THE BRIDE, THE GROOM, THE COVENANT

Part One

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John 1:1

1 <u>In the beginning</u> was the <u>Word</u>, and the <u>Word</u> was <u>with God</u>, and the Word was God.

As we have studied in earlier blasts, the thoughts of God, the Word, His Wisdom and Understanding, His knowledge, were given a bodysuit called Jesus and birthed into this world so God could manifest on earth to restore mankind's relationship with Him.

John 1:14

14 And <u>the Word</u> became <u>flesh</u> and <u>dwelt among us</u>, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

II Corinthians 5:19 explains why.

19 that is, that <u>God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself</u>, <u>not imputing their trespasses to them</u>, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

The Word, housed in this flesh and blood bodysuit, would be called the Tree of Life, the Bread of Life, the Son of God, the Bridegroom, Jesus. Adam, before the fall, was in His image, and had he remained connected to the mind of Christ, things would be much better for us today. He and Eve chose the thinking of Satan over the knowledge of Christ however, and through their descendants a world of sickness, death and corruption has evolved.

But God in time would return man to his original state in the garden and allow access to Eden once again, as well as reinstating their dominion over the earth to them. God would defeat the enemy that had beguiled Eve as well. His Bride, His Eve, his Wife would not be as easily deceived, but raised and trained to become the church glorious that would stand against the enemy, feed the nations fruit from the Tree of Life, and share her knowledge of the Son. Eve means, giver of life, but the wife of Adam foolishly fed man knowledge from the Tree of Good and Evil, Satan. Look around you at the world that has developed from this choice! The Last Eve, the church eternal, feeds man the thoughts of God, His Wisdom, His knowledge. She teaches the fullness of Jesus, the Word, the Truth, who is <u>Life</u>, whereas Adam's Eve taught the thoughts of the old serpent, the dragon, bringing man <u>death</u>.

The Bride is hard to see. She is covered by the Lord's bloodstained robe. Only those who are His are even able to see her. The Bridegroom is as armor for

her to stand against the powers of darkness. No matter how much the enemy tries to condemn her, she has her husband's covering as a helmet of salvation securely on. Her breastplate of righteousness is firmly in place and she is girded up in truth so the enemy cannot beguile her. She is always ready to share the knowledge she has been taught concerning her King as her feet are shod with the good news of the gospel. She has the sword of truth to defend herself against the enemy's lies and a shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts of the enemy. She has put on Christ.

Galatians 3:27

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**.

She has died in baptism to who she was, and left the household she was born into, Adam's descendants, and resurrected into the family of God. She is solely the wife of the Lord.

Romans 6:3-5

- 3 Or do you not know that <u>as many of us as were baptized into Christ</u>

 <u>Jesus</u> were <u>baptized</u> into His <u>death</u>?
- 4 Therefore <u>we were buried with Him</u> through <u>baptism into death</u>, that just as Christ was <u>raised from the dead</u> by the glory of <u>the Father</u>, even so <u>we also</u> should <u>walk in newness of life</u>.

5 For <u>if</u> we have <u>been united together in the likeness of His death</u>, certainly <u>we also shall be</u> in the <u>likeness of His resurrection</u>,

She is not recognizable to the world as she is a new creature, in the spiritual image of the Son.

I Corinthians 15:49

49 And as we <u>have borne the image of the man of dust</u>, <u>we</u> shall <u>also</u> bear the **image of the heavenly Man**.

She is dressed in Light, illuminated by the Word, no longer naked in the supernatural, or exposed to the powers of darkness as they cannot understand the Light. She walks a path they cannot comprehend, her ways are not understandable to evil thinking. She is a child of light, the Bride of The Light. The Bride of Christ.

John 1:5 tells us:

5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (Her ways are not the ways of the world. The world does not understand her).

This place of honor was offered to her at salvation and after submitting to

being prepared as the Bride, she is sealed as His through communion and the marriage is consummated as they sing together afterwards. Why as they sing together? Psalm 22 tells us the Lord enthrones or inhabits the praises of His people. The word inhabit in the Hebrew dictionary is 3427 in the Strongs Concordance and can be translated dwell, remain, settle, marry. It also goes on to sit quietly as judge or in ambush. So He comes to the praises of His Bride as the loving groom, or the enemy's worst nightmare!

His Bride is heir of all He has. Hebrews 1:2 gives us a clue as to what belongs to Him.

Now let us read **Hebrews 1:2**.

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; (The family is a joint heir. The children are heirs as well of the family's Kingdom.)

Romans 8:17

17 and <u>if children</u>, then <u>heirs</u> - <u>heirs of God</u> and <u>joint heirs with Christ</u>, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

So how do we enter His covenant and be an heir of all things? We must first be baptized into His name so as not to remain a part of Adam, and to be born

again as children of God. Only those that have taken His name in baptism can walk in the authority of the family of God. We do not want the titles Father, Son, Holy Spirit, but the name that is above all names, the name of the Bridegroom, Jesus.

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and <u>let every one of you</u> be <u>baptized in</u> the <u>name of Jesus</u> Christ <u>for</u> the <u>remission of sins</u>; and <u>you shall receive the</u> <u>gift of the Holy Spirit</u>. (Note, His Spirit comes as a gift after baptism.)

Much of the traditional church refuses this gift however. The fact is, we must be filled with His Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, to enable us to grow from children to His image and be properly prepared to be His wife.

John 14:26

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

It is His Spirit who opens our understanding so our spirits can comprehend His thoughts, receive His Wisdom, and make us mature.

John14:17-18

17 <u>the Spirit of truth</u>, whom <u>the world cannot receive</u>, because <u>it neither</u> <u>sees Him</u> nor <u>knows Him</u>; but <u>you know Him</u>, for <u>He dwells with you and will be in you</u>. (This was fulfilled at Pentecost.)

18 <u>I will not leave you orphans</u>; <u>I will come to you</u>. (And He did!)

I Corinthians 2:13

13 These things we also speak, <u>not in words which man's wisdom teaches</u> but which <u>the Holy Spirit teaches</u>, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Unlike Adam and Eve, who turned to the wrong knowledge, we must be willing to learn from the Tree of Life and be obedient to the spiritual laws He has etched on the fleshly tablets of our hearts. We will grow in the knowledge of Him, begin to walk in His ways, and as we unite with others like us, a body is formed that He can once again manifest through as the Body of Christ, as the Groom, to destroy evil and create all things new. It is Christ in us that will create the new heaven and new earth.

Colossians 1:27

27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you**, **the hope** of **glory**.

II Peter 3:13

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

For a deeper study of this material, please refer to the series "God Has a Plan" in our archives.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

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