

THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

TEXT:

Revelation 19:7-9:

***7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.
8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the Righteousness of Saints.
9 And he [an angel of God] saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.***

We have many beautiful descriptions of the surprises God has in store for those who love Him and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10:

***9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.
10 But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.***

The Things Beyond a Man's Scrutiny



One of the most attractive descriptions to those of us who love Him and wait for His Coming, is the Heavenly Marriage. Christ is described in the Bible as our Bridegroom, and we are His Bride, known on earth as the Church.

This has been a long engagement. The long wait has been so that others will have the opportunity to give their hearts to Jesus, thus completing the bridal party.

This Heavenly wedding is typified in the marriage of Isaac to Rebecca:

Abraham, is a type of God the Father;

Isaac is a type of Christ in many ways;

Eliezer is a type of the Holy Spirit;

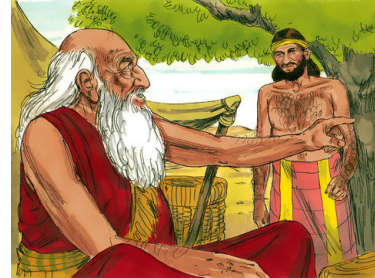
Rebecca is a type of the Church.

When Abraham desired a bride for his beloved son, Isaac, he sent his servant Eliezer to a far country to obtain this bride for him from his own kindred. You are familiar with God's creating man from His Own Image. There is also a Scripture in:

Proverbs 8:31: Rejoicing in the habitable part of His earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

So, into this far country — planet earth — God sent the Holy Spirit to seek a Bride for Christ. Likewise, according to the account in Genesis, Abraham sent his servant Eliezer to find a wife for his son Isaac.

Genesis 24:3-4: But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

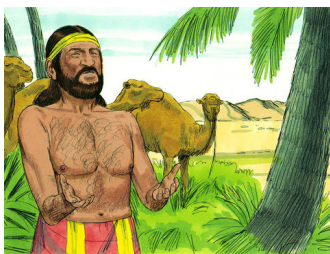


He loaded up a caravan of camels with gifts for the bride, indicating the wealth of his master.

Genesis 24:10-14:

10 And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.

11 And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water.



12 And he said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.

13 Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:

14 And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

The test that Eliezer put to the girl was whether she would be obedient to his request for a drink for himself and for his camels. **if she complied, she would be the bride for**

Isaac — the heir of Abraham's wealth, and the one thru whom all the nations of the earth, would be blessed.

God directed his way.

Genesis 24:15-19:

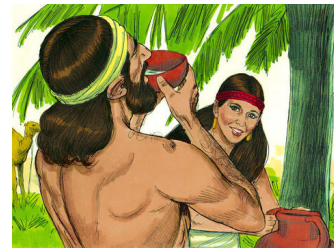
15 *And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.*

16 *And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.*

17 *And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher.*

18 *And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.*

19 *And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking.*



Next came the explanation of his journey to this beautiful maiden, along with the description of his master's wealth, and a demonstration of it as proof.

Genesis 24:22: *And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold;*

Finally, the question is put point blank out to Rebecca: "Wilt thou go?"

Genesis 24:58: *And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.*

She no doubt counted the cost — what it would mean to leave her old life, her familiar surroundings, family, and friends, and make the long journey with its discomforts. She answered: "I will go."

Her brother Laban asked Eliezer to let the girl stay ten days longer before leaving but his answer was, "Hinder me not".

With this, they began the long pilgrimage. Rebecca put her trust and confidence in Eliezer to guide the way, and to instruct and comfort her on the journey.

This is more than an account of history. It is a type and foreshadow of God sending the Holy Spirit into this world to select a bride for His Son, Jesus Christ. Just as Eliezer brought gifts, so the Holy Spirit has brought rich gifts with Him which He bestows upon all those who will meet certain conditions, as did Rebecca.



The call is: “Will you go?” Some are not willing. They love earthly and worldly things too well. Others of us said long ago, wholeheartedly, “I will go”. And we still mean it.

Now we are on our journey, described perfectly in the Bible. We are pilgrims seeking a city to come. Peter, speaking to the church, said:

1 Peter 2:11: Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

Hebrews 11:13: These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

They that say such things declare plainly that they are seeking another country — that realize they are just pilgrims, passing through here on earth.

Hebrews 11:16: But now they desire a better country, that is, an Heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city.

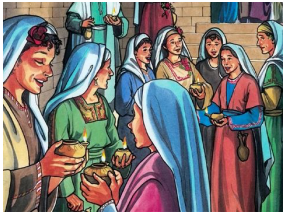
New Jerusalem

We are headed toward the wedding in the skies, even though the desert is hot, the journey is mountainous and often steep. We are called upon to say “good-bye” to the dearest things of earth, but think of the reward at the end of the way — of being with Jesus, which is far better! And the Comforter sent by Jesus is doing a beautiful job drawing us to Him.



It was eventide when Isaac went out into the fields to see if the bride were coming. Our Heavenly Bridegroom is also coming. Soon we shall see Him as He is, the

Altogether Lovely One, the Fairest of Ten Thousand to our soul, the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star!



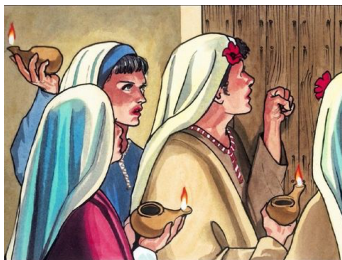
The parables tell us of this marriage in the skies. (See **Matthew 22; Matthew 25**)

In the first of these accounts, we have the [Parable of the Ten Virgins](#), five of whom did not have oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. There are few in the professing Church who have the blessed witness of the Spirit. To be the Bride of Christ means more than just being a member of some church — more than many realize. If the Holy Spirit abides in your heart, you will be led by the Spirit, taught by Him, enlightened by Him, and strengthened by Him.

**Oil is a type
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Spirit.**

Today, there is a noticeable lack of the Holy Spirit in both the pulpit and the pew. Let none be so foolish as to think that because we profess holiness, believe in the New Birth, and live an outwardly religious life, that this will take us through. **Remember, there were five foolish virgins who had an outward testimony: they were all waiting for the Bridegroom, had the form of holiness, and were going forth to meet the Bridegroom. But they stopped and fell short of being ready!**



All ten were believers. They were virgins, and no sinner is so typified. They believed the bridegroom was coming soon. Oh, what disappointment when He came and the 5 foolish virgins were not ready, because they had not made the necessary preparations. Trying to get ready, they missed the bridegroom and were forever locked out. So it will be with those waiting for the Return of Jesus who are not ready when He comes.

Are your actions keeping you from living the Spirit-filled life? Are you looking for Jesus to come? Are you prepared to meet Him? The text says, “*The Bride hath made herself ready*”. What was she doing to be ready? **If you don’t know, then you may also be falling short, as the foolish virgins were.**

Remember, there will be no time to get ready once the cry is heard — just like the man who lacked the wedding garment. This was another way the Holy Spirit emphasized the necessity of preparation, having a clean heart, and a life made so by the Lord Jesus Himself.

Isaiah 61:10: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom

decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Revelation 3:18: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

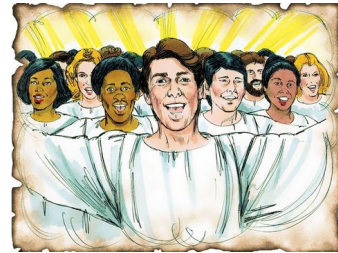
These garments of salvation and the anointing oil are provided by God. Nothing we can do — apart from receiving Him — will avail us anything. We must come just as we are. All who come to the fountain that is open in the House of David for sin and uncleanness will get washed in the Blood of the Lamb, and they will be clothed in the garments of Salvation.

Then, there is this final warning from the Lord Jesus:

Revelation 16:15: Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

These Words of Jesus show that we can lose our divinely-provided clothes and robe of righteousness which we are told to keep clean.

Every maiden you know puts much time and pains into her wedding garment preparation. Likewise, the Bride of Christ will be a glorious Church not having spot, wrinkle, or blemish, and shall be arrayed in a garment of pure white, for white linen signifies is the righteousness of the saints.



Saints are sanctified people — always — from the beginning of the Bible to the end. That is why the born-again believers are called to be saints. Christ will have a pure and holy Bride. He paid a dear price for her with His Own precious Blood. He purchased her for Himself — we are bought with a price.

John saw a great company “*washed and made white in the Blood of the Lamb, whose names were written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.*”

Revelation 21:9-10:

⁹ And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the Bride, the Lamb's wife.

¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God.

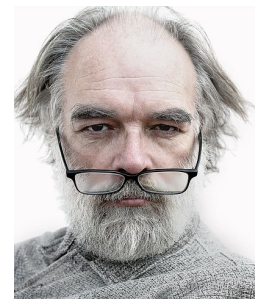
Great weddings have wonderful honeymoon trips. Couples here do so right after the wedding, and God is no different. So will Christ and His Bride take a trip, in as much as Christ and His Bride, all robed in white, will come back to the earth — to the old homestead — for a thousand years in the Millennium.

Revelation 19:8: And to her [His Bride] was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

But alas, some will be left out of this great and glorious honeymoon. Let those who are critical of the preaching of the necessity of the New Birth and holy living [take note!](#) Holiness is surely the wedding garment, and without holiness no man shall see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14: Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Those who are fighting against holiness — and those spiritually-dead, formal professors who ridicule God's sanctified people — will some day want to be among their company. But God's saints will be gone!! Think of it! Not a sanctified soul will be left on earth immediately after the taking up of His Church into Heaven.



Acts 20:32: And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of His Grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are Sanctified.

You know, this Scripture rings a bell to me, in which God is talking to Paul. He told him:

Acts 26:17-18:

17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are Sanctified by Faith that is in Me.

Jesus told it just like it is.

I imagine they will wish they had some of those dear, plainly-dressed pilgrims, gospel preachers, and Spirit-filled evangelists to help pray them through; but those individuals will be gone. Oh, what a world this will be when the salt of the earth is taken out.

Language is too feeble to try to picture what it will be like to miss out in the Second Coming of Jesus just because you were not ready!! The hearts of the wicked will



be terror stricken. When Jesus comes back with His saints, they will run to the caves, crying:

Revelation 6:16-17:

16 to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him Who sitteth on the Throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

This, then, shall be the time when Jesus will reign and will put all things under His feet.

Malachi 3:17: And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Revelation 22:20: He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Unprepared soul without Christ — without hope in this world — if you want to escape the terrors of the antichrist's reign, you must belong to Christ, soul, body, mind, and spirit. I beg of you, I plead of you: run to Jesus for refuge! Confess your sins to the very bottom! Then make an unconditional surrender to God. Believe in His Name. Trust His promises to forgive your sins. Then, seek that holiness, *without which no man shall see the Lord*. If you do this, you need have no fears. Christ will catch you away before the antichrist takes his full control.

Christ will catch you away before the antichrist takes his full control.

This old world will be unable to hold those who are cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb, for just as a magnet draws bits of steel to itself and leaves brass and other metals unmoved because they are of a composite nature, so when Christ comes with His great magnetic power, those who have His nature will quickly be drawn to Him. The rest will be left behind because they are mixed up in the world. They failed to pray through until the cleansing Blood was applied to their hearts.

Sin will be the only thing that will hold you down.

I repeat it: This old world will be unable to hold those who are Blood-Washed when Jesus splits yonder the sky and descends with a shout! Gravitation will lose its power because the pull heavenward will be stronger than the pull earthward. And then, another secret is the fact that the Blood of Christ applied by faith to our hearts insulates us from the earth. We are not grounded, in other words. Sin will be the only thing that will hold you down. Oh, brother, sister, are you grounded, or are you insulated from this

here old world?

What It Means to be Ready for Jesus' Second Coming

The Bride of Christ needs to make herself ready for His Coming.

1 John 3:3: And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

There are many incentives to holy living taught in the Bible:

- **There is the thought of our reasonable service, as recorded in:**

Romans 12:1: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the Mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a Living Sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

- **Then we have the incentive to be Godlike in the command, "Be ye Holy for I [the Lord God] am Holy."**

1 Peter 1:15-16:

15 But as He which hath called you is Holy, so be ye Holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye Holy; for I am Holy.

- **There is also an incentive to unity with Christ and the brethren, for which cause our Lord prayed in:**

John 17:17: Sanctify them through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth.

- **Finally, there is the incentive and desire to see God, and to meet Jesus in the air at the rapture of the Saints.**

1 John 3:3: And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

If any one thing should arouse Christians to seek a clean heart, surely it is the near Second Coming of Jesus.

Paul combines holiness with Christ's Return. In his epistle to the Thessalonians, his burden is two-fold:

First, to teach the young converts the glorious realities of Jesus' Second Coming.

If any one thing should arouse Christians to seek a clean heart, surely it is the near Coming of Jesus.

Second, to show them their need of holiness, and to be ready to meet Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 3:13: To the end He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

Note: Paul connects holiness with Christ's Return as an establishing grace that will be important at the Coming of Christ. We may not have much earthly goods or popularity with the worldly crowd, but those earthly goods will be of little face value when JESUS COMES.

Then, to the apex of the whole epistle, Paul prays the benediction of the Father upon them:

1 Thessalonians 5:23: And the very God of Peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In other words, if you are alive when Jesus returns, then that is just what you will need, and that is just how long you will be kept sanctified, preserved, and blameless.

Again, he admonished believers regarding Christ's Return very beautifully, and blended it with:

Ephesians 5:25-27:

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;

26 That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word,

27 That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be Holy and without blemish.

The Bride's robes are to be free of spots and blemishes — pure and white. Monday is wash day, when all spots are removed. Tuesday is ironing day, for the removal of all wrinkles. In regeneration, this cleaning work has begun and — being the Author and Finisher of our faith — Jesus finishes what He has begun in performing a perfecting work within us.



Colossians 1:28: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Notice that Word **present**. John connects holiness with Christ's Return.

1 John 2:28: And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His Coming.

There is no mistake as to the subject of John's writing here. It is for Christ's Coming that we not be shabby, unkept, or dirty. He tells us further what it means to abide [live] in Christ.

1 John 2:6: He that saith he abideth in Him [Jesus] ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.

Your life must be in harmony with Him to be His bride.

1 Peter 2:22: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:

Your life must be in harmony with Him to be His bride.

1 John 3:3: And every man who hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.

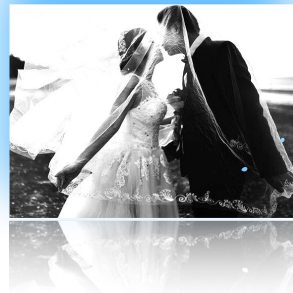
What hope? The hope of Christ's Return, as the preceding verse declares. Purity of heart is unmistakably combined here with our readiness for our Lord's Return. **If you believe truly in the Blessed Hope, you are bound to seek holiness, without which no man shall see God.**

Matthew 5:8: Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Revelation 20:6: Blessed and Holy is he that hath part in the First Resurrection: on such the second death [the end of our earthly life] hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

The Bride, here, is a Holy Bride.

**Awake, oh Church of God!
Arise to His standard!
Be ready for your BRIDEGROOM!**



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