

Honeymoon

Feast of Tabernacles

(Sermon notes)

By Warren Zehrung 10/2/2015

In today's sermon we are going to compare and contrast the model relationship of a newly married couple on their honeymoon with the perfect relationship of Christ and the resurrected saints during the Millennium. We can picture how a bride feels – the excitement, the anticipation, the joy, the fulfillment and enthusiasm, the thrill, security and love... and new name...

I have a second title for today's sermon: **RSVP**

In the context of social invitations, RSVP is a request for a response from the invited person. It is an abbreviation of the French phrase, '*Répondez s'il vous plaît*,' meaning "Please reply, or Please respond."

Brethren, the invitations have gone out to the intended guests of the Wedding Supper. We have received an invite to Christ's marriage supper.

Revelation 19:9 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.

The heavenly wedding supper table has been set with an exact number of place settings. There is a place card at your seat – with your name on it. Will you be there?

A honeymoon is the cherished time after the wedding filled with the realization and enjoyment of blissful harmony following the marriage of the Lamb's establishment of a new close intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

We always spend considerable time during the Feast of Tabernacles describing the conditions of the Earth: The animals will be tame, there will be productive farms, they will be watered with clear streams ...the blind will see, the lame will walk, the land will also be healed...

The night before Jesus died; He prayed to His Father that He restore Jesus to the Glory that He shared with the Father from all time:

John 17:1 These words spoke Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; **glorify** thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

Jesus Christ is now divine; He sits at the right hand of God the Father. He is of Royal blood – He reigns. But He is **not** seeking a queen of Royal birth. Actually, He is looking for someone like a maid – or a cleaning woman – a nurse or a servant. Please do not allow this concept to offend your sensibilities or emotional response – because it is an absolute truism.

Think about this – we, brethren, come from the wrong side of the tracks – Jesus cannot marry us. Not yet! We must make that enormous leap from **man-kind** to **God-kind!!!**

Jesus lives in the mansion and we come from the slums. There is a dichotomy here that must be rectified. He lives in the big house on the hill while we come from a shack. There is an impossible division between Him and us – beings that are entirely different. We find the principle and law of **kind after kind** in Genesis:

Genesis 1:24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after its **kind**, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

Genesis 1:25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

So we find the immutable and incontrovertible principle that everything must reproduce only within its own kind:

Cattle after the cattle-kind. Horses after the horse-kind. Chickens after the chicken-kind. Sheep after the sheep-kind. Ducks after the duck-kind, etc.,

There are no viable exceptions – no cross-over-breeding.

All the spiritual glory and spiritual beauty of Christ must first be bestowed on the Bride-to-be before she can marry.

And, so we find a dilemma. How can Jesus – who is God-kind, marry a bride of the human-kind species? The answer is that the bride must first be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, **we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.**

1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we **shall all be changed.**

The Bride will be changed - converted entirely to Spirit being – as Jesus is a spirit being.

The Bride will be spotless; **Divine-kind** – not man-kind or human-kind. We will be fully like Christ – a Bride meet and suitable for her husband. It will be a marriage **made in heaven** – in that God has completed His creative process in us - we will have come to the full. Jesus longs for the day of His marriage more than we do.

With Christ in the Kingdom – we will enjoy a perfect marriage. There will be no barriers to an ideal relationship. On earth, there are some pretty good marriages – but none of them are perfect. There are always some flaws, some hurts, some misunderstandings – but there will be no impediments to our eternal relationship with Christ.

There will be no walls of separation – no reservations – no doubts and no subjects that cannot be broached (or expressed in a heartfelt manner) – no scars from past hurts – only an ideal communication, unity and love. Jesus will make sure that our relationship is absolutely perfect in every way from its very inception.

Jesus knows who we are to the depth of our beings – and He loves us without reservation. His forgiveness is without measure.

If we want to be in on the “**Honeymoon**” that has been anticipated in the Plan of God since creation – we need to be taking full advantage of this “Engagement” period by being a faithful wife to be.

We will have all things in common – without reservations. And, you might say that we will be marrying into **wealth**. We find in Hebrews that Jesus has inherited ALL things.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.

Hebrews 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed **heir of all things**, by whom also he made the worlds.

Jesus – our husband **inherits** all things – the universe. And we, the wife are a part of that inheritance:

Do you see how we are marrying into **wealth**? Paul says that:

Romans 8:17 [We are] then **heirs**; heirs of God, and **joint-heirs with Christ**; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared **with the glory** which shall be revealed in us.

That **glory** is that of the **Divine-kind**. We will no longer be mankind human beings – but Divine beings – like Christ.

Notice in this next verse the work of God's Spirit in **converting** our **hearts** to be like His heart.

Let's take a look at our **marriage vow** and our marriage license.

Hebrews 8:10 This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put **my** laws into their **mind**, and write them **in their hearts**: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.

This is what the **New Covenant** is all about. We in God's Church have a head-start on the **New Covenant** that will come upon all the world.

We are blessed to live according to the rules and **guidance** of the New Covenant **even now** – with God's laws in our **minds**, and write **in our hearts**. This is the **honeymoon** that we will be on during the millennium – but not yet!

Jeremiah 2:2 ... Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou went after me in the wilderness.

From the days of Israel's engagement and marriage in the wilderness (Jeremiah 2:2) up until the marriage of the Lamb, Jesus Christ has loved His Bride-to-be with a perfect love that **surpasses** anything we can remotely imagine (Ephesians 3:19).

Ephesians 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

As the one thousand year long millennium is about to begin, our wedding will be the most superb ceremony the heavens and earth have ever witnessed. Though this may sound like a dream or a fable, it is, in fact, an exquisite reality.

When comparing the unity of mind and heart within the marriage relationship to the bond of unity that exists between Christ and the Church brethren, the apostle Paul called it a great mystery. But it is revealed to the Bride and only the Bride. We will be looking at what the Bride of Christ is like.

Christ's wife will be spiritually pure and faithful. The Bride will be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white – meaning that she will be an innocent, virgin Bride. We will see that Jesus has done His part in washing His Bride to make her righteous. She will be perfect and spotless – her attributes matching Christ's own perfection and glory – because He has made her spiritually pure.

Jesus will have only one Wife. The Bride of Christ will be spiritually mature.

We must understand what Christ is like, and then make every effort to bear as complete a resemblance to Him as is possible.

When I was courting my wife, I carried a photo of her in my wallet. Jesus carries a picture of His fiancée. Let's look at her features.

Colossians 3:12-13 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another.

That is a beautiful fiancée.

Colossians 3:14 And, more than all these things put on [Godly love – ‘*agape*’] which is the bond of perfectness.

And notice again in this next verse, the work of Christ in converting our hearts to be like His heart.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called **in one body**; and be ye thankful.

In one body – means much more than simply the congregation we find ourselves within.

Be His sweetheart – a peacemaker. Those are Godly attributes or characteristics that we must put on.

There is another picture of Christ’s ‘Bride to be’ in Galatians 5. We find here another set of Godly characteristics, that when we have made them a part of ourselves, we have begun to merge our heart with that of Christ.

You have heard these a thousand times – but as we go through them – think of them as attributes of Christ’s heart – which they are – and that we are to put on. You know how a bride-to-be puts on her best: Her hair is perfect; her face is radiant... Christ’s Bride will be dressed in:

Galatians 5:22-23 ... love, joy, ...[these are more of the characteristics of Christ’s heart], longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, Meekness, [and lowliness of heart] and temperance.

Those are wonderful attributes in a wife.

Jesus is King of kings, Lord of lords – He is rich – He is desired – He is the perfect eligible mate. So, why would Christ give us a second glance? What is it that makes us a ‘peach out of reach’?

Ask yourself, “What do I bring into the marriage relationship?” What do I add to Jesus Christ that would induce Him to be my marriage partner for all eternity?

In a good marriage, people find their identity and meaning for living in their partner. For a wife, her life revolves around her mate, her love, her husband. What will our direct involvement be with Christ as our husband?

Women probably have an easier time with this concept than men do – and yet God tells us the church – that is you and me – will be in a married state with Jesus.

Our honeymoon period is the millennium. “These are the true sayings of God” (Revelation 19:9).

From the very beginning, Jesus Christ has made known to us His intention to marry a most exquisite Bride. The marriage of the Lamb of God to His spouse will commence the eternal covenant longed for by Jesus Christ from time immemorial.

When Christ returns to this earth, the opportunity to be firstfruits will have elapsed. It will then be too late to prepare to meet the Bridegroom. Make no mistake about it, now is the only time to prepare.

When the end comes upon us, will we be firmly founded and rooted in Christ and able to withstand the final trials?

Let’s talk about the mystery revealed – let’s go back to the very beginning. It may seem like strange language today, but the very first description of a marriage found in the Bible is this:

Genesis 2:23 “This is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh...”

Eve did not have **her own body**! She did **not** have a mother! Everyone has a mother. Not Eve! She was **of** Adam’s body. Eve came **out** of Adam’s side – she was of his body. These words in Genesis 2:23, were the prophetic words, of course, of Adam as he took Eve to be his wife – pointing to the marriage of the Lamb.

Genesis 2:23 And Adam said, This is now **bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh**: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Significantly, those words mirror the perfect spiritual union of Christ and His Bride – the Church. I'll explain: Eve was not born, she was '**built**'.

Genesis 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made [*bânâh* – **built**, constructed] he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

Paul tells us of the love that Christ has for His Bride. Speaking of the church Paul says:

Ephesians 5:29-32 "No man ever yet hated his own flesh [his wife]; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord cherishes the Church: For we are members of His body, **of His flesh, and of His bones**. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a **great mystery**: but I speak concerning Christ and the Church."

Brethren, pick up on that concept. This shows clearly how we are 'members of His body'. Just as Eve was of Adam's body – we are of Christ's body. Whenever you encounter the term, "Body of Christ," think of the deeper spiritual implications of this concept – that we are the "Body of Christ." Picture the Church being taken out of the side of Christ. Brethren, we are the Church – we have been built out of the side of Christ. The Lord cherishes us, the Church, as His Bride-to-be. We are one flesh with Christ.

Let's decipher this **great mystery** as only **we** are able to do. The world is blinded to what is being said here.

Here is what we are to understand: In the exact same way that a husband and wife become one **flesh**, Christ and His Bride become **one Spirit**.

1 Corinthians 6:17 "He who is joined to the Lord is [not one flesh, but] **one Spirit** with Him."

Remember how Paul explained this: He called Adam, "The first man Adam?" And then he called Jesus Christ, the second man Adam. Paul said that so that we would be able to put it all together.

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The **first man Adam** was made a living soul; the **last Adam** [Jesus Christ] was made a quickening spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is **one spirit**.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have **of** God, and **ye are not your own**? [The wife belongs to her husband.]

Since the wife belongs to her husband, she must become perfect. Notice closely the language:

Ephesians 5:25-27 "Christ loves the [Bride], and gave Himself for her; that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of **water** by the word, that He might **present her to Himself** [matrimonial language] a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that she should be holy and without blemish."

Jesus "presents the Church to Himself at His wedding – just as He prophetically presented Eve to her husband Adam.

Genesis 2:22 ...The LORD God ...brought her unto the man.

We cannot imagine how the reality of God's promise will far exceed the most wonderful expectation of the Bride.

This is the explanation of the **great mystery**. Picture this:

When God created Eve from Adam's side, she was physically perfect in every way. [again, Eve was not born] Eve became Adam's wife. She was beautiful, smart, healthy, intelligent, and fertile – she was the mother of all living.

Genesis 3:20 And Adam called his wife's name **Eve**; because she was **the mother of all living**.

'The mother of all living,' it would seem that that would go without saying – but God tells us this because it is deeply prophetic. Eve is a prophetic type of the Church. This verse points to the purpose of the Church. It is why we exist! Eve is the mother of all living... What prophetically then is the Church?

God used Eve to make of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth (Acts 17:26). We know that "the life is in the blood."

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood.

These attributes of Eve are prefigures or types given to us so that we might comprehend the purpose and reason for the Bride of Christ.

The church brethren exist because of the **life** that poured forth from Jesus' **side** just as He died.

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his **side**, and forthwith came there out **blood** and **water**.

Jesus' **blood** renders His Bride-to-be both righteous and justified. The apostle John could easily have written, "there came out blood," but he did not. John wrote, "there came out **blood** and **water**." So the water is important as well in that it symbolizes God's Holy Spirit. Jesus has done His part in washing His Bride to make her righteous. "That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word."

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of **water** by the word.

Again, we are not our own (1 Corinthians 6:19).

In the exact same way that Eve came from Adam's side, we, the Bride-to-be came from Jesus' side.

Eve was not her own – she was **of** Adam's body.

We are not our own – we are **of** Christ's Body – we are the **Body of Christ**.

The Church brethren are the Body of Christ – We belong to Christ.

And as we saw in Acts 17:26 and Genesis 3:20, Eve is the mother of all physical men.

In the same way, the role of the Bride of Christ is to be the **mother** of all who will be made spiritual. It is only those of the Church who have been called, chosen and faithful that will obtain salvation. This clearly shows us the incredible objective Christ has in taking a wife.

Revelation 17:14 ...For he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

As Eve was created for the purpose of being the **mother** of all living souls, the purpose of the Church is nothing less than to ultimately bring all mankind to be **of one Spirit** – bringing the entire world to salvation as co-saviors with Christ - beginning in the millennium and on through the Last Great Day.

Prophetically, Eve is the **physical** type of the **spiritual** Church - the Bride of Christ.

It is a fact that Jesus Christ came to this earth as our Savior. But do we comprehend that we are to follow His example and also be **co-saviors** with Christ?

"The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. This is My rest forever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it." (Psalm 132:13-14)

Make the connection here that God dwells in both Zion and the saints – because **they are one and the same!**

The saints are, "...an habitation of God..." (Ephesians 2:22)

Isaiah equates **Zion with** the Holy City, **Jerusalem**. "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the Holy City." (Isaiah 52:1)

And, the **saints** have the name of the city of God, which is New Jerusalem – because they are also one and the same! "I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is **New Jerusalem**." (Revelation 3:12). When we put these few verses together, we see that **Zion is the Church**.

What we find shows that the Old and New Testament Scriptures are consistent in confirming that Jesus Christ will marry the **Bride** – the **Church** – Spiritual **Israel** – Mount **Zion** – The **Firstborn** – New **Jerusalem** – the City of the Lord.

Zion is the eternal city Abraham sought (Hebrews 11:10). Notice how Paul ties some of these descriptive terms together when speaking of the resurrected saints – the Bride of Christ. "You are come unto Mt. Zion, and unto the City of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the General Assembly, and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." (Hebrews 12:22-23) That includes the saints! "The spirits of righteous men made perfect," is an ideal picture of the prepared Bride of Christ.

This is how Isaiah describes the glory and riches of New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ: "The Redeemer shall come to Zion...My covenant [is] with them, says the Lord; My Spirit is upon you... and they shall call you, the City of the Lord, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 59:20- 21, 60:14)

New Jerusalem is called the Bride because it encompasses all who are the Bride. Jesus shares his intimate feelings for His Bride with us – because it is His intent that we be His Bride.

Let the Bible interpret the Bible. "Come hither, I will show you the **Bride**, the Lamb's Wife...and **he showed me** that great city, the Holy **Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from God." (Revelation 21:9-10)

The Bride of Christ and Holy Jerusalem are one and the same!

Galatians 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the **mother of us all**.

The Church – the saints – the Bride – the Body of Christ is called by God for the purpose of being the firstfruits of God's salvation in order to call the entire world to salvation – first in the millennium and then for all mankind as reigning and ruling as kings, priests, servants, teachers, and co-saviors with Christ.

Obadiah :21 And **saviors** shall come up on mount Zion [the Church] to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

Herbert Armstrong, in *Mystery of the Ages* (pages 227, 239-241), explains that the "saviors" are the glorified members of God's Church. He calls them "co-saviors with Christ." Beginning in the millennium, the Church – which will have become the Bride – will be God's instrumentality in aiding Jesus Christ to bring about salvation.

"He that is joined unto the Lord is **one Spirit** [with the Lord]." (1 Corinthians 6:17)

In the same way that a husband and wife become one flesh, Christ and His Bride will be **one Spirit**. Only the brethren who are led by God's Holy Spirit will be together in mind, attitude, and spiritual unity as the Bride of Christ.

Chart:

Comparison of Adam and Eve with Christ and the Church

Adam and Eve - * * * - Christ and the Church.

Adam * * * type of Christ

Eve * * * type of the Church.

Adam's deep sleep * * Jesus' death

Genesis 2:21 And the LORD God caused a **deep sleep** to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof.

Isaiah 53:12 ...He [Jesus Christ] hath poured out his soul unto **death**: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Adam was alone * * * Jesus was alone

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be **alone**; I will make him an help meet for him.

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou **forsaken me**?

God gave Eve to Adam * * * God gave the Church to Christ.

Gen 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou **gave** to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Joh 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast **given** me; for they are thine.

Adam's side * * * Christ's side

Eve taken out of Adam * * Church covered by blood/washed by water.

Genesis 2:21 The LORD God ... took one of **his ribs**, and closed up the flesh instead thereof.

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his **side**, and forthwith came there out **blood** and **water**.

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse [the Church] with the washing of **water** by the word.

Eve was bone of Adam's bone and flesh of his flesh * * the Church (the Body of Christ) is bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh (Ephesians 5:30).

Eve presented to Adam * * Church presented to Christ.

Genesis 2:22 ...The LORD God ...brought her unto the man.

Ephesians 5:27 Jesus "presents [the Church] to Himself at His wedding – just as He prophetically presented Eve to her husband Adam.

Eve came from Adam * * the Church partakes of divine nature.

Eve **mother of all** living * * Church **mother of all spiritual**.

Galatians 4:26 Jerusalem [Zion] ...is the **mother of us all**.

From Genesis to Revelation, God uses the intimacy and love between a man and his wife to reflect the deeply **spiritual** relationship between Jesus Christ and His Bride.

End Chart:

Ephesians 1:22-23 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the **Church, Which is His Body**, the fullness of Him that fills all in all.

Ephesians 4:4 There is **one body**, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the **Body of Christ**:

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

'The measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,' that is all the attributes and characteristics that we spoke of.

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole Body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the **Body [of Christ]** unto the edifying of itself in love.

Paul addressed the Body of Christ Corinthian congregation when there was widespread division among the brethren because the Body of Christ was not discerning who the rest of the Body of Christ was.

1 Corinthians 11:29 For he that eats and drinks [The Passover symbols] unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the **Lord's Body**.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the **Body, the Church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Colossians 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his **Body's sake, which is the Church**.

What a unique privilege it is to be a part of the Bride of Christ – and his very Body!

It was God who instituted the marriage covenant between a man and a woman. God brought about the marriage covenant for a vitally important reason.

The husband is the head of the wife – who is the weaker vessel. That is an exact picture of Jesus Christ and His Bride – the Church of God.

Jesus is the head of the Church – we know that. But do we realize that we – the Church brethren – are the **weaker vessel** when compared to Jesus Christ?

And yet, Jesus made it possible for us to be **joint-heirs** with Him in the Kingdom of God when He laid down His life for us.

Jesus will be the **perfect** husband to His Bride - beginning in the Millennium. He will make sure that we are successful. He is working to make sure that we will be the perfect Bride.

God intends that a married couple enter into the Kingdom of God together. That is what Peter means by, "being heirs together of the grace of life."

Discord or conflict within a marriage impairs, not only the relationship between husband and wife, but also obstructs and frustrates a right spiritual relationship with God.

Peter expounds on this concept: "Likewise, you husbands, dwell with [your wife] according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the **weaker vessel**, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." (1 Peter 3:7)

When we read that we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones, let us understand the obvious reference to the new covenant marriage of Christ and the Church – His Bride.

Prophetic Scriptures bring to light the splendor of the ultimate nuptial ceremony.

We do not wish to miss out on the most splendid wedding of all time – the “Better Resurrection” and the **honeymoon** with Christ in the millennium. What an incredible truth that our Lord and Master has chosen to make us His Wife by entering into an eternal pledge and covenant with us.

Mere words fail to portray the most glorious ceremony ever, which Christ has reserved for His Bride alone.

Divine music will reverberate across the heavens, and gleaming, brilliance will illuminate the throne room, as the Bride is presented to her Lord.

She will be accepted by Him, adorned in her radiant white silk wedding gown – and upon her head she will wear a beautiful sparkling crown (Ezekiel 16:12). Then, she will be a Queen with her King.

The Bride of Christ will be adorned, not so much in the elegant physical garments of a dazzling wedding gown, but in the brilliant spiritual attributes of Godly love, obedience, holiness, perfection, righteousness, and brotherly love.

Notice what Jesus has to say concerning His Bride: “It shall be in that day, says the Lord, that you shalt call Me **Ishi** [my husband]...“I will betroth you unto Me forever. Yes, I will betroth you unto Me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto Me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord.” (Hosea 2:16, 19-20)

Godly character is the most beautiful of the Bride’s virtues.

This most exquisite feature of Godly character is described as pure gold tried in the fire (Revelation 3:18).

The love that Christ will have for His Bride and the wholehearted love that the Bride will have for Christ will be a perfect spiritual love.

As surely as God created a wife for Adam, He is **fashioning** His own Bride-to-be. Even now Jesus is building His wife-to-be.

“The Lord said, Yes, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee. Again I will **build thee**, and thou shalt be **fashioned**, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets...” (Jeremiah 31:3-4)

In all of his wisdom, there were some things too amazing for Solomon to figure out.

Proverbs 30:18 There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not:

Proverbs 30:19 The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.

Solomon noted that when love arose between a young man and a young woman, it was almost inexplicable – the young couple did not train for it; they did not study for it; they did not plan for it; they did not even know affection was coming.

Seemingly, their love just materialized out of thin air.

Solomon mused that some things were just too marvelous to comprehend – and one of them is the beautiful romantic love that forms between a young man and a young woman.

However, it is different with the love that the Bride will have for Christ. Godly love does not just come to pass out of the blue! Godly love is spiritual and eternal – it originates with God.

It is God who first makes it possible for us to love Him. John points this out for the Church, and he is quick to add that in the process of coming to love God – brotherly love cannot be omitted.

That is why we are meeting now – and getting to know one another.

“We love [God], because He first loved us. If a man says, I love God, and loves less his brother, he is a liar: for he that loves not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” (1 John 4:19-20)

The language is decidedly **matrimonial** in comparing a husband’s love for his wife – to the love of Christ for His Wife, “He nourishes and cherishes her, even as the Lord [loves] the Church [that’s us – His Bride].” (Ephesians 5:29)

God established the intimacy attainable within a blessed marriage as a mere indication of the transcendent unity and oneness achievable only in the spiritual realm of the God-plane marriage.

God is giving us the heads-up. When we read of the future fulfillment of God’s Plan – never assume that it is possible to grasp it with our **carnal** minds.

As spiritual reality always far surpasses the mundane physical occurrences, the most perfect love that has ever existed between any man and woman on earth comes far short of the perfect spiritual union that will exist with Jesus Christ. That is the beauty of the wedding supper.

An awe-inspiring destiny awaits us – eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9).

End: Honeymoon