

Word of the Kingdom
Kenya 2007
The Picture of Marriage
Part One – The Bride Taken From the Body

1). In the very first chapter of all of scripture we find God restoring a previously ruined creation over a period of six days followed by a seventh day of rest.

a). The very first verse of scripture shows us that very same creation, originally created in a perfect condition, in complete harmony –
Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

b). Isa 45:18 *For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.*

c). And God had appointed a specifically created angelic being Lucifer, the one we know as Satan, as ruler over this original, perfect creation, this one province in His universe - Eze 28:13 *You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.*

d). However, iniquity was found in Satan and he sinned –
Isa 14:13 *For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;*

e). As a result of his sin the heavens and the earth, the perfect creation, became ruined, which is exactly what we see in –

i/ Eze 28:18 *"You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities,*

ii/ Ge 1:2 *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.*

f). Which brings us back to the restoration of that ruined creation over six days followed by a seventh day of rest that we spoke of to begin.

2). Now it is important for us to establish this context because of the specifically stated purpose God has for creating Man.

a). Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

b). Man is created to have dominion, to rule over the newly restored creation – including both the heavens and the earth.

c). God's declaration of intent is clearly not for His sake, but is rather for the ears of the one who is still the incumbent ruler even though a rejected ruler, Satan.

d). Although created to rule Man was not automatically placed in the position of rulership as, according to - Heb 2:7 *You have made him a little lower than the angels.*

e). Before Satan would be replaced Man had to be proven worthy to rule in his place – not only would he have to prove himself worthy, but according to God's perfect plan this was a task that he could not accomplish on his own.

f). After all the things that God said were good as He restored the ruined creation, there was one thing that He said was not good – Ge 2:18 ¶ *And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*

g). It was not good for the Man to be alone. Now this is not just thinking about him being lonely and needing a companion – rather it was not good for him to be alone to accomplish the task he was given – 'have dominion', and he therefore needed a helper, someone comparable to him, to come alongside him, to participate with him in the fulfillment of his task.

h). And as we know the helper that God makes for the Man is a Woman and the relationship they are to have with one another in respect of ruling is to be a marriage relationship - Ge 2:24 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

i). The Hebrew word used for naked here is the word – *arowm* = having a partial covering such as an inner garment and is totally different from the word used for naked after the fall.

j). At this point the Man and the Woman made in the image and likeness of God are three part beings – spirit, soul and body – and would have had a covering of glory. Having a covering of glory they were not ashamed.

k). Please note that their not being ashamed had nothing to do with a consciousness or lack of consciousness of their bodies – after all God knew exactly what they looked like – rather their lack of shame comes from being present before the Lord in a condition whereby His purpose for them could be fulfilled.

l). The same is not true after the fall – after the fall they are totally naked having lost the covering of glory. Without the covering of glory they are ashamed as without it they are no longer in a condition where God's purpose for them could be fulfilled – hence their shame.

3). And so in the very second chapter of God's revelation to man, which is itself providing commentary on an event that takes place in the first chapter, on the sixth day of God's work, we have the introduction of a marriage relationship in respect of rulership over the earth in order to bring about the perfect fulfillment of God's plans and purposes, leading into the 7th day – the day of rest. This of itself should cause us to take note of the significance that God attaches to this relationship.

4). The Woman of course, who is to be the wife of the Man and his helper in rulership is not an arbitrary creation. In fact as we look at the process by which the Lord brings her into being we will see that she is not created in the same way that Adam is.

a). *Ge 2:21 ¶ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 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."*

b). Notice the process – the Man is put into a deep sleep

c). His side is opened and one of his ribs is removed

d). God takes the rib and literally builds the Woman from the rib

e). God then presents her to the Man.

5). Let's note some things of significance here – the Woman was already created in the Man at the time of Man's creation and was then at a later point removed from his body and fashioned into a Woman.

a). She was taken from the Man's body therefore she was entirely made up of his body.

b). But she was made from only a part of Adam's body, not all of Adam's body.

c). It was God who took the part of Adam's body and Himself built Adam's wife for him. And all of this is happening in anticipation of the 7th day.

d). Ge 2:1 ¶ *Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.*

6). The Man and the Woman are then placed in the Garden of Eden and within the garden God draws attention to two specific trees - Ge 2:9 *And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

a). Now we know the prohibition that was given in respect of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and we know the consequences for the Man and the Woman for eating from the tree.

b). But consider the tree of life for a moment – this tree was clearly not placed in the Garden for the purpose of providing eternal life as is often thought.

c). Death did not enter into the Man's and Woman's experience until after they had sinned. Apart from sin they were already created as eternal beings.

d). It would seem more likely then that the tree of life is also connected to the process of ruling. After the fall the way to the tree of life is barred to Adam and Eve. And no doubt the tree and the Garden disappeared in the flood of Noah.

e). However, the tree of life reappears in the Book of Revelation, again in connection with rulership - Re 2:7 *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."*

f). Being one of the overcomers' promises it must of necessity have to do with ruling in the Millennial Kingdom of Christ – which is what

overcomers will do. Eating from this tree is given to those who have overcome and those who have overcome will have already have received incorruptible bodies at the time of the rapture/resurrection – so we are clearly not dealing with the provision of eternal life.

g). Eternal life is already ours as a free gift through the sacrifice of Christ - Joh 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

7). Well as we know, the Woman was deceived and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and her husband became a part of her sin by eating the fruit of the tree also.

- a). This action disqualified the Man and the Woman from rulership.
- b). It separated them from the purpose for their creation
- c). And adversely effected all three parts of their being – their spirits died, their souls became corrupted and their bodies started to decay.

8). If Man was ever to regain the position for which he had been created and was ever to prove himself worthy to rule, there would have to be redemption for all three parts of his being.

a). This is exactly what God had determined and He made it abundantly clear in the promise of a Redeemer in - Ge 3:15 *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

b). Not only this, but redemption for Man through a Redeemer was God's planned purpose from eternity past - Re 13:8.....*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

c). 2Ti 1:8 *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*

9). Then we read in - Ro 5:14 *Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is **a type of Him who was to come.***

a). Adam then, according to scripture is a type, a picture, an example of Him who was to come – the last Adam – the Lord Jesus Christ.

b). We will realize that there is much we can learn from Adam and the Woman that will teach us about Christ and His bride – the type, the picture

always provides truth in relation to the anti-type, the fulfillment of the picture and vice-versa.

c). Just as Adam entered into the Woman's sin so Christ became sin for us - 2Co 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

10). And so let's review some things –

a). As we have seen the Woman was created in the Man and was only at a later point removed.

b). Is this also true for the Bride of Christ? – look at what scripture says about the timing of when we were chosen in Christ - Eph 1:4 *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

c). And through eternal salvation, made possible by the death and shed blood of Christ; this is the free gift of eternal life, by grace through faith, and is the salvation of our spirit - those who are eternally saved become part of His body - Eph 1:22 *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

d). Let's also remember that God has stated that it is not good for the Man to be alone – in God's perfect plan there needs to be a helper comparable to Him to help Him in His task of rulership.

e). In the picture given to us through Adam there is a specific process that takes place in respect of the Woman who will be Adam's wife – God caused Adam to go into a deep sleep – God removed a part of Adam's body from his side – God literally built the Woman from this part of Adam's body – God then presented the Woman back to Adam so that the two could become one and rule over the restored earth.

f). Once God had taken a part of Adam's body from him he was incomplete. But once God built the Woman and presented her to him he became complete again and the two became one – this is enormously significant to our understanding of Christ and His Bride.

g). Now the question is, since Christ is the fulfillment of the picture, the type, given to us in Adam, can we see a parallel in the formation of Christ's Bride.

11). Let's look at the process -

A). God caused Adam to be put in a deep sleep. What about Christ?

a). Christ died on the cross and in scripture death is often referred to as sleep - 1Th 4:13 ¶ *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep,*

b). Note these scriptures in relation to Christ's death
1Co 15:3 *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*

i/ Col 1:21 *And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—*

ii/ Joh 19:30 *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

B). God then removed a rib from Adam's side to make the Woman. What about the Bride of Christ?

Joh 19:32 *Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. 33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*

a). We will note that Christ's side was opened after His death and blood and water came out. Christ's death made possible the formation of the church that is His body through the free gift of eternal life.

b). This event then, in John 19, has to do with the building of Christ's Bride from His body, not with salvation by grace.

c). The blood has to do with Christ's present High Priestly ministry, after the order of Aaron, bringing cleansing for the sins of the saved –
1Jo 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

d). This is clearly a ministry and a process that those comprising the body of Christ must avail themselves of if they are to be part of the Bride.

e). This is precisely what Jesus referred to on the night of the Last Supper - Joh 13:5 *After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" 7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." 8 Peter said to*

Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

C). The water from Christ's side has to do with the word of God that is to bring about an inward transformation in the eternally saved - Eph 5:23 *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

f). Our scripture here from Ephesians clearly presents to us the marriage relationship and v31 takes us right back to Genesis 2. One is a picture of the other – according to God's perfect plan Christ is not complete apart from His bride and only together can rulership within the Millennial Kingdom, the 7th day take place.

g). The purpose of the water, which is the word of God, is to cleanse us so that those having been cleansed – again this is a process for the saved alone – may be presented back to Christ not having spot or wrinkle, as His Bride.

h). Only those Christians who avail themselves of Christ's present High Priestly ministry and allow the word of God to transform them will constitute the Bride of Christ - Php 1:6 *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

i). In the same way as the Woman, the Bride of Christ will only be from His body, the church – and again, just as the Woman the Bride will be made from only part of Christ's body. Those who realize the salvation of their souls.

j). Mt 22:14 *"For many are called, but few are chosen."*

k). Literally – 'For many are called, but few are called out [of the called]

l). Witness the parable of the 10 virgins, the wedding guest, the faithful / unfaithful servant etc. As well as the events of the Judgment Seat recorded in Revelation.

m). And we may also begin to see the importance of the marriage relationship between believers here and now. Because our marriages represent the coming marriage of Christ and His Bride. If our marriages are not in accord with the commands of scripture, not only will we have failed to allow the word of God to transform us, but we will also have distorted and corrupted the picture of marriage that God wants us to see. If Christ treated us in the same way that many Christian husbands treat their wives then we would be the sorriest of all people.

D). God presented the Woman to Adam for the purpose of them ruling over the restored earth. What about Christ and His Bride?

a). *Re 19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."*

b). And here we have it – rulership v6, the marriage and presentation of the Bride v7 – Christ and His Bride will bring to fulfillment and completion that which was pictured for us in Adam and the Woman. God's plans and purposes from eternity past being brought to their goal.

c). The Bride has made herself ready to rule having availed herself of the blood and the water – and please note that it is the Bride who made herself ready – she had to choose to do what is necessary.

d). And that which she had to do is referred to as 'the righteous acts of the saints' – acts of faithful obedience in respect of the blood and the water.

e). Those who will make up the Bride will have a redeemed spirit, a redeemed soul and a redeemed body with the covering of glory that was lost in the Garden restored.

12). So then we have seen in our study that a marriage is at the very heart of God's revelation to us. That it is the marriage of a Man and a Woman who God will build from part of the Man's body. We see that this relationship

exists in order to perfectly fulfill God's plans and purposes for the rulership of this earth.

a) We have seen that which is given to us in Genesis concerning Adam and his wife is a picture of Christ and His future Bride and that this picture shows us the process by which the Bride of Christ will be formed and that she will be a part of Christ's Body, the church, but not all of His body.

b) And so our picture of marriage begins.

13). As we close this first session let's spend a moment reflecting on what the word of God has taught us – let's search our hearts as to where we are in the process of the formation of the Bride – and let's consider if our own marriage is honoring to the picture of Christ and His relationship to those who will be His Bride. And if it's not then let's determine to change it.