

ONCE UPON A TIME : A TRUE STORY : PART 1

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Post-Tribulation Rescue, Post-Resurrection Resurrection, The Elect, Seventh Trump, Impregnated Earth, Harlotry of Israel, Bride And Bridegroom, Married To Christ, Woman In Wilderness Sealed 144,000, Marriage Of The Lamb, New Jerusalem, Fruit Of The Lord's Virgin Bride, Final Harvest Of Souls, Dividing The Cities, Saint's Millennial Rule, The Regeneration, Elect Lady, All One In Christ, Defining Elect, The Prince Returns, Future Home, Predestinated By God, Wedding Garment Parable

As I explain in such articles as the thought-provoking series "The Great Tribulation and the Rapture", contrary to what is believed by Pre-Tribulation Rapture theorists, God's Holy Word clearly indicates that the Lord's children will go through the dark period known as the Great Tribulation; also referred to by some Bible students as the time of Jacob's Trouble. In the following verse from the Gospel of Matthew, we are told that these terrible days of suffering will be shortened for the Elect's sake. The Lord loves His children so much, that as soon as He has determined that the ungodly forces of antichrist have filled their cup of iniquity, He is going to suddenly return, and stop the terrible slaughter of His faithful followers:

"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Matthew 24:22, KJV

Exactly who is "the elect" to whom the Lord is referring? Based upon my current understanding of the Scriptures, I believe that this Elect represents all saved Christians, be they Jew or Gentile, who will have ever lived on the Earth

up until the time of His Coming. The only exception will be those Saints who were already resurrected at the time of the Lord's own Resurrection almost two thousand years ago. We find the following interesting account in the twenty-seventh chapter of the Gospel of Matthew:

"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

Matthew 27:50-53, KJV

What I find interesting about the previous verses is that this event is not mentioned in any of the other Gospels. Neither is it mentioned in the Epistles or the Book of Acts. Considering the importance of such an event, I can only wonder at the silence of the other Gospel writers, as well as the writers of the Epistles. What adds further mystery to these verses is that in the Book of Revelation, John refers to the Resurrection of the Saints at the end of the world when Christ returns, as the First Resurrection; followed a thousand years later by the Second Resurrection of all of the remaining dead; thus we have an enigma with no clear answer for now.

Some Bible teachers have suggested that the Lord's Church is male, allegorically speaking, but I believe otherwise. I am quite convinced that the Lord views the Body of Believers as His spiritual multi-national, worldwide Bride. In the not too distant future, like a gallant knight of old who fights for the hand and honour of his beloved princess, the Lord will suddenly return to rescue His virgin Bride-To-Be from the clutches of the Beast; all with the blessings of His kingly Father. Just when all appears to be lost, we will be caught up to Heaven, to meet Him in the air at the sound of the Last Trump; that is, the Seventh Trump, as is discussed by Jesus, Paul and John in the following verses:

"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the

four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Matthew 24:31, KJV

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

1 Corinthians 15:51-52, KJV

"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."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, KJV

"But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."

Revelation 10:7, KJV

From the very first chapter of the Bible, clear to the end, the Lord uses the male/female relationship as a symbol of His own relationship with His Creation. For example, the Earth itself is symbolic of an egg which was fertilized by the very Spirit of God which hovered over and around it; just like the male sperm which must penetrate the female egg in order to create an embryo:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Genesis 1:1-2, KJV

Just like an egg, once the Earth was fertilized by God's Spirit, that formless shape began to come alive under the Lord's guidance for the next six days, and took on a clear identity. Please do not misinterpret my words. I am by no means suggesting that the Earth itself is a live being as is

espoused by New Age thought advocates who refer to the Earth as Gaea, a name borrowed from ancient Greek mythology; I am simply using this clear Biblical symbolism in order to make a point. Throughout the Old Testament, Israel and Jerusalem are also both characterized by many of the Prophets as a rebellious unfaithful wife who has repeatedly committed the sin of spiritual adultery by following after other heathen gods. Consider the following verses:

"How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers."
Isaiah 1:21, KJV

"For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot."
Jeremiah 2:20, KJV

We will be taking a closer look at this issue later on in this series. Throughout the four Gospels, Jesus shared a variety of Parables in which virgins and a wedding feast were a part of the symbolism He used. These would include the Parable of the Ten Virgins, as well as the Parable of the Wedding Garment. I will be discussing these Parables later on in this series. Even John the Baptist was aware of the spiritual parallel between Christ and His Church, and the role of the Bride and the Bridegroom. In the third chapter of the Gospel of John, we find the Baptist saying:

"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, KJV

The Apostle Paul also was not ignorant of these spiritual realities. In discussing the issue of grace versus law in his Epistle to the Romans, Paul made the following comment:

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should

bring forth fruit unto God."

Romans 7:4, KJV

In like manner, the Book of Revelation follows this same pattern of equating the Body of Believers to a woman. In chapter twelve, we find the mysterious woman who is forced to flee into the wilderness, in order to escape persecution by the Red Dragon; that is, by Satan, via his earthly rulers. This topic is discussed more fully in my Endtime article "The Woman in the Wilderness and the 144,000". I trust that you will read it:

"And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days."

Revelation 12:6, KJV

In chapter fourteen of the Book of Revelation, John also describes the one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed servants of God as being spiritual virgins:

"These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."

Revelation 14:4, KJV

In the nineteenth chapter of the Book of Revelation, we find that this female symbolism continues with the Body of the Believers being represented by a female virgin Bride, who has kept herself pure and unspotted from the things of the world:

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 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, KJV

Finally, in the last two chapters of the Bible, we also discover that the Heavenly City, New Jerusalem, is depicted as the Bride of Christ. She is a reflection of the actual Body of the Believers:

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband . . . And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,"

Revelation 21:2, 9-10, KJV

Thus, we can see that the Lord's true Church is His spiritual Bride, who will go through great travail during the Great Tribulation, "that we should bring forth fruit unto God"; exactly as was stated by Paul in the previous verse from his Epistle to the Romans. Of course, we know that Paul was only repeating what he himself had learned from the Lord; who indeed taught that, as His spiritual Bride-To-Be, we are to bear spiritual fruit for the Kingdom of God. You see, just as our Salvation is by faith, even though we don't fully experience it now in the flesh, our future as the Bride of Christ is also something which we accept by faith, now, in this life. That is why even though our marriage to our Heavenly Bridegroom has not yet been consummated, we bear Him spiritual children, now, in this life, as if the event had already happened. Consider the following verses found in the Gospels of Mark and John:

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16, KJV

"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself;

first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."

Mark 4:26-29, KJV

"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

John 4:35, KJV

While there has been a steady harvest of souls since the Lord walked the Earth two thousand years ago, we also know that He looked forward to a time when there will be a final great harvest of souls, who will be freed from their mortal bodies at the time of the First Resurrection. The Apostle John made specific mention of this great harvest of the Endtime when he wrote the following words found in the Book of Revelation:

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped."

Revelation 14:14-16, KJV

As I explain in the article, "From Armageddon to the New Earth", it is when Jesus Christ returns for His beloved Bride-To-Be, His Elect, that the Age of the Millennium will finally be ushered in; and we, the resurrected and changed Saints, will sit upon Thrones, and reign with Jesus Christ for one thousand years. At that time, as Jesus indicated in the Parable of the Ten Talents, the cities of the Earth will be divided amongst us, so that we might govern them for the Lord. Consider also Jesus' promise to His First Apostles, as well as the words written by the Apostle John in the Book of Revelation:

"And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of

man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."
Matthew 19:28, KJV

". . . A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. 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. 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 also over five cities. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me."

Luke 19:12b-27, KJV

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in

their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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 20:4-6, KJV

That word "regeneration" found in the verse from the Book of Matthew, is quite interesting. It ties in directly with the word "Elect" spoken by Jesus in the twenty-fourth chapter of the same book. It is derived from the Greek "paliggenesia", which means new birth, reproduction, renewal, recreation or regeneration. So again, as I also explain in the series "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?", God is reproducing Himself through the adoption of sons and daughters of God; who are the spiritual fruit of His collective Bride-To-Be; the universal Church.

If we follow my regular practice of comparing Scripture with Scripture, we can find a link between the word "Elect" in Jesus' Endtime sermon found in the Gospel of Matthew, and the Epistles, which will further emphasize the fact that the Lord does indeed view His Church in the feminine gender. As you may know, the writers sometimes begin their Epistles by addressing a specific church located in a certain place. In like manner, they usually conclude their Epistle by sending salutations to the brethren on behalf of the Church from which they are writing. For example, notice how Paul begins and ends his Epistle to the Philippians:

"Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:"

Philippians 1:1, KJV

"Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you. All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. [To the Philippians written from Rome, by Epaphroditus.]"

Philippians 4:21-23, KJV

As we saw earlier, throughout the Book of Revelation, John allegorically used the feminine gender in different forms. Having set the pattern, consider now how John also used this very same form of writing when he wrote his second Epistle to a certain unidentified church. In his greeting to that church, as well as in his closing remarks, he wrote the following:

"The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth . . . The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen."

2 John 1:1, 13, KJV

It is not difficult to see that John appears to be writing from one sister church to another sister church. In addition to the fact that he addresses them as females, notice that he specifically addresses the church to whom his Epistle is directed, as "elect lady"; and to the church from which he is writing as "elect sister". In the introductory note in my Bible, it states "Unto the elect lady and her children . . . John probably meant a church rather than a family". Thus, it is evident that even Zondervan, the company which printed this particular Bible, believes that this is what John meant. Thus, as I clearly indicate in such articles as "Is God a Racist?", there is no distinction in Christ Jesus; we are all one in Him; we are all a part of His multiple virgin Bride. Consider the following verses:

"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him."

Romans 10:12, KJV

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28, KJV

"Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all."

Colossians 3:11, KJV

The word "elect" is derived from the Greek word "eklektos"; which means to be picked out or chosen; and we have indeed been chosen and called out by God to be part of His Church, the spiritual Bride-To-Be for His very own Son; the Prince of Peace, who has gone away on a far journey to claim His Kingdom! Someday, hopefully very soon, we will be picked out, chosen, and caught up to Heaven, at the time of the Rapture, when our Prince returns for His Bride-To-Be. In that day, He will carry us across the threshold of this current life, and into the next; to a place of unimaginable beauty, which He has been preparing for us since almost two thousand years ago. Jesus told us so Himself before His departure, as you can see by the following verses:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. 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 14:1-3, KJV

That beloved brethren, is the New Jerusalem; our City of Gold which will put the land of Oz to shame! The New Testament is full of verses which clearly indicate that we have indeed been predestinated and chosen by God since before the world began. While most of the blind, foolish people of the world have chosen to go their own way down the wide path which leads to destruction, the Lord has seen fit to make us the chosen and the few. We are indeed His Elect! We are His Bride-To-Be! Please consider the following inspiring verses:

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

Matthew 20:16, KJV

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 22:14, KJV

"And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath

chosen, he hath shortened the days."

Mark 13:20, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love . . . Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will . . . In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Ephesians 1:4-5, 11, KJV

"But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

2 Thessalonians 2:13, KJV

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

1 Timothy 6:12, KJV

"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

James 2:5, KJV

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

1 Peter 2:9, KJV

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and

faithful."

Revelation 17:14, KJV

So you see, we truly are, as Peter states, the "heirs of the Kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him". Of course, as with any marriage here on Earth, before we can attend our much-anticipated Celestial Wedding, we must all make sure that we are properly dressed for the long-awaited Reunion with our Spiritual Husband. This Reunion has been in preparation for quite some time by our Earthly standards. In fact, even in the books of the Old Testament, we find hints of this coming Marriage Celebration. Consider the following interesting verse found in the book of the Prophet Isaiah:

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels."
Isaiah 61:10, KJV

As I discuss in such articles as "The Gospel of Thomas: Introspection or Heaven-spection?", "So You Really Think You Are So Humble?", and "As a Thief in the Night? Not for Me!", this same Garment Of Salvation, or Robe Of Righteousness is also discussed throughout the books of the New Testament. Jesus Himself discussed it on a number of occasions; and why shouldn't He; after all, it was He who spoke through the Prophets of the Old Testament. Many of us are familiar with the following Parable found in the Gospel of Matthew:

". . . The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth 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. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to 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 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 22:1b-14, KJV

As you have probably already surmised, the reason this man was thrown out of the Wedding Feast, is because he was not saved. As I explain in such articles as "The Urantia Book: Attack on the Blood Atonement", "Dracula: Fighting Fear With the Word, Faith and Love", and "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?", this man's crime was that he was not found to be without spot or blemish in the Lord's Eyes; that is, he was not found to be free of sin; and thus he was not worthy to participate in this wonderful celebration. As Christians, we all know that the only way to be found free of sin before the Lord, is by being washed in the Blood of the unblemished Sacrificial Lamb of the New Testament; that is, in the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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ONCE UPON A TIME : A TRUE STORY : PART 2

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The Old Testament Daily Sacrifice, The Lamb Of God, Washed In Blood Of The Lamb, Clothed In White Linen, Temple Veil, Paul's Revelations, Spiritual Blindness, Jesus Came To Give Sight, Paul's Sight Restored, Jews' Blindness, Fulness Of Gentiles, Vail Removed From The Jews, The Tabernacle And Temple Rituals, Our Relationship Restored, Jesus' Flesh Is The Torn Veil, Our Bridal Veil, Jealous Michal, The Bride's Jealous Sister, The Lord Hates Stubbornness And Rebellion

As some of my readers undoubtedly already know, Christ's Sacrifice was foreshadowed in the Old Testament by the first Passover in Egypt, as well as by what the Prophet Daniel referred to as the daily sacrifice. This important offering was performed by Aaron the High Priest, as well as by his descendants, near the door of the Tabernacle, according to the Laws of Moses. In the Books of Exodus and Numbers, the daily sacrifice is called "a continual burnt offering". This is because it was performed "day by day continually"; that is, on a daily basis throughout the year; in addition to the other sacrifices which were performed throughout the year:

"Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even: And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering. And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD. This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee."

Exodus 29:38-42, KJV

When John the Baptist began his preaching ministry in the

wilderness areas of the Jordan River Valley, he was fully aware of these things; and thus he knew that the one true Sacrificial Lamb would soon be revealed in Israel; that is why when Jesus finally did show Himself to Israel, John was the first to exclaim:

". . . Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

John 1:29b, KJV

The New Testament writers such as Peter, Paul and John used the symbolism of the Old Testament, in order to explain to their followers how the traditions of the Elders, which were still carried out until 70 A.D. when the Temple was finally destroyed, were no longer necessary. They confirmed that it is only in the Blood of Jesus Christ that we find liberation from the Law, as well as Salvation. Consider the following verses. Notice again that in the first verse, the Apostle Paul also mentions the coming Regeneration which I discussed in part one:

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Hebrews 9:11-14, KJV

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without

blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,"

1 Peter 1:18-20, KJV

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 1:7, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

Those of us who have accepted the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, have already been clothed in our wedding attire; that is, in the Garment of Salvation mentioned by the Prophet Isaiah. This Robe of Righteousness, as it is also called, is further described for us in the following verses found in the Book of Revelation:

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Revelation 3:5, KJV

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

Revelation 3:18, KJV

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and

their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

Revelation 6:9-11, KJV

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;"

Revelation 7:9, KJV

"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."

Revelation 19:8, KJV

While we have discussed the Garment of Salvation and the Robe of Righteousness, as is only befitting for the Lord's Bride, there is something else which we must wear in order to be properly prepared for our Celestial Wedding Feast. At the beginning of this series, I shared the following verses from the twenty-seventh chapter of the Gospel of Matthew:

"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

Matthew 27:50-53, KJV

What I would like to call to your attention in the previous verses, is the fact that the Temple veil was torn in half at the time of Christ's Crucifixion. This topic of the veil is actually very profound, and not too many people are fully aware of its significance. As the Apostle Paul explains to us, being as Jesus was the Final Sacrifice, the Temple veil being torn at the time of His Death, shows that from that moment on, Temple sacrifices were no longer necessary as a step towards Salvation. From reading Paul's Epistles, it becomes quite apparent that the Lord had indeed revealed some deep spiritual truths to him, as Paul himself admits in the following verses:

"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Galatians 1:11-12, KJV

Of course, as I explain in the article "Biblical Cafeteria, Or the Whole Course?", Paul hadn't always been blessed with such a wonderful gift for understanding the Word of the Lord. Prior to his life-changing encounter with the Lord on the road to Damascus, Paul was a spiritually blind Pharisee; who in his own self-righteous rage, went about persecuting, arresting and slaying the First Disciples; exactly as the Scribes and the Pharisees had persecuted and killed Jesus a short time before. The Lord clearly exposed the spiritual blindness and callous hearts of His religious persecutors in verses such as the following:

"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

Matthew 15:14, KJV

"Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? . . . Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift? . . . Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel . . . Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

Matthew 23:16-17, 19, 24, 26, KJV

". . . Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

Luke 6:39b, KJV

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds

should be reproved."

John 3:19-20, KJV

While Jesus harshly condemned His self-righteous enemies who rejected the Spiritual Light which He offered them, from the very beginning of His Earthly Ministry, He let it be known that He had come to give both physical and spiritual sight to the blind. When the writings of the Prophet Isaiah were handed to Him in the synagogue of His hometown of Nazareth, the Lord read the following Scriptures, and made this startling announcement:

"And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."

Luke 4:17-21, KJV

In the Apostle Paul's case, it wasn't until three days after the Damascus incident, that his physical sight was restored at the hands of dear brother Ananias. By that time, the Lord must have already performed the spiritual healing of Paul's soul as well. Paul was undoubtedly terribly shaken up and filled with fear, or reverence, for the Lord, after his face to face encounter with the resurrected Jesus; after all, it is a fearful thing to fall into the Hands of the living God! We find the story in Acts chapter nine:

"And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had

received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."

Acts 9:17-20, KJV

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Hebrews 10:31, KJV

It was because the Apostle Paul was wonderfully freed from his own spiritual blindness, that he was soon able to begin his own ministry; in which he tried to free others from the same; particularly his own Jewish brethren. In fact, as the previous verses demonstrate, the Lord had given Paul such a spiritual kick in the pants, that the minute that he was healed of his blindness, he immediately began to preach Jesus in Damascus; until he was finally forced to flee for his life some three years later. I encourage you to read the article "Biblical Cafeteria, Or the Whole Course?" for more details regarding the highlights of Paul's amazing life. Concerning his endeavors to free others from the spiritual blindness and bondage to the Law of which he himself had been a victim, consider the following verses found in some of Paul's Epistles:

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."

Romans 11:25, KJV

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:3-4, KJV

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"

Ephesians 4:17-18, KJV

"Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

2 Corinthians 3:12-17, KJV

As I explain in such articles as "Is God a Racist?", "The Woman in the Wilderness and the 144,000" and "The Great Tribulation and the Rapture", while spiritual blindness has indeed fallen upon the Jews for the past two thousand years, and while I have not hesitated to expose this blindness in quite a few of my articles, we must also realize, that in His Divine Wisdom, God has purposely allowed this to happen for the benefit of we Gentiles. As Paul states in his letter to the Romans, it is because the Jews rejected, persecuted and killed Jesus Christ, and the First Century Disciples, that some of them were eventually forced out of Israel, and into the Gentile nations of the world. It is in this way that we Gentiles, who comprise the vast majority of the world's population, have heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is what Paul means when he says "until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in". He is referring to the harvest of souls; the very same harvest I mentioned in part one of this series.

As I explain in the aforementioned articles, eventually, after a great deal of suffering, and probably after a major war with the Muslim nations around them, in which they will suffer a dismal defeat, a small percentage of the Jews will be saved. Consider Paul's additional comments on this topic:

"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them,

when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all."

Romans 11:26-32, KJV

As Paul states in the previous verses from his Epistle to the Corinthians, and as I point out in many of my articles, the only way this spiritual blindness, or veil, will ever be removed from the eyes and hearts of the Jews, is through their acceptance of Jesus Christ. Only then will the Jews receive spiritual sight, and they will be freed from the bondage of the Mosaic Law. This is the very same sight and spiritual liberty which Jesus promised the Jews through His reading of the prophecies of Isaiah. In that particular case, because they were unable to receive His message of liberation, and even considered it to be blasphemous, they tried to throw Him over a cliff:

"And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way,"

Luke 4:28-30, KJV

Once the Jews do accept Christ, as with the Apostle Paul, the scales will fall from their eyes, and they will be able to see plainly all of the wonderful prophetic promises of Salvation found in the Old Testament regarding the Birth, Life, Ministry, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord that this has already begun to happen as is witnessed by the Jews For Jesus and the Messianic Jews now found in the United States of America and elsewhere. In discussing the deep symbolism behind the Temple veil being torn, in his Epistle to the Hebrews, Paul explains how the Tabernacle and Temple rituals, and the veil which separated

the outer sanctuary from the inner Holy of Holies, were foreshadows of much better things to come; that being of course the Final Sacrifice made by our High Priest, Jesus Christ. Consider the following verses:

"For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Hebrews 9:2-12, KJV

"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of

Melchisedec."

Hebrews 6:17-20, KJV

Notice in the first set of verses, Paul tells us that the Tabernacle and Temple rituals, including the daily and the yearly sacrifices, were foreordained by God "until the time of reformation". That is a very interesting phrase, because once we understand the Greek origin of this word, we begin to realize that Paul is talking about how Jesus restored our relationship with God, which had been broken since the days of the Garden of Eden. The word "reformation" is derived from the Greek word "diorthosis", which in a physical sense means a making straight, restoring to its natural and normal condition something which in some way protrudes or has got out of line, as broken or misshapen limbs. Isn't that what Christ did for us through His Sacrifice on the Cross? As Paul states, having passed through the veil once, in order to enter the Holy of Holies, Jesus Christ has become our eternal High Priest; and He has "obtained eternal redemption for us".

In the following verses, Paul makes it even clearer for us, by telling us that the reason that the Temple veil was torn in half, is because through His flesh and blood Sacrifice, Jesus has made the Final Offering for sin; and thus He has given us direct access to God the Father once again. He tells us to approach the Father with "boldness" and "in full assurance of faith". In fact, it appears that Paul is saying that Jesus has replaced the Temple veil with His own flesh:

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

Hebrews 10:16-22, KJV

This makes perfect sense when you consider the fact that Jesus said such things as the following during His Earthly Ministry. These teachings were so profound, and in fact so misunderstood, that some of the early disciples left off from following after Him. They simply did not possess the spiritual eyes and ears to understand what He was really trying to tell them. It was simply beyond their limited human understand. Thank the Lord that our eyes have since been fully opened to these truths:

"I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever."

John 6:48-58, KJV

So you see, through the flesh and blood Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, in a symbolic sense, as the Bride of Christ, we have put on our Garment of Salvation, our Robe of Righteousness, and our Bridal Veil; for He does indeed represent all three of these. Having done this by faith, we have been properly prepared to meet our future Husband; and what a joyous day it will be when the Prince of Peace returns to rescue His Lady Fair from the Beast, from the servants of his Kingdom of Darkness, and from the jaws of the dragon which lurks in the sea! Our Valiant Prince will ride victoriously upon His white steed, as He brandishes His white-hot Sword of the

Spirit, and cuts His adversaries to pieces; and then they shall become food for the fowls of the air, and for the burning flames of the Lake of Fire!

Having now revealed to you the identity of the Lord's virgin Bride, His Elect Lady, and having explained to you the deep symbolism behind her wedding attire, it is important that I issue a warning to you; and that warning is this: Just like in some of the worldly fairy tales which are told to young children as bedtime stories, Jesus' Bride-To-Be has a very jealous sister. Before I tell you who she is, let me share a short story with you found in the Old Testament. This story involves King Saul's daughter, Michal, who became extremely jealous when her husband, King David, joyously danced before the Lord, and and before the maidens of Israel, with hardly a piece of clothing on:

"And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house. Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death."

2 Samuel 6:16-23, KJV

As you can see, because of her jealous attitude, Michal was struck barren by the Lord, and was never blessed with any children. This blessing was later given to Bathsheba, who became the mother of King Solomon, King David's heir to the throne. Just like Michal, this sister of the Lord's Bride is also extremely jealous. It isn't that she too wasn't chosen to be a part of the Prince's Bride, it is that she simply rejected His offer. Like Michal of old, this jealous sister was embarrassed when the Prince came to Earth almost two thousand years ago and associated Himself with the riffraff of society. In her pride, she thought that she was too good for Him, and even better than Him; therefore, she too has been cursed barren by the Lord; just like Michal.

While the jealous sister considers her pride and rebellion against the Prince of Peace to be a light thing, the kingly Father views her sins as being very serious. Consider the following verses from the first Book of Samuel:

"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king."

1 Samuel 15:22-23, KJV

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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ONCE UPON A TIME : A TRUE STORY : PART 3

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Keeping Our Garments, Parable Of The Ten Virgins, Marriage To The Wrong Prince, The False Prince's Deception, Jealous Sister Struck Barren, Symbolism Of The Fig Tree, Children Of Hell, Spiritually Naked, Temple Worship And False Messiah, Jews Sought To Kill Him, Righteousness Of Judaism, Kiss The Son, Wall Of Partition Removed, Salvation, Reading Resources

This sly sister is not only jealous, but she also has a very treacherous heart; so much so, that she has already tricked many people into believing that she is still the true Bride and the Chosen One, but this is the furthest thing from the truth. If it were possible, she would even try to steal her sister's Wedding Garment and Bridal Veil so that she can be given in marriage to her own prince; that is why the true Bride must be very careful. The Lord warned His true Bride of these very things when He said:

"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, KJV

Exactly what does the Lord mean by keeping our garments? In the Biblical context, the word "keep" has two meanings. In this New Testament verse, it is derived from the Greek word "tereo", pronounced tay-reh'-o, the primary meanings of which are to attend to carefully, to take care of, or to guard. As we can deduce from my earlier explanation of what this garment actually signifies, that is, that it is our Garment of Salvation, in one sense, keeping our garments means to lay hold upon Eternal Life, by remaining free from sin through our faith in Jesus Christ. Only in this way can we be found without spot or blemish in the Lord's Eyes. Consider the following verses:

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses . . . Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

1 Timothy 6:12, 19, KJV

"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:"
Hebrews 6:18, KJV

In a second sense, which is really an extension of the first, keeping our garments also means that we need to take care of our Wedding Garment; and the way we do this is by keeping ourselves clean and unspotted, or uncontaminated, from the things of the world. We keep our garment clean. I have spoken about this in quite a few other articles. Allow me to emphasize this point by sharing the following verses with you:

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

Matthew 6:24, KJV

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:19, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"

Philippians 2:15, KJV

"I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate

witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

1 Timothy 6:13-14, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

2 Peter 3:14, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

According to the second Biblical definition of the word "keep", keeping our garment also means that we need to guard it and keep it safe. As we saw in part two, this means that we need to keep it safe from our jealous sister who wishes to steal it from us in any way she can. Because of her own pride, and her stubborn, foolish heart, she has not been found worthy of the Wedding Feast, because her nakedness has been discovered; therefore, she is going to try to con us out of our garment. Jesus offered similar counsel when He shared the following Parable with His followers:

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took

no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept, And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

Matthew 25:1-13, KJV

Being as our jealous sister has thus far been unable to rob us of our Garment of Salvation, our Robe of Righteousness, and our Bridal Veil, just as the five foolish virgins were unable to refill their lamps with the oil of the Spirit from the five wise virgins, she has made some plans of her own, and they are not nice! As we saw in part two, part of our sly sister's plan has been to pretend that she has still found favor in the sight of the King, even though she has rejected the King's Son, the Prince of Peace, for the past two thousand years. In order to hide her rejection of the Son, she has even made the wild claim that the Prince of Peace who came so long ago was an impostor; and this is where the danger lies!

You see, because she lives in a total state of delusion, brought on by her own sins, our jealous sister still awaits the arrival of the Prince of Peace. She still expects to be given in marriage to him in the very near future. The only problem is, is that when her husband-to-be arrives, he won't be the true Prince of Peace whatsoever; he will be a wicked impostor; he will be the Prince of Darkness; who has been foretold to arrive before the real Prince of Peace a few short years later. With help from the evil Red Dragon who lurks in the sea, he is going to deceive the jealous sister, and many others in the world as well. His evil deception will be so powerful, that he will even be able to sit in the

Holy Place claiming that he is actually the kingly Father Himself. The Apostle Paul was fully aware of these things, and thus he wrote:

"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; 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."

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, KJV

While I have been speaking in allegories, I am sure that you understand the Biblical truths that I have been sharing with you. The King is none other than God the Father. The Prince of Peace is of course Jesus Christ His Son. The Prince of Darkness is the Antichrist; also known as the Jewish false messiah Moshiach ben David. The Red Dragon in the sea is of course Satan. But who is the jealous sister? This sly sister who would dare to steal our Wedding Garment and Bridal Veil, is none other than Babylon the Great Whore, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth! She is a false religion, and a false system!

In contrast to we, the obedient multiple Bride of Christ who delight in bearing spiritual children for our Husband, as I point out in such articles as "Revelation's Babylon the Great", I am currently of the belief that this wicked woman who has foolishly despised her true Husband, the Prince of Peace, and who has refused to bear Him spiritual children, is none other than Jerusalem herself, who is symbolic of the Jews. In part two of this series, I mentioned that just like Michal of old, this jealous sister has been struck barren by the Lord because of her refusal to submit herself to Him as she should. Please consider the following.

A careful study of the Word of God reveals that throughout the Bible, trees are sometimes used as symbols of people, worldly leaders and nations. It is commonly believed that the fig tree is symbolic of the nation of Israel. One clear Scriptural example in which we find Israel represented by a fig tree, is found in some of the Lord's Endtime sermons. For example, in prophesying how Israel would become a nation

in the Latter Days just prior to His Return, Jesus said the following:

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."

Matthew 24:32-34, KJV

However, in the Gospel of Mark, we find another example which demonstrates that, due to her unbelief and rejection of the one true Messiah, Israel has fallen under the Lord's disfavor, and is thus unable to bear children of Light:

"And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it . . . And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away."

Mark 11:20-21, KJV

So you see, in a spiritual sense, the Lord has indeed struck Israel barren; due to the fact that she has fully rejected her King, Savior and spiritual Husband. As Jesus said in the fifteen chapter of the Gospel of John:

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

John 15:4, KJV

Sadly, as we have already seen in our allegory, the story does not end there. When Israel chose to reject the Prince of Peace two thousand years ago, rather than be left alone, she gave herself to another prince; that is, to the Prince of Darkness. It was by the inspiration of this wicked demon,

who is also jealous of the King's Son, that she slew the true Prince of Peace. Not only that, but she has also been bearing children of hell by her false husband of darkness. While my words may appear strong to some of my readers, they are nevertheless the Scriptural Truth; for as Jesus Himself said to the rebellious Jewish rulers of His day:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:44, KJV

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

Matthew 23:15, KJV

Thus we see a picture of foolish Israel, who in her state of rebellion, has scorned her true Husband, and bred generation after generation of wicked children of darkness, by her evil lover the Prince of Darkness. As if that weren't enough, she has also mocked and despised her faithful sister, the Church who for years now has reached out to her in love. Because of her sins against the Lord, in Revelation chapters seventeen and eighteen, we are told that Israel, and Jerusalem in particular, will soon be chastised and burned with fire by the Beast and the Ten Kings who form an alliance with him:

"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her

fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Revelation 17:1-5, KJV

"And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled."

Revelation 17:16-17, KJV

Notice that in the second set of verses, John tells us that the Beast and the Ten Horns will make Babylon naked. This is a very interesting point, because as I mentioned earlier, in the Lord's eyes, Jerusalem, and thus the Jews, are already spiritually naked; because they have not put on the Garment of Salvation through their acceptance of Jesus Christ. The problem is, that because of the net of deception which the Jews have cast upon the world, many people do not know this yet. Because they do not read and understand the Scriptures, they still believe that the Jews are the Bride-Elect, and the Chosen People of God. However, the Lord knows the true score; and that is why Israel will not be allowed into the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, until she repents, and puts on the proper wedding attire. The Lord issued a similar warning to one of the seven churches in Asia, as can be seen by the following verse:

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

Revelation 3:17, KJV

Remember, in the verse I quoted earlier from the Book of Revelation, the Lord specifically warned us about walking naked. He said "lest he walk naked". While many Christians have already fallen for the evil lies of Babylon the Great Whore, as I point out in many other articles, the level of deception is going to grow much worse. The time is coming when the Jews will rebuild for the third and final time, their beloved Temple in East Jerusalem on the top of Mount

Moriah. Because they have despised and rejected the final Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, they will reinstitute the daily sacrifice; that is, the continual burnt offering. All of this will be in preparation for their false messiah; that is Moshiach ben David. The orthodox Jews are so deceived, that when this evil impostor arrives, they will honestly believe that he is God returned in the flesh for His Bride; but he will be a false messiah, just as they are the false Elect.

What is truly sad about these events, is that there has never really been any need for them to happen. They could have easily have been avoided if our sister Israel, had accepted her true Husband almost two thousand years ago. Instead of doing this, as they had done throughout the Old Testament time and time again, the vast majority of Jews rejected Christ when He revealed Himself to Israel. As we are told in the Gospels:

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not."
John 1:11, KJV

"And he taught daily in the temple. But the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people sought to destroy him,"
Luke 19:47, KJV

"Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me? The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?"
John 7:19-20, KJV

"I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you . . . But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham."
John 8:37, 40, KJV

The reason the Jewish leaders sought to kill Jesus, is because He exposed them for the false bride that they were, and are. Instead of accepting the Garment of Salvation, the Robe of Righteousness, and the Bridal Veil which He offers them through His own Blood shed on the Cross, they want to be cloaked in their own righteousness. Like the man who was

cast out of the Wedding Feast due to his lack of a garment, they too think that their own good works, their own religion of Judaism, and their observance of the Mosaic Law and the rabbinic writings of the Talmud will save them. This is the garment that they wish to wear; but Jesus utterly exposed their nakedness when He said:

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."

John 15:22, KJV

The same Veil which has given us Christians spiritual sight, liberty and Salvation, has left our sister blinded to the Truth of the Holy Scriptures. While our Bridal Veil has been lifted, and we will soon be kissed by the King's Son, our Prince of Peace, at the coming Marriage of the Lamb, our sad sister continues to walk in blindness, and spurns His love; and thus angers Him to such a degree, that she may soon perish, unless she repents of her unbelief. Consider the following very interesting verse found in the Book of Psalms:

"Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

Psalms 2:12, KJV

If only our sister would forsake her pride, and realize that through His Sacrifice two thousand years ago, the Prince of Peace has broken down the wall between us. Now, we both have access to the Father, as well as to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb; if we will only accept the Garment of Salvation, and the Robe of Righteousness that He offers us. If we, by faith, accept the Son's Act of Love, we can all be a part of His multiple virgin Bride without distinction. We can all be clothed in the righteousness which has already been paid for by the Veil of His flesh; for as the Apostle Paul wrote:

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in

ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."

Ephesians 2:13-18, KJV

And that brings us to the end of this tale of the kingly Father, the Prince of Peace, the Virgin Bride, the jealous sister, the Prince of Darkness, and the Red Dragon in the Sea; and every single word of it is true. I hope you have enjoyed it.

So tell me; are you one of the called, chosen, faithful and few? Are you part of the Bride of Christ? Have you prepared yourself for the wonderful Wedding Feast which will one day soon be held in the great Halls of Heaven? Have you put on your proper Wedding Garment and Bridal Veil? If not, it still isn't too late. Please accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour today! Even now He is lovingly knocking at the door of your heart, just waiting for you to invite Him into your life. Consider what He says to you in the Book of Revelation:

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Revelation 3:20, KJV

Please don't turn Him away; you may not get another chance; after all, your life is but as a flower that fades, or as a cloud which briefly appears in the sky, and then disappears in the distance:

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Isaiah 40:7-8, KJV

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a

little time, and then vanisheth away."

James 4:14, KJV

I pray that this very true tale has been a blessing and an inspiration in your life. Will it have a happy ending for you? I sure hope so! Will you be ready when the Prince comes for His Bride?

With these words, I am going to bring this series to its close. I pray that you have found it informative, and I hope that it has been a blessing in your life. If you have been inspired by it, I ask you to please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account on Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link which is found on this page. Thank you so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of resources below which were either mentioned in this series, or which contain topics which are related to this serie. All of these articles are likewise located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

As a Thief in the Night? Not for Me!

Biblical Cafeteria, Or the Whole Course?

Dracula: Fighting Fear With the Word, Faith and Love

From Armageddon to the New Earth

Is God a Racist?

Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?

So You Really Think You Are So Humble?

The Gospel of Thomas: Introspection or Heaven-spection?

The Great Tribulation and the Rapture

The Urantia Book: Attack on the Blood Atonement

The Woman in the Wilderness and the 144,000

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