

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Six : The Preparation of the Bride

I. Overview:

The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy; the Lord's recovery is for the preparation of the bride. The readiness of the bride depends on the maturity in life, and the faith and love need to be fully developed. In addition to being mature in life, the bride must be built up as a corporate person. The fine linen with which the bride is clothed is the righteousnesses of the saints. For the presentation of the bride to the Bridegroom, the bride needs beauty. Our only beauty is the shining out of Christ from within us. The bride must also be a warrior for the defeating of God's enemy; His fighting will be the speaking of the word of God. The corporate Christ, Christ with His overcoming bride, will come as a stone. First, He will have a wedding, then the Lord will come with His newly married bride to destroy Antichrist. The Lord Jesus will slay Antichrist by the breath of His mouth, to smite the nations by a sharp sword; then the corporate Christ will become a great mountain, God's kingdom.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain that the marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy.

The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy. God's economy in the New Testament is to obtain for Christ the bride, through His redemption and divine life. By the continual working of the Holy Spirit through all the centuries until the end of this age, the bride as the overcoming believers will be ready; the kingdom of God will come. The wedding will bring in the reign of the Lord, the kingdom.

B. Expound regarding the preparation of the bride.

The preparation is a gradual work that takes place over a period of time. Certainly the Lord must be doing a work on earth to prepare His bride. Those who make up the bride must not only be mature in life; they must also be built together as the one bride. Therefore, I firmly believe that the Lord is preparing His bride among those in His recovery.

Day 2 —

A. What is the difference of the bride between the two verses of Revelation 19:7 & 21:2?

Revelation 19:8-9, the wife, the bride of Christ, consists only of the overcoming believers during the millennium, whereas the bride in 21:2 is composed of all the saved saints after the millennium for eternity. The wife of the Lamb in Revelation 19 is the aggregate of all the overcoming saints from Abel until the Lord's return.

B. Fellowship if you would be qualified to be the Lord's bride, you must grow.

If we would be qualified to be the Lord's bride, we must grow and pass through many things. For example, a little girl is not qualified to be a bride. Before she can be a bride, she must grow to maturity. She must also attend school and learn many things. Then a man will choose her for his bride. In order to be His bride, we need further growth and reach maturity.

Day 3 —

A. How do we experience and apply the word in Revelation 19:8?

In Revelation 19:8 the word clean refers to the expression. The righteousnesses do not refer to the righteousness we receive for our salvation. The righteousness we receive for our salvation is objective; whereas the righteousnesses of the overcoming saints here are subjective, that they may meet the requirement of the overcoming Christ. Hence, the fine linen indicates our overcoming living. It is the very Christ whom we live out of our being.

B. Explain the saved ones needing two garments.

We, the saved ones, need two garments; one for our salvation and one for our reward. For our salvation we need a robe to cover us. This robe is the robe put on the prodigal son in Luke 15. The second garment, which is the wedding garment in Matthew 22:11, qualifies us to meet Christ for our reward, also qualifying us to attend the wedding feast of the Son of God.

Day 4 —

A. Explain how to become a beautiful bride.

Any bride would want to have a healthy, radiant complexion on her wedding day. If she is concerned about blemishes, she should begin long beforehand to prepare herself for her wedding by eating nutritious foods that will give her a healthy complexion. In the same principle, today we must prepare ourselves to be the bride by taking in the element of Christ's riches as our nourishment. By eating Him we become a beautiful and even glorious bride.

B. Expound that the beauty of the bride comes from Christ.

The beauty of the bride comes from the very Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church. Our beauty is not our behavior. Our only beauty is the reflection of Christ, the shining out of Christ from within us. What Christ appreciates in us is the expression of Himself in us.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the significance of the fine linen in Revelation 19:14.

The fine linen here is the clothing of the bride. The wedding garment will be the armor for fighting. The overcomers who are the heavenly armies are those who constitute the bride of Christ. In other words, it will be the bride of Christ who will follow Him as His army to fight and destroy Antichrist and his army. Those who have overcome every obstacle will be Christ's co-fighters in the final battle against Antichrist. These are His bridal armies.

B. Expound the overcoming saints having two garments.

The one for salvation and the other for reward. The fine linen here is the second garment. This second garment of the overcomers qualifies them both to attend the marriage dinner of the Lamb and to fight with the Lord against His enemy. Thus, the wedding garment becomes the fighting garment. The second garment qualifies us not only to attend the wedding but also to join the army.

Day 6 —

A. What is the effective in Revelation 19:13, "Christ is called the Word of God."?

In Revelation 19, as the Word of God, Christ speaks for God by executing God's judgment upon the rebellious people. Hence, the Warrior is the Word. His fighting is the speaking of God's Word. The Lord's fighting in the war at Armageddon will be a powerful speaking. It will tell Satan, Antichrist, the false prophet, and the entire universe that God is sovereign and that no one can rebel against Him.

B. Describe "the great human image" and "the smiting stone" in Daniel 2:34.

In Daniel 2:35, the great human image signifies the aggregate of human government, and the smiting stone signifies not merely the individual Christ but also the corporate Christ. But with the ten toes there is a great problem, for when human government reaches the stage of the ten toes, the stage of Antichrist and his ten kings, it will fight against God directly.

III. Conclusion:

The term for "the end of this age" has been used many times in the New Testament to indicate that the Lord will do a special thing in these last times, which is to prepare the bride in the church. Because there is no bride, there is no marriage, there is no army, and there is no war against Antichrist with the ten kings. Therefore, the Lord's recovery is for preparing the bride of Christ. The preparation of the bride takes time; it requires growth and maturity in life, to be built up in the coordination of services, to live a transcendent subjective righteousness in daily living, wearing bright and clean fine linen, being pretty in her beautification, being a warrior in the battle. In this way, the bride can be prepared to coordinate with Christ for the fulfillment of God's eternal economy.