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21 May 2014

## Symbol - Reeds

Past studies have discussed a 'city' as being a mind-set, or a way of thinking. When Jeremiah was called by the Lord to be a prophet to Judah, He told him, *For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced (fenced, fortified) city, and an iron pillar, and brazen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land* (Jer 1:18). God fortifies the mind with the truth. Two great cities are presented in the book of Revelation, into which all will be divided in the last generation. New Jerusalem (Rv 3:12) is the mind of God which is in Christ Jesus (Phil 2:5) and Babylon, depicted by the woman riding and controlling the beast (Rv 17:3, 5, 18; 18:10).

In the John 2, Part I study, the wedding was in Cana, or a city whose name means *reeds*. The town was located on a river, apparently where there was an abundance of reeds growing. Reeds must have lots of water (symbol for thoughts) or they will wither.

**Genesis 41:1-7:** *1. And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river. 2. And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favored kine (heifers) and fat-fleshed; and they fed in a meadow (rather, among the reeds, bulrushes). 3. And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favored and lean-fleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river. 4. And the ill favored and lean-fleshed kine did eat up the seven well favored and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke. 5. And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk <sup>(h7070)</sup>, rank and good. 6. And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them. 7. And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.*

When Joseph interpreted the dream for Pharaoh, he said dreams were one (Gen 41:25), indicating that there would be seven years with plenty of food, and seven years of drought. Those familiar with the story will remember that when the drought came, everyone had to buy corn from Joseph in Egypt. The story is a metaphor of how there is a spiritual drought in the world and the only place to obtain spiritual truth is via Christ.

Animals are a symbol of thoughts. A heifer is the female cow that gives milk to its young, and the land produces corn for food, the fruit of the corn growing on a stalk <sup>(h7070)</sup>. The Hebrew word *qaneh* <sup>(h7070)</sup> appears 62 times, being rendered reed 28 times. The root, *qana* <sup>(h7069)</sup> means *to create, to buy*. A message can be created and can be bought by those who hear it, and it can bear fruit (corn) when received and applied to the heart.

**Isaiah 19:1-8:** *1. The burden of Egypt. Behold, the Lord rides upon a swift cloud (messenger, Hos 13:3; 2Pt 2:17), and shall come into Egypt (those of the world): and the idols of Egypt (world's way of thinking & believing) shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it. 2. And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbor; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom (Mt 10:34-36). 3. And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel (messages) thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmners, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards. 4. And the Egyptians will I give over*

*into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts. 5. And the waters shall fail from the sea, and the river shall be wasted and dried up. 6. And they shall turn the rivers far away; and the brooks of defense shall be emptied and dried up: the reeds and flags shall wither. 7. The paper reeds by the brooks, by the mouth of the brooks, and every thing sown by the brooks, shall wither, be driven away, and be no more. 8. The fishers (ministers) also shall mourn (Rv 18:9-11), and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish. (notes and references are to explain & show the same concepts in other places in the Bible).*

Put this metaphor inward - Just as a reed requires a lot of water to sustain it, messages of truth require plenty of living water to sustain them. When a person first comes to Christ, the mind is full of worldly concepts that have to be corrected or eliminated. Some that are common among all religions are: 1) God is angry with sinners and must be appeased (propitiated) with a sacrifice; 2) Jesus paid my penalty for breaking the law; 3) All my sins are recorded in a book in heaven. If I do not confess them, God will destroy me with fire at judgment day. It is the correct understanding that there is only one God - the Father, and one Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (1Cor 8:6), through whom God manifested His love for all humanity that corrects and heals the heart. God has always loved us as much as His only Son (Jn 17:23). When a person rejects the truth, that stream of thought from God will eventually dry up, and there will be no more messages - their heart becomes hardened against the truth.

Rods were made from dried reeds and used as a means of measuring (Eze 40:3; Rv 11:1; Pr 22:15). When a message of truth comes to a person, it measures their character, and what makes them the person they are. Isaiah describes those who accept a message of truth: **Isaiah 35:5-7**: *5. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart (deer), and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons (serpents), where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.*

The truth will almost always disagree with what the majority teaches. The sincere will consider and seek the Lord for His wisdom. Those open to truth are depicted in Jacob's dream (Gen 28:10-15) having a ladder connected from their earth (self) to heaven (God's self), and messages born by messengers back and forth. To grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, feed on the reeds and rushes by the river of life. Amen.