



The Bride of Christ

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

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PREFACE

This message is the revelation of a prophet, fully in harmony with God's true Word. Every scripture, line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little — there a little, fully corroborates every concept and thought projected in this message. This book with its revelations is dedicated to God's saints everywhere, written in words and terminology that can be fully comprehended by even the "man of the street." The great purpose of this message and revelation is to bring order and understanding out of the chaos and confusion regarding this great subject.

I am aware that we are living in changing times, but, the Word of God does not change — God does not change. Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8. God began this revelation and message to me several years ago. "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, **nor handling the Word of God deceitfully**; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." II Corinthians 4:1-2. This we say unto you in the words of the Apostle Paul.

A true prophet of God today is treated with the same contempt and disrespect as those in Biblical times including John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. The message which God gives a prophet and anoints him to preach forcefully, is God's last message for a judgment bound generation as our present one is.

I am a product of the church — fully taught and trained to live a disciplined and holy life as God's Word teaches, guided by a faithful father and mother who were a pattern for me. Old-fashioned preachers, when I was a child and a youth, preached the "Bride of Christ" — and, that those in the Bride were sanctified, Spirit-filled saints that Jesus would "catch away" before the great day of His wrath at the time of the end. **Now** we hear a different message — "all Christians or the whole church is the Bride of Christ." Well, the Word of God is still the same even though today's preachers in general are not.

Please be honest with yourself — do not read a few pages or chapters of this book and stop because you become so violently in disagreement that you subsequently reject this message from the Holy Ghost. This book is not only a message, but a complete study

course on the subject of the Bride of Christ. I pray that God will give you light and understanding in order to guide you into preparation to be in the Bride.

I am an ordained minister in the Church of God, Acts 20:28.

Ray S. Pringle, Sr.

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST
CHAPTER I
BEHOLD — I SHOW YOU A MYSTERY!

Perhaps the most intriguing and exciting subject of the Bible to professing Christians today is about the Bride of Jesus Christ. It is also by far the most in-depth study in God's Word. Angels, prophets, and holy men of God throughout the ages have pondered the Bible presentation of the glory of the Kingdom of God and the aspects of the position of God's saints blessed by its grandeur. The Apostle James and John desired of Jesus that they be granted to sit on His right hand and on His left hand in the Kingdom Age. Mark 10:37.

Where does the Bride of Christ serve in the Kingdom Age; that is, the millenium reign of Christ of 1,000 years — and who are they that are in the select group called the "Bride?" I speak with all the authority of the scriptures and by the Holy Ghost's anointing as a prophet of the Lord — this great mystery of the Bride of Christ is revealed to His holy apostles and prophets through the Spirit. Ephesians 3:5 and Amos 3:7. This mystery is revealed to and understood by only those believers who diligently strive to prepare themselves to be in that illustrious group of God's saints called the Bride of Christ.

As Daniel the prophet humbly explained to the King of Babylon concerning his great vision, "This mystery or secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living." Daniel 2:30. So for the church's sake, which is the body of Christ, the Spirit is making this great revelation — an unveiling of this mystery — The Bride of Christ.

WRONG CONCEPTS ABOUT "THE BRIDE"

Wrong teaching has produced wrong spiritual and mental concepts about the rapture and about the Bride of Christ. Wrong concepts and perverted views and beliefs concerning the Bride of Christ come from preachers and teachers who in all truth "caught" their revelation and "persuasion" on the subject from a theology book — not the Bible, nor by revelation of the Holy Ghost! Commentaries, paraphrased bibles, and doctrinal books by modernists and blind scholars of yesteryears have perverted the

Bible teaching and concept of the BRIDE to millions — even thousands of Full Gospel believers!

Seminaries and Bible Schools have used perverted teachings of men for so long — men who for the most part were not even born again and almost never Spirit-filled — until the teaching about the rapture and the Bride of Christ today is mostly legendary — not Biblical! Most preachers today treat the most influential theologians of the past few decades — scholars who wrote commentaries and expositories of the doctrines of the Bible such as Larkin, Dake, Rice, Kirban, Schofield and others — with more respect than the Bible prophets and apostles! Today, a man of God whom God anoints with a modern day prophetic message to direct misguided saints and preachers back to the old landmarks of the Bible is treated generally with contempt and ridicule.

A MYSTERY — THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Jesus said unto His apostles, “It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven, but to them (other disciples) it is not given . . . blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.” Matthew 13:11-16. God has to give a Christian the spiritual enlightenment to understand this mystery — for the Bride will rule with Christ in the Kingdom of heaven. Revelation 2:26-29. The Apostle Paul prayed for the disciples of the Lord to receive this spiritual insight: “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe.” Ephesians 1:17-19.

How is a mystery of the Word of God revealed? The Holy Ghost opens our understanding to the Word in many different places of the prophetic scriptures and brings these together in a divine order. “Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.” Isaiah 28:9-10. Then in verses 11 and 12 the Lord declares that any student or scholar of God’s Word will be confounded or confused unless directed by the Holy Ghost through

a Pentecostal experience. "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, **This** is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; **Yet they would not hear.**" The Apostle Paul confirms this scripture in I Corinthians 14:21-22, referring to the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Then continuing, the prophet warns, "But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared and taken." Isaiah 28:13. **This is rightly dividing the Word of Truth.** II Timothy 2:15. It is deadly, spiritually, to reject the revelation of the Holy Ghost when it is revealed and presented in that manner. God says that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. This means that no one verse of scripture can stand alone, and cannot privately or by itself be understood correctly. It takes scripture in one part of the Bible to explain a scripture in another part. II Peter 1:20-21. The apostle wrote also to stir up our remembrance "that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour." II Peter 3:1-2.

BEWARE OF SCRIPTURE TWISTING

Spiritual revelation does not come easily. A price has to be paid by someone who is called and chosen by the Lord to be holy and separated from the world — in time, energy, study, prayer, fasting, meditation, and perseverance in overcoming all contempt and opposition. The Apostle Peter readily admitted many mysteries of the Bible are hard to be understood: "Even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to be understood, **which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest**, as they do also the other scriptures, **unto their own destruction.**" II Peter 3:15-16. Then note the warning that follows in verse 17: "Ye, therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness." Tens of thousands today — God's own people — are being swept away from the true doctrines of the Bible by false teachers and preachers — through seminary teaching and commentaries directed by the spirit of error! If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch, warned Jesus! Matthew 15:14.

THE TRUE REVELATION OF THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

One of the great missions of the Holy Ghost sent into the world by Jesus Christ (John 14:16-18), is to call, choose, and prepare a Bride for Christ. (I Peter 1:15-16, Matthew 22:14). "He that hath the **Bride** is the Bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled." John 3:29. John the Baptist was one of the world's greatest prophets (Luke 7:28), but he declared that he will just be a "best man" at the marriage of Christ — not a part of the Bride. The Bride of Christ is revealed in Revelation 21:9-11 as the holy city New Jerusalem — called the Lamb's wife. The city is not the wife — the wife is inside the city. In verse 2 of Revelation 21, "I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as **a bride** adorned for her husband." Of course, the analogy of the scriptures symbolizing the saints of God as a "Bride" is used as a beautiful allegory. The Bride is not actually a woman but a multitude of redeemed saints of God.

The revelation begins in the book of Genesis and is consummated in the book of Revelation. "**All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Timothy 3:16. Does this also mean that the little book of the Bible entitled "Song of Solomon" is inspired of God? Most certainly! For without this ignored bundle of Holy Ghost revelation, the subject of the Bride of Christ could not be fully comprehended! Let me repeat — no christian nor preacher can comprehend the subject of "The Bride of Christ" until the eight chapters of "The Song of Solomon" are thoroughly understood — notwithstanding the scorn and ridicule of ignorant and perverted scholars!

The Bride is symbolized in the Song of Solomon as the Shulamite — Chapter 6:13! Eve was the first bride (Genesis 2:22) of the first son of God, Adam. (Luke 3:38). The Bride is the "lily" among thorns. Songs 2:2. In Psalms 45:9, the Bride is "the queen at the King's right hand." In John 3:29. "It is the Bride that hath the bridegroom." The bridegroom is the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bride is likened to "His Jewels" in Malachi 3:17 — "A chaste virgin espoused to Christ" in II Corinthians 11:2-3. The Bride is presented to Christ and becomes His wife at the marriage supper of the Lamb" — Revelation 19:7-9.

IS THE CHURCH THE BRIDE OF CHRIST?

“And (God) hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” Ephesians 1:22-23. “Now ye (the church) are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” I Corinthians 12:27. “For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” I Corinthians 12:13. The church is the Body of Christ but He will not wed His own body, the church, but a remnant of the Church that is completely holy, spirit-filled, and does not love this present world, nor fashions and lusts.

GOD IS PERFECTING A BRIDE TO BE TAKEN OUT OF THE CHURCH

“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” II Corinthians 11:2-3. Now, these church members were being beguiled away from living a holy life, even as Eve, the first bride of the first son of God, Adam, was beguiled by the serpent in the garden into disobeying God. Thus, Eve becomes the symbol of an unfaithful bride just as many of God’s people today are — for many are called, but few are chosen (Matthew 22:14), that is, to the marriage supper of the Lamb. I John 2:28 and I John 3:6.

When God prepared a bride for Adam (called the Son of God, Luke 3:38), “The Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto 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 shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:21-24. Jesus will not marry His own body, but will be wed to “the rib” of the church — God is perfecting and glorying it, and getting these holy saints

ready to be taken from the body to be presented to Jesus as a bride without spot, or wrinkle, or blemish. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also love the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word; 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 . . . For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a **great mystery**: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Ephesians 5:25-32. That sounds like the previous scripture about the mystery of the Bride from Genesis 2:21-24. The Bride of Christ is a part of the body of Christ, the church, but is the holy "rib" that will be purged, made pure and faultless, and is totally submissive to Christ as a chaste virgin (II Corinthians 11:2-3), whose character is free in every detail from world-conformity. Jude 24 and II Peter 3:14.

WHAT IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST'S POSITION IN THE KINGDOM AGE?

The kingdom of heaven — literally, the kingdom of the heavens, shall be the reign of Jesus Christ on this earth for 1,000 years as King of Kings which begins at the end of the Battle of Armageddon. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and **shall reign with him a thousand years.**" Revelation 20:6.

The kingdom of heaven will be ruled from Jerusalem by Jesus Christ sitting on the throne of David in the reconstructed temple of God. Zechariah 14:8-9, 15, 16; Amos 9:11; Matthew 25:31. The 12 tribes of Israel will be ruled by the 12 apostles — Luke 22:28-30! The Bride of Christ will rule with Christ as kings. Revelation 2:26-28; Psalms 45:9; Revelation 1:5-6. God's elect will all be in the kingdom of heaven, as well as all the church.

Everyone who is converted to Christ will be in the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom of heaven will cover the whole earth ruled over by those who are in the Kingdom of God. Jesus gave to Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven. Matthew 16:19. Jesus said, "Verily, I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as

little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3. The kingdom of heaven has wise and foolish virgins in it — not so in the Kingdom of God. Matthew 25:1-13. The kingdom of heaven has both good and bad citizens as illustrated in the parable of the marriage of the king's son in Matthew 22:1-14. The Kingdom of God will have only the righteous saints of all the ages who have been faithful. "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out." Luke 13:28. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy **in the Holy Ghost.**" Romans 14:17. "For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power." I Corinthians 4:20. We of the church age, must be sanctified, spirit-filled, tried and tested to be in the Kingdom of God. "We must through much **tribulation** enter into the kingdom of God." Acts 14:22. "All your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure . . . is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, **that ye may be accounted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer.**" II Thessalonians 1:4-5.

The elect of God will be in the kingdom of heaven. Israel is God's elect. Isaiah 45:4. The church is God's elect. "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ." I Peter 1:2. Also Colossians 3:12. The "called and chosen ones" of all ages are in the elect. Isaiah 65:22-23.

We cannot see or enter the Kingdom of God "except ye be born again." John 3:3, 5. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." I Corinthians 12:13. The Kingdom of God, the elect, the church, and the Bride of Christ are all distinctly a part of the kingdom of heaven. "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many: and unto them that look for him shall he **appear** the second time **without sin** unto salvation." Hebrews 9:28. If we abide **in Him** there is no sin in us and there cannot be if we are to be ready for His appearing. I John 3:5-6.

The Bride of Christ

CHAPTER II

REWARDS DETERMINE OUR POSITION IN THE KINGDOM AGE

There will be a great resurrection of all the dead who were justified by faith at the return of Christ. "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Daniel 12:1-2. Read also Revelation 20:4-6. Many will be ashamed at Christ's coming because they have no works for which they would be rewarded. I John 2:28. This is what the Apostle Paul wrote about in the scriptures: "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." I Corinthians 3:15. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." II Corinthians 5:10-11. Those believers in Christ whose works were burned will certainly not be in the Bride or Kingdom of God, but will be citizens of the Kingdom of heaven.

Jesus also will judge the nations of the earth at His return — those who escape death during the Great Tribulation. "When the son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory; And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." Matthew 25:31-33. Those on the left hand shall go into everlasting punishment, but those on the right hand into the kingdom age and life eternal. There will be millions converted to Christ during the Great Tribulation as noted here in Matthew 25. Read Revelation 14:6-7.

The Kingdom Age is a time for Christ to reward every believer according to his works. Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, **to give every man according as his work shall be.**" Revelation 22:12. "And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:12. "And if ye call on the Father, who

without respect of persons **judgeth according to every man's work**, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear." I Peter 1:17. "For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:11-12. Jesus also said, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matthew 12:36.

CHRIST'S JUDGMENT SEAT OF REWARDS

We cannot reject the light of God's word when it is sent to us and have God's approval on our lives. God says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hosea 4:6. "Therefore my people are gone into captivity because they have no knowledge . . . therefore hell hath enlarged herself and opened her mouth without measure . . ." Isaiah 5:13-14. Beloved, it is a fearful thing to appear at the judgment seat of Christ. Listen, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in **his body** . . . knowing therefore the **terror of the Lord**, we persuade men . . ." II Corinthians 5:10-11. The Apostle John saw Christ at His judgment seat "with his eyes as a flame of fire . . . his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters . . . out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword . . . And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead." Revelation 1:14-17. No wonder God said, "Work out your own salvation with **fear and trembling**." Philippians 2:12.

God's day of rewards will soon come at the judgment seat of Jesus Christ. There our position in the kingdom of heaven will be determined. Note carefully the following scriptural passages that reveal this truth: "And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest **give reward unto thy servants** the prophets, and to thy saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and **shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.**" Revelation 11:18. Who will be in the Bride of Christ? Those who are called, and chosen, and are judged faithful (Revelation 17:14); those who overcome and keep the works of Christ until the end (Revelation 2:26-28). Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly; and **my reward is with me**, to give every man according as his work shall

be.” (Revelation 22:12). God has a record of all the works each Christian has done for His glory — the angels are His recorders. Ecclesiastes 5:6. “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” Hebrews 6:10. Job said, “Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and **my record is on high.**” Job 16:19. God is keeping a detailed record of all our activities involving obedience in living holy, giving, praying, witnessing, and being faithful in every way to Him. This will determine who will be in the Bride and rule in the kingdom of heaven.

Let us take a look at the Bible record describing the way we will be judged at Christ’s return. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus reveals the judgment of the nations. They are admitted into the kingdom of heaven on the basis that they ministered unto his brethren in their need. The judgment of those who will rule the nations — those accepted into the Kingdom of God — is revealed by Jesus in Luke 19:11-27. In this remarkable parable Jesus compares himself to a nobleman going away to receive a kingdom, and to return. His ten servants were given 10 pounds — one pound each — to invest in the work of their Lord while He was gone. “Occupy til I come” said their Lord. The citizens of this world sent the Lord a message, “We will not have this man to reign over us.” Verse 14. The world has sent that message clear and strong to the Lord!

Continuing the parable: “And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.” Luke 19:15. This verse and subsequent verses describe the judgment seat of Christ and the rewards given for faithful service in each Christian’s lifetime. “Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou over five cities.” Verses 16-19. These received rewards of being kings in the Kingdom of God and they are a part of the Bride of Christ. Revelation 5:8-10; Revelation 2:26-27. The servant in verse 20 who never gained usury with his Lord’s pound was not accepted into the Kingdom of God — his pound was given to the most faithful servant.

THE CRITERION: OBEDIENCE

A similar illustration concerning rewards was given by Christ in Matthew 25:14-30 in the parable of the talents. The scene is at the return of our Lord at His judgment seat of rewards. The revelation not shown in the parable of Luke 19 is revealed here in verse 15: "And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; **to every man according to his several ability**; and straightway took his journey." Jesus Christ will judge us for what we do with our talent according to our ability to use it, and for living the best we can by the light of God's Word we have. Jesus spoke of His servants that are careless and not watchful: "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." Luke 12:47-48. My friend, if you aspire to be in the Bride of Christ, remember that last warning of Jesus "For unto whomsoever much is given (that is, you've been taught much from God's Word), of him shall be much required." This scripture in verses 31-48 relates to Christ's return.

It is vividly shown in the scriptures about rewards, that we are not only judged by Christ in respect to service and labor, but also regarding our conduct — our lives must be completely holy! Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

The Bride of Christ must be much more than just saved or justified by faith! We must be led by the Spirit to go beyond what we are commanded by the scriptures to do. "Be led by the Spirit — live in the Spirit — walk in the Spirit," the Lord commands us. Galatians 5:18, 25. Jesus said, "Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are **unprofitable servants**: we have done that which was our duty to do." Luke 17:9-10 and Matthew 25:30. To be in the Bride of Christ, we must be led into a deeper life than just what the Bible requires to be saved. However, we must obey all the Bibles commands and exhortations to be eligible for a deeper life in the Holy Ghost!

This revelation and teaching from God's Word on The Bride of Christ must prevail over all erroneous and misguided concepts for you to be a part of the Bride. "So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." Acts 19:20. This Word concept must "cast down

imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." II Corinthians 10:5. My prayer for every person who reads this message is "That God will catch you in the divine grip — the power and persuasion of His Holy Word — something outside and beyond yourself — till you are pure and holy, washed by the washing of water by His Word — free from every spot and blemish of this present evil world — and presented on "that day" as a chaste virgin to Christ — in the Bride." Ephesians 5:25-27 and II Corinthians 11:2-3.

WORKS OF FAITH: THE REWARDS

It is a foolish statement we hear from so many professing Christians: "If I can just make it inside those pearly gates of heaven." Our lives should be governed by the "recompense of our reward" in the Kingdom of God. Moses "esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: **for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.**" Hebrews 11:26. To be a member of the Bride of Christ our deeds must of necessity be dictated by our strong desire for the greater reward at the judgment seat of Christ. Let us build for Christ on gold, silver, precious stones — not wood, hay, stubble, which will be burned. I Corinthians 3:12-13.

SUFFERING FOR CHRIST

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him." II Timothy 2:12. The Apostle Paul, fully aware of the qualifications set forth to be in the Bride said, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and **the fellowship of his sufferings**, being made conformable unto his death." Philippians 3:10. Jesus Christ sent a message to the church at Smyrna saying, "Fear none of those things which **thou shalt suffer**: behold, the devil shall cast some of you in prison, that ye may be tried; and **ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a crown of life." Revelation 2:10.

There are very few people who believe what the Lord Jesus said about suffering as, "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you,

and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. **Rejoice** ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, **your reward** is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets." Luke 6:22-23. Also, the Word says, "We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." Acts 14:22.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

There are many similarities between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God as explained mostly by parables recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke by Jesus Christ. However, the similarities are not the deep mysteries, but the differences! All who are truly converted to Christ and live by all the light they have on God's Word will be in the kingdom of heaven. All who enter the Kingdom of God must live righteously, be faithful, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. Romans 14:17. The door to the Kingdom of God is by the new birth. John 3:3, 5. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter (or see) the kingdom of God." This verse only states the first of the qualifications to enter, of which there are many. This is only a step — not the destination!

The mystery of the Kingdom Age as explained by Jesus in the parables are only revealed to those whose eyes and understanding have been enlightened by the Holy Ghost. Jesus said, "But the comforter, which is the **Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in my name, he **shall teach you all things**, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26. Also John 16:13: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself: but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." How does God teach His people? Through anointed, Holy Ghost filled, holy men of God who know God's Word. The 12 apostles said, "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:4. Who understands about the Kingdom of God and the Bride? Jesus said to His disciples: "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." Luke 8:9-10. The Bride of Christ is a very integral part of the Kingdom of God — but not the whole of the kingdom.

Are we worthy as a Christian to be in the Kingdom of God from which the Bride of Christ is taken? Listen to the words of a man who taught and understood the Kingdom of God fully — the Apostle Paul: “We ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith **in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure**: which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, **that ye may be accounted worthy of the Kingdom of God**, for which ye also suffer.” II Thessalonians 1:4-5. The Apostle also says, “**Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**” II Timothy 3:12.

A PROPHET'S REWARD

The holy prophets with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be in the Kingdom of God with the Bride of Christ, ruling and reigning with Christ 1,000 years. **The kingdom of heaven will last 1,000 years — the Kingdom of God**, forever! Revelation 11:15 and Revelation 20:6. Jesus said, “He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward.” Matthew 10:41. Did you get that? By accepting a true prophet of God with respect for his authority and message, you can sit with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of God! This is in Luke 13:23-30! Also in this passage of scripture one said unto Jesus, “Lord, are there few that be saved?” Jesus practically ignored that question and His reply was about entering the Kingdom of God. “And Jesus said unto them, **Strive** to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will **seek** to enter in, and shall not be able.” Verse 24. The two key words are “strive” and “seek”. Jesus said we must “strive” and not just “seek”. The word strive means to push, shove, elbow, jump over, or go around every obstacle or stumbling-block. In a spiritual sense it means don’t let a preacher misguide you; don’t let a member of your family deter you; don’t let a good friend lead you away from being completely faithful to the Lord; **do not let worldly church members be your examples** — keep your eyes on Jesus and off the worldly Christians about you. Psalms 37:37. Get to the head of the line where the greatest rewards are given! “There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from

the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last." Luke 13:28-30.

SUPPORTING GOD'S WORK

Jesus said, "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these (material) things shall be added unto you. Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **Sell that ye have and give alms**; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**" Luke 12:31-34. This "laying up treasure" in Christ's message is not paying tithes or 10% of your income. The tithe IS the Lord's — you don't give God anything by tithing. Leviticus 27:30. God rewards us here and now for tithing. Malachi 3:9-11. A person striving to enter the Kingdom of God must sacrifice for the support of the work of the kingdom on earth — even sell his surplus possessions! This is laying up treasure in heaven. "But woe unto you that are rich! for you have received your consolation." Luke 6:24. Beloved, we must not receive our "riches" now to have a reward in the Kingdom of God. Remember, this mystery is revealed to God's little flock. "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight." Matthew 11:25-26.

FAITHFULNESS

Jesus said, "Be thou **faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a crown of life." Revelation 2:10. "Well done, thou good and **faithful servant**" Jesus will say to the saints who overcome at His judgment seat. Matthew 25:21. "And he that **overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end**, to him will I give power over the nations; **And he shall rule them with a rod of iron . . .**" Revelation 2:26-27. "But he that shall **endure** unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matthew 24:13. These are all the words of Jesus. Praying without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17), witnessing

for our Lord (Acts 1:8), preaching and teaching the Word of God (Matthew 28:19-20), and living holy lives (I Peter 1:15-16) are required of each disciple of Christ. How can this be effectively and successfully achieved? By being filled with the Spirit of God. Acts 5:32. Ephesians 5:18. "The Kingdom of God is not in word but in **power**." I Corinthians 4:20. "But ye shall receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

OUR BODIES MUST BE HOLY

Jesus promised to send a powerful manifestation of the Kingdom of God to the apostles and disciples of His day. "And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have **seen the Kingdom of God come with power**." Mark 9:1. This was not the transfiguration of Christ, Moses and Elias. This was fulfilled in Acts 2:1-4 when the day of Pentecost was come and all the disciples, 120 in attendance were filled with the Holy Ghost and spake with other tongues as this newly manifested **power** of God filled their bodies. No wonder God says "What? Know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** which is in you, which ye have of God, **and ye are not your own**? For ye are bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body, and in your Spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19-20. Our bodies must be filled with the Holy Ghost, as God's temples, to be in the Kingdom of God — and note, these bodies must be kept holy and unlike the world. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, **him shall God destroy**; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Corinthians 3:16-17. The Holy Ghost was given to convict men of sin. John 16:7-8. The Holy Ghost was also given to empower men to make Jesus their Lord — to become a son of God. I Corinthians 12:3. Furthermore, the Holy Ghost was given to empower us to live holy and be a witness for Christ. Acts 1:8; I Peter 1:15-16. Now note this carefully: The Holy Ghost was sent into the world to seek a Bride for the Lord Jesus Christ — to be presented as a chaste virgin for His wife. Philippians 3:14; II Corinthians 11:2-3; Jude 24; John 16:7-14. The Holy Ghost — the Comforter — is the same as the personal presence of Jesus as Lord in a Spirit-filled believer's life. Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever. Even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world

cannot receive . . . he shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.” John 14:16-18. The Holy Spirit has always been in the world but the comforter or Holy Ghost was sent by Jesus Christ. **He is the Spirit of holiness.** Romans 1:4.

STRIVE TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jesus said for us to strive to be in the Kingdom of God or we will fail! Luke 13:23-24. He also said, “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man **presseth** into it.” Luke 16:16. We must not let the world, friends, family, careless church members, or blind preachers weaken our drive and desire to enter the Kingdom of God, and to be in the Bride of Jesus Christ. We must not falter — we must be faithful, consistent, and untiring in our labor for the Lord — and live holy and victoriously over the world, the flesh, sin and the devil to qualify! “For behold, the kingdom of God is **within you**,” Jesus said. Luke 17:21.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE SHEEP NATIONS

What works did the sheep nations do to qualify for entry into the kingdom age, when they stand at the judgment seat of Christ? At Christ’s return we have seen that all Christians will appear at His judgment seat. II Corinthians 5:10-11. Look carefully again at this great future event where all nations of natural people will also be judged at this same judgment seat. “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.” Matthew 25:31-33. These nations came through the entire tribulation period of 7 years. As you can vividly see — entire nations will survive the outpouring of God’s wrath as detailed in Revelation 16. Christ decrees their reward thusly: “Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matthew 25:34. These nations received a **reward** of entering into

the kingdom of heaven — they were converted to Christ during the Great Tribulation. Matthew 18:3. These nations had fed, clothed, visited, and ministered to the brethren of our Lord during the Tribulation. Matthew 25:35-39. “And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethern, ye have done it unto me.” Matthew 25:40.

CHRIST'S BRETHREN

The sheep nations here had protected the elect of God during the Great Tribulation from the wrath and guillotine of the anti-christ. Remember, the antichrist “made war with the saints and **overcame them.**” (killed or forced into hiding). Daniel 7:21-22; Revelation 13:7. These “brethren” that are preserved by the sheep nations are Jews and Gentiles who are God’s elect. **Read Matthew 24:29-31.** They are saved by the preaching of the everlasting gospel during the tribulation period. “And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him for the hour of his judgment is come.” Prophets will preach this message! Revelation 11:3-6; Revelation 14:6-7; Revelation 16:5-6. Note carefully, the gospel will be preached during the tribulation to all nations, not just Jews — all ethnic groups, all languages, and all people! Most theologians and preachers cling to the error of claiming the “brethren” are only Jews. Let us note carefully the following scriptures: “For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to **call them brethren,** saying, I will declare thy name unto **my brethren, in the midst of the church** will I sing praise unto thee.” Hebrews 2:11-12. This is all about Christ who says his brethren are in the church! They are sanctified ones! On an occasion when Jesus was told that his brethren and mother were seeking him he exclaimed, “Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked around about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! **For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother,** and my sister, and mother.” Mark 3:31-35.

Seminaries, commentaries, and perverted paraphrased Bibles have warped, twisted, and corrupted the scriptural truths about the Bride of Christ, the judgment seat of Christ, and the rewards we must strive to receive relative to entering the Kingdom of God. The true concept of the Rapture, or a catching away of God’s saints

has almost entirely been perverted into a Disney World type legend. We may sing about trumpets sounding and Christians escaping the tribulation, but that is only a fable unless we live Spirit-filled, holy lives, without spot or blemish of this present evil world. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might **sanctify the people with his own blood**, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, **bearing his reproach.**" Hebrews 13:12-13. If we suffer with him, we shall also reign with him. II Timothy 2:12. "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous . . . **whosoever doeth not righteousness** is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." I John 3:6, 10. Beloved, we must live holy, not just have it imputed, Romans 4:3-11. When we are saved, the righteousness of Christ is imputed, but we must live that righteousness through the divine nature (II Corinthians 5:17) or we will die, spiritually. "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, **ye shall die:** (spiritually) but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:12-13. That is a sober warning! Take heed!

CHAPTER III

WHAT ABOUT THE RAPTURE?

The most preached about, the most talked about, the most sung about subject of today's religious minded people, is the "Rapture." The word RAPTURE does not appear in the Holy Scriptures, but Greek scholars say the Greek word "Parousia," translated in our Bible "appearing", is the right word for "Rapture" — (II Timothy 4:8; Colossians 3:4; Hebrews 9:28; I John 3:2 and others) — a catching away, secretly, of all Christians by Jesus Christ. This predicted "Rapture" or "catching away" by many theologians and preachers, especially in the fundamental and pentecostal groups, declare this "catching away" will precede the Great Tribulation period. That period will be seven years in duration, according to the prophetic scriptures of the Books of Daniel and Revelation, just before the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to set up His kingdom and rule for 1,000 years. Revelation 19:11-21; Revelation 20:4-6. Well now, is this all truth or theory? Will this great event occur before the 7-year tribulation period? Will all Christians be caught away in a "Rapture?" Just where do the scriptures of God's Word reveal the truth of the matter? Personally, I don't like theory or theology — I accept only what God's Word declares and reveals — not a fable or legend that is preached and sung about just because it sounds good. Wrong interpretations of the prophetic scriptures, or misguided concepts, can be as deadly, spiritually, as unbelief.

Where does it say in the Bible that Jesus will come and take all the Christians who are alive out of a judgment bound generation before tribulation comes upon them? **Nowhere!** There is not one verse of scripture in our Holy Bible that even suggests such an event is entirely certain — dead sure! Jesus foretold of His return with the following warnings: "Watch, therefore; for **ye know not** what hour your Lord doth come . . . Therefore be ye also ready: for **in such an hour as ye think not** the Son of man cometh." Matthew 24:42-44. Again, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Matthew 25:13. Even more emphatic, Jesus said, "But of that day and that hour **knoweth no man:** no not the angels in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father." Mark 13:32.

There are many people claiming that they expect to be "caught up" any moment by a sudden secret appearing of Jesus Christ with

the blast of the trumpets of God. Well, there are just too many “looking up” for His coming, now, in 1976 — Jesus will come in such a time when people are **not looking** for His return!

Some “guessers” and theologians say we cannot know the day or hour but we can know the season. The Bible says we cannot know the day, nor the hour, nor the season! The **“when” of Christ’s coming is the most guarded secret of all the Bible’s prophetic fulfillments!** Jesus said to His apostles just before His ascension, “It is not for you to know the **times or seasons** which the Father has put in his own power.” Acts 1:7. Even Jesus does NOT know the time of His return. The Apostle Paul warned about Christ’s return: “But of the **time and seasons**, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night . . . but ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.” I Thessalonians 5:1-4. To the wise, the Holy Ghost gives sensitivity to the present day trends in the fulfillment of prophecy to give them the consciousness of their Lord’s imminent return. Psalms 102:16. **Just be ready always, Jesus exhorts and warns.** If we live holy lives and work as God’s Spirit directs, we do not have to worry about the day, hour or season of His return. “The Lord knoweth them that are his.” II Timothy 2:19. “The **secret things** belong unto the Lord our God; but the things which are revealed belong to us . . .” Deuteronomy 29:29.

THE BLESSED HOPE

The rapture is called the “Blessed Hope” in the prophetic scripture — and hope concerning the time element, is not dead certainty! About the Lord’s appearing, the Apostle John declares, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**” I John 3:2-3. Please read that last verse again! The Apostle Paul wrote, “Looking for that **blessed hope**, and the glorious **appearing** of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:13.

Now, beloved, let us keep the rapture in its proper perspective — a hope, but a blessed hope! No matter what a person may

believe about the rapture and all its aspects — the time, qualifications, purpose, etc. — no one, I repeat, no one has the scriptural authority to teach or preach to God's people, the church, that they will without any doubt go through all the Great Tribulation. However, there is much evidence in the prophetic scriptures that God's people (Christians) will go through much of the Tribulation period.

WHEN IS THE RAPTURE?

Jesus made it plain in His Olivet message concerning the signs of His return that the church will go into the Tribulation period. If any escape all the Tribulation period, it possibly could be the Bride of Christ or those who die first. Revelation 14:13. "Take ye heed, Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for **ye know not** when the master of the house cometh, **at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:** Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you (that is the 12 apostles) I say unto all (that is, you and me), **WATCH.**" Mark 13:33-37. Jesus is speaking to all of us — do not be careless — do not sleep — but Watch! I may come at sundown; that's now — I may come at midnight during the spiritual darkness arising — I may come just before daybreak, the darkest part of the night — or I may come after the night and storm are over — in the morning! You just don't know, warns Jesus!

Now Jesus here was not speaking of a physical night but the night of the great tribulation. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work", said Jesus. John 9:4. Jesus refers here to the great spiritual night of the tribulation period of God's wrath! The prophet Isaiah foretold of the coming spiritual darkness that our troubled age would experience. "He calleth me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, **The morning cometh, and also the night.**" Isaiah 21:11-12. In the message of Mark 13 Jesus commanded the porter (watchman) to watch — that is, warn about the darkness about to fall and **lock the door.** Study Isaiah 26:9, 16, 20-21. The terrible night of the

Gathering Storm will precede the morning that brings in the Kingdom of God upon earth! The prophet further warns, “For, behold, **the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.**” Isaiah 60:2. **In the midst of the rising storm and darkness. God’s glory will cause us to shine as his light — lights that will be much more effective as the darkness intensifies; so the prophet continues: “And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”** Isaiah 60:3. **We won’t need to work — just shine!**

Beloved, do not commit the error of so many preachers and believers of today, that is, confuse the secret appearing of Christ at the rapture of “catching away” with the revelations of the Day of the Lord and His return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords — His visible appearing. The only truly conclusive scripture concerning the rapture is found in I Thessalonians 4:13-18: “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep (that is, dead in Christ), that ye sorrow not even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore **comfort** one another with these words.”** This scripture indicates a physical deliverance from this old world of sin for those **in Christ**. His appearing at the rapture will only be for those who **love** his appearing. Hebrews 9:28.

WHAT IS THE RAPTURE FOR?

One thing certain the scriptures reveal is that Jesus is not catching away certain saints just because he does not want them to suffer. God has always permitted His people to be persecuted and even martyred. The very best saints and servants of the Lord have been martyred in almost every generation — and always they

were persecuted! “Yea, and all that **will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**” II Timothy 3:12. God says, “Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver: **I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.**” Isaiah 48:10. Jesus warned us before He left this earth, “Then shall **they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated** of all nations for my name’s sake.” Matthew 24:9. This prophecy is for the church — not unbelieving Jews! Also study I Peter 4:12-13; I Peter 5:10; Revelation 1:9 and Psalms 66:10-12.

The scriptures all indicate that there will be no such thing as an “easy” rapture! All Christians will not be “caught away” even if the rapture occurred today or next year — the rapture is to take God’s jewels out of the world — not paste pearls! The jewels of Christ are the Bride! A book is written in heaven with the names of those who fear the Lord, “And they shall be mine . . . when I make up my jewels,” saith the Lord. Malachi 3:16-18.

EARLY AND LATTER RAIN

The early and latter rain in prophecy refers to the outpourings of the Holy Ghost — the first on Pentecost in Acts 2, and the second here in the last days until the close of the age!

The early rain of the Holy Ghost began on Pentecost and ended in the early part of the Fourth Century — about 320 A.D. “Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the **latter and former rain** upon the earth.” Hosea 6:3. Again, one of God’s prophets predicts, “Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.” Zechariah 10:1. The Apostle James explained the latter rain of the Spirit in relationship to the Coming of Christ thus: “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman (God) waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive **the early and latter rain**. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 5:7-8.

The Apostle Peter, on the day that the “early rain” of the Holy Ghost was first poured out, declared, “This is that which was

spoken by the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-32); and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.” Acts 2:16-18. This is the account of the beginning of the early and latter rain of the Holy Ghost — God’s two great attempts to reap the precious harvest of souls from the earth.

PERSECUTION WILL BRING UNITY

As the early rain of the Holy Ghost outpouring reached its final years, persecution and death were commonplace among the followers of Christ. The Roman Empire ruled the known inhabited world of that day with its fierce god-emperors, and Christianity thrived even though all converts knew full well it would cost them suffering and even death — perhaps by torture. Under the Emperor Maxentius, Rome in 310 A.D. was exterminating Christians by the most brutal means of torture and death ever devised — viciously used by those sadistic pagans. When Constantine invaded and conquered Rome in 310 A.D., the persecution of Christians was stopped — and in 15 years, the early rain faded away — spiritual Fire and Fervor died, overcome by Christians at ease in the world! What severe persecution could not do to the church, ease and worldliness did — destroying their unity, and love — quenching the Spirit! Thus we see that the first outpouring of the Holy Ghost, the early rain, ended in a blaze of fiery persecution for the people of God. Jesus, the apostles, and holy prophets likewise foretold that the latter rain of the Holy Ghost in our generation, will end with severe persecution for Christians — its final chapter sealed with the blood of saints and prophets. Revelation 16:6. The Roman Empire will be revived here in the end-time (described in Daniel 7, 8; Revelation 13) and will devise the same manner of torture and death for many of God’s saints. “And it was given unto him (antichrist) **to make war with the saints**, and to overcome them: and power was given unto him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” Revelation 13:7; also Daniel 7:21-22. Saints and the church are synonymous. Jesus said, “These things I have spoken unto you, and that in me ye might have peace. **In the world ye shall have tribulation:** but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33. Did Jesus say we would have tribulation or didn’t He? Not just the Jews, but we, the church, will have our share of tribulation.

In the midst of the **tribulation period**, **Satan will be cast out of Heaven with his Demons to the earth, having great wrath.** Saints of God will have to fight for their **survival . . .** “and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their testimony; and **they loved not their lives unto death.**” Revelation 12:7-12. Those who overcame are brethren (verse 10) and they must be willing to die for Jesus. Verse 11. These persecuted ones are not all Jews as many teach!

THE RAPTURE: BEFORE TRIBULATION?

The prophetic scriptures indicate that the church will enter into the tribulation period — all other scriptures must harmonize with those on prophecy. Those among us — theologians, preachers, and teachers — those who dogmatically cling to the “easy rapture” doctrine, use certain few scriptures and logic to defend their position. Let’s examine those scriptures. Here is one of their strong ones: “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.” I Thessalonians 5:9-10. Amen! But when is God’s wrath revealed? The wrath of God is poured out in Revelation 16 — read verse 1 especially — also, hell is a manifestation of God’s wrath. John 3:36. This verse does not apply to the Great Tribulation period, except the last few months! Read Revelation 11:18 carefully. The first years of the 7-year tribulation period are times of judgment and chastening upon God’s people — “to purge and make them white even until the time of the end.” Daniel 12:9-10. God will teach this world to live by His laws through His great judgments in the first half of the tribulation period. “For when they judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world **will learn** righteousness.” Isaiah 26:9. Most Christians have to be taught how to live holy — and, God will teach them but not gently! Read Isaiah 26:16! God does chasten and afflict severely when it is necessary. “**For he doth not afflict willingly** nor grieve the children of men.” Lamentations 3:33. Read also verses 31-40! Rebellion and disobedience to God’s Word and Will “compels” God to afflict and chasten His people. Revelation 3:19. Saints that overcome the anti-christ appear in The Revelation just before the vials “**filled up with**

the wrath of God” (Read Revelation 15:1-3) are poured out: they say to God, “Who shall not fear thee . . . for thy **judgments are made manifest.**” Revelation 15:4. **God has promised to keep his faithful ones from the day of His wrath** (Read Psalms 101:6), but His judgments are promised upon the worldly church of the end time to purge and make them white. The wrath of God is poured out upon those who take the mark of the beast and worship his image. Revelation 14:9-11; Revelation 16:1-2, 6, 10. The harvest of the precious fruit (souls) of the earth is reaped in the midst of the tribulation period. Revelation 14:14-16. The Sixth Seal of Revelation when opened revealed the wrath of God at the very end of the terrible tribulation period: “For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand.” Revelation 6:17. Read also verses 12-16. Jesus said, “He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the **wrath of God** abideth upon him.” John 3:36. Read Nahum 1:6-7!

NO EASY RAPTURE

Another scripture used by many to prove an “easy” rapture is Revelation 3:10: “Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, **to try them that dwell upon the earth.**” Well, we do dwell upon the earth, and we, God’s people, will be tested and tried by fiery persecutions arising. Nowhere in the Word did Jesus promise to take us out of trouble and tribulation. He said, “In the world ye will have tribulation.” John 16:33. Have we had tribulation? As this is written, the answer is NO — but we will! Jesus foretold His disciples, as He prayed, “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest **keep them** from the evil.” John 17:15. The Prophet David said, “Let (God) deliver me out of all tribulation.” David had to endure it! I Samuel 26:24. God did not deliver the 3 Hebrew children from the burning, fiery furnace (Daniel 3), He went with them **into** it, and through it! Daniel went **into** the lions’ den — God delivered! In the early rain of the Holy Ghost, God’s saints were “tortured, not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a better resurrection.” Hebrews 11:35; also verses 36-40. “Lo, I am with you always, even unto **the end** of the world,” said Jesus. Matthew 28:20!

Another scripture used to promulgate the “easy” rapture theory is Luke 21:36: “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be **accounted worthy** to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” “All these

things” relate to the outpouring of God’s vials of wrath near the end of the 7-year period of great tribulation. The signs in the sun, the moon, and stars of verse 25 are parallel events of Revelation 6:12-18 (6th Seal) when “the great day of his wrath is some, and who shall be able to stand?” Also, the signs of verses 8-12 in Luke 21 have been fulfilled again and again — such as wars, commotions, earthquakes, famines, pestilences, etc. — and even now much of our world is suffering from these. So we know God has only promised to keep His saints from the Day of Wrath. God’s wrath begins in verse 23 of Luke 21.

ANTICHRIST UNVEILED

Another scripture used to confirm the “easy” rapture theory is II Thessalonians 2:6-7. I have called attention previously that the key word in the complete passage of this prophetic revelation concerning the antichrist is “Revealed.” “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be **revealed, the son of perdition (anti-christ); Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you I told you these things? (verse 6). “And now ye know what withholdeth that he (antichrist) might be revealed** in his time (verse 7). For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let (hinder) until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked (antichrist) be **revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.” II Thessalonians 2:1-8. Now, the “revealing” (or unveiling) of the antichrist will not occur until in the midst (about 3½ years) into the 7-year tribulation period. Let me remind you, one week in prophecy is a period of 7 years (Daniel 9:24-27). “In the midst” does not necessarily mean dead center of the 7 years, but can. Verse 4 in the scripture of II Thessalonians 2 indicates the time element — antichrist will declare himself God and demand worship of his image in the latter part of the great tribulation for 42 months. Revelation 13:5. “And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up (that is, the image of the

antichrist), there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.” Daniel 12:11. Now, in verses 6-7, if the “he” that withholdeth or hinders the revealing of the antichrist is the Holy Ghost in the church, then it is a certainty that the rapture could not occur until after the image of the antichrist is set up in the temple of God in Jerusalem from which antichrist reigns! Well, it is just too obvious that no one knows the day nor the hour of Christ’s return for His jewels, the Bride!

SAINTS ARE THE CHURCH

Let’s consider one more statement of error in the logic of those contending for an “easy” rapture: “The church is not mentioned in the Book of Revelation after chapter 3, therefore, the church must not be here during any part of the great tribulation.” To begin with, the church is mentioned again in the great prophecies of Revelation: “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the **churches**. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.” Revelation 22:16. Now Jesus here commanded the vision and revelation of the Apostle John to be read to the 7 churches of Asia to whom the book was written. Revelation 1:4. If the church has nothing to dread about the terrible tribulation nightmare, why read the disturbing message to it? As I preach the complete end-time message and revelation “The Gathering Storm,” I get many rebukes from smart-alec Christians as, “Why do you preach so much about the antichrist and the great tribulation — we’re not going to see the antichrist or be in the tribulation.” How utterly foolish! We can see that Revelation 13:7 does apply to the church (saints come from the church): “And it was given unto him (antichrist) to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over **all** kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” Revelation 13:7.

It is pure logic to say “the church is not mentioned in parts of The Revelation which means that the church has been raptured.” With God, logic is pure foolishness. God is not even mentioned in the two books of the Bible, Esther and Song of Solomon, but God’s presence is very much in evidence. The church is not mentioned in the Books of Titus, II Timothy, Philemon, II Peter, I John, II John, and Jude, but saints are mentioned again and again — these books were written to the church by the way! The entire New Testament was written to the church.

Noah was a type of the Bride. He had to endure much violence and moral corruption with other troubles and

persecution before the flood, a type of the time of God's wrath as revealed in Revelation 16. How long was Noah in the Ark with his family rising above the great wrath of God that destroyed all flesh? One year and 10 days! Noah entered the ark and the door was shut in the six hundredth year of his life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month. Genesis 7:11, 16. Noah opened the door of the ark and stepped out on dry land in his six hundredth and first year, in the second month, the twenty-seventh day of the month. Genesis 8:14-19. The outpouring of God's wrath in the latter part of the great tribulation will be for an approximate period of time — a few months! Here's the burden of our responsibility concerning the return of our blessed Lord expressed by Jesus Himself: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that **watcheth**, and **keepeth his garments**, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Revelation 16:15. "For in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh," warned Jesus. Matthew 24:44. God warns again and again — I won't take the church out of the world, until I get the world out of the church!

The Bride of Christ

CHAPTER IV THE MARRIAGE SUPPER

“Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.” Revelation 19:9. The marriage supper is a harmonious part of the establishment of the Kingdom of God upon this earth. The armies of Christ will be mobilized in heaven for a triumphal entry onto the earth led by Jesus, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Revelation 19:11-19. The announcement will be made in heaven by a great multitude of saints: “Alleluia; for **the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**” Revelation 19:6. Then the saints’ proclamation will continue: “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and **his wife** hath made herself ready. 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. And he 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.” Revelation 19:7-9. Note carefully in verse 1, “I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia;” also in verse 6, “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude.” Here heaven is filled with those redeemed from the earth until near the end of the 7-year Great Tribulation — but, the Bride, now the Lamb’s wife is a different group altogether. In this scene, as saints praise God with loud voices — the Bride has become the Wife of Jesus Christ — Jesus has been crowned King and Lord of this world — the invitation to the marriage supper has been proclaimed — the armies of heaven on white horses prepare to march! The order is given — now Christ and HIS ARMY GO FORTH TO TAKE OVER ALL WORLD GOVERNMENT! Revelation 11:15. The Battle of Armageddon is stopped with a great slaughter! The false prophet and the antichrist are cast into the lake of fire! Revelation 19:19-21. The throne of judgment is prepared for the long awaited Messiah to Israel! Ezekiel 44:1-3 and Matthew 25:31!

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER: WHERE?

The marriage of Jesus Christ to the Bride is announced in heaven. The marriage supper will be on this earth in Jerusalem. A formal ceremony will be conducted on earth after Christ’s triumphal return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This is the

time of which the prophet foretold: “And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination of desolation set up (antichrist’s image set in the temple), there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.” Daniel 12:11-12. Daniel was informed (verse 7) that the antichrist would run his full course in a time, times, and half a time — that is, his power over the holy people will be for 3½ years, which is 42 months, or 1,260 days. Now there remains 75 days more to be accounted for as announced in verses 11-12. The 75 days will be the days in which the Kingdom of God is set up as an earthly government — the coronation of Jesus as King — the marriage supper — the judgment of rewards — the judgment of the nations! Matthew 25:1-46! Matthew 22:1-14! There are 30 days of cleansing the sanctuary for Christ — verse 11, and 45 days of the judgment of Christ and the marriage supper.

THE MIGHTIEST DRAMA OF OUR AGE

Thrones are set! Our age ends! The final moments of its troubled history ends in a mighty drama. Heaven and earth kiss! The great God, the mighty Creator of man, of heaven and of earth, comes down from heaven to finish His great plan of reconciliation! Every knee shall bow to His Christ! God, the Father, comes to this earth and sets the great throne of judgment for Christ to sit upon and to rule the world from! The prophet explains this great drama thus: “I beheld til thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of Days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.” Daniel 7:9-10. The revelation was a part of Daniel’s vision about the antichrist and the four world empires concerning the “Times of the Gentiles.” Daniel 7:1-8. Now in verse 11 the beast with the little horn (antichrist) was destroyed — that is, the end time kingdom of the antichrist, with its god-emperor, a revived replica of the old Roman Empire which we expressly discussed in our endtime message, “The Gathering Storm.”

Now — note the next part of this great vision very carefully: “I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven (this is Jesus Christ), and came to the Ancient of Days (the Father), and they brought him near before him. **And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom,** that all people, and nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:13-14. This prophecy declares that God, the Father, will come to earth before Christ returns with his saints. “Behold, he (Jesus) cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.” Revelation 1:7 and Revelation 19:11-16. The Father, Jehovah, comes to prepare Christ’s throne, the marriage supper, and to save His bride, which is the holy remnant of Israel. Zechariah 13:8-9. The Lamb’s bride is from the church!

GOD, THE FATHER, SAVES ISRAEL

Israel’s holy remnant will be in the Bride of Jehovah God! “As birds flying, so will the **Lord of hosts** defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it . . . Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword (Assyrian, the antichrist) . . . And his princes shall be afraid of **the ensign** . . .” Isaiah 31:5-9. Israel was the wife of Jehovah, but He gave her a bill of divorcement for unfaithfulness: “And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce.” Jeremiah 3:8. “In the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, **although I was an husband unto them,** saith the Lord.” Jeremiah 31:32. The prophecies of the scripture vividly reveal the time of Israel’s reconciliation to Jehovah: God says to Israel, “Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah. (Ammi means “unpitied”; Ruhamah, “I will not be your God nor you my people.”), Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband . . . and I will not have mercy upon her children; for they be children of whoredoms.” Hosea 2:1-4. God has put away His wife until Israel’s reconciliation at Christ’s return. The holy remnant out of the church is Christ’s Bride! In Hosea 2, verses

14-23 the prophet tells of God's return to seek his estranged wife: (verses 19-20) "And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; Yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord." This is only a brief summary of this great revelation! We must remember that in many prophecies, Jesus and the Father appear very much alike — and why not? — Jesus is the expressed image of His (the Father's) person. Hebrews 1:3! In other prophetic scenes, they are very much in contrast. In Revelation 5:6-7, a Lamb (Christ) took a book out of the right hand of Him that sat upon the throne (the Father).

JESUS CHRIST'S THRONE

Jesus Christ will not have a throne until He comes to the Ancient of Days in Daniel 7:14! Jesus said, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." The Father will come to earth at the end of this troubled 7-year tribulation period arising, and set up His throne for Christ to sit upon! The Father will watch the events of establishing the kingdom of the heavens on this earth — giving all authority and judgment to Jesus, and then returning to heaven. "At the name (authority of) Jesus, **every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**" Philippians 2:10-11. This prophecy is literally fulfilled at Christ's coronation as King, while God, the Father, looks on! Also read Romans 14:11-12.

A GREAT RESURRECTION

When God the Father comes to set up the throne of Christ's glory, there will be a resurrection of all the just — those who are not in the Bride, but will all be in the Kingdom of Heaven! In the last verse of Daniel 11, the antichrist comes to his end! In Daniel 12:1-3 is the vision that reveals the resurrection of the just! These are not just Jews or "Daniel's people"! These resurrected ones include many of God's people who will not serve as kings in *thirty-six*

Christ's kingdom. Revelation 1:5-6; Revelation 20:5; Revelation 20:11-15. Compare Revelation 20:6: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be **priests** of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Priests but not kings! Daniel 12:1-3: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time; and at that time **thy people** shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. **And many of them** that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, **some to everlasting life**, and some to shame, and **everlasting contempt**. **And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.**" This must be remembered — the general resurrection and resurrection of damnation does not come until after the 1,000 years, the millenium reign of Christ! Revelation 20:5. All those in the resurrection of Daniel 12 — will live in the Kingdom of Heaven! Now what about those who were resurrected to "shame and everlasting contempt?" These people are those who are saved as by fire but have no reward. I Corinthians 3:12-15. Multitudes of Christians will be ashamed at Christ's return because their works are burned, and there is no reward but shame for them! "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." Read carefully Isaiah 66:5. Shame and not glory will be the reward of millions of carnal Christians.

CHRIST SITS ON HIS THRONE

God the Father will put Christ on **His throne**, (The Father's) and He (Christ) will judge the nations. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory; (this is Christ's glorification, II Thessalonians 1:10), . . . And before him shall be gathered all nations and he shall separate them . . ." Matthew 25:31-32. There will be a **mighty disarmament conference** as all nations are ordered to attend a World Peace Conference moderated over by the Prince of Peace! "And he (Christ) shall judge among many

people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Micah 4:3. Also Isaiah 2:4. God will judge this world by His masterpiece, the Lord Jesus Christ! "Because he (God the Father) hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Acts 17:31. That day will soon come when Christ sits on His Father's throne in Jerusalem. This is the throne of David in prophetic symbolism. Psalms 132:11; Luke 1:32.

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER

God, the Father, will be in attendance at the marriage supper of the Lamb in Jerusalem! Jesus said this in a great parable about the kingdom of heaven — and where is the kingdom of heaven? On this earth, the world's capital at Jerusalem, and not in heaven! It does not last seven years either! "And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables and said, **The kingdom of heaven** is like unto a **certain king**, which made a marriage for **his son**, and sent his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage . . . So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both **bad and good**: and the wedding was furnished with **guests**. And when the king (the Father) came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment; And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen." Matthew 22:1-14. Now for an analysis of this parable: Notice that the king (God the Father) made the marriage feast for His son (Christ). This parable must be discerned carefully — it does not reveal the Bride but the guests at the marriage supper! The scene is upon earth because the king casts out a man without a wedding garment — this could

not have occurred in heaven! The kingdom of heaven is earthly by the way — not a heavenly event!

Who attends a wedding and the reception following? The Bible reveals that at Christ's marriage supper, there will be Christ the **King**, the **Bride** or Queen, **Bridesmaids**, guests of honor of **best men**, **guests** and **servants**. At this marriage, note that in verse 11, the King (the Father) came in to check the guests who were numerous in attendance. The Father will be present, apparently, for all 75 days of the coronation of Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords — all will be to the "glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:10-11.

CHRIST'S BRIDE: THE QUEEN!

The Bride of Christ is called the queen at the King's right hand in Psalms 45:9. This entire Psalm is a preview in Bible prophecy of the great triumph of Christ becoming King over the entire world! The prophet says, "My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the **king** . . . Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever . . . Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever . . . Thou lovest righteousness and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the **ivory palaces** . . . Kings' daughters were among thy honorable women: upon thy right hand did stand **the queen** in gold of Ophir . . . **She shall be brought unto the king** in raiment of needlework: the virgins (bridesmaids) her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace . . ." Psalms 45:1-17.

The virgins or bridesmaids at the marriage supper (these are attendants to the Bride, now Queen) are revealed by Jesus in Matthew 25:1-13. "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins (bridesmaids), which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom." Now these follow the King and Queen into the palace, but are not in the Bride of Christ — just part of the kingdom of heaven, and of the marriage supper! Jesus continues to say, "And five of them were **wise**, and five were **foolish**." The foolish shall be in the kingdom but not included as bridesmaids at the marriage supper — a great loss of their reward which will cause great shame and embarrassment. "The wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament . . . and as the stars for ever and ever." Daniel 12:3.

John the Baptist will be a best man or guest of great honor at the marriage supper. John 3:29. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets will be honored guests also! Luke 13:28-30. Servants at the marriage supper will come from the multitude of Christians and God's people who lost their reward through carelessness and apathy! Revelation 7:13-15; Luke 13:30. Jesus said, "And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last." The "last" will be servants!

Last, but not necessarily in the proper order of the establishment of the kingdom of heaven, is the judgment seat of Christ for all Christians! "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. **So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**" Romans 14:10-12. The Bride of Christ will be rewarded together with all faithful saints, small and great. The 12 apostles will be assigned to rule the 12 tribes of Israel. Luke 22:28-30. The Bride will rule the nations of the earth with Christ. Psalms 45:9; Revelation 2:26-28! Revelation 5:9-10! I Corinthians 5:2!

In conclusion — How long will the marriage supper last? Will it be 7 years as many preachers and Christians believe? Of course it will not! How ridiculous. It cannot possibly last over 45 days. Read Daniel 12:12! That period of time is the difference between the time mentioned in verse 11. I have looked at many preachers and church members who believe the legend of a 7-year marriage supper (in heaven, by the way), and I said to them, "You believe that story because you like to eat so well. In fact, I believe that is what most Christians think about — eating!" That is partially how the fable of a 7-year marriage supper in heaven came about!

CHAPTER V QUALIFICATIONS OF THE BRIDE

The Holy Ghost is striving mightily in these last days to bring the church into the Kingdom. The Bride of Christ will be in the Kingdom of God that will help bear rule in the kingdom of the heavens which is the millenium — Christ's rule of this earth for 1,000 years! Jesus was making a mighty inference to the valiant effort required of every believer relative to entering the kingdom with these words: "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent taketh it by force." Matthew 11:12. We must be violently resolute in consistent, faithful, holy living to be sure of entrance into the glories of the Kingdom Age. Again Jesus warns us, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the **kingdom of God is preached**, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16. To be in the Bride we must be even more resolutely determined to please the Lord in all things. Notice again how deftly the Holy Ghost separates the kingdom of heaven from the kingdom of God in the four gospels of the New Testament. The gospel of Matthew is almost entirely a teaching of the kingdom of heaven — only 3 references to the Kingdom of God are the exceptions. The kingdom of God is mentioned in Matthew 6:33; Matthew 12:28 and Matthew 21:31. The other 3 gospel books of Mark, Luke and John teach solely the Kingdom of God. The Bride of Christ is a part of the saints which inherit the Kingdom of God.

LEAVE NOTHING TO CHANCE — BE SURE!

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to **make your calling and election sure**: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an **entrance** shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." II Peter 1:10-11. Also read II Peter 1:3-9. The Bride of Christ is being sought out and prepared by the Holy Ghost. How can we tell what the Lord requires for acceptance in that "called out" and "elected" group of saints? We are being tried and tested every day by the Spirit — and only the Word of God can supply the specific details of preparation God requires for His Son's Bride. The Bride must be holy, without spot, faultless, and Spirit-filled — led continuously by that same Spirit!

THE DANGER

The church of today is in danger of losing their place in the Kingdom, which is at hand, just as the church of old. God sent a mighty prophet, John the Baptist, preaching “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” Matthew 3:1-13. Jesus that mighty prophet of Nazareth, came with a message of reconciliation from **God** to **His** estranged wife, Israel. Both prophets and their messages were rejected by the church of that day and judgment fell upon their unbelieving heads. Both prophets were put to death. The church of today loves prophets and their messages no better than the church of old. Jesus warns the church of today in His great message of Luke 14:16-24. The story has a two-fold meaning, especially a peculiar application to the church of today. But note in verse 15, a certain man hearing Jesus speak exclaimed under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, “Blessed is he that shall eat bread **in the kingdom of God.**” This evoked from Jesus this great story: “A certain man made a great supper (marriage supper); and bade many: And sent his servant at **supper time** to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are **now** ready. And they **all with one consent began to make excuse.**” Verses 16-18. In the story as it continues, all those who were invited into the Kingdom had excuses — too much land — too many cattle — social obligations — family obligations — all were offered as alibis for not entering into the good things of the Kingdom of God! Notice, this invitation is to the church! Now, further, note what happened — **the Lord became angry** — angry with the church that had grown rich and lethargic! The Lord then commanded His servant, “Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.” Verse 21. Well, God’s house was not yet full of people in preparation for the marriage supper, so he sent His servant out into the highways and hedges “to compel them to come in” — into the Kingdom, that God’s house would be filled. **The church of today is in danger of losing its place in the kingdom to the “maimed, poor, blind and halt”** who have no excuses. The cities and countryside are full of people who are maimed in their souls, broken in their spirits, who will come to the supper, as God’s servants compel them through the anointed preaching of God’s Word by a compelling move of the Holy Ghost. “For many are called, but few are chosen,” warned Jesus. Matthew 22:14.

No trifle is to be overlooked as the Bride prepares for the return of the Bridegroom. The Bridegroom promised to return as He said: “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a

place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:2-3. Many times while on earth Jesus announced that he was the bridegroom — He would go away — but watch and be ready, He warns, for I will return for my bride at an unexpected hour.

Let me repeat this again — the Bride of Christ is simply a beautiful analogy in the scriptures of the saints in the church age who are sanctified, Spirit-filled, holy, and have been purified, made white, and tried — a symbolic designation that applies to those who spiritually prepare themselves for Christ’s return, as a pure virgin who is betrothed, prepares for her wedding — with all her love and devotion given to the bridegroom!

BIBLE TYPES OF THE BRIDE

The Holy Ghost used types, similes, parables, and ensamples throughout the scriptures to teach men and women of spiritual understanding about the Bride of Christ and her qualifications for acceptance. To receive entrance into the Kingdom of God being born again (John 3:5) is essential just to open the door and take a look. Read also John 3:3! To be inside the kingdom, or rather have the Kingdom of God in us now (Luke 17:21), remember what Jesus said: “But seek ye **first** the Kingdom of God, and **his righteousness.**” Matthew 6:33. How is the Kingdom of God revealed now? “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost**” that’s within us! Romans 14:17. Notice carefully, we must live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, and be led by the Spirit all the way to be in the Kingdom of God. See Galatians 5:16-18, 24-25.

A TYPE: ADAM AND EVE

Adam was the first son of God made in human form. Luke 3:38. God prepared a bride for his son in the garden of Eden. Genesis 2:21-24. The Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, took a rib from his body, made a bride, and brought her to Adam. He did not marry his own body! Many theologians who do not understand, and many people who have studied their books, say Christ will marry His body, the church. Well, this is just not true.

The Holy Ghost is “purifying and making white” the rib, a Holy people among the members of the church, to be in the Bride of Christ. The Apostle Paul uses the same analogy in II Corinthians 11:1-3 as shown previously in this message.

A type of the church in the New Testament is “the body” of Christ. This is only an analogy as Christians are also likened to sheep, trees, branches, etc. It has been declared (but foolishly) that Christ will not dissect His body in taking some members of the church for the Bride and leave the others. Well, just imagine how grotesque the body of Christ looks if that were literal and not just symbolic — a body with many feet, many hands, many eyes, many ears, noses, fingers, legs, arms, elbows, etc. I Corinthians 12:12. The body is made up of many members who are eyes, feet, etc. Verses 14-20. Colossians 2:19 declares the body of Christ has joints and bands, also.

God will take the hands, feet, eyes, ears, noses, joints, etc. of the body that are completely in Christ, and holy, to be His Bride. “The body” is not literal, just symbolic!

NOAH: A TYPE

Noah and his family were a type of the Bride of Christ. “Noah was a **just** man and perfect in his generations, and Noah **walked with God.**” Genesis 6:9. There were many sons of God in Noah’s day (these were not angels either) — they were only partially obedient to the warnings and direction of the Holy Ghost. Genesis 6:1-3. **Those sons of God** were among those destroyed by the flood, a type of those worldly Christians who go into the Great Tribulation to be purified. God gave me a great vision and revelation about Noah’s flood which I have related previously. “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and **preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing,** wherein few, that is, either souls were saved by water.” I Peter 3:18-20. When Jesus died and went into the heart of the earth for 3 days, He preached to the spirits of those who were disobedient to the preaching of Noah and were subsequently drowned by the Great Flood — a type of the Great

Tribulation. Those spirits were not angels who were disobedient — fallen angels are in another place — hell! II Peter 2:4; Jude 6. Noah was a preacher of righteousness (II Peter 2:5) and only his family fully believed his message and warning. They were in the ark for one year and ten days while God's wrath passed by! Genesis 7:11; Genesis 8:14.

A TYPE: ISAAC AND REBEKAH

A pure analogy of the Bride, the quest, the betrothal, and the marriage — is found in Genesis 24 about Isaac, the son of Abraham, and Rebekah, his bride. In the story of Isaac's marriage, Abraham qualifies as God the Father — Isaac as Christ the submissive son. Abraham was ordered by the Lord to take his son, **his only son** Isaac, and offer him on a mountain that he would be shown as a burnt offering and sacrifice. Genesis 22:1-14. This is the most beautiful analogy and type of the Bride of Christ in God's Word. Abraham belongs to our dispensation of faith. Galatians 3; Romans 4. Abraham arose the next morning, took Isaac his son and Eliezer the servant (Genesis 15:2), and began a 3-day search for the mountain of sacrifice. Upon that mountain (Mount Moriah, site to be of God's temple in Jerusalem), Abraham built an altar, laid the wood in order for the fire, bound Isaac his son thereupon, and lifted the knife to slay his only son when an angel stopped him! Verses 11-12. In Abraham's mind, his son was dead for that 3 days' journey to God's designated place of sacrifice (Hebrews 11:17-19), believing that God would raise Isaac from the dead! Thus Abraham became a type of God the Father — Isaac, Jesus the Son — Eliezer, the servant, a type of the Holy Ghost.

In Genesis 24:1-9, Abraham called Eliezer and instructed him to go to Mesopotamia, the land of Abraham's nativity, and seek out a bride there for his son, now 40 years old. There were qualifications for the prospective bride to meet — these were to be strictly adhered to. Eliezer, a type of the Holy Ghost, received the order from Abraham, a type of the Father, and departed on the quest — "Bring a bride for my son." The bride had to be of the seed of Abraham, a virgin, pure, disciplined, and willing! After many days Isaac, the type of the Son of God was meditating in the field, "And he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and behold, the camels were coming." Genesis 24:63-65. This was the Bridal Train! When

Rebekah, a type of the bride of Christ, saw Isaac, she asked Eliezer, "What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant (type of the Holy Ghost) had said, It is my master; therefore she took a veil and covered herself." Verse 65. This "bride" was a modest, holy, virgin — unlike most of the church of today that is worldly and immodest. Jesus will not accept any old girl — but a very special "one" to be His bride. Song of Solomon 6:9.

A TYPE: THE SHULAMITE

In the scriptures of Song of Solomon, the Bride of Christ is symbolically called "The Shulamite," dramatically and vividly described in full detail. The beauty, virility, purity and discipline of the Bride is captivating — her love for the Bridegroom, consuming and breathtaking. In chapter 1:2-3, the Bride speaks to the Bridegroom: "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine. Because of the savour of the good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the **virgins** love thee." Here virgins typify other church members that are not the bride. In verses 5-6 the bride says, "I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem . . . Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: **my mother's children were angry with me**: they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept." The mother is the church — the children are other church members which are not in the Bride of Christ. By the way, the bride is black because of the hot sun — this indicates that the Bride is doing the real work of the Kingdom and does not have time to keep her own vineyard! This scripture does not refer to Christ as some say but to the Bride for the Bride says this about her Bridegroom, "My beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand." Song 5:10. In Chapter 2:1-2 the bridegroom (Christ) says to the bride, "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. **As the lily among thorns**, so is my love among the daughters." My, what a comparison — the bride among other Christians is like the lily among thorns! The Bride is as a pure white lily — other Christians who will not meet all of God's requirements — as thorns! In verses 3-4 the Bride speaks of the Bridegroom, "As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down

under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.”

THE DIALOGUE

Now, the important part of the analogy of Christ in verses 3-4 is that He is compared to an apple tree, and the Bride sat down under His shadow, and His fruit (the fruit of the Spirit) was sweet to her taste! the Bride truly loves to sit at Jesus’ feet and be taught of His Word. Read carefully Luke 10:38-42!

The Song of Solomon is almost completely a dialogue between the Bride and Bridegroom — but look, a warning is dropped by the Bridegroom to the Bride: He says as it were, Watch out! “Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.” Chapter 2:15. The bride is warned — watch out for the little sins that will invade your life and ruin your fruit (of the Spirit)! It is the little sins that ruin God’s people. Do NOT let Satan beguile you as he did Eve, says the Bridegroom to His Bride.

In chapter 4:1-15, the Bridegroom is speaking to the Bride. “Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast dove’s eyes within thy locks: **thy hair is a flock of goats, that appear from Gilead.**” Verse 1. **The Bride’s hair and eyes are greatly admired for their sterling character portrayed. Continuing, the Bridegroom muses, “Thou art all fair, my love; there is no spot in thee.”** Verse 7. This characteristic of intrinsic beauty — no spot or blemish is a New Testament description of the Bride. Ephesians 5:26-27; Jude 24; II Peter 3:14 and I John 3:3. The scriptures of all the Bible harmonize perfectly when placed “precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little” as God said do. Isaiah 28:9-10 and II Timothy 2:15. Now notice also in Song of Solomon 4:9, the Bridegroom calls the Bride, “My sister, my spouse.” The Bride is the sister of Christ in the church, but will be His wife in the kingdom of God. The Bride is similarly called “my sister, my spouse” in verses 10, 11, 12. In verse 15 the Bridegroom says to the Bride that she is “a fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.” The designation “a well of living waters” speaks clearly of the baptism of the Holy Ghost spoken of by Jesus in John 7:37-39: “Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters.”

“My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines,

and they praised her.” Chapter 6:9. In this verse, the bridegroom says to the church, “My bride is the ‘choice one’ among you! She is the one I have chosen from my bride among many daughters of God.” This is the Shulamite that is “clear as the sun, fair as the moon, and terrible as an army with banners.” Verses 10, 13.

Now, for one more analogy of the Bride from this great book of revelation, Song of Solomon: “We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts: what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for? If she be a wall, we will build upon her a palace of silver: and if she be a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar. I am a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favor.” Chapter 8:8-10. The “little sister” without breasts symbolizes the church people who have nothing with which to nourish and bring up God’s children into perfection. They live for themselves! — not to be a pattern for others! The Bride in verse 10 is symbolized as having breasts that can nourish and feed God’s lambs into becoming mature sheep. The Bride is like a river of living water among God’s people — Spirit-filled and holy!

A TYPE: GOD’S JEWELS

Jesus is coming for His jewels — not paste pearls. The “catching away” of the Bride of Christ will be secretive — as a thief in the night! What does a thief look for — real jewels and gems, or imitations? The real, of course! A diamond in the rough is hardly recognizable — we must be polished and reflect the fire of the Holy Ghost in every facet. “Behold, **I come as a thief**. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see **his shame**,” said Jesus in Revelation 16:15. Also Jesus said, “If therefore thou shalt not watch, **I will come on thee as a thief**, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” Revelation 3:3.

“Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, **and a book** of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. 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. Then shall

ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God, and him that serveth him not.” Malachi 3:16-18. The Bride will be God’s jewels that are taken out as a thief sneaks in and steals costly pearls and diamonds. The Bride has the Fear of God! **No Christian will be in the Bride who does not fear God greatly.** Acts 9:31; Matthew 10:28. Also note, God has a book written before him of those that fear him — that book is not the book of life but the names of those who will be in the Bride of Christ — His jewels!

Noah, a type of a raptured saint feared the Lord — that fear of God motivated him to an excessive effort that saved him and his family from God’s wrath. “By faith, Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, **moved with fear**, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” Hebrews 11:6. Beloved, we must “work out our salvation with **fear and trembling**” (Philippians 2:12) to have the blessed hope of being in the Bride of Christ when he returns. Read Psalms 2:11.

A TYPE: ISRAEL BROUGHT OUT FROM EGYPT

God had to get Egypt out of Israel before he could take Israel out of Egypt. Egypt is a type of the world — Israel a type of the church — Pharaoh a type of Satan — the 10 plagues a type of the Tribulation! Notice carefully, Israel had to endure the first 3 plagues of Tribulation — God’s purge! Exodus 8:20-23. The church endured the plagues of blood, frogs, and lice. Pharaoh offered 2 compromises to Moses for God’s people which God’s prophet rejected: “Sacrifice to God in Egypt, or just don’t go too far.” Exodus 8:25-28. The church in our day has compromised with the world and it will be purged by TRIBULATION.

Today’s church is not standing up against the world — therefore our society is sick and will get even sicker. The church does not have the power to change the corrupt society about us because the world is in the church and has weakened its witness to the holiness of God. When preachers live holy and give themselves to prayer and the ministry of God’s Word, they will be persecuted. The men of God in the early church suffered for the Word of God and rejoiced about it. Acts 5: 40-42. Fear of persecution causes God’s people and preachers to compromise.

Compromise or spiritual “detente” is the policy of nearly all preachers today toward the world and the flesh. A nationally known evangelist (on Radio and TV) told me several years ago, “Ray, you preach too hard. I know you preach what God’s people need, but you’ll never go anywhere! I’m going to give the people what they want, and I’m going to the top!” Well, 10 years later that preacher is on the “top” of man’s enterprises — however, I’ll continue to wait for my reward in the Kingdom of God, where the first here will be last there, and the last here, first there. Galatians 1:10 and Luke 13:30.

CHAPTER VI THE HIGH CALLING

We are called to be holy. Our bodies must be kept from defilement — temples of the Holy Ghost. What a calling! God says, “I want your body to live in!” This is a high calling — this is a holy calling! The Apostle Paul spoke thus of this high calling: “I press toward the mark for the **prize** of the **high calling** of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14. Striving as Jesus said to do, Paul was pressing to enter the Kingdom of God. Luke 16:16. The “prize” of the high calling of God is to be in the Bride, sitting at the top of the Kingdom with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Luke 13:28-30. Again, the Apostle Paul spoke of this calling: “Who (Christ) hath saved us, and **called** us with an **holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace . . .” II Timothy 1:9. We are not **called** according to our works, but we are chosen by being faithful. Many are **called**, but few are chosen. Why? Most Christians simply will not do what God commands them to do, as: “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye **holy** in all manner of conversation (behavior).” I Peter 1:15.

WATCH OUT!

God destroyed the two temples of Israel because His people defiled them with idolatry — the temple of Solomon, and the temple of Jesus’ day. Jeremiah 32:28-36; Daniel 9:26; Luke 19:41-44. God does not have temples made with hands to dwell in today — He dwells in the bodies of those who live holy and are filled with the Holy Ghost. “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For **ye are bought with a price**: therefore **glorify God in your body**, and **in your spirit**, which are God’s.” I Corinthians 6:19-20. As a Christian, we do not have a right to use our bodies or dress our bodies in any unholy behavior. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? **If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy**: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” I Corinthians 3:16-17. Just as surely as God withdrew His Holy Spirit from the temples of Israel, and then destroyed them for Israel’s idolatrous worship and pagan practices, so the Holy Ghost today will not live in an unclean temple — that is, a defiled body!

ANOTHER TYPE: ENOCH

A prophet named Enoch (Genesis 5:24) walked with God and was taken to heaven without dying. “By faith Enoch was **translated** that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for **before** his translation he had this testimony — **that he pleased God**. Hebrews 11:5. Our lives must please God in every way if we’re to be in the Bride. The apostle said God’s will is “to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.” Colossians 1:22.

“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. **And be not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that **good**, and **acceptable**, and **perfect will of God**.” Romans 12:1-2. Our bodies must be holy and offered as a **living** sacrifice to God. His wills expressed are good, better, and best! In which will of God do we chose to live? We must live in His perfect or best plan for our lives — the perfect will — to be in the Bride of Christ.

GOD’S PERFECT WILL

Why don’t all or even most Christians seek to be in God’s perfect will? They just won’t pay the price in complete dedication — the crucifixion of the flesh! Here’s the answer to a victorious life over the world, sin and the devil: “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” Romans 6:6; also I John 3:8. The term used here “old man” is a designation for the old nature we are born with which must be crucified or made inoperative in our lives. Crucifixion is painful — thus the cause of so many thousands of Christians who never truly live victorious lives. The apostle said, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom **the world is crucified** unto me, and **I unto the world**.” Galatians 6:14. God’s perfect will is to be holy in mind, body and spirit. How? “Abstain from all appearance of evil. 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**. **Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it**.” I Thessalonians 5:22-24. God

will sanctify us and give us a filling of the Holy Ghost — with power to overcome the lusts of the flesh and live holy! “This I say then, **walk in the Spirit**, and **ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.**” Galatians 5:16. Why live in God’s permissive will and miss being in the Bride of Christ? Why live a defeated life in the lusts of the flesh when you can have victory — now!

YOU CAN ATTAIN PERFECTION

You can be perfect in Christ — spiritually! “Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto **perfection . . .**” Hebrews 6:1. God has put apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers in the church for the **perfection** of the saints. Ephesians 4:11-12. The Apostle Paul said that he preached Christ, but also was “warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present **every man perfect in Christ Jesus.**” Colossians 1:28. The key to perfection is being “in Christ Jesus” — living above sin! “Whosoever abideth **in him** sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.” I John 3:6. The term “hath not seen him,” means to have no comprehension of Christ’s holiness. Jesus said, “The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is **perfect** shall be **as his master.**” Luke 6:40. If we strive for perfection, we can be like our Lord. We must attain this stature of Christ to be in His Bride. Read also Ephesians 4:11-16; II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 2:11; James 1:2-4; James 3:1-2; Genesis 6:9; Genesis 17:1; and Job 1:1.

This is the zenith of our striving for perfection; II Corinthians 10:3-5, “For though we walk in the flesh (that is, a fleshy body), we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds; **Casting down imaginations**, and **every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God**, and **bringing into captivity** every thought to the obedience of Christ.” Those statements of that scripture which are italicized must be the goals of all those who would be in the Bride — we must have the mind of Christ! Philippians 2:3-5. **This is conquest** in its highest form — **victory over the flesh and the world** until we agree with everything the Bible reveals as God’s perfect will for our lives. We must be **more** than conquerors! “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, **through the blood** of the everlasting covenant, **make you perfect in every good work to do his will**, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21.

PERFECTION THROUGH SUFFERING

“If we suffer, we shall also **reign** with him.” II Timothy 2:12. If we “live **godly in Christ Jesus** we shall suffer persecution.” II Timothy 3:12. The term used, “godly in Christ Jesus,” means to live above sin — sinless perfection. I John 3:5-6. No Christian will be a member of the Bride who has not overcome the problem of sin. “Awake to righteousness and **sin not**; for **some have not the knowledge** of God: I speak this to your **shame**.” I Corinthians 15:34. God does not command us to do something or live in a manner stamped — Mission Impossible! Jesus said, “Go, and **sin no more**.” John 8:11. Again, he said. “**Sin no more**, lest a worse thing come unto thee.” John 5:14. Jesus also said, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48. Some preacher will rebut this saying, “O, that does not mean really perfect, bla, bla, etc.” “Let God be true and every man (preacher) a liar,” (Romans 3:3-4), who does not stand on every Word of God!

God said to compare spiritual things with other spiritual things (I Corinthians 2:13), and we are in this message throughout! Suffering brings perfection for the saints of God. “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise with the same mind**: for he that hath **suffered** in the flesh **hath ceased from sin**: That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.” I Peter 4:1-2. Crucifying the fleshly appetites with the help of the Holy Ghost, and fasting are ways and means to complete spiritual victory to a saint of God, over the flesh, sin, and the devil. “He that committeth sin is of the devil,” says the Lord (I John 3:8), so we have no choice but to suffer if we reign with Him. Persecution is going to rise swiftly against God’s people in these end time days because they will not fast nor crucify the flesh and live holy. We will not be in the Bride without suffering for Jesus’ sake.

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; And if the children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we **suffer with him**, that **we may be also glorified together**. For I reckon that the suffering of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8:16-18. Christ’s complete and final glorification comes when He returns to take his Bride — but we must suffer with Him to be glorified with Him.

God did not save us just to give us a big time and have fun as some preach. “For unto you it is given in the **behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.**” Philippians 1:29. Why don’t preachers preach that verse of scripture? Church members do not want to hear it and preachers do not either — but it is very true and we will be judged by that verse also. Most preachers and teachers of the Bible are misguiding God’s people into the severe judgments of God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Jesus Christ, after that ye have **suffered** a while, **make you perfect**, establish, strengthen, settle you.” I Peter 5:10. “**The joy of the Lord** (not fun) is our own strength.” Nehemiah 8:10.

PERFECTION THROUGH FASTING

If we, the called, chosen, and faithful of the Lord are striving to be in the Kingdom of God, we will mourn for the Bridegroom through fasting and intercessory prayer. The disciples of John came to Jesus and asked why His disciples did not fast as John’s did. Jesus replied, “Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom (Christ) shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.” Matthew 9:14-15. The children of the bridechamber is the Bride of Christ! They will mourn and fast for the bridegroom to return!

Real fasting (total abstinence of food, liquid, or solid) is a sharing in the crucifixion of Christ, vicariously. Take up your cross daily, and follow me, said Jesus, or you cannot be my disciple. Luke 9:23 and Luke 14:27.

The prophet Joel warns of the great day of God’s judgments arising and prescribes a way for God’s people to prepare an escape: “For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me **with all your heart**, and with **fasting**, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.” Joel 2:11-13. The Bride will be the ones of the church who will observe these things. Acceptance into the Bride of Christ will be determined by our identification with the life of Jesus — “For it

became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in **bringing many sons unto glory**, to make the captain of their salvation **perfect through suffering.**” Hebrews 2:10. Jesus was spiritually perfected through sufferings, plural — not just His death on the cross! If we want to share His glory, we must **suffer** with Him.

Are we Christians burdened enough for our family, the church and the heathen abominations in it, and for our sick society to mourn, pray and fast for God to mightily intervene? God told the destroying angels to go through Jerusalem and slay all who were not mourning for the abominations being committed — and to begin in the church! “And the Lord said unto him, Go through the midst of the city . . . and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof . . . slay utterly old and young . . . but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.” Ezekiel 9:4-6. Please read the complete chapter. The Bride of Christ will be the saints of God who sigh and cry about the evils in the church today. “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God.” I Peter 4:17-18. God will judge the church with great judgments and chastening before He judges the world.

CHAPTER VII

IT IS A MATTER OF LOVE

Chastity and submission will be the identifying character of the Bride — it's a matter of love! We must take heed and live by every Word of God, said Jesus. Luke 4:4. Love and obedience are synonymous with The Bride of Christ. "Jesus answered, and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings." Read this — John 14:21-26! Jesus commanded His disciples to go to the upper room in Jerusalem and to tarry until they were filled with the Holy Ghost. Luke 24:49. We must be filled or baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire (Acts 1:5) to be filled with God's perfect love. I John 4:12-13. "**The love of God** is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Romans 5:5. Who are baptized with the Holy Ghost? "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that **obey** him." Acts 5:32; Acts 2:38; Ephesians 5:18.

The Holy Ghost is seeking to purify a people to be in the Bride of Christ. Millions of Christians who live in the flesh and not in the Spirit are unprepared for Christ's coming. We cannot let the world, friends, nor seducing spirits beguile us into rejecting this message. "Fear not little flock; it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," Jesus said in Luke 12:32. The Bride of Christ will be numerically small among the whole body of Christ, but listen: "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." I John 2:28 and I Corinthians 15:34. Even the prophets of old warned of letting others hinder us to our shame: "Hear the Word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word; Your **brethren** that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified: but he (Christ) shall appear to your joy, and **they shall be ashamed.**" Isaiah 66:5. Read that verse again! Most Christians will not like you when you live holy and sanctified — when you reject the world and its fashions — and call you fanatic or old-fashioned — don't let it get the best of you — that is part of the suffering you must do for Christ's sake to be in the Bride and be delivered out of the Great Tribulation! Read Revelation 16:15, NOW!

A HOLY REMNANT

“Whether therefore, ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” I Corinthians 10:31. To do that, it sure is a matter of love for Christ, the Bridegroom. If any man loves this world — the lusts of the flesh — the lusts of the eyes — the pride of life — **the love of God is not in him.** I John 2:15-17. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. **Set your affections on things above,** not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.” Colossians 3:1-4. Read verses 5 through 23 for a detailed listing of qualifications for the Bride of Christ.

Saints of God who desire to enter the Kingdom of God and will strive to be in the Bride must be careful what they listen to. Jesus said, **“Take heed what ye hear;** with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you: and **unto you that hear shall more be given.”** Mark 4:24. Jesus was speaking of the Kingdom of God to His disciples, dropping this warning, “Be sure you hear correctly what I’m saying about the Kingdom and you will have a better reward.” In verse 23 He had warned: “If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.” Oh, how the Holy Ghost needs to open the spiritual ears and eyes of God’s people everywhere to understand and to obey these revelations of the Word of God. To prepare for being in the Bride of Christ, a saint of God must have all his affections of things in heaven — devote his time, energy, mind, soul, and body in striving to meet the Bridegroom’s approval. There must be no time for idleness, worldliness, or yielding to the lusts of the flesh — these must be overruled. It’s a matter of love! Every lackadaisical effort will be rewarded with shame

God has had **a holy remnant** in every generation. “Remnant” means “what is left over” from a larger piece or group. “Even so then at this present time also there is **a remnant** according to the election of grace.” Romans 11:5. The Apostle Paul reminds the church (verse 4) that in Elijah the prophet’s day there was a remnant of 7,000 who had been faithful to God! In Noah’s day the **remnant** of holy people had dwindled to just 8 souls! In our day Jesus said conditions would be as it was in Noah’s day, indicating that a small holy **remnant** will be in the Bride of Christ. In Babylon (Daniel 1), the Lord had a **holy remnant** who would not

eat the meat nor drink the wine that was dedicated to the pagan god of the idolatrous king thereby jeopardizing their lives! The other church members compromised and lived like their heathen captors. Beloved, God has a small remnant of church members in America today who are not going to bow to the god of this world and defile themselves with the world-conformity. They will not dress in its fashions nor indulge themselves in its sinful worldly pleasures. Daniel and the three Hebrew children purposed in their hearts not to defile themselves with the idols of Babylon. Daniel 1:8. After three years the king found them to be ten times better and wiser in knowledge and understanding than all the others who did not remain faithful to God. Daniel 1:19-20. Those Christians who are accepted as God's jewels, the Bride, will not compromise with Satan and conform to this present evil world. Galatians 1:4 and Romans 12:1-2. It is a matter of love — the Bride for the Bridegroom. Jesus said that his disciples were not of this world and they should not conform to it. John 15:18-20 and John 17:14-16.

A PATTERN — AN EXAMPLE

God has called us to be like our Lord and Master. Remember Jesus said, "Everyone that is **perfect** shall be as his master." Luke 6:40. Did Jesus mean this? Yes, He did! Listen further. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. . .**" I Peter 2:21-23.

The Apostle Paul by the Spirit writes, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou **an example of the believers**, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." I Timothy 4:12. Oh how God needs examples among believers in the church today — godly Christians who will dress holy, talk holy, act holy, and think holy so fellow Christians can see what God accepts — not a big mouth, but a godly example! God exhorts further, "Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. **In all things** shewing thyself **a pattern** of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned . . ." Titus 2:6-8. The pattern God is calling for, is a life lived that serves as a godly model or design that is worthy of duplication by other Christians. God's people need some godly models to emulate — not so much talk! A godly life is the best testimony to a lost world of God's redeeming grace.

We go from faith to faith in our progress of maturity and perfection in the Lord. “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith to faith**: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17. We can walk in Christ’s steps, and partake of His righteousness from one level of faith to another higher level, growing in His grace and knowledge. II Peter 3:18; II Peter 1:3-4.

We are changed into the likeness of our Lord and Master from **glory to glory**. “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory**, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” II Corinthians 3:18. By diligent submission and complete obedience to the Word, the Holy Ghost changes us into the same glory of Christ, so that our image will bear His likeness for all to behold. It is a matter of love, which constrains us to suffer, fast, pray and perfect holiness in the fear of God. II Corinthians 7:1; I Peter 4:1-3; II Corinthians 5:13-14.

THE MIXED MULTITUDE

God has always commanded His people to be separate from the world and not learn the ways of the heathen and pagan. God said of Israel, “**They were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works**: And they served their idols which were a snare unto them” Psalms 106:35-36. In the New Testament God commands us saying, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness . . . And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore **came out from among them** (that is, unbelievers, idolaters, etc.) **and be ye separate** saith the Lord, and **touch not the unclean thing**; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, said the Lord Almighty.” II Corinthians 6:14-18.

The church in the wilderness which Moses brought out of Egypt was corrupted because of a “mixed multitude” among the true people of God. Exodus 12:38. In the wilderness God was provoked to anger and sorely judged Israel because of the “mixed multitude” — people who would not obey God’s word! “And the

mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting” and they caused the Israelites to murmur also saying, “who shall give us flesh to eat?” Well, the Lord sent them quail until they were stuffed, but destroyed many of them. Numbers 11:3-6, 33; Psalms 106:15. Those “worldly” and “unholy” church members were a cause of great judgments from God upon Israel. Only two of that entire idolatrous congregation above 20 years of age entered the promised land. God said in I Corinthians 10:1-11 that all those things are our examples that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted, causing God to reject them. I Corinthians 10:6. Many preachers today teach that the tares (worldly people) and the wheat (the godly) should grow in the church together. This is a damnable heresy that is ruining many Christians. They are learning the way of the heathen. Jesus said in the parable of the tares and wheat (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-42), “The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.” Well, the devil has done this in the churches today — and tares and wheat look alike except tares produce no fruit — wheat does! In the interpretation of the parable Jesus explained, “He that soweth the good seed (the Word of God) is the Son of Man: the **field is the world**; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that soweth them is the devil . . .” Verses 37-42. Jesus said to let the tares and wheat grow together in the world — not the church! Verse 30. God’s people today are being beguiled by the mixed multitude and their heathen customs. God warns, “This is a matter of loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength . . . and loving our neighbor as ourselves.” Mark 12:30-31.

TODAY’S CHURCH NEEDS SEPARATORS

God needs prophets today who are good separators, not good mixers. God said to His prophets, rebuke the ministers for profaning my holy thing — “They have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean.” Ezekiel 22:26; Ezekiel 44:23; I Timothy 4:11. God’s people must be taught the difference between holy and unholy — between what God accepts and what he rejects. It’s a matter of love, and God is jealous of our affections. Deuteronomy 4:24; Deuteronomy 32:19-21; Hebrews 12:29. In John 15:9-10, Jesus instructs us as to how we can abide in His love: “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye

keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

PURE RELIGION

"**Pure religion** and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to **keep himself unspotted from the world.**" James 1:27. The world has invaded the churches and even taken over in most of them. This grieves the true, **holy remnant** of God's saints who strive to live holy and not like the world. "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. And be not conformed to this world . . ." Romans 12:1-2. The scripture speaks of pure religion — and counter to pure religion there is corrupt religion. The apostle exhorts, "Put on the new man (new nature), which after God is created in righteousness and **true holiness.**" Ephesians 4:24. For a true holiness which God only accepts, there is a false holiness which He rejects. "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us His holy Spirit." I Thessalonians 4:7-8. That Holy Spirit gives us power to live holy, and to be holy; we must live unspotted from the world, and from its fashions, pride, and lusts.

Our bodies must be given to Christ as a living sacrifice — not conformed to the world. Through the operation of the nine Fruit of the Spirit, we can keep our bodies undefiled from the flesh and the world. Fruit number nine is the important one: "But the Fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, **temperance.**" Gal. 5:21-22. Temperance is self-control, which is a virtue most Christians are woefully short of! The apostle said, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." I Corinthians 9:27. He says, "I'll force my body to conform to God's holiness, so I'll not be rejected by him. I'll use the self-control of the Holy Ghost which God has given me for this victory." We must be a disciple of Christ, not just a believer. The word **disciple means "Disciplined one"** — that is to fully have our lives disciplined by God's Word. Most Christians refuse this! Jesus said to those few which believed on Him, "If ye

continue in my word, **then** are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:31-32. The “if” in this scripture makes discipleship conditional. We must continue in the Word, fully obedient. It’s a matter of love if we are not to be ashamed at Christ’s return.

Our spirits and bodies must be holy to be in the Bride of Christ. “Having therefore these promises dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all **filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**” II Corinthians 7:1. This confirms all that has been taught previously in this message concerning preparation by the Bride for the Bridegroom’s return — we must fear God to be in His jewels — we must be perfect in holiness — our bodies and spirits cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh! Jesus will accept no member of the church in the bride, except that holy remnant “without spot or wrinkle or blemish.” Ephesians 5:25-27.

The Bride must have the same spirit that Jesus had. The Holy Ghost which was in Christ has the following qualities to give to His Bride: “And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him (Christ), **the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;** And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord . . .” Isaiah 11:2-3. The Holy Ghost will affect the Bride in the same manner he affected Jesus. I Corinthians 6:17.

God is raising up prophets to cry out against the abominations and idolatry in the church today. I Timothy 5:20; II Timothy 4:2; Isaiah 58:1. Our bodies are to be kept holy, reserved only for God’s Spirit to dwell in and used to His glory. **It is a matter of love that they be cleansed, and kept clean.** The Holy Ghost will not live in an unclean temple. “Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid!” I Corinthians 6:15.

ABOMINATIONS IN THE CHURCH

“And they that are Christ’s **have crucified** the flesh with the affections and lusts.” Galatians 5:24. That is past tense! The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7), **if** we walk in the light as Jesus is in the light. What are the affections and lusts of the flesh? Here is a list from the Bible. “Now the works of the

flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, **lasciviousness, idolatry**, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, **revellings**, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have told you in time past, **that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.**" Galatians 5:19-21. Lasciviousness means such things as using tobacco, smoking, social drinking, dancing, gambling and such like. This is revelling also!

Now the word **idolatry** is a much more elusive and inclusive word as the scriptures point out. God hates idolatry — it is the sin of pride, selfishness, rebellion, and of being self-willed all combined. This sin causes the individual to be self-centered, not Christ centered. It is the sin of egotism and self-exaltation, not Christ exalting. It glorifies self and not God. Do all to the glory of God — whatever you eat, drink, speak, go or do! I Corinthians 10:31.

God says it is a shame for a man to have long hair, which even violates the law of nature — a woman contrariwise should have long hair for her glory! I Corinthians 11:13-16. Oh, some wise guy pipes up and asks, what is long? What is short? That's a foolish question — they know as well as I do what's long for a man and short for a woman.

If the hair of a boy or man makes him look feminine or girlish — it is too long. God hates effeminacy in men. "**Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate . . . shall inherit the Kingdom of God. And such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified . . .**" I Corinthians 6:9-11. A godly woman must not have her hair short like a man's ought to be — her hair must be long, and God means long. It's a matter of love for Christ, and you'll never be in His Bride without obeying this scriptural order.

BORDERLINE CHRISTIANS

Those Christians who live close to the world will not be in the Bride. Beloved, don't hug the line between you and the world. If you are a male Christian, cut your hair close enough to not look like a girl or hippie. Move away from the borderline and be a

pattern to other Christians. Don't let your hair be long enough to even be questionable — move away from the border — it is dangerous! **Be a pattern!** Do not say that Jesus had long hair — He did not! He obeyed the scriptures. Read Ezekiel 44:20-24. God needs preachers with courage and conviction to cry out against this abomination.

MODESTY REQUIRED

Ladies who are Christians must dress holy. It is a matter of love and obedience to the Lord. Their hair should be long because God said it should be — that is enough reason. “Likewise, ye wives, **be in subjection to your own husbands**; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives: While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose **adorning** let is not be that **outward adorning of plaiting the hair**, and of **wearing of gold**, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” I Peter 3:1-4 and Isaiah 3:12-24! The Lord commands every wife to be in subjection to her husband, having a meek and quiet spirit. The scripture then condemns the outward adorning of Christian women using gold in their hair or on their bodies as ornament — as earrings, diamonds, etc. Also in verses 5-6 the scriptures state explicitly that women in old times as Abraham's wife did not adorn themselves with jewelry (whose daughters godly women are who dress likewise). It's a matter of love, of pleasing Christ, the Bridegroom. “In like manner also, that women **adorn** themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; **not with broided hair**, or **gold**, or **pearls**, or **costly array**; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.” I Timothy 2:9-10. Here the Lord warns that all women who claim to be Christians (professing godliness) are required to dress modestly, with shamefacedness — not with gold woven in their hair, or jewelry, or costly decorations, or pearls. This is idolatry to present a body that is God's temple unto Him in such an idolatrous and pagan fashion and attire! God hates it! **Why are these things wrong? Because God said so!**

God hates for Christian women to paint their eyes. God put Israel away because of the sin of idolatry; and painted eyes are partially responsible. “And furthermore, that ye have sent for men to come from far, unto whom a messenger was sent; and, lo, they came: for whom thou didst wash thyself, **paintedst thy eyes**, and

decked thyself with ornaments.” Ezekiel 23:40. Further God says in the same chapter of Ezekiel, verses 45-48; “And the **righteous men, they shall judge them** after the manner of adulteresses . . . I will give them to be removed and spoiled . . . thus will I cause lewdness to cease out of the land, **that all women be taught not to do after your lewdness.**” If men of God were truly holy men themselves, they would teach women that these worldly customs are unclean — and, if they are taught this, and love the Lord, they will give up all heathen dress and attire for the glory of God. **It is a matter of love, not just a command!** Read these other scriptures about how God hates for women (or men) to wear jewelry and to paint their faces and eyes. Exodus 33:4-6; Hosea 2:9-13; Jeremiah 4:30. This is all idolatry — an inordinate display of the body which is to be holy at all times. These things defile the body.

UNISEX IS WRONG

It is a master plan of the devil to corrupt the sons of God in this generation as he did in Noah’s day. Genesis 6:1-5. Sins against nature are abhorred of a righteous God. “Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, **to dishonor their own bodies** between themselves: who **changed the truth of God into a lie**, and worshipped and served the creature (body) more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up into vile affections: for even their women did change the **natural use** into that which is **against nature**: And likewise also the men, **leaving the natural use of the woman**, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.” Romans 1:24-27. God condemns and gives up on homosexuals and lesbians who continue in perversion. “One sex” is the devil’s scheme — pervert, corrupt, and damn to hell this whole generation. Women are falling into the devil’s plot — Christian women even! It is immodest, indecent, immoral, and ungodly for Christian women to wear slacks and pants suits! It is also an unnatural sin for a woman to dress similar to a man. God wants a woman to be all feminine and a man to be all masculine. These ungodly manners of dress are leading into lesbianism and homosexuality! I Corinthians 6:9-11. “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a

man put on a woman's garment; for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord." Deuteronomy 22:5. It is a matter of love — the Bride for the Bridegroom. Should not a chaste, submissive bride desire to please her Lord? It is impossible for a Christian to be in the Bride of Christ who adheres to these pagan abominations.

TRUE HOLINESS

It is pagan and ungodly for true saints to expose their flesh to the opposite sex, except to his wife or to her husband, at any time. On the beach or in a public swimming pool, shorts, a bikini, or swim suit is an idolatrous exposure of a saint of God's body. It is sensual, immodest, and defiling to the body of a Christian. If we defile these temples (our bodies) God will destroy us. "Modest" dress surely means to cover our bodies in public. God says further that our bodies are not to be exposed to members of our family or close relatives. Read Leviticus 18:6-17, 27-28. The New Testament teaches the same. Jesus said that when a man looks upon a woman's body and lusts after her, he commits adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:27-28. The woman who dresses in a mini-skirt, or shorts, or bikini to expose her body is guilty of the sin of adultery. **It is virtually impossible to see a "lady" anymore**, even in many churches — **you only see a body!** Even godly men are forced to look upon the nude flesh of immodestly dressed women — or, the figure of a female silhouetted in slacks or pants suit. This arouses lust, and can bring forth sin. James 1:14-15. This is idolatrous and adulterous — God despises this heathen practice, especially in the house of God. "Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever." Psalms 93:5. Oh, you may say, "My preacher doesn't think this is wrong." Most preachers are like dumb dogs and blind when it comes to barking at the devil. Read Isaiah 56:9-11. A woman in slacks or pants suit discloses her figure lewdly — every wiggle, every crack, every curve, and every shape is luridly exposed! I mean this to be plain! This is sexy, lustful, and a perverted act against even nature — also against God's saints and the Lord Himself. There is no more hope for a woman who conforms to these pagan customs to be in the Bride of Christ than it is possible to jump on the far end of your shadow — nor for the men and preachers who consent to them, or condone them. Read Romans 1:18, 32!

Pure religion and true holiness are God's standards for His saints — Keep yourselves unspotted (unlike) the world! Further God commands, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, **as becometh**

saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an **idolater**, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." Ephesians 5:3-5. Here, God commands His saints to be pure and free from immorality, selfishness, and even joking and foolish talking! These things will keep us from being in the Bride of Christ and we will be ashamed at His coming! It is a matter of love that we obey all these commands of our Lord — pleasing Him in all things. We are just as responsible to our neighbor as we are to God to be a pattern of holy living, leading him into righteousness, not into worldliness. It is a matter of love — love for God and our neighbor. Romans 15:1-3.

The Bride of Christ is symbolized in the prophetic scriptures as a chaste virgin (II Corinthians 11:3) — and as a modest, holy, and virtuous woman dressed in linen bridal attire, clean and white. Revelation 19:7-9. The Bride is as "a lily among thorns" compared to the other Christians! Song of Solomon 2:1-2.

AN IDOLATROUS CHURCH: REJECTED

A worldly church is described symbolically in Revelation 17 by the spiritual harlot, a woman dressed in gay clothing, and decked with gold (jewelry, earrings etc.) and precious stone (diamonds, etc.) and pearls (beads around her neck)! This is an illustration of worldly women today who claim to be Spirit-filled! Beloved, if women are filled with the Holy Ghost, they will clean up their bodies and not dress and paint up like Jezebel! II Kings 9:30. This manner of dress and adornment is the attire of a harlot as God describes in this chapter, Revelation 17. Neither men nor women will be in Christ's Bride who conform to these pagan customs that God hates.

God prophesied of a worldly church of this end time which would rebel and live in the lusts of the flesh. Read Jeremiah 4:22-31 and carefully notice verse 30: "And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou **deckest thee with ornaments of gold**, though thou **rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair**: thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life." Here is a vivid description of the worldly end time church — and it sounds like the same woman of Revelation 17. Remember, a woman in prophecy is representative of a church. Now listen to the Bride in travail, crying out for the Bridegroom to return: (verse 31) "For I

have heard a voice as of a woman in travail, and the anguish as of her that bringeth forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion . . ." The woman, I am aware, has a two-fold analogy — that is, Israel, Jehovah's Bride, and the other holy remnant, the Bride of Christ. We must be doers of the Word and not hearers only or we deceive ourselves. James 1:22. Jesus said, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46. It is definitely a matter of love that we do all His Word and all that the Holy Spirit directs, for Him to be our Lord and Master.

We are called by the Lord to go on to spiritual perfection. Hebrews 6:1-2. We are called to share His glory and virtue — but virtue (purity) precedes the glory. Most every Christian seems to be excited about the glory (at Christ's appearing) but not too valiant for the truth and virtue. "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto **life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.**" II Peter 1:3. Virtue means the purity of our bodies and spirits. II Corinthians 7:1. The Quest to be virtuous must be successful for you or me to be in the Bride of Christ. Jesus said, "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, **but few chosen.**" Matthew 20:16. "Few chosen" will be the sad commentary for many Christians whose effort to be in the Bride was too little and too late.

TRIBULATION IS AT HAND

Remember this warning of Jesus: "These things I have spoken unto you that **in me** ye might have peace. In the world **ye shall have tribulation:** but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33. Beloved, the church is approaching great troubles and persecution against the holy people — but don't panic! Just live holy and walk with God and your needs will be met. As tribulation arises, and Jesus still tarries — rest in the blessed hope — that we are not appointed for wrath as we have pointed out earlier in this message. Again for a promise, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be **saved from wrath** through him." Romans 5:9. When Hell literally comes up and follows the pale horseman of Revelation 6:7-8, God's saints will be delivered from that day of wrath. God is going to purge all His saints and make them white through fiery trials to make us worthy

to share Christ's glory. I Peter 4:12-13; I Peter 1:7-9! We are made perfect through sufferings! **Our professed faith will be tested to its limit as the Gathering Storm arises!** Build your house of faith **now** upon a sure foundation — the whole Word of God. Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 4:4. In these closing days of the church age, beware of false prophets and false teachers. Matthew 7:15-16 and II Peter 2:1-3, 14.

Beloved, don't let anyone tell you that you are being self-righteous, vain, or fanatical because you won't live like the world, dress like the world, nor go to worldly places of entertainment. It will take all your time to prepare for Christ's return as a Bride prepares for her wedding. Spend much time praying, reading God's Word, and in fellowship with other true believers! Take time to be holy and let your light shine!

Study this message several times until the Holy Ghost completely enlightens your spiritual understanding. God said to "put eyesalve on your eyes that you may see." Revelation 3:18. If we delight ourselves in God's Word, and keep it, our spiritual eyes will be opened to see God's perfect will for our lives. Psalms 19:8 and Ephesians 1:18. Amen and Amen.

WE MUST REMEMBER

We must never forget that we belong to the Lord if we're truly born again. We were redeemed by the blood of Jesus. I Peter 1:18-19. Our citizenship and behaviour is in heaven. Philippians 3:20. We are pilgrims and strangers in an unfriendly world to God's true saints. "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11. We are children of Abraham through faith (Galatians 3:7), but he was a stranger in this world and "he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:10. Abraham and all his descendants "died in the 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." Hebrews 11:13. We cannot live like the world nor love the world and be in the Bride.

CHAPTER VIII THE CONCLUSION

We have made great progress and spiritual development into perfection when we have become so sensitized to the direction of the Holy Ghost that He can convict (reprove) us of even idle words and thoughts, as well as that first step in yielding to the lusts of the flesh, and finally into sin.

CHOOSING THE BEST PART

God created every individual on this planet with a will — we are each God's creature with a choice that we can exercise with complete freedom. What will we choose — will we choose to live as completely in God's perfect will as we can, or just live carelessly and worldly? We can be a Martha or a Mary as Christ shows us in the following Biblical account: "Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him (Jesus) into her house. And she had a sister called **Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.** But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things; But **one** thing is needful: **and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.**" Luke 10:38-42. The "Marys" will be in the Bride.

We must choose to strive to be in the Bride of Christ — not just seek, as Jesus warned. Luke 13:23-24. "Strive" means to try harder or to make a greater effort and sacrifice than other Christians. It is good to have wisdom, but there is a hidden wisdom that only those who reach perfection in Christ receive, so that they may comprehend the mystery of the Bride of Christ in relationship to the Kingdom of God. "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. **Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect:** yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought : But we speak the **wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom,** which God ordained before the world unto our glory." I Corinthians 2:5-7. Jesus did not teach His disciples or apostles all

the message of the Kingdom of God during His earthly ministry. Jesus foretold them: "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." John 16:12-14. The apostles of our Lord, Paul, John, James, Peter and others wrote Christ's unfinished message after His return to heaven. The whole New Testament is literally the Word of Jesus Christ. We must conform our lives to the teaching of all the scriptures.

PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

God has made all of heaven's resources available to all Christians to give them the victory over the world and the flesh — over sin and the devil! Jesus said, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but **the flesh is weak.**" Matthew 26:41. Our resources are fasting, praying in the Spirit, (Romans 8:26-27), the Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God), the nine fruit and the nine gifts of the Spirit, and angels (Hebrews 1:13-14). There is no excuse for weakness, or failure — the place for the devil is under our feet! Romans 16:20. We must be strong in the Lord always to be in the Bride of Christ — stronger than the world and the flesh. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but **against** principalities, **against** powers, **against** the rulers of the darkness of this world, **against** spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:10-12. If you note carefully the use of the word "against," you can easily see that you will have many enemies and much opposition to enter the Kingdom of God, and to be in the Bride.

The Word of God and the faith of God in our lives must be with power — power to overcome every opposition of the devil in our striving for perfection. I Corinthians 2:4-5. God says, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." II Corinthians 10:4. Now, let us enumerate the very last strong holds (enemies) that must be

conquered through the weapons of our warfare on the royal road to perfection (verse 5):

(1) Imaginations

(2) High things (in men's esteem) that are exalted against the knowledge of God (His Word)

(3) Every thought brought into obedience to Christ (to His revealed will and Word).

To accomplish this degree of perfection through the power of the Holy Ghost, God's people must be "wise as a serpent, but harmless as a dove" in the words of Jesus — Matthew 10:16. God's saints must successfully and continuously resist the devil (James 4:7-8; I Peter 5:8-9) and draw nigh unto God. In every occasion Christians who strive to be in the Bride must "Neither give place to the devil" — Ephesians 4:27. Lest Satan should get an advantage of us we can never be ignorant of his devices to weaken or turn us away from our great goal, spiritual perfection — II Corinthians 2:11. God's Word must prevail over any idea or imagination we have concerning God's will. Psalms 138:2; Psalms 119:128; Matthew 4:4; Romans 3:3-4; II Timothy 3:16-17.

LIBERTY OR LIBERTINES?

False prophets and false Christians who live as libertines are confusing God's true saints who observe the presumptuous sins and worldly lusts they indulge in without the Fear of God. God commands His people "to lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1. If we continue in the "race", we must get rid of the worldly lusts in our lives to even be eligible to compete for a place in the Bride of Christ.

God set us free from bondage to the world and slavery to sin — He did not give us liberty to do as we please! "Brethren, ye have been called to liberty; **only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh**, but by love serve one another." Galatians 5:13. "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." Galatians 5:24.

Religious libertines stoned Stephen to death, the early church's first martyr. Acts 6:9. Why? Because he challenged their professed

“liberty” in religious living — his message cut to their hearts as he preached that they were rebellious against the Word of God. Acts 7:51-54.

A MAN IN THE GAP

God needs men, real men to stand up against the spiritual libertines who have crept into the church of today unaware (Jude 4), who have turned the grace of our God into **lasciviousness** (living in the lusts of the flesh and claiming that grace covers it). God needs men and women desperately, holy men and women, to be examples and patterns for the rest of God’s people. We hear it boasted among God’s people, “look how God has blessed us” (they mean material things). The church of today is like the church in the wilderness (Acts 7:38-42) to which God did bless abundantly, but, “He gave them their request; but **sent leanness into their soul.**” Psalms 106:15. That church was rebellious against God’s Word until He abhorred it, and, “Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not **Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach;** to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.” Psalms 106:23, 40. God spewed the worldly church out of His mouth in Revelation 3:14-15, a lukewarm, blind church as today’s end time church has become. God’s people need prophets to stand in the breach today before God, “to stand in the gap, and make up the hedge before Him,” that God will be intreated for His worldly, lukewarm, backslidden people of the church. See Ezekiel 22:30-31.

Multitudes of today’s generation are in the Valley of Decision! Joel 3:14. The thundering judgments of God are heard in the near distance by the spiritually sensitive ears of many of God’s saints. God is looking over the preachers of the land to find a few holy men of God who know the truth and will proclaim it courageously — a voice, not an echo. The destiny of millions now hang in the balance. “Who will rise up for me against the evil doers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?” (Psalms 94:16) God asks. America and the church will be strong again only when the thundering voice of prophets are heard once again in the pulpits of this land. God is searching the land for men who will live holy — true to that which God requires — and be a strong voice for God, who will not compromise for ease, money, popularity, or numbers. The true Bride of Christ will be attracted to such men of God and their message.

AFTER THE MILLENIUM — WHAT?

After the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ and the great white throne judgment of Revelation 20, the Apostle John reveals a new heaven and a new earth — Revelation 21:1-6. “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” Verse 3. Heaven and earth will merge into the visible Kingdom of God. Remember, Jesus said that now “the kingdom is within you and cometh not with observation (outward show)” — Luke 17:20-21. In Revelation 21, the reign of Christ in the kingdom of heaven has come to its conclusion. The kingdom of the heavens or the 1,000 year millenium was the time of rewards to God’s saints (Revelation 11:18) and to Jesus Christ. In the kingdom of heaven there were sinners, death, and shame (Read Isaiah 65:20) — but now, in the visible manifestation of the Kingdom of God there are no sinners, no death, no shame. “And God shall wipe away *all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain:* for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4. In the Kingdom of (the) heavens, Christ was king — in the Kingdom of God, the Father will rule and be king. The Kingdom of God (Revelation 21 and 22) in most theology books and commentaries is called “The Golden Age,” which is eternity!

Study this scripture carefully: “But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. Then cometh the **end**, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, **even the Father**; when he shall have put down all rule and authority and power.” I Corinthians 15:23-24. It is clearly revealed here that “at the end,” that is, the end of Christ’s 1,000 year reign, He will turn over the Kingdom to His Father. Christ has broken all power and authority that was in opposition to the rule of the heavens when this transfer of power is consummated. “For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.” I Corinthians 15:25-26. Now note carefully the revelations in verses 27-28, especially the italicized words: “For he (God the Father) hath put all things under his (Christ’s) feet. But when he (God) saith, all things are put under him (Christ); it is manifest that he (God) is excepted, which did put all things under him (Christ).” God the

Father put everything and everyone but himself under authority to Christ. Now continuing, “And when all things shall be subdued unto him, **then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him (the Father) that put all things under him**, that God may be all in all.”

In the Kingdom of God, Jesus will share his glory with all His saints, and be one Son among many sons of God — as an equal!

The time of rewards are passed — all God’s elect, saints of all ages will live in the mansions of heavenly Jerusalem. John 14:1-3. God’s elect saints will all have spiritual bodies, because “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.” I Corinthians 15:50. The new earth will be populated by the nations that were saved during the 1,000 year reign of Christ. Revelation 21:24-27. The nations that rebelled against Christ when the devil was loosed at the end of the 1,000 years, will be destroyed by fire sent down from God upon them. Revelation 20:7-10. The devil will be cast into the lake of fire and be tormented day and night for ever as the Golden Age of the Kingdom of God begins. Revelation 20:10. And God shall reign for ever and ever. Revelation 11:15. Amen! and Amen!