences, there is a good chance that God gets us through the brokenness *with His divine view in mind.*

Leah is probably feeling bad and heart sick during this time, but isn't that what God is looking for? The question, though, is "*Is Leah broken yet?*" No!

What can we learn from Leah by calling her second-born child Simeon?

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Galatians 3:2 (NKJV) ² This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

If you haven't noticed, we get a lot from Rachel's offspring through Benjamin, such as Paul, the Apostle. I think Leah probably still loved Rachel, but two wives in the same household might cause some natural issues.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

There were probably more prayers from Leah, so the LORD in turn allows Leah to experience another necessary transformation for true brokenness.

Genesis 29:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "*Now this time my husband will become attached to me,* because I have borne him three sons." Therefore, his name was called *Levi. Emphasis mine*

Leah has high expectations now. She might have confronted Jacob, hopefully in a godlike manner, and said to him, “Listen, Jacob, the LORD *saw* my affliction (*Reuben*), He *hears* my prayers (*Simeon*), the LORD is *attached* to me (*Levi*).”
“What is your problem, Jacob?”

Therefore, for this blessing, Leah names the third son, *Levi*, meaning “*attached or attached to*.” I believed that Leah may have realized that although Jacob is the chosen of God and the LORD is attached to Jacob, *the LORD is attached to her as well*. Remember, with Leah, the LORD has the most skin in this game.

We know that from Levi comes the Law and the Levitical priesthood. We also know that the Law is good because it met the LORD’s divine purpose, including the Levitical priesthood.

Romans 7:12 (NKJV) ¹² Therefore, the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

Romans 7:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

1 Timothy 1:8 (KJV) ⁸ But we know that the law *is* good, *if* a man use it lawfully; *Emphasis mine*

The Potter has now molded His vessel into the fashion He desires. Leah does not do what would have been done in our day and time, like shutting out her husband's physical affection. I guess that might not have been an option back then.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 (HCSB) ⁵ [It is] not that we are competent in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our competence is from God. ⁶ He has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit. *For the letter kills*, but the Spirit produces life. *Emphasis mine*

2 Corinthians 3:7-8 (HCSB) ⁷ Now if the ministry of death, chiseled in letters on stones, came with glory (*similar to having a third son Levi*), so that the Israelites were not able to look directly at Moses’ face because of the glory from his face — *a fading [glory]* — ⁸ *how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?* *Emphasis mine*

We can see that these three sons were just preparation for the next son to come. It is now that Leah's focus shifts from how the LORD has blessed her with a husband to realizing from whom all the blessings flow. It is the LORD God that we should love unconditionally.

Jesus taught us not to ignore the intent of the Law or the Prophets, but He was the only One who could fulfill them.

Matthew 5:17-18 (HCSB) ¹⁷“Don't assume that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸For I assure you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all things are accomplished.

Real brokenness does not come about by keeping the Law, but it may keep us out of jail. *Yes, that is true, but it does not produce godly praise.*

BROKENNESS THAT LEADS TO PRAISE

Genesis 29:35 (NKJV)³⁵ And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, *"Now I will praise the LORD."* Therefore, she called his name **Judah**. Then she stopped bearing. *Emphasis mine*

We can easily see that Leah's heart's desire shifted from the LORD's blessings to the one thing that mattered. *I will praise the LORD no matter what.* Her soul, her outer man, was broken to *release the spirit (conscience) of praise.* Even though jealousy might attack her mind again, the key here is that the LORD has what He was after all along, **Judah, the praise of God.** *Emphasis mine*

David must have inherited some of Leah's blessings with some of his Psalms.

Psalms 34:18-19 (NKJV) ¹⁸The LORD *is* near to those *who have a broken heart*, And saves such as *have a contrite spirit*. ¹⁹Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous, *but the LORD delivers* him out of them all. *Emphasis mine*

Psalms 51:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit*, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise. *Emphasis mine*

Isaiah said, " **Wait, let the prophet have a word.**"

Isaiah 57:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: *"I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones."*

Okay, fellas, I need to move on, but thank you for the praise.

But I loved Isaiah's statement *to revive the spirit*. There will be many occasions when we require a revival. It is important to remember that the issue is never with God; it is always the intents and conditions of our hearts.

Do you remember the "I Wills" that the LORD told Jacob before he was transformed or broken into the man called Israel?

Okay, I hear Jesus knocking on the door, saying, listen to what I told My disciples.

John 14:1 (NLT) ¹ *"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me."*

John 14:15-17 (NLT) ¹⁵ *"If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷ He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn't looking for Him and doesn't recognize Him. But you know Him, because He lives with you now and later will be in you. Emphasis mine*

Here comes my favorite part.

John 14:18 (NLT) ¹⁸ **NOPE, I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU AS ORPHANS – I WILL COME TO YOU.** *Emphasis mine*

Summary of Leah's Brokenness

God sees us in our conditions. He is the one allowing us time to come to love Him for who He is. GOD is LIGHT, and GOD is LOVE. The Divine outflow from GOD comes to us by GRACE, the unconditional LOVE through faith in the Cross of our JUDAH, Jesus the Christ, the exalted Son of Man and Son of God.

Coming to the end of ourselves is the high praise of God, Judah.

Okay, Simon Peter, what did you hear?

1 Peter 5:6-7 (NLT) ⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time *HE* will lift you up in honor. ⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for *HE* cares about you. *Emphasis mine*

When we really, really think about what Leah had to go through, it is amazing that she held herself together.

Can you imagine Jacob bragging to everybody about his beautiful wife, Rachel? Leah, he tolerates, but Rachel is the one he loved.

I can imagine Jacob had to console Rachel at first because she was barren, and Leah was having all the sons. Then the faithful day comes when Leah says, "Now I will praise the LORD." **Brokenness yields unconditional praise.**

The New Covenant begins with the genealogy of Jesus Christ, which literally confirms God's intent for us to understand that brokenness yields the praise of His glory. Judah is highlighted, but his brothers receive only an honorable mention. Of course, that is for more theological discussions.

Matthew 1:1-2 (HCSB) ¹ The historical record of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: ² Abraham fathered Isaac, Isaac fathered Jacob, Jacob fathered **Judah** and his brothers. *Emphasis mine*

Jacob is finally broken, and he walks with a limp, testifying to God's patience. When Jacob is about to die, God allows this changed man to prophesy the fate of his sons. I will only review his prophecy up to Judah.

Genesis 49:1-2 (NLT) ¹ Then Jacob called together all his sons and said, "Gather around me, and I will tell you what will happen to each of you in the days to come. ² "Come and listen, you sons of Jacob; **listen to Israel, your father.**

Is Jacob saying, I have begotten all of you according to my flesh, i.e., as **Jacob**? The LORD God, who has chosen me before I was formed in my mother's womb and has kept me through these many years. But now **Israel** has something to say.

Brokenness allows God to speak without the influence of the natural man.

Life Lessons that Israel reveals using Leah's First Four Sons

Reuben

Genesis 49:3-4 (NLT) ³“Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength, the child of my vigorous youth. You are first in rank and first in power. ⁴But you are as unruly as a flood, and *you will be first no longer*. For you went to bed with my wife; you defiled my marriage couch. *Emphasis mine*

Life Lesson

Ephesians 5:5 (NLT) ⁵You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. *Note: The Kingdom of Christ could refer to the Millennium.*

Simeon and Levi

Genesis 49:5-7 (NLT) ⁵“Simeon and Levi are two of a kind; their weapons are instruments of violence. ⁶May I never join in their meetings; may I never be a party to their plans. For in their anger, they murdered men, and they crippled oxen just for sport. ⁷A curse on their anger, for it is fierce; a curse on their wrath, for it is cruel. I will scatter them among the descendants of Jacob; I will disperse them throughout Israel.

Life Lesson

1 Corinthians 10:6 (NLT) ⁶These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did.

Levi eventually used his murderous disposition in a renewed, transformed way to slay the worshippers of the golden calf (Exo. 32:26-28). Because of their absoluteness, desperation, and faithfulness toward God, Levi received the blessing of the priesthood with God's Urim and Thummim. *Note: These were probably needed to keep their natural behavior in check.*

Judah - Brokenness Yields Praise and Increase

The blessing of Judah is believed to be a “*Summary of the New Testament.*”

The Seed of Christ’s Victory

Genesis 49:8-9 (NLT) ⁸“Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will grasp your enemies by the neck. All your relatives will bow before you. ⁹Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion, he crouches and lies down; like a lioness – who dares to rouse him?”

The Seed of Christ’s Kingdom and Its Increase

Genesis 49:10 (NLT) ¹⁰The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, *the one whom all nations will honor. Emphasis mine*

The Seed of the Rest in the Enjoyment of the Riches of Christ’s Life

Genesis 49:11-12 (NLT) ¹¹He ties his foal to a grapevine, the colt of his donkey to a choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. ¹²His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk.

- Christ is “The Vine,” rich in fruit for the enjoyment of Life.
- Christ is “The Humble King,” who rides the lowly donkey, a beast of burden. Christ now carries our burdens *if* we cast them upon Him.
- Christ’s blood is the “Fruit of the Vine,” restoring our fellowship with the Father.

Yes, it would take a long study to unpack all the revelations in just those verses.

Life Lesson

Minister James Barnes favorite benedictions

Jude 1:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, *Be* glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

Thank God for Leah, who taught us to praise God in all things.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.