

The Mission Statement of Creation

Rev 19:6-9 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! **"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."** And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, **"Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"** And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

The Purpose of Creation

The goal of creation is for God to produce an equally yoked Bride that is suitable to Him.

- ✓ He selects this Bride
- ✓ He trains the Bride
- ✓ He had ordained this Bride to reign with Him as a voluntary lover
- ✓ The MAIN purpose of the created order is to select, train, and prepare this Bride for eternal companionship

#1 God's Plan was Eternal for a Bride:

- Eph 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love
- Rom 8:29 For **whom He foreknew**, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- 1 Pet 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
- Rev 17:8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, **whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world**, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.
- Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, **whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**.

God the Father FOREKNEW a people who would be holy, blameless, love His Son like He loves His Son, chosen, elect, conformed to His Son's image, and a SUITABLE partner.

#2 God's Plan for Creation Centers around the Bride:

1 Cor 3:21-23 Therefore let no one boast in men. For **all things are yours**: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or **the world or life or death, or things present or things to come-- all are yours**. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

We are inheritors of all things by virtue of marriage. We have married into incomprehensible wealth. ALL THINGS are for us and given to us by virtue of our marriage into the most wealthy and influential family in the universe!

#3 All history works to shape and mold the Bride:

Rom 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

What is THE purpose of God? To conform us to the image of His Son so that we may be an equally yoked partner with the Godhead for all eternity!

- 1 Cor 3:21 Therefore let no one boast in men. **For all things are yours:**
- Rev 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come**, and His wife has made herself ready."
- Rev 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "**Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.**"
- Acts 17:25-28 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And **He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings**, so that they should seek the Lord, **in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him**, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

Unbelievers struggle with history:

- ✓ They see no purpose for the struggles and trials of life.
- ✓ They see no definitive goals for the human race.
- ✓ They cannot see where history is headed and for what purpose it is headed there.
- ✓ History only reports and interprets events... and the ideas that form those event. Without a paradigm of a God who wants to MARRY US FOREVER, history can bring despair, hopelessness, and misunderstanding of the person and character of God.
- ✓ The focal point of History IS the MAN CHRIST JESUS. Heaven and earth were made by Him and FOR Him.
- ✓ All in heaven and earth are FOR HIS BRIDE.
- ✓ The marriage HAS COME... eternity has waited for this event.
- ✓ The Lamb's wife HAS MADE HERSELF READY... being prepared to fulfill an eternal destiny, together.
- ✓ God determines pre-appointed times and boundaries of the habitations of every nation in history... WHY? So that people MIGHT GROPE... He HOPED that people would SEEK to FIND HIM by arranging history and natural events as they have played out.
- ✓ God steers and controls history to PREPARE the Bride in voluntary LOVE. ALL THINGS work together for the GOOD of the Bride, HIS PURPOSEFUL CALLING of Humanity into mature Bridal partnership.
- ✓ We were not created for the universe... IT WAS CREATED for US!

God's Romance

Redemption's story begin's with a Bride:

Genesis 1-2

Redemption's story end's with a Bride:

Revelation 19-21

The Purpose of Humanity

- Gen 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- Gen 2:18-25 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam

called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. **Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.** And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.** And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- #1 Created in the Image and Likeness of Jesus
- #2 To provide a suitable partner to the Son of God
- #3 The earth was given as a place to gather, nurture, and train those created in His image and likeness.
- #4 The history of the REDEEMED BEFORE the Wedding Feast is preparation for the history of the REDEEMED AFTER the Wedding Feast.

Jesus' Inheritance In Us (His Inheritance)

- Eph 1:17-18 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are **the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...**
- Ps 2:8-12 Ask of Me, and **I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and (I will give you) the ends of the earth for Your possession.** You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

The Bridal paradigm has nothing to do with being FEMALE.

- ✓ Women are sons of God and men are the Bride of Christ.
- ✓ Sons of God refers to inheritance and position due to adoption.
- ✓ The Bride refers to INTIMATE / AFFECTIONATE PARTNERSHIP as an ETERNAL COMPANION,
- ✓ The Bride refers to a place of HONOR and CHERISHING and NURTURE..

#1 Jesus seeks an ETERNAL COMPANION

- Ps 2:8 Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.
- 1Thes 5:10 Who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.
- Rom 8:38-39 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Eph 2:6-7 And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- Eph 5:31-32 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.
- Eph 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

Jesus **desires**, the Father **promises**, and the Holy Spirit **secures**:

- ✓ A people he can FULLY POSSESS
- ✓ A people who will LIVE WITH HIM
- ✓ A people that cannot be separated from His LOVE by ANYTHING
- ✓ A people who will be SEATED with Him in HEAVENLY PLACES
- ✓ A people that He will LEAVE His Father FOR and CLEAVE to WITH
- ✓ A people that He will NOURISH and CHERISH

#2 Jesus has PASSIONATE desire for His Bride

- John 15:9 **As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you;** abide in My love.
- John 17:24 **Father, I desire** that they also whom You gave Me **may be with Me where I am,** that they **may behold My glory** which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

- John 17:26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that **the love with which You loved Me may be in them**, and I in them.
- Song 8:6 **Set me as a seal upon your heart**, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; **its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame**.
- Rev 1:14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and **His eyes like a flame of fire**;
- Rev 19:12 **His eyes were like a flame of fire**, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.
- Mal 3:17 "**They shall be Mine**," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them **My jewels**. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him."
- Phil 1:23 For I am hard pressed between the two, **having a desire** to depart and **be with Christ**, which is far better.
- James 4:5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us **yearns jealously**"?
- Luke 23:43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today **you will be with Me** in Paradise."

God LOVES us LIKE God LOVES God!

- ✓ As the Father LOVES the Son, the Son LOVES ME! How incredible.
- ✓ It is about BEING WITH HIM
- ✓ His DESIRE is FOR US, to BE WITH HIM, to BE HIS, a possession
- ✓ There is no GREATER POSSESSION in the universe or creation than to have US as voluntary lovers!
- ✓ He prays that we would BE where HE IS...
- ✓ Love in our hearts is likened to FLAMES of FIRE.. a SEAL of God's LOVE in our hearts.. HIS eyes convey the power of a LOVESICK PASSIONATE BRIDEDGROOM, burning with jealous love for US!

#3 Jesus wants a Bride EQUALLY YOKED to Him in LOVE

- Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.
- John 15:9 As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
- John 17:26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."
- Eph 4:13 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;
- Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, "**It is not good that man should be alone**; **I will make him a helper** comparable to him."
- 2 Cor 6:14-16 **Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers**. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

- ✓ Jesus embraces US like the FATHER embraces HIM
- ✓ We embrace JESUS like the FATHER embraces JESUS
- ✓ Mature VOLUNTARY LOVE is the goal of sanctification and growth in grace
- ✓ We are to be a PARTNER SUITABLE to Him...
- ✓ Jesus WILL NOT be unequally yoked in marriage.. think about it
- ✓ God is MAKING US to be a HELPER or HELP-MATE that is SUITABLE for Him

#4 Jesus secured HIS OWN Inheritance under the Father's direction

✓ Someone must DIE for an inheritance to change hands...

✓ Jesus died to save us FROM God's wrath

✓ Jesus died to save us FOR Himself.

✓ Jesus paid the Bride's price (a dowry)

1 Cor 7:23 You were **bought at a price**; do not become slaves of men.

1 Cor 6:20 For you were **bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Matt 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Zech 11:13 And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"-- that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.

Matt 27:6 But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood."

Heb 9:13-17 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. **For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.**

Rom 7:1-6 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. **Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another-- to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.** For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

#5 The Bride filled with Bridegroom's Glory

1 Cor 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."

2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.**

John 17:22 And the glory which You gave Me **I have given them**, that they may be one just as We are one

1 Jn 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Ps 45:9-17

Kings' daughters are among Your honorable women; at Your right hand stands **the queen in gold from Ophir**. Listen, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; **forget your own people also, and your father's house; So the King will greatly desire your beauty**; because He is your Lord, worship Him. And the daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; **the rich among the people will seek your favor. The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; her clothing is woven with gold. She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; the virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought; they shall enter the King's palace.** Instead of Your fathers shall be Your sons, whom You shall make princes in all the earth. I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever.

The Bride in His Image, A Suitable Partner

I Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make⁶²¹³ him a helper⁵⁸²⁸ comparable⁵⁰⁴⁸ to him."

5828 ezer- to help, to succor a) to help, to succor b) one who helps

5826 azar (aw-zar'); a primitive root; to surround, i.e. protect or aid: KJV-- help, succour.

5048 neged (neh'-ghed); from 5046; a front, i.e. part opposite; specifically a counterpart, or mate; usually (adverbial, especially with preposition) over against or before: KJV-- about, (over) against, X aloof, X far (off), X from, over, presence, X other side, sight, X to view.

5046 nagad- to be conspicuous, to tell, **to make known** a) (Hiphil) to tell, to declare 1) to tell, to announce, to report 2) **to declare, to make known, to expound** 3) to inform of 4) to publish, to declare, **to proclaim** 5) to avow, to acknowledge, to confess messenger (participle) b) (Hophal) to be told, to be announced, to be reported

6213 asah (aw-saw'); a primitive root; to do or make, in the broadest sense and widest application (as follows): KJV-- accomplish, advance, appoint, apt, be at, become, bear, bestow, bring forth, bruise, be busy, X certainly, have the charge of, commit, deal (with), deck, + displease, do, (ready) dress (-ed), (put in) execute (-ion), exercise, fashion, + feast, [fighting-] man, + finish, fit, fly, follow, fulfill, furnish, gather, get, go about, govern, grant, great, + hinder, hold ([a feast]), X indeed, + be industrious, + journey, keep, labour, maintain, make, be meet, observe, be occupied, offer, + officer, pare, bring (come) to pass, perform, practise, prepare, procure, provide, put, requite, X sacrifice, serve, set, shew, X sin, spend, X surely, take, X thoroughly, trim, X very, + vex, be [warr-] ior, work (-man), yield, use.

Gen 1:9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be..

Gen 1:11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the...

Gen 1:24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living...

Gen 1:20 Then God said, "Let the waters abound with...

Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, "**Let Us make** man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Gen 9:6 Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God he made man.

6754 tselem (tseh'-lem); from an unused root meaning to shade; a phantom, i.e. (figuratively) illusion, resemblance; hence, a representative figure, especially an idol: KJV-- image, vain shew.

1823 demuwth (dem-ooth'); from 1819; resemblance; concretely, model, shape; adverbially, like: KJV-- fashion, like (-ness, as), manner, similitude.

1819 damah (daw-maw'); a primitive root; to compare; by implication, to resemble, liken, consider: KJV-- compare, devise, (be) like (-n), mean, think, use similitudes.

Why were we created in the IMAGE of God?

1) to RE-PRESENT HIM to Creation

2) to be a SUITABLE PARTNER and COMPANION to the Son of God

3) to be an inheritance that is closer in intimacy to Him than the angels are

#1 We Will Receive the Father's Embrace

John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and (that You) **have loved them as You have loved Me.**

1 Jn 3:1 **Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us**, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

John 15:9 As the Father loved Me, **I also have loved you**; abide in My love.

- ✓ Jesus loves us LIKE the Father loves Jesus
- ✓ The Father loves us LIKE the Father loves Jesus
- ✓ BEHOLD! What manner of love! Oh!
- ✓ BESTOWED FREELY on us! How incredible... God loves me like God loves God
- ✓ We are destined for the Father's embrace

#2 We Will Receive a New Heart

Ezek 36:24-35 For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.** "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. Not for your sake do I do this," says the Lord GOD, "let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!" 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day that **I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt.** The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'

Ezek 11:17-21 Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." And they will go there, and they will take away all its detestable things and all its abominations from there. **Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.** But as for those whose hearts follow the desire for their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD.

1 Pet 1:13-16 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

- ✓ There will be GRACE given to us AT THE REVELATION of Jesus Christ, at a future date. There is STILL MORE TO COME!

#3 We Will Receive a New Body

1 Cor 15:35-58 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain-- perhaps wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fish, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. **The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.** It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." **The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.** However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. **And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, **but we shall all be changed--** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **he dead will be raised incorruptible**, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this **corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

#4 We Will Receive a New Position

There is a FULL PARTNERSHIP ordained for the Bride of Christ... to not only BE with the LORD, but to RULE WITH the Lord as the Queen of Heaven and Queen of the Universe. We have a unique position of created order... one that angels, animals, and other biological forms cannot attain to.

The lowest believer is higher in AUTHORITY than the highest angel in the RESURRECTION.

1 Cor 6:2-4 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?

We are destined to be the RULING class of the Kingdom of God. How unfathomable. We will never attain to our destiny on earth until we realize our earthly destiny prepares us for heavenly rule!

Rev 3:21 To **him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne**, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Rev 2:26-27 And **he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations--** He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels-- as I also have received from My Father;

- Rev 1:5-6 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has **made us kings and priests to His God and Father**, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- Rev 5:9-10 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have **made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.**"
- Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The **kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ**, and He shall reign forever and ever!"
- Rev 20:4 And **I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.** Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**
- Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but **they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**
- 2 Tim 2:12 If we endure, we **shall also reign with Him.** If we deny Him, he also will deny us.
- Dan 7:18 But **the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.**
- Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and **the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.**
- Dan 7:26-27 But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. **Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.** His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'
- Luke 12:32 Do not fear, little flock, for **it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**
- Matt 5:3 Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- Matt 5:5 Blessed are the **meek**, for **they shall inherit the earth.**
- Matt 5:10 Blessed are those who are **persecuted for righteousness' sake**, for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- ✓ It has pleased God to give us the KINGDOM
 - ✓ We are destined to rule the nations, inherit the earth, and BE GIVEN the greatness of kingdom UNDER the whole heaven
 - ✓ We will possess it FOREVER and EVER (it is not just a TEMPORARY assignment)
 - ✓ We will REIGN and have DOMINION with Jesus FOREVER
 - ✓ We will be a royal, priestly lineage ... His inheritance
 - ✓ We are called continually to be pilgrims and strangers, peculiar, only passing through, always looking for the city to come
 - ✓ We are called to look forward to our reward and EMBRACE them, not EMBRACE this earth.
 - ✓ We seek a HOMELAND not of this world.
- 1 Pet 2:9-10 But you are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- 1 Pet 2:11-12 Beloved, I beg you as **sojourners and pilgrims**, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of
- Heb 11:12-16 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude-- innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. **These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 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 for them.
- Heb 6:11-12 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but **imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**
- Heb 6:15 And so, **after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.**
- Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**
- 1 Cor 6:9-10 **Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.** Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners **will inherit the kingdom of God.**
- Heb 12:22-29 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, **"Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."** Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.
- ✓ God is going to SHAKE the EARTH AND the HEAVENS. This could mean the literal stars, galaxies, and universes in the heavens AND/OR this could mean the realm of spiritual activity known as the "heavens".
 - ✓ We are called to FAITH and PATIENCE, like Abraham, in order to inherit the Kingdom.

#5 There Will Be A New Earth that is Central to the Bride's Reign

- Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for **the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.** Also **there was no more sea.**
- 2 Pet 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which **the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which **the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which **righteousness dwells.**

- Isa 65:17 For behold, **I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.**
- Isa 66:22-24 For as **the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,**" says the LORD, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD. And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

#6 The Bride will play a role in the Millennial Reign of Christ

- Rev 20:4-7 And **I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.** Then I saw the **souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus** and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** But **the rest of the [UNRIGHTEOUS] dead did not live [IN THEIR BODIES] again until the thousand years were finished.** **This is the first resurrection [OF THE RIGHTEOUS].** Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the **second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ,** and **shall reign with Him a thousand years.** Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison.
- 1 Cor 15:22-28 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end,** when **He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.** For **He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.** For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. **Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself [as a HUMAN KING] will also be subject to Him [the FATHER] who put all things under Him [the Man Christ Jesus], that God [the Father] may be all in all.**

- ✓ Jesus will DELIVER the kingdom to His Father at the END of the millennial kingdom period
- ✓ The new heaven and new earth will apparently come AFTER the earth and elements are MELTED with FIRE, according to the revelation Peter had
- ✓ The saints of the FIRST RESURRECTION, priests and kings, SHALL REIGN with Jesus for the 1000 years
- ✓ The saints who were be-headed during the tribulation will REIGN and LIVE WITH Jesus for the 1000 years

Two possibilities:

POSITION 1

- Rev 5:10 And have **made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on¹⁹⁰⁹ the earth**
- ✓ Some SAINTS will REIGN OVER [EPI] vs UPON the earth sitting on thrones that are currently occupied by demonic powers
 - ✓ John FIRST saw THRONES and saints being put on them... THEN He saw those who would LIVE WITH Jesus and REIGN with Him
 - ✓ These COULD be a subset of ALL the SAINTS that are REIGNING "OVER" OR "EPI" the EARTH.

1909 epi-1) upon, on, at, by, before 2) **used of position**, on, at, by, **over**, against 3) to, **over, on**, at, across, against

Other uses of EPI translated as OVER:

- Matt 24:45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler **over his household**, to give them food in due season?
- Matt 25:23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful **over a few things**, I will make you **ruler over many things**. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

- Luke 1:33 And He will reign **over the house of Jacob forever**, and of His kingdom there will be no end."
- Luke 9:1 Then He called His twelve disciples together and **gave them power and authority over all demons**, and to cure diseases.
- Luke 23:44 Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness **over all the earth** until the ninth hour.
- Luke 23:38 And an inscription also **was written over Him** in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

- ✓ To RULE OVER the earth with Jesus certainly seems to match the paradigm and translation of the good, faithful, and wise servant that Jesus described in parables.
- ✓ Whether the ruling OVER is done on THRONES that are ON the earth physically OR OVER the earth in spiritual places of rulership is yet to be seen:

- 1 Pet 3:21-22 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.**
- Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are **in heaven** and that are **on earth, visible and invisible**, whether **thrones or dominions or principalities or powers**. **All things were created through Him and for Him.**
- Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against **principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**
- Eph 3:9-11 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; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church **to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places**, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, **nor angels nor principalities nor powers**, nor things present nor things to come,
- Luke 21:26 Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for **the powers of heaven will be shaken.**

- ✓ From the preponderance of evidence that rulership ON or OVER the earth is actually located in HEAVENLY places, thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, I would say it is not without reason that our RULING and REIGNING with Jesus during the Millennium kingdom will be in HEAVENLY places primarily.
- ✓ We will have a GLORIFIED body like unto the Lord Jesus: he could eat, walk through walls, ascend into heaven/spiritual realm, and exhibit great power in that body. I would think the same capabilities will be ours... so whether our "THRONE" is a heavenly position of authority or an earthly position of rule, we will STILL REIGN with Jesus as His Bride during that period.
- ✓ I believe a special reward is going to be given to the martyrs... those who are persecuted and overcome during the tribulation. I believe they will have a special place of intimacy with the Lord during the Millennium, but that is only a guess.

The Millennium Time Period:

- Isa 2:2-4 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He

shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Micah 4:1-8 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. "In that day," says the LORD, "I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever. And you, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, even the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem."

Ps 2:1-7 Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion." "I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.

POSITION 2

✓ All saints will reign WITH the LORD physically ON the earth

Rev 5:9-10 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have **made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth**

#7 We Will Inherit the Earth

Matt 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Num 14:21 But truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD--

Hab 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Hab 2:20 But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

#8 Reigning Involves Judging

Judging the World WITH JESUS established by HIS throne.

1 Cor 6:2-3 Do you not know that **the saints will judge the world?** And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that **we shall judge angels?** How much more, things that pertain to this life?

Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Matt 19:28-30 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones,

judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Matt 12:41-42 The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.

Ps 149:6-9 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, To execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute on them the written judgment-- this honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord.

Judging Angels:

Heb 1:13-14 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

2 Pet 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

- ✓ Angels serve the redeemed at the bequest of God.
- ✓ Evil angels are in chains reserved for judgment.

The Bride's Confession, Identity, and Conflict

Her Confession

The dominant and defining confession of the redeemed at the end of the age will be a bride's confession:

- Hosea 2:16 And it shall be, in that day," says the LORD, "That you will call Me **'My Husband,'** and no longer call Me **'My Master,'**
- Hosea 2:17-23 For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, and they shall be remembered by their name no more. In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, to make them lie down safely. I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the LORD. It shall come to pass in that day that I will answer, says the LORD; I will answer the heavens, and they shall answer the earth. The earth shall answer with grain, with new wine, and with oil; they shall answer Jezreel. Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!' "
- Rev 22:17 **And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"** And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.
- Isa 4:2-6 **In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious;** and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped. And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy-- everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning, then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. **For over all the glory there will be a covering.** And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain.

Her Identity

Our identify in God defines how we live, think, love, and work. We must have a PARADIGM shift in order to see God the way He wants to be seen. Success is defined as BEING LOVED and BEING a LOVER of GOD. The Bridal Identify defines who we are... it defines success in life.. it shapes our goals and wishes and desires.

- Eph 1:17-18 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- I Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
- Isa 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, **as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**
- Isa 62:5-7 For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and **as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.** I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of

the LORD, do not keep silent, And give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Her Conflict (Psalms 2)

Nation's Will Rage Against God: (v1-3)

Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."

The Father Proclaims the Son's Inheritance: (v4-6)

He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion."

Jesus Intercedes for His Inheritance: (v7-9)

I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"

Exhortation of the Redeemed through Conflict (v10-12)

Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Jesus Desires:

- ✓ A SERVING Bride
- ✓ A TREMBLING Bride
- ✓ A REJOICING Bride
- ✓ A KISSING Bride

The conflict at the end of the age is centered on IMMORALITY vs HOLY LOVE.

Rev 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Rev 12:12-13 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time. Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

Rev 18 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury. And I heard another voice from heaven saying, **Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.** Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' Therefore her plagues will come in one day-- death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her. The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and

lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! 'For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?' They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.' Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!" Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

Satan’s Desire for the Bride’s Position

Isa 14:12-14 How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer¹⁹⁶⁶, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

1966 heylel- **Lucifer = "light-bearer";** 1) the shining one, the morningstar, Lucifer; used of the king of Babylon and Satan (figuratively) 2) Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament: `Helel,' describing the king of Babylon from 1984 (in the sense of brightness); the morning-star: KJV-- lucifer (the king of Babylon).

| Lucifer/Satan | The Bride |
|--|---|
| Light Bearer | Light of the World (Matt 5:14) |
| I will ascend into heaven | Seated in heavenly places (Eph 2:6) |
| I will exalt my throne above the stars (angels) of God | To Him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne as I also overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne (Rev 3:21) |
| Sit among the congregation on God’s mountain on the sides of the North | Saints on Mt. Zion on the sides of the North (Heb 12:22-23/Psalms 48:1) |
| I will be like the Most High | Destined to be like God (Rom 8:28, Gen 1:26, 1 John 3:2, 1 Cor 15:49) |

Ps 48:1-2 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.

Heb 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who

are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

- Eph 2:6 And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- Matt 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.
- Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
- Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
- I Jn 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
- 1 Cor 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

Calling Forth the Bride (Matthew 21-22)

From eternity and from time, the call of the bride has gone forth:

Hosea 2:16 And it shall be, in that day," says the LORD, "That you will call Me 'My Husband,' and no longer call Me 'My Master,'

John 2:1-12 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it." Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

The last visit to Jerusalem:

✓ Accompanied by the agony and anticipation of the cross (Friday)

Matt 17:1-9 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

✓ The tender affection and joy over a Bride soon to be won. The JOY set before Him was the wedding supper of the Lamb.

Heb 12:1-4 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

✓ The agony of Israel's rebellion:

Matt 23:37-39 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Overview of the Final Week:

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Jesus gives the wedding invitation through three parables | Matthew 21-22 |
| Judgment pronounced on Israel for rebellious leadership | Matthew 23 |
| Private instructions to the disciples | Matthew 24-25 |
| A Wedding Parable | Matthew 25:1-13 |
| Teaching of the Last Supper | John 13-17 |

The Bridal Invitation in 3 Parables

#1 Parable of the Two Sons

Even the WORST sinners are invited. No one is too sinful to be excluded. REBELLION alone will disqualify you from being a part.

Matt 21:28-32 But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, **you did not afterward relent and believe him [they were rebellious].**

#2 Parable of the Wicked Vine Dresser

God has inheritance for His Son. The "Kingdom" or vineyard is his inheritance. Rebellion alone will disqualify you from being a part.

Matt 21:33-44 Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. **Then last of all he sent his son to them**, saying, **'They will respect my son.'** But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and **cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.** Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? They said to Him, **"He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons."** Jesus said to them, **"Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.** This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and **given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.** And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

#3 Parable of the Wedding Feast

Part of the wedding feast focuses on Jesus' GREAT invitation.

Matt 22:1-14 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" "But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was

furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. **'Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'** So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' **For many are called, but few are chosen."**

The Wedding Parable (Matt 22:1-14)

This is the END of Jesus' public ministry. It is FINISHED! His LAST and most IMPORTANT revelation is that of the Kingdom of God as a wedding feast. Why save it till now? You save the best for last.. you save the HIGHEST for the last:

John 2:10 And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

This IS THE WINE by which He wants to intoxicate us with. This is the GOOD wine save UNTIL NOW!

The language of LOVE is understood and discerned by those who LOVE. It is a call to deeper understanding for those whose curiosity is perked. He says to all: "Come drink deeply of what is on my HEART and revealed here."

In the generation the LORD returns, there will be a fresh revelation as Jesus as Bridegroom and the Church as the BRIDE. It is in the context of husband and wife that Jesus will begin to NURTURE and CHERISH the heart of His Bride in THIS GENERATION!

Eph 5:28-32 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Jesus is NOW nourishing and cherishing of those who draw near on the basis of this PARADIGM. The power of a nourished spirit and a cherished heart before God is indescribable. God's POWER should be rightly interpreted through the lens of BRIDAL AFFECTION.

Matt 22:8 Jesus announces the wedding is READY!

Matt 22:14 Jesus gives the bridal invitation

TO BE CALLED = TO BE INVITED

TO BE CHOSEN = TO RESPOND

TO RESPOND = PUT yourself in a position so as to be chosen to be prepared as a BRIDE

Hindrances to Bridal Love

What did Sadducees, Pharisees, and Scribes all have in common?

They HATED Jesus

They had nothing ELSE in common: politically, theologically, or socially. Yet they RALLIED and UNITED around their hatred for Jesus. Jesus is UNDISTRACTED from His theme of the Wedding by the public tests (which were required to prove the purity of the Passover lamb!)

What was Jesus after at His last public teaching?

I want whole-hearted lovers of God.. there is a WEDDING at hand!

Pharisees

Matt 22:15-40 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

Sadducees

Matt 22:23-34 The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, saying: "Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her." Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven. But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching. But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together.

Scribes

Matt 22:35-40 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

The Great Command

Why is the first commandment the first commandment?

Because it defines destiny of those who follow Jesus

First: because it reveals God's HIGHEST priority: He has promised to give His Son an inheritance:

Eph 1:17-18 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Greatest: because it reveals God's design of the human heart

Relationship and LOVE for God with abandon and passion is **the ONE thing we were made for.**

God's FIRST claim on the human race: an inheritance for His Son, Jesus

God's FIRST strategy for human happiness: to be wholehearted lovers of God

The Great Prophecy

- Matt 22:37 Jesus said to him, " **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart**, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
- John 17:26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that **the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them "**
- Deut 30:6 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.
- Song 8:6-7 Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised. THE SHULAMITE'S BROTHERS

- ✓ **YOU SHALL** love the LORD your God
- ✓ Jesus prayed for and asked for a people who would love Jesus the SAME WAY that the Father loved Jesus
- ✓ God will circumcise our hearts to LOVE God with all our heart
- ✓ The SEAL of God's fiery love on our hearts.. SEEK IT UNTIL YOU HAVE IT!

Important Scripture Passages

Gen 1:26-2:25 Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**" And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Gen 2:1-25 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates. Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. **And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.**

Rev 19:1-21

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Rev 20:1-15

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from

whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:1-27

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass. But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Rev 22:1-21

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. "Behold, I am coming

quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Deut 24:5

5 "When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken.
(NKJ)

Isa 61:10

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
(NKJ)

Ezek 16:8-63

8 "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD.

9 "Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil.

10 "I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk.

11 "I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck.

12 "And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head.

13 "Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty.

14 "Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord GOD.

15 "But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it.

16 "You took some of your garments and adorned multicolored high places for yourself, and played the harlot on them. Such things should not happen, nor be.

17 "You have also taken your beautiful jewelry from My gold and My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images and played the harlot with them.

18 "You took your embroidered garments and covered them, and you set My oil and My incense before them.

19 "Also My food which I gave you-- the pastry of fine flour, oil, and honey which I fed you-- you set it before them as sweet incense; and so it was," says the Lord GOD.

20 "Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter,

21 "that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire?

22 "And in all your abominations and acts of harlotry you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, struggling in your blood.

23 "Then it was so, after all your wickedness--' Woe, woe to you!' says the Lord GOD--

24 "that you also built for yourself a shrine, and made a high place for yourself in every street.

25 "You built your high places at the head of every road, and made your beauty to be abhorred. You offered yourself to everyone who passed by, and multiplied your acts of harlotry.

26 "You also committed harlotry with the Egyptians, your very fleshly neighbors, and increased your acts of harlotry to provoke Me to anger.

27 "Behold, therefore, I stretched out My hand against you, diminished your allotment, and gave you up to the will of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd behavior.

28 "You also played the harlot with the Assyrians, because you were insatiable; indeed you played the harlot with them and still were not satisfied.

29 "Moreover you multiplied your acts of harlotry as far as the land of the trader, Chaldea; and even then you were not satisfied.

30 "How degenerate is your heart!" says the Lord GOD, "seeing you do all these things, the deeds of a brazen harlot.

31 "You erected your shrine at the head of every road, and built your high place in every street. Yet you were not like a harlot, because you scorned payment.

32 "You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband.

33 "Men make payment to all harlots, but you made your payments to all your lovers, and hired them to come to you from all around for your harlotry.

34 "You are the opposite of other women in your harlotry, because no one solicited you to be a harlot. In that you gave payment but no payment was given you, therefore you are the opposite."

35 "Now then, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD!

36 "Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your filthiness was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your harlotry with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children which you gave to them,

37 "surely, therefore, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved, and all those you hated; I will gather them from all around against you and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness.

38 "And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy.

39 "I will also give you into their hand, and they shall throw down your shrines and break down your high places. They shall also strip you of your clothes, take your beautiful jewelry, and leave you naked and bare.

40 "They shall also bring up an assembly against you, and they shall stone you with stones and thrust you through with their swords.

41 "They shall burn your houses with fire, and execute judgments on you in the sight of many women; and I will make you cease playing the harlot, and you shall no longer hire lovers.

42 "So I will lay to rest My fury toward you, and My jealousy shall depart from you. I will be quiet, and be angry no more.

43 "Because you did not remember the days of your youth, but agitated Me with all these things, surely I will also recompense your deeds on your own head," says the Lord GOD. "And you shall not commit lewdness in addition to all your abominations.

44 "Indeed everyone who quotes proverbs will use this proverb against you: 'Like mother, like daughter!'

45 "You are your mother's daughter, loathing husband and children; and you are the sister of your sisters, who loathed their husbands and children; your mother was a Hittite and your father an Amorite.

46 "Your elder sister is Samaria, who dwells with her daughters to the north of you; and your younger sister, who dwells to the south of you, is Sodom and her daughters.

47 "You did not walk in their ways nor act according to their abominations; but, as if that were too little, you became more corrupt than they in all your ways.

48 "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "neither your sister Sodom nor her daughters have done as you and your daughters have done.

49 "Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

50 "And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.

51 "Samaria did not commit half of your sins; but you have multiplied your abominations more than they, and have justified your sisters by all the abominations which you have done.

52 "You who judged your sisters, bear your own shame also, because the sins which you committed were more abominable than theirs; they are more righteous than you. Yes, be disgraced also, and bear your own shame, because you justified your sisters.

53 "When I bring back their captives, the captives of Sodom and her daughters, and the captives of Samaria and her daughters, then I will also bring back the captives of your captivity among them,

54 "that you may bear your own shame and be disgraced by all that you did when you comforted them.

55 "When your sisters, Sodom and her daughters, return to their former state, and Samaria and her daughters return to their former state, then you and your daughters will return to your former state.

56 "For your sister Sodom was not a byword in your mouth in the days of your pride,

57 "before your wickedness was uncovered. It was like the time of the reproach of the daughters of Syria and all those around her, and of the daughters of the Philistines, who despise you everywhere.

58 "You have paid for your lewdness and your abominations," says the LORD.

59 "For thus says the Lord GOD: "I will deal with you as you have done, who despised the oath by breaking the covenant.

60 "Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.

61 "Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed, when you receive your older and your younger sisters; for I will give them to you for daughters, but not because of My covenant with you.

62 "And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the LORD,

63 "that you may remember and be ashamed, and never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an atonement for all you have done," says the Lord GOD."

(NKJ)

Isa 49:18

18 Lift up your eyes, look around and see; all these gather together and come to you. As I live," says the LORD, "You shall surely clothe yourselves with them all as an ornament, and bind them on you as a bride does.

(NKJ)

Gen 24:53

53 Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

(NKJ)

Gen 24:61

61 Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

(NKJ)

Gen 29:24

24 And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid.

(NKJ)

Ps 45:10-17

10 Listen, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your own people also, and your father's house;

11 So the King will greatly desire your beauty; because He is your Lord, worship Him.

12 And the daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; the rich among the people will seek your favor.

13 The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; her clothing is woven with gold.

14 She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; the virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.

15 With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought; they shall enter the King's palace.

16 Instead of Your fathers shall be Your sons, whom You shall make princes in all the earth.

17 I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever.

(NKJ)