



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

## Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.2.4

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This issue of PARABLES BOOKSHELF concludes the book *The Remnant Bride*.

One of the primary motivations I had in putting together this series of newsletters was to reach out to men and women in prison. The heart of Christ is very compassionate toward those who are being held in bonds.

When Christ was criticized by the religious leaders of His day for keeping company with prostitutes, drunkards, and the despised members of society, He answered in the following way.

Matthew 9:12-13

"It is not those who are

healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means, 'I desire compassion, and not sacrifice,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

If you are receiving this newsletter in jail, do not despair. There is grace and forgiveness available for all transgressions. All men are sinners, and as such, we should be merciful toward our brothers and sisters.

I need mercy and forgiveness as much as any man. How then can I fail to be merciful and compassionate to others?

Christ urged His disciples to remember those in prison. He said:

Matthew 25:36-40

"I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we... see You... in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'"

The apostle Paul also wrote:

Hebrews 13:3

Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them...

Be encouraged!

God has not forgotten you, nor forsaken you.

## Food for Thought

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*"Sometimes God has to put us flat on our back before we are looking up to Him."*

Jack Graham

*"If a man cannot be a Christian in the place he is, he cannot be a Christian anywhere."*

Henry Ward Beecher

## Scripture Memory

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John 3:17

"For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him."

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# The Remnant Bride

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## David, A Type of the Bride

Anyone familiar with the story of David will recognize in him attributes of the Bride of Christ. As we have mentioned, love is the greatest attribute of the Bride. It is no coincidence, therefore, that David's name means "loving." From the first mention of David in scripture, we see elements of the Bride of Christ.

When God allowed Saul to be anointed as King of Israel, He was giving the people of Israel what they wanted. They wanted a figurehead that they could rally around. They wanted someone who was striking in appearance and had outward characteristics that were impressive to mankind. Saul, however, failed to lead the people according to God's will. The attributes that appealed to man proved to be insufficient to impress God.

When God rejected Saul, He sent Samuel to find and anoint a man who would fulfill God's desire.

David was passionate and his passion was focused upon Yahweh.

He sent Samuel to anoint a young shepherd boy who was impressive on the inside. David had a heart after God. David was passionate and his passion was focused

upon Yahweh.

Samuel was sent by God to anoint David to be king. In this role, Samuel was representing the Holy Spirit who, along with God's eunuch ministers, is preparing a Bride for Christ. In I Samuel 16 we read of Samuel arriving at Bethlehem and inviting the elders of the city, along with Jesse and his sons, to a sacrifice. A dinner is prepared and seven of Jesse's sons pass before Samuel as he looks for the one who is the chosen one of God.

1 Now Yahweh said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons."

2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? When Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And Yahweh said, "Take a

heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to Yahweh.'

3 "And you shall invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for Me the one whom I designate to you."

4 So Samuel did what Yahweh said, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the city came trembling to meet him and said, "Do you come in peace?"

5 And he said, "In peace; I have come to sacrifice to Yahweh. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." He also consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 Then it came about when they entered, that he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely Yahweh's anointed is before Him."

7 But Yahweh said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks at the heart."

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has Yahweh chosen this one."

9 Next Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has Yahweh chosen this one."

10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "Yahweh has not chosen these."

I Samuel 16:1-10

It was a tremendous honor for Jesse and his sons to be invited to a dinner and sacrifice with the elders of the city. As a father, I am sure that Jesse wanted his sons to make a good impression upon Samuel and the city elders. Indeed, Jesse had some sons that were impressive to look at, and these

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were presented first to Samuel.

Jesse, however, did not invite his youngest son to the event. David was still a youth and, though he was a beautiful youth, he did not have the attributes that impressed his father. His father did not feel that his presence would contribute anything to the meeting, so he was left out.

In the same way, the Bride that God is preparing lacks that which is impressive to man. Even among the Body of Christ, the Bride is little esteemed. She is rarely at the forefront of what the world sees as the church. While men of ambition and stature steal the limelight, the Bride toils faithfully in the background, overlooked, even by those of her own household.

Samuel must have been surprised that God had chosen one whose father was not even impressed with him enough to include him with his other sons. God had chosen someone who was so slighted as to not even be invited to an important meeting. When Samuel inquired if there were another son, Jesse revealed that there was another.

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the children?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

I Samuel 16:11

Although Jesse had neglected to invite David, he now becomes the most important member. All others must wait until David is located and brought before them. This wait was probably fairly lengthy. The sheep would not necessarily have been kept close at hand. Someone had to run and locate David and then return with him to the meeting.

Samuel informed Jesse and all the city elders that they would not sit down until David had arrived. This indicates that a dinner was being given, symbolic of the wedding feast of Christ and His Bride. The wedding feast cannot be held, the guests cannot be seated, until the Bride arrives. The one who was overlooked has become the focus of the event to the consternation of those who had misjudged things.

I am sure that Jesse must have been somewhat embarrassed. Desiring to make a good impression upon Samuel and the city elders, he was now causing them to wait due to his decision to not invite his youngest son. Even so, when Christ returns for His Bride, those in charge of God's house, the church, will be surprised that the treasure Christ seeks has been lightly esteemed in their sight.

When David arrived, his appearance is described.

So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance.

I Samuel 16:12

David's image is one of loveliness. His skin has a beautiful, ruddy appearance and his eyes are striking. Even so, when the Bride is revealed, she will appear beautiful to all those who behold her.

I have heard a number of people mistakenly interpret the word "ruddy" to mean "runty". This does not do justice to the Bride of Christ, nor to David. The word ruddy means reddish in appearance. It is speaking of someone who has a beautiful complexion. In the Song of Solomon the term is used to describe beauty.

My beloved is dazzling and ruddy,  
Outstanding among ten thousand.

Song of Solomon 5:10

David typifies the Bride in many ways. His beauty, his heart after God, his great courage, his love of justice, his desire to walk uprightly, are all qualities of the Bride. Another way in which he typifies the Bride is his separation. David stood apart from his brothers.

This was not because David was aloof, rather, it was due to his being lightly esteemed.

When Jesse was told to bring his sons, he invited all but David. David remained with the sheep. After Samuel left, David returned to the sheep, while his brothers went to serve with the king in

*The one who was overlooked has become the focus of the event...*

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battle. Jesse once more sent those whom he felt were the best qualified and the most impressive.

It did not enter Jesse's mind that his youngest son would be of any use in a battle. When David was finally sent to the battle, he was sent as a delivery boy to his brothers. No one, least of all his father and his brothers, expected that he would prove to be Israel's champion.

In the same way, the Bride will often find herself separated from her brothers. Although overlooked and lightly esteemed, those who comprise the Bride will achieve the greatest victories, and in the process they will deliver those who have scorned them.

*Overlooked and lightly esteemed, those who comprise the Bride will achieve the greatest victories.*

The Bride need not be concerned about her lack of stature in the eyes of others. As she remains humble, God will select the time of her exaltation. David

did not go seeking to impress anyone. The Spirit of God was upon him and he was genuinely incensed at the affront that Goliath presented to God and the armies of Israel. He was seeking God's honor, not his own.

As the Bride demonstrates courage and valor, she will find herself coming under the attack of those who are walking in fear. She will be accused of pride due to her boldness, even as David was accused by his brother Eliab (I Samuel 17:28).

As we mentioned in an earlier chapter, those who will go further into the temple must confront and overcome fears in their lives. They must express confidence in God even when He leads them to places where their natural resources are inadequate to see them through. There are many who will be unwilling to go forward into these areas of faith. These will remain at the Outer Court and some will become offended at those who would go farther in than themselves.

Those proceeding on in their pursuit of Christ will encounter opposition from their own household, the household of God. In fact, the most severe opposition will come from within the church. Rather than returning insult for insult, the Bride must remain steadfast in her pursuit of Christ, not allowing herself to become entangled with the pettiness of others. This was David's example.

26 Then David spoke to the men

who were standing by him, saying, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?"

27 And the people answered him in accord with this word, saying, "Thus it will be done for the man who kills him."

28 Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger burned against David and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your insolence and the wickedness of your heart; for you have come down in order to see the battle."

29 But David said, "What have I done now? Was it not just a question?"

30 Then he turned away from him to another and said the same thing; and the people answered the same thing as before. . .

32 And David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

1 Samuel 17:26-30, 32

Like John, it was David's love for God that enabled him to endure, bear, and believe things when others faltered. His exploits were inseparable from the trust he had in Yahweh whom he was so passionate about. David did not seek to impress God or man with his exploits. David had a heart after God and these things flowed out of his love for God and his confidence in Him. This is the heart of the Bride.

As we already saw in David's beautiful Psalm, David had a heart after God and, although he became king of a great nation and had everything available to him, his passion remained the Lord. The Bride of Christ, whether she is abounding or

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receiving the meagerness of the wilderness, will not have her heart captivated by things of the world. Her eyes will be turned toward Yahshua the Messiah, the Lover of her soul.

## The Victory of the Bride

There are many false teachings circulating among the church in this hour concerning a rapture of the saints out of this world and away from all the trials and testing that will be a part of what is called The Great Tribulation. Many lukewarm, carnal, worldly saints have placed their entire hope upon this rapture occurring. They seek to live as the rest of the world during their days on earth, pursuing mammon, harboring idols in their lives, yet they anticipate that they will be delivered out of this world just prior to the judgments of God based upon the single act of having confessed Yahshua as their Lord and Savior. These carnal saints have neglected many scriptures that would show them the fallacy of such belief, but like the ostrich they prefer to remain in ignorance with their head in the earth (flesh) when it would be better that their head were in the scriptures seeking out the truth.

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Galatians 6:7-8

We have seen already that in a great house (Yahweh's Kingdom) there are both faithful and unfaithful servants. Yahweh does make a distinction between them. Those servants (saints) who have acted wickedly will receive punishment (many stripes), and they will be barred from partaking of Yahweh's most holy things. Their punishment will even extend as far as having to endure the day of evil, the great trials that come upon the earth during the Tribulation. Note that in the following scripture that it is only the faithful that are promised to be kept from these things.

7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write...

8 "I know your deeds... you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name...

10 "Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

Revelation 3:7-10

In the book of Revelation we are given very great evidence that there will be a large number of saints who will NOT be kept from this hour of testing. Instead they will go through this hour, and they will be cleansed and purified as they patiently endure, and even give up their very lives, to purchase white robes of righteousness. Because they did not voluntarily submit themselves to the purging and purifying of the cross in days prior to this time of great trouble, they will have to be cleansed in the midst of great adversity.

*In a great house  
(Yahweh's Kingdom) there  
are both faithful and  
unfaithful servants.*

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped

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God,

12 saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?"

14 And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them.

16 "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 7:9-17

A central part of this passage is identifying who the people are who are being described. John is pointedly asked in verse

*The condition of the wearers' garment reflects their worthiness before God.*

13 by one of the elders around the throne, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?" The

Father is taking pains to identify who they are because it is important to our understanding.

John doesn't know the answer to their identity, so the elder tells him. "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the

blood of the Lamb."

Note, that as in the parable of the wedding supper, we have mention of garments here again. These people are ones who had soiled robes and needed them washed. They were once unworthy, but have washed their robes. The washing has taken place during the great tribulation. The washing has come at great cost.

The statement, "they have made their garments white in the blood of the Lamb", refers to the necessity of their also having had to go the way of the cross, even to the point of death. This is further borne out in the following passage.

10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.

Revelation 6:10, 11

The condition of the wearers' garment reflects their worthiness before God. If they have lived in an unworthy manner; a wood, hay and straw manner, before God, their robes become soiled. Note that it is a great multitude that John sees before the throne. It was also a great multitude that was found to be unprepared to attend the wedding feast of the king's son. Few were originally chosen from among all of those called to attend. This is reflected in the words, "*For many [ a multitude ] are called, but few are chosen.*"

All of those referred to in the above passage of scripture were given white robes. Where were those who already had white robes? The Father had already made a separation between them and those whose garments were soiled. They were kept from the hour of testing that is to come upon the whole world.

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Many Christians are counting on God to rapture them out of this world before the time of tribulation. What will be the impact on the church when she finds that the rapture does not occur as has been preached from a multitude of pulpits, as it has been depicted in numerous movies and written about in a flood of books? They will have to abandon their doctrines. They will also have to acknowledge that it was because their robes were soiled; it was due to the lack of a wedding garment; it was their unworthiness that precipitated their calamity and caused them to not be spared from the day of testing.

But what of those who are kept from the day of testing? Are they raptured out of this world? Are they caught up to heaven? We know they are

*What will be the impact on the church when she finds that the rapture does not occur ?*

kept from the day of testing. They already have garments of white. They have kept Christ's word. They have persevered. They need not purchase these garments through

The Great Tribulation, for they have already stood faithful in the midst of the trials and tests that have come their way.

The answer lies in understanding Yahweh's plans for His Overcomers. It is Yahweh's plan to subdue every enemy of Christ in heaven and on earth through a body of Overcomers.

Matthew 22:44

"THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,  
"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,  
UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BE-  
NEATH YOUR FEET"

Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush  
Satan under **your** feet.

It was prophesied of Yahshua the Messiah that all enemies would be put under His feet, but the outworking of this complete victory will be through Yahshua working through a body of Overcomers who will rule and reign with Him, and who will destroy every enemy and cast down all things that stand in opposition to Christ. It is not God's plan to

simply rapture the Overcomers off into heaven. It is His plan to use these Overcomers to complete the subjection of all enemies under the feet of Christ.

In Revelation we are given a glimpse of a firstfruits company of saints who will be present during the Tribulation, but they will be untouched by the Tribulation. This firstfruits company is called the 144,000.

1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand...

Revelation 7:1-4

1 Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder, and the voice which I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps.

3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one

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hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth.

4 These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among men as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

5 And no lie was found in their mouth; they are blameless.

Revelation 14:1-5

The characteristics of this group are similar to the Bride. These are ones who have been purified and they are declared blameless, which is to say that they are pure. These are proclaimed to be virgins who have not been defiled, and this is in agreement with Paul's words to the church:

II Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

Although the symbolism is changed, and the gender of the 144,000 is referred to as male, the characteristics of this group and the Bride are the same.

*Yahweh does make a distinction between His saints.*

They are known by their purity and devotion to Christ. They are zealously pursuing the Lamb. The result is that these are sealed, and the sealing is for their protection

that they might not be harmed by the judgments of God that are poured out.

At the time of the sealing we see four angels who are standing to hold back the wind from the four corners of the earth, and we see another angel ascending from the rising of the sun and we are told that the earth and sea and trees are about to be harmed. This is symbolic of a great scorching coming upon the earth, but this scorching will not touch the 144,000. Contrast this with the great multitude that purchased white robes for them-

selves during the Tribulation. We are told:

"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat..."

Revelation 7:16

These have been touched by the judgments that have come upon the whole world. They were not sealed in their foreheads before these judgments were loosed. They did know hunger. They did know the burning heat of the sun. Yet by their patience in the midst of great tribulation they have purchased white robes and have entered a place of rest.

We can see in this that Yahweh does make a distinction between His saints, between those who have been faithful and those who have not. One group is kept from the day of great evil and the other is not. Yet those who were sealed were still present on the earth. They were not raptured into heaven. They were like the children of Israel who were kept from the judgments of God when the ten plagues were loosed on Egypt. We have these words recorded of those earlier tribulations:

22 "But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living..., in order that you may know that I, Yahweh, am in the midst of the land.

23 "I will put a division between My people and your people."

Exodus 8:22-23

There is great precedence for Yahweh setting His people apart during times when His wrath is poured out. Egypt is a type of the world, and when Yahweh brought judgment to Egypt He made a distinction between His people and the people of Egypt. He will do so again in the time of tribulation that is coming upon the world. Yet those children of God who are friends to the world, who have embraced the idols of the world, will not be kept from this time.

If we look at the verse again that was written to the church of Philadelphia, and we examine the phrase "I will keep you from the hour of testing", we find that the word 'keep' is derived from



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the Greek word 'tereo'. Strong's Dictionary of Greek words has this to say about this word:

NT:5083

tereo (tay-reh'-o); from teros (a watch;); to guard (from loss or injury, properly, by keeping the eye upon...)

How perfectly this fits with what we have read about the 144,000. They are not removed from the earth during the Tribulation, but they are watched over by God as He guards them from all loss or injury. We can see this same pattern played out in numerous instances throughout scriptures.

God preserved Elijah during the three years that He punished Israel with a drought so severe that no rain fell during the entire period. First God provided water for Elijah at the Brook Cherith, and the ravens brought him his food. Later God sent Elijah to a widow, and her oil and grain never ran out as long as Elijah dwelt with her.

Similarly, God protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they were cast into the fiery furnace. The guards and soldiers who cast them into the furnace perished from the heat of the flames, but these three came back out and did not even have the smell of smoke on them. We could also speak of Lot and his family's protection when God destroyed the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah, and of Noah and his family when God destroyed the earth with a flood. The pattern is clear. God makes a distinction between the righteous and the unrighteous when He sends His judgments upon the earth.

One of the clearest passages of scripture that shows the importance of being prepared ahead of time for the return of the Lord is the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Many saints who have slumbered spiritually while the hour grew late, and who have bedded down with the world, will find that it is too late to remedy the situation when the Lord appears. As the five foolish virgins who failed to keep oil in their lamps, these foolish saints will rush out to acquire what they lack, but it will be too

late. The door will have been shut. The number of guests for the wedding feast will be complete. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 "And five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.

3 "For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,

4 but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.

5 "Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.

6 "But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

7 "Then all those virgins rose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 "And the foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

9 "But the prudent answered, saying, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

10 "And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.

11 "And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.'

12 "But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'

13 "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25:1-13

*Many saints... have  
slumbered spiritually  
while the hour grew late...*

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Who are the virgins that wait for the Bridegroom? Certainly they do not represent the lost world. The world is not waiting for the Bridegroom. All of the virgins had lamps to give forth light. This is true of saints, only. However, not all of them had oil with which to light their lamps. It will be too late to remedy this when the Bridegroom appears. Over and over throughout scripture, Christians are urged to be on the alert, be awake, be ready.

Again, this does not imply loss of salvation. What is spoken of is loss of reward. Not every believer's reward will be the same. To be included in the Bride is tremendous reward, as is being invited to attend the wedding feast. Not all will attain to this honor. Many are called, but few are chosen.

According to scripture, there will be three divisions of Christians. The Bride is those who have kept their garments clean. They have allowed the Holy Spirit to perform His work of preparation and cleansing in their lives. They have remained alert

*The Bride is those who have kept their garments clean.*

and vigilant, waiting with anticipation for the return of the Bridegroom. They are mature and have intimate knowledge of their Lord. (Intimate knowledge of Yahshua is a characteristic of the Bride and is lacking in those who are unprepared. Yahshua spoke to the foolish virgins, "Truly I say to you, I do not know you.")

The ten virgins do not represent the Bride. They are attendants of the Bride and they represent two other groups of saints. As attendants of the Bride, "they all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased..." (I Corinthians 10:3). The Bride remained alert and vigilant while the ten virgins all fell asleep. The ten virgins failed to keep watch and be alert and they were sleeping when the Bridegroom came for the Bride.

However, among the attendants of the Bride, a distinction is made. Five were wise and were let into the wedding feast and five were foolish and were excluded. The difference was that some had extra vessels of oil for their lamps and some did not. Although oil often symbolizes the Spirit of God, I believe this oil represents the good works of

the saints for this was an oil used to give light. This connection can be seen in the following passage.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.

16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

Although all ten of the virgins had fallen asleep, some had done many good works to the glory of the Father and some had not. The foolish had vessels that were made to give forth light, but they had not ever been used for this purpose, this being typified by the lack of any oil. They were like the wicked servant that went and hid his talent in the ground until the return of his master. Not only had these foolish virgins fallen asleep, but they had no good works for men or God to see. Their vessels were essentially wasted. They had never used them for the purpose they were created for; the vessels being their bodies which are the temple of God. They were sleeping when the Bridegroom appeared.

This last group will suffer complete loss of reward for Yahshua will testify that He does not even know them. They will realize how great a grace they have resisted and how tremendous a reward they have forfeited. Even these will eventually have their tears wiped away, yet there will be no remedy for their loss. They will receive reward according to their works.

The wise virgins will have reward, though not of the same measure as the Bride. It is one thing to be let in to attend the wedding feast, and quite another thing to be the Bride who is being wedded. So we see in the Bride and the two groups of attendants, three separate and distinct groups of saints. It is the wise who will submit to the cross while they are freely able to do so, and who will allow God to cleanse and purify them. These will be spared a much more difficult cleansing.

The Bride will be kept from the day of test-

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ing, but she will not be removed from the earth during this time. God has a group of Overcomers who are being prepared to prevail over every work of the enemy and to put every enemy under their feet. We have already seen that David is a type of the Bride. David was also a warrior, and he fought and conquered all the enemies round about until Israel knew rest. The enemies of God were made subject to David and they brought tribute to him. Even so, those who are a part of the Bride will be used to put every enemy under Christ's feet. They cannot do so if they have been raptured up to heaven.

When God completed His judgments of Egypt, the people of Egypt saw how God had made a distinction between them and those who dwelt in Goshen. Egypt knew God was with His people. God gave the children of Israel great favor in the eyes of the Egyptians and the Egyptians gave the Israelites gifts of all that they owned to the extent that we are told the Israelites "plundered" the Egyptians. In a similar way all the world will know those who belong to God in the days of tribulation. They will see that the Overcomers are not harmed in any way by the judgments of God. The words of Isaiah will be fulfilled:

1 "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen upon you.

2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; But Yahweh will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you.

3 "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

4 "Lift up your eyes round about and see; they all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, and your daughters will be carried in the arms.

5 "Then you will see and be radiant, and your heart will thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you."

Isaiah 60:1-5

Repeatedly the testimony of scripture is that God does preserve the righteous from His judgments and His wrath. "For the eyes of Yahweh move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely

*God has a group of Overcomers who are being prepared to prevail over every work of the enemy.*

His" (II Chronicles 16:9). Those who have not given their heart wholly over to the pursuit of God and to a desire to walk obediently before Him have somewhat to be concerned about. Yahweh would not have such careless ones to feel comfortable or complacent about their future. The righteous, however, are to be as bold as a lion (Proverbs 28:1).

## The Sons of Jonadab

The book of Jeremiah reveals a story about a family of unusual character who so impressed God that He made a promise to them that was only given to a few in the scriptures. The things that impressed God about this family are typical of what God is seeking in the Bride of Christ.

The story is revealed in the 35th chapter of Jeremiah.

1 The word which came to Jeremiah from Yahweh in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying,

2 "Go to the house of the Rechabites, and speak to them, and bring them into the house of Yahweh, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink."

3 Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, son of Habazziniah, and his brothers, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites,

4 and I brought them into the house of Yahweh, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan the son of Ig-daliah, the man of God, which was

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near the chamber of the officials, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the doorkeeper.

5 Then I set before the men of the house of the Rechabites pitchers full of wine, and cups; and I said to them, "Drink wine!"

Jeremiah 35:1-5

This was a most unusual thing which God asked Jeremiah to do. At this time the nation of Judah was on the verge of judgment. The land was being besieged by the Babylonians. Because of the idolatry and wickedness of the nation of Judah, she was soon to be given over to her enemies who would take her into captivity.

Jeremiah stood out from among the other prophets and counselors of Judah. He was proclaiming that judgment was at hand due to the nation's wickedness. Others were prophesying that Jerusalem would never fall, that God would deliver them.

*The Church today proclaims Christ while clinging to the things of the world.*

Jeremiah pointed out, over and over again, the source of God's displeasure with the people. Their idolatry, sensuality, wickedness, and bloodshed had brought the judgment of God upon them. The people were unwilling to depart from their wickedness and they shunned the words of Jeremiah.

It must have seemed curious to Jeremiah that in the midst of this, God would have him invite a family of Israel to come and drink wine before him. In the midst of the idolatry and sensuality of the day, Jeremiah could not have anticipated their response.

6 But they said, "We will not drink wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, 'You shall not drink wine, you or your sons, forever.

7 'And you shall not build a house, and you shall not sow seed, and you shall not plant a vineyard or own

one; but in tents you shall dwell all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you sojourn.'

8 "And we have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he commanded us, not to drink wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, or our daughters,

9 nor to build ourselves houses to dwell in; and we do not have vineyard or field or seed.

10 "We have only dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and have done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

11 "But it came about, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against the land, that we said, 'Come and let us go to Jerusalem before the army of the Chaldeans and before the army of the Arameans.' So we have dwelt in Jerusalem."

Jeremiah 35:6-11

The sons of Jonadab and their families stood out from among the generation they lived in. The idolatry, sensuality, and wickedness of Judah indicated that the nation was focused upon the things the world had to offer. The nation was materially focused, seeking pleasure and prosperity. This nation, who was called to be a representation of God to the nations around them, had instead become infected with the wickedness of her neighbors.

Judah and Jerusalem are symbolic of the Church today. They were the people whom God had selected from among the peoples of the world to bear His name. Indeed, the people of Judah and Jerusalem were proud of their calling and uniqueness. The temple was a focal point for the nation. However, along with their identification with Yahweh God, the Jews also embraced the idols of the nations around them.

Even so, the Church today proclaims Christ while clinging to the things of the world. God is seeking a people who have rejected the world and who will pursue Him with singleness of mind and devotion. The sons of Jonadab exhibited such a re-

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solve.

The things that the sons of Jonadab listed that they were to abstain from, represented a progression. Wine is mentioned first. Wine represents pleasure. Those who drink wine do so for the enjoyment of the taste and of how it makes them feel. In abstaining from wine, this family was declaring that the pursuit of pleasure would not be the focus of their lives.

The next thing the sons of Jonadab would not do was plant a vineyard. Those who drink wine must have a source for their wine. The logical thing for those who wish to enjoy the fruit of the vine is to plant a vineyard, ensuring a constant supply of that which their heart craves.

Many Christians, while confessing Christ, are pursuing the world and the pleasures it offers. Having become addicted to its pleasures, they seek to ensure that their pleasure will be uninterrupted. This takes commitment and work. Even as a vineyard must be tended and watched over to ensure a steady supply of the grapes needed to produce wine, the worldly pleasures that the children of God seek after require devotion and attention.

Many Christians see God as just another means by which they can pursue their carnal dreams. There is nothing wrong with having a nice house or nice automobiles. There is nothing wrong with providing good things for one's family, but when the pursuit of these things becomes the focus of life, we have crossed the line into idolatry.

Many families today are investing inordinate amounts of time in pursuit of the things the world offers. Men and women are spending more and more hours working, hours that take them away from their families and from God. The saint who is passionately pursuing Christ will not accept any worldly commitment or entanglement to interfere with his pursuit of the One he is devoted to.

No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

II Timothy 2:4

Jonadab instructed his sons, even as Paul instructed his spiritual son Timothy, not to become

entangled with the things of the world. He instructed them to not pursue pleasure, nor to make provision for it. The reason was so that they might live long in the land of promise. Jonadab realized that those who esteemed enjoyment and pleasure had a tendency to forget God. He wanted his sons to always remember Yahweh that they might be partakers of the favor and reward of God.

The final step in the progression of the pursuit of pleasure is to build a house next to the source of one's enjoyment. Jonadab instructed his sons not to drink wine, not to plant vineyards, and not to build houses. They were instructed to dwell in tents. Not attached to houses or lands, they were focused on Yahweh, and they were free to go wherever He led.

The pursuit of pleasure leads to bondage. The need to devote time and resources to one's source of pleasure is a form of slavery. We serve that which we love. The demands of this bondage will reach the point that we become so entangled that we can no longer separate ourselves from it. It becomes expedient to build a house that we might abide close to that which claims so much of our time and devotion.

In an age of great idolatry and sensuality, the sons of Jonadab, along with their families, stood out in great contrast to those they dwelt among. Even so, the Bride of Christ will find herself standing out from among those who surround her. The things the world and the worldly Church pursue, she will turn her back on.

*Many Christians, while confessing Christ, are pursuing the world and the pleasures it offers.*

Having witnessed the response of the sons of Jonadab, Jeremiah lifts them up before the people of Judah and Jerusalem. He tells Judah that the Rechabites have found favor with God because of their commitment. God, through Jeremiah, then chides Judah because she has not listened to the voice of God and she has spurned the prophets He has sent to her. The sons of Jonadab's obedience to their father stands in judgment against the disobedience of the sons of Israel.

While Judah and Jerusalem are about to find

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out that their idolatry and slavery to pleasure will lead to bondage in Babylon, the sons of Jonadab are given a priceless reward from God.

18 Then Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, "Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Because you have obeyed the command of Jonadab your father, kept all his commands, and done according to all that he commanded you; 19 therefore thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, "Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me always.'" Jeremiah 35:18, 19

To this day, there is someone from the household of Jonadab who stands faithfully before God. How moved God must have been to make such a

*Christianity in America has indeed become a big wealthy enterprise.*

promise. In Ezekiel 44, we read how God punished the priests who entered into the idolatry of the people by banning them from His presence. In contrast,

God is telling this family who has refused the idolatry and way of life of those around them, that they will always have a man to stand before Him. What an awesome promise.

This same promise remains for all those of God's children who will similarly choose the pursuit of Him over the pursuit of the world. By having our backs permanently turned toward the world, we are able to proceed into the temple, into the presence of God. As the Bride embraces the cross, dying to the world and its allure, she advances toward the promised place of habitation with God.

This is the joy of the Bride, to hear the Father say, "You will stand before Me, always." We are called to be a peculiar people. We are the people of God's own possession and He becomes our possession, our inheritance. In this, the prayer of Yahshua is fulfilled, that we would be one (John 17). Christ is in God and we are in Christ. We are one with each other.

A call is going out to the saints of God today.

Wake up Church! Wake up to that which is being offered to you! Wake up to that which you are in peril of forfeiting! Friendship with the world is enmity with Christ (James 4:4). Flee the bondage of attachment to the world. Flee into the arms of your coming Bridegroom.

## The Radiant Bride

A friend of mine related a modern proverb he had recently heard. It is a lamentable proverb, but one has to recognize the accuracy of it.

"What began as a movement in Jerusalem, became a philosophy in Greece, an institution in Rome, a culture in Europe, and a big wealthy enterprise in America."

Christianity in America has indeed become a big wealthy enterprise. There are money changers in the temple once again. Believers have fallen from the simplicity of devotion to Christ. The church still espouses her betrothal to Christ, but she does so while clinging to her idols. In our nation, the greatest of our idols is money or mammon.

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

The scriptures tell us plainly that we cannot serve both God and mammon, but that hasn't kept us from trying. We have even coined a term for the type of preaching that tries to wed the two together. We call it "the prosperity gospel."

President Clinton made an astute remark while running for election. Commenting on what the people of the nation were really interested in, he said, "It's the economy, stupid." Above issues of personal integrity or morality, the citizens of our nation are concerned about the economy and their own financial well-being. This is true of the church, as well.

In the church, there are whole groups of pastors,

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from many different denominations, that preach financial blessing, material gain, and a man-centric gospel week after week. The overall impact of this type of preaching is to convince people that God saved them so that He could bless them with the things of this world. A focus on the pursuit of Christ and heavenly reward is entirely missing.

Across this nation the gospel of Yahshua the Messiah has been mixed with the message of prosperity. Passion for Yahshua has been mixed with a passion for things. This causes the world to wonder what the church is really pursuing. By adding other pursuits to our pursuit of Christ, we have lost much of our savor. The world sees the church pursuing the same things she lusts after. The obvious conclusion is that Yahshua the Messiah alone must not satisfy.

Our Heavenly Father is determined to bring purity forth where there has been mixture. One way to refine and test the hearts of those whom God has called to bear His name is to remove the things to which they cling. Judgment is coming upon the whole world, but before God can judge the world, He must judge His children.

For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

I Peter 4:17

We are told that in the last days God will shake all things that can be shaken (Hebrews 12:26). All of the idols which men cling to will be tested. The stock market, 401K plans, bank accounts, the economy of our nation, the healthcare system, government, and all else that we trust for comfort, security, and safety, will be shaken. Only that which cannot be shaken will stand.

The world, along with those Christians who are clinging to houses built upon the sand, will be devastated. We are told that the day will come when men's hearts will fail them for fear (Luke 21:26). Fear will grip the hearts of those who have trusted in the false gods of this world. Only those who have learned to lean upon their beloved Lord will be unmoved by the devastation around them.

Yahshua compared the last days before His return to a time of labor when a woman is about to give birth (Matthew 24:8). The world will be shaken by the coming contractions and the contractions will become more and more frequent even as they increase in their intensity. These contractions will follow on the heels of one another until the world is reeling from them.

Only when the idols of the world are cast down will many perceive that Christ is the only thing which cannot be shaken. He is our strong tower. He is our refuge and strength. He alone is worth pursuing.

During this period when it will appear that chaos reigns, those who have made themselves ready will shine forth brightly before all the Earth. When men's hearts are failing them, these will be unmoved. The Bride will stand in confidence in the day of shaking for she will have hidden herself in the arms of her Beloved.

*Passion for Yahshua has been mixed with a passion for things.*

1 "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen upon you.

2 "For behold, darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness the peoples; but Yahweh will rise upon you, and His glory will appear upon you.

3 "And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Isaiah 60:1-3

The days the church is entering into are days of separation. God is calling the church forth out of the world and He is calling a Bride forth for His Son. These will be difficult days even for those who have walked close to the heart of God. Many will doubt and be confused by the intensity of the days ahead. Those who lack confidence in the heart of God will respond as the Israelites did in the wilderness. Many will fall away (Matthew 24:10). But those who have confidence in their God will stand.

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They will do exploits. They will see the mighty hand of God move on their behalf.

A couple of years ago I was ordained as a pastor and elder among the group of believers I fellowshiped with. A pastor from another fellowship attended the service. I had never seen him among our fellowship before, nor have I since. Since he was present, he was invited to participate in the laying on of the hands of the presbytery as I was being ordained. I will never forget his words.

This pastor told me, “God has a reward for you, but it will not be of this Earth. Your reward is in heaven.” He then said, “In heaven, you will be a worshiper in God’s presence.” These words were all the more poignant to me because, just prior to this time, I had been considering what my lot and portion would be in heaven. A greater promise could not have been given to me. The words of David resounded in my heart,

*“God has a reward for you, but it will not be of this Earth. Your reward is in heaven.”*

5 Yahweh is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; Thou dost support my lot.

6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

Psalm 16:5, 6

I have a promise before me of attaining the highest reward, to stand in God’s presence and to worship Him. This is the joy set before me. This is my reason for enduring hardship. This will keep me standing when all around me is shaken. I am pursuing the prize.

Yahshua the Messiah is my portion. His blood is true drink and His flesh is true meat. I have had but a small taste and I want more. The feast the world sets before me has no flavor in comparison. I choose to pass by the delicacies and rich meats of the world, that I might obtain the true riches which are offered to me by the hand of God.

It is for such a promise that those who comprise the Bride of Christ will choose to live apart from the world. As the sons of Jonadab did and as David

did, the Bride will choose the priestly inheritance. Rather than settling for the world, they will choose God as their portion.

In the days ahead, God will display to the sons of men many of His chosen ones, of whom the world is not worthy. These will shine forth in great radiance, for they have chosen as their glory, the glory of God. These understand the purpose of the wilderness and of testing. They will not shrink back from difficulty. They will embrace the cross willingly. They will do this for the joy set before them.

The shaking that is coming upon the Earth holds no threat for the Bride. It will serve only to further refine her as all attachments to the things of the world are stripped away. It will prove the wisdom of the Bride in choosing to lean on her Beloved. The Bride will appear radiant as her purity is manifested and her love for Christ is displayed.

The Bridal Saints will be unveiled before the world and their unveiling will be as startling as that of a butterfly which emerges from the cocoon. No longer a lowly caterpillar, these will be lovely to behold. Having been eternally transformed by their encounter with Christ, they will receive a new name. They will be called the Bride of Christ.

## The Bridegroom

I stand as one who knows that tremendous things are being offered to me, things that defy understanding. I cannot come near to comprehending the glory of these things. John walked in greater closeness to Yahshua than any of the other disciples. He remained focused on the surpassing greatness of Yahshua, as is revealed in his gospel. He never forgot that love was the foundation upon which his relationship to Christ Yahshua was built, as is evidenced in his epistles. Yet this man, who was so close to Yahshua while He walked this Earth, fell prostrated as a dead man when he beheld Yahshua in His heavenly glory.

12 And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands;

13 and in the middle of the lamp-



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stands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His breast with a golden girdle.

14 And His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire;

15 and His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been caused to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

16 And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead man. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Revelation 1:12-18

What an awesome revelation of Yahshua the Messiah John had. It was not coincidental that it was John, the beloved disciple, to whom this revelation was granted. John epitomizes those who make up the Bride of Christ. Those saints whose hearts are bound to Yahshua will see Him as no others will. Yet, even great love did not prepare John for an unveiled look at his beloved Lord.

How it must have stirred John to think that this awesome Son of God was the same Yahshua who allowed him to lay his head on His breast. What tremendous favor was his. How exhilarating to think that this same radiant and glorious God still desired intimacy with John and with all those He had chosen from out of the world. John, the disciple who looked at Christ through eyes of love and adoration, was given further glimpses of the Savior he loved. He describes Him for us.

6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

7 And He came, and He took [the book] out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

8 And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

10 "And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Revelation 5:6-10

11 And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself.

13 And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

15 And from His mouth comes a

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sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Revelation 19:11-16

John saw Yahshua in His glory, the same glory that was His from before the foundation of the Earth. How much more Yahshua must have been increased in John's sight when he considered that He had freely laid aside this glory in order to redeem fallen man (Philippians 2:7). This Glorious One clothed Himself in humility to ransom those who were His enemies (Romans 5:10).

*This book is offered in hope that some may awaken out of their slumber ...*

We have been ransomed, but we have not been left at the place of salvation. A promise yet remains to us. A promise of betrothal. A promise of unity. A promise of eternally standing with the One who purchased us with His own blood.

Our Bridegroom asks for our devotion, our love. Competing affections must be overcome. Our Bridegroom gave all to purchase for Himself a Bride. He asks that the Bride give all for Him. Yahshua did not merely tell those who would follow Him that they must love Him, He went so far as to specify the degree to which they must love Him.

37 And He said to him, "You shall love Yahweh your God with **all your heart**, and with **all your soul**, and with **all your mind**."

38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.

Matthew 22:37, 38 [emphasis added]

Those who are the Bride agree that this is not only reasonable, it is desirable. There are no other

gods before Christ in their lives. As David, they have invited God to inspect their lives and to correct all that needs amending.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts;

24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalms 139:23, 24

It was revealed to John that much sorrow and tribulation would precede Christ's final triumphant return. However, his heart was gripped with the glory of union with Christ. His words are the words of one who has seen the Bridegroom.

And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

Revelation 22:17

Let there be no delay.

## Come, Lord Yahshua!

This book is not intended to answer all questions regarding the Bride of Christ. Instead, it is offered in hopes that it will stir up many saints to begin seeking the answers for themselves. There is much complacency in the body of Christ, much of it due to Satan's deception in clouding our view of eternity and our understanding of the reward that awaits us.

The church today has lost much of its savor. Its distinctiveness has been diluted until her taste is similar to that of the world around her. When Christ comes to steal away, as a thief in the night, that which is appealing to Him, He will leave behind that which is unappealing. Many saints will be devastated as they realize that it was their idolatry, their love of the world and the things in it, that disqualified them from being chosen.

This book is offered in hope that some may awaken out of their slumber and break off their attachments to the world as they glimpse an inheritance and reward that far outshines all that the

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world offers. It is my hope that a passion for Yahshua the Messiah will be rekindled and that a pursuit of the One who pursues us will be renewed.

Yahshua mentioned one thing that would cause Him to remove a church's lampstand, forgetting one's first love (Revelation 2). His word to the church of Ephesus was to remember where they had fallen from, repent, and do the deeds they did at the first. In Christ's words to the church of Ephesus we see that love, works, reward, these three are inseparable.

Our Lord does not desire service without love, nor does He desire words of love and devotion that are not proven in the way we live our lives before Him. Yahshua desires a harmony in our lives. Love first, followed by obedience and devotion. It was saints that were passionate for Christ who turned the world upside down in the first century and it will be similar saints who will do so again in these last days before Christ's return.

Arise Bride, your Bridegroom awaits you. Be vigilant. Look to the One who is the lover of your soul. He is the fairest of the fair. He is the lily of the valley. He is the bright and morning star. He is the pearl of great price. He is the treasure that has been lost and must now be found.

Come, Lord Yahshua!

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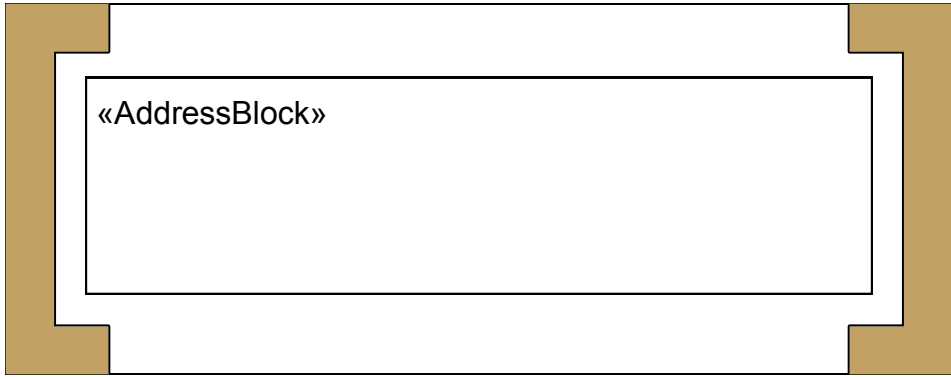
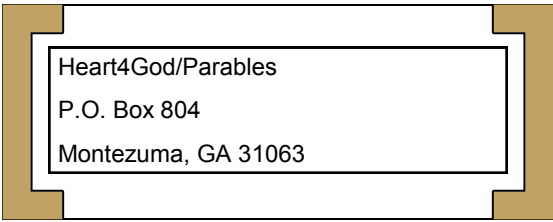
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### PARABLES PRECEPT—The Hebrew Alphabet



(Image source: Ancient Hebrew Resource Center’s Website)

The Hebrew letter pictured above is Hhet. This is an image of the wall of a tent. The Hebrew word for a wall is Hhets.

The Hebrew word refuge includes this letter. A refuge is a protected place encircled by a wall.

Refuge - ךל

The word thicket also uses this

letter. In fact, it repeats this letter twice.

Thicket - ךלךל

A thicket can form an impenetrable wall, and very often the nomadic Semites who raised sheep and cattle would create an enclosure from the branches of bushes. This would act as a wall to keep predators out and the livestock in.

Similarly, the Hebrew word for

circle utilized this letter. To encircle an object means to encompass it, and a wall is a natural way to describe the circle.

Circle - ךל

Jeff Benner’s *Ancient Hebrew Lexicon of the Bible* provides many definitions of Hebrew words based upon what the original symbols stood for.

Please keep in mind that the definitions showing a relationship between a word and the Paleo-Hebrew pictograms is a work in progress. Many Hebrew scholars know that the original alphabet contained pictures of known objects, but there is much controversy over the way in which these images were employed to form words.