

KABWE, ZAMBIA

10th - 31st October 2020

Message : “and His wife hath made herself ready”

Revelation 19:7

Seeing the Lord confirming His Word

among the saints

with signs following

Mark 16:20

SCHEDULE FOR KABWE, ZAMBIA
10th - 31st OCTOBER 2020

Message: “and His wife hath made herself ready”
Revelation 19:7

SUNDAY 1 (11th October)

Introducing the Main Theme “and His wife hath made herself ready” *Revelation 19:7*

- am: The Importance of the WORD of God for the Bride to Prepare herself
- pm: The Obligations of the Bride to her Bridegroom

SUNDAY 2 (18th October)

Revelations of/from the Cross

- am: Revelations from the Old Testament (Luke 24:27)
- pm: Revelations from the Calvary Readings in the Gospels

SUNDAY 3 (25th October)

Revelations of/from the Cross

- am: Revelations from the Calvary Readings in the Gospels
- pm: Revelations from the Psalms (Luke 24:44)

SESSION 1 (Tuesday 13th - Friday 16th October)

Four Days Meditations on “and His wife hath made herself ready”

DAY 1 (Tuesday)

Expanding on the Importance of the Word of God for Her Preparation (Psalm 138:2)

DAY 2 (Wednesday)

The Overall Plan and Purpose of God to Prepare a Bride for the Lord Jesus Christ

DAY 3 (Thursday)

How does the Bride Make Herself Ready?

DAY 4 (Friday)

The Position in Time of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

SESSION 2 (Tuesday 20th - Friday 23rd October)

Four Days Meditations on Who is The Bridegroom?

DAY 1 (Tuesday) The Lamb

DAY 2 (Wednesday) The Son of Man

DAY 3 (Thursday) The Son of God

DAY 4 (Friday)

Summary of the Revelations / Questions / Testimonies from Understanding the Revelations / Praise & Prayer / Commitments

SESSION 3 (Tuesday 27th - Thursday 29th October)

Three Days Meditations on The Bride, the Lamb’s wife

DAY 1 (Tuesday)

What is the Destination of the Bride?

DAY 2 (Wednesday)

Who is the Bride?

DAY 3 (Thursday)

Summary of the Revelations / Questions / Testimonies / Praise & Prayer / Commitments

"and His wife hath made herself ready"

Revelation 19:7

Sunday am 11th October 2020

The Importance of The Word of God

Revelation 1:2 "(John:) Who bare record of the word of God"

In writing the Revelation of Jesus Christ, God's Final Book of Scripture to mankind, John states clearly that what he wrote by the Holy Spirit is the Word of God.

John 3:5 "I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

The same John records the words of the Lord Jesus Christ speaking to Nicodemus. The Lord refers to the Word of God as "water", because He Himself is the Fountain of living waters, which is the Word of God.

Ephesians 5:26 "... with the washing of water by the word"

Paul refers to the same: the water is the Word of God.

Ephesians 5:25 - 32 – this passage is in relation to human marriage and love between a man and a woman, and the Joining of Christ and His Church - His Bride! which we are specially considering these three weeks!

John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.

The Bible is a continuous revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was speaking to the Jews of His day who trusted in Moses. Some believed He was the One of whom Moses spoke, and some didn't. [vs. 46 – 47; Deuteronomy 18:18]

How the Word of God is Described Throughout the Scriptures:

OIL Matthew 25:1 - 13 The oil for their lamps to give them light as they waited for the Bridegroom. The oil for the light in the (pitch darkness of the) tabernacle

Exodus 27:20 - 21 was for the candlestick

Exodus 25:31, 37 now revealed to represent the Church! (Revelation 1:20)

A LAMP
A LIGHT

Psalm 119:105 Both the vessel (for the oil) and the illumination, used by the Holy Spirit. It shows us His Way - the Crucified Way, following the Lord Jesus Christ.

HONEY	Ezekiel 3:3; Revelation 10:9,10; Psalm 19:10, 119:103 True Sweetness, not as in 2 Kings 18:32 False Promises in serving false gods
WATER	(Ephesians 5:26) Jeremiah 2:13 The Crucified Christ is the Living Source of the Word of God for cleansing, refreshing and (Eternal) Life-giving
FIRE	Jeremiah 23:29a; Luke 24:32 The Written Word of God burning with Holy Living Energy to impress the Reality of His Holiness and Power. It burns up the dross, doubts, fears, foolishness, carnality.
A HAMMER	Jeremiah 23:29b; Mark 16:14 All unbelief must go from the heart - or the unbeliever will be crushed!
THE BURDEN	Zechariah 9:1 The Burden of the LORD, not man's! Often given in song, even though a prophecy of Doom!
THE SEED	Mark 4:14, 20 The Word of God in a human heart is meant to grow and flourish and produce much abundant fruit!
MILK	1 Peter 2:2 Sincere = unmixed, pure; easily digested. Only the Written Word can transform hearts into spiritually healthy, strong, discerning saints of God! The Bride Prepared!
MEAT STRONG MEAT	1 Corinthians 3:2 Deeper revelations for the spiritually-minded, not carnal Hebrews 5:12 - 14 Revelations to meditate deeply upon; as chewed upon
THE SWORD A TWO-EDGED SWORD	Ephesians 6:17 The Weapon which God has given as part of the Armour of God Hebrews 4:12 The Weapon which Christ Himself uses to judge all unrighteousness
Matthew 4:1 - 11	Our Heavenly Bridegroom used only the Written Word of God to put Satan in his place! Christ defeated our greatest enemy (and His) by pulling out of the whole weight of Scripture those specific words which Satan could not withstand or dispute!

This is the Word which He has given us, tried and tested! We will look more deeply
into this in our first session starting on Tuesday.

"and His wife hath made herself ready"

Revelation 19:7

Sunday 11th October pm

The Obligations of the Bride to the Bridegroom

As with every 'proper' marriage, vows are made between the two parties - the man and the woman. Usually, rightly, they are made public, before witnesses

And so with God's Plan for His Son to have a Bride, as a Reward for His terrible sufferings. From Eternity, before Creation, before the man and woman were made, God intended that His Beloved One should be the Prime Example - the Pattern - for every human being. His Life, His Way of doing things, was to be the true Guidance for all human life on earth. Those believing and following this Wonderful Example of Purity and Goodness and Fairness, would eventually live in God's Eternity, His Home.

(Proverbs 8:22 - 30; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:4)

At the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, there will be a multitude of witnesses! Revelation shows us all the resurrected souls in Eternity - all those who died in Faith, not receiving the Promise. Then there are the multitude of angels - millions of them! Then there are the amazing, extraordinary living creatures, who are around the Throne of God. All these will witness this Wonderful Event when the faithful in Christ, members of His Body on earth, will be joined to their Head.

It will be a Great Celebration! And the Lord Jesus is still fasting and waiting for That Day of Rejoicing! Fasting from the fruit of the vine, that is. He broke bread (not as a Passover meal) and ate broiled fish and honeycomb with His disciples! (Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:16 - 18. Luke 24:30, 42)

It is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!! The Celebration is because Jesus Christ shed His sinless Blood to pay the Price God demanded to make atonement for the sins of the whole world. It is a Marriage Supper because many thousands believed The Gospel, that their sins were gone, turned from their ignorant living without Him and lived a watchful waiting life until He came for them! That's why they are there! They have been taken away from the world and given new bodies of sinless flesh!

So here comes the sense of OBLIGATIONS.

If someone gives their life for you, you are indebted to them forever!

You cannot escape it! Every breath you breathe after your rescue is thanks to the one who rescued you!

And the Lord Jesus Christ laid down His Life willingly for you. So what is your response?

2 Corinthians 5:15 “And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but UNTO HIM which died for them, and rose again.”

This is the MORAL Obligation that every human being born into this world has!

1 Corinthians 6:14 - 17 “And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by His own power. 15. Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith He, shall be one flesh. 17. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”

This is the CONTRACTURAL Obligation that every believer is under - Marriage is a Contract.

Romans 7:1 - 4 “Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? 2. For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. 4. 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”

This is the LAWFUL Obligation that every believer must keep in faithfulness. The Marriage bond is Lawful.

Ephesians 5:30 “For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.”

“and His wife hath made herself ready”

Revelation 19:7

SESSION 1 DAY 1 Tuesday 13th October

**More Revelation on the Importance of The Written Word
of God in the Preparation of the Bride**

Psalm 138:2

“Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy Name”

Why should the Almighty Everlasting God, the Highest Authority over all Creation, elevate His Written Word above His Own Name?

The Names of God explain exactly Who He is.

They show what He is like, what kind of a Person He is - His Nature.

They show how different He is from every other being - His Character

The Hebrews knew all the Names of GOD and the depth of their meaning. Our Bibles give us the basic names - LORD and LORD God, with other descriptions, as “the Mighty One of Jacob”, Psalm 132:2 & 5, which is El Shaddai, nourishing, sustaining.

These names reveal a Wonderful Eternal Being who is not only very Great and Mighty, but is also forgiving and desires to be available to mankind. And the Name “Elohim” as we see in Genesis 1:1 reveals that GOD is Three Persons in One GODhead. “Let Us make man in Our image”! One speaks to The Other, and the Holy Spirit is there too, moving on the face of the waters!

Genesis 2:4 - the LORD God - Jehovah, a Covenant-making Supreme Being, reaching out to His Creation, Man, and One in complete control over all things. Genesis 13:4 “and there Abram called on the name of the LORD”

But God chose to place the Written Word in a higher position than His Awesome Name!

Why?

Sin had entered into the world. Fellowship between mankind and GOD had been broken. They were separated, the Creator from His special created man and woman. This Loving, Forgiving Almighty Creator had to act to bring them back to Himself.

But sin, which is primarily UNBELIEF, from which disobedience, rebellion, and all transgressions offending a Holy GOD come from, cannot be just brushed aside. Sin is too terrible! It is as Isaiah reported for the LORD, “your sins be as crimson” - startling, impudent, like a flashing light, glaring in the face of the high Purity of the LORD God Almighty. (Isaiah 1:18)

The Pure Clear Light of His Holiness is beyond all human understanding, except by the revelation of the Holy Spirit!

How do we learn the fear of the LORD?!

Whatever Action God took had to be Lawful. It had to be Right and without dispute.

Satan was a great part of the Separation. He had to be disarmed, his power had to be taken from him, and he had to be lawfully punished.

GOD on the Throne appealed to His Equal for help!

The part of the verse in Revelation 13:8 takes us right back to the Garden of Eden! It is when Christ cursed Satan, delivering him to his ultimate doom, the Lake of Fire. “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” - from the time that unbelief and disobedience became the foundation of the world, instead of a mutual love and fellowship. From then on only a few “walked with God” as Enoch!

From that time The Holy One, equal with God on the Throne, prepared to come to die, to fulfil the law that, “without the shedding of blood is no remission”. God’s Justice demands that a sentence must be passed for a crime, an offence And God’s Mercy moves to lift the Sentence (of death) from the guilty one on to Another who is able to serve it out! (Hebrews 9:22)

But the Blood spilt had to be Perfect in every way! The Life of the Giver had to be Completely without Blemish. For Four Days the lamb for the Passover was looked at, closely inspected for any blemish - its teeth, feet, skin, even its testicles - all had to be perfect. The innocent blood prevented the death of those who applied it to their houses, as they were instructed.

Christ came in the flesh! Human flesh! Though He was a Perfect God, that human flesh had to be proved to be perfect. Pure, Obedient, full of Faith - the Complete Opposite of those that had sinned (deliberately disobeyed), Eve and then Adam.

Mark 14:21a “The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of Him...”
v27b “for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered” (quoting Zechariah 13:7)

Luke 24:44 - 46 “And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me. ... 46. And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day” [behoved means perfectly suited; it was right for Him; His sufferings brought out the very best in Him, for us to see Who He was]

John 5:39 “Search the scriptures ... they are they which testify Me”

John 12:49 “For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent Me, He gave Me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak”

The Lord Jesus Christ - the Alpha & Omega in Eternity, equal with God on the Throne - was made flesh. (John 1:14). He was sent by God and the Holy Spirit to do this great task of saving man from the awful consequence of sin.
(Isaiah 48:16b)

There are only Two Destinations for every human soul :

- The Holy City where the Bride and the Redeemed Saints from before the Cross will live. That is on the New Earth where the Gentiles saved from the Thousand-Year Reign will live in harmony with the Remnant of Israel AND
 - The Lake of Fire.
- No-where else!

Psalm 40:6 - 8 “Sacrifice and offering Thou didst not desire; Mine ears hast Thou opened: ... 7. Then said I, Lo, I come: ... 8. I delight to do thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart”

Here it is! The Heart of the Revelation!

“Thy law is within My heart” ! I have submitted Myself to the whole of the Written Word of God. I have placed Myself willingly under its Authority. I have determined to obey it, every line, every precept, every statute, every command, every ordinance, every testimony. I will prove to You, O God, that human flesh can live out Your Word! Obedient children of God! A Perfect Bride for the Lamb!
(Isaiah 28:10, 13)

So we see this Extraordinary Fact of the Word exalted above the very Name of God clearly in the Lord Jesus Christ. We see it in His whole Life, His Attitude of Total Submission to the Word. We see it in His Ministry, when He was confronted by scorners and revilers. We see it in His Death, hanging on the Cross in accordance with the Scriptures. We see the Written Word of God totally fulfilled in Himself as the Lamb of God. Acknowledging Him as the Lamb, we see Him completely integrated with the Word. And therefore, He is given His New Name, “The Word of God”. No longer as the Word, the Communicator, as in John Chapter 1, “In the beginning was the Word” but as the Word **in** His human flesh!! (Revelation 19:13)

In Matthew 4 the Lord is quoting the Law! Deuteronomy 8:3, 6:16 and 6:13. He showed you the way to overcome Satan! By His shed Blood (of course!) **and** by the Word of your testimony - the Written Word of God alive in your life!
(Revelation 12:11)

He has put a sword in your hand to fight against all your spiritual enemies who would rob you of your betrothal to the Lamb in Heaven!

He has given you honey, and milk and meat and strong meat to nourish you all the way to Eternity, to the Day that you feast with Him at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!

He has given you the pure water to keep your weary flesh refreshed and ready to be changed in the twinkling of an eye!
(1 Corinthians 15:51 - 52)

This is the Word which the Lord Jesus Christ filled His earthly Life with until He bowed His head and died.

Psalm 119:1 “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD”

v3 “They also do no iniquity: they walk in His ways”

v9 “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse His way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy word”

v10 “With My whole heart have I sought Thee: O let Me not wander from Thy commandments”

v11 “Thy word have I hid in Mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee”

v30 “I have chosen the way of truth: Thy judgments have I laid before Me”

Isaiah 55:11 “So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: IT shall not return unto Me void, but IT shall accomplish that which I please, and IT shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent IT”

IT, the Word, will accomplish, not *I* will accomplish. The Word must bring it to pass; the Word will achieve the result; the LORD will and must honour the WORD.

Hebrews 6:18 “That by two immutable things, (His counsel of His Promise to Bless and His Oath) in which it was impossible for God to lie, (!) ... God bound Himself to His own Word!

Matthew 26:29 “But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom”

This is now the Written Word for us to rely upon, to believe, to live by, and ...
Just GO!

“and His wife hath made herself ready”

Revelation 19:7

SESSION 1 DAY 2 Wednesday 14th October

**The Overall Plan and Purpose of God to Prepare a Bride
for the Lord Jesus Christ**

THE CALL

God brought forth a Holy Nation

Revelation 12:1 “And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars”

So similar to the dream which Joseph had before being sold into Egypt! This is what they were meant to be, and what they will be in the Future.

(Genesis 37:9)

Hosea 11:1 “When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called My Son out of Egypt.”

Isaiah 54:5 “thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is His name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall He be called.”

(Redeemer = Kinsman-Redeemer, as we see in Ruth 3:9 - a near kinsman = one that hath right to redeem)

Ezekiel 16:1 - 14 “... cause Jerusalem to know her abominations ... 13. and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. 14. And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through My comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.”

Ezekiel 16:8 - God entered into a Covenant with His people, Israel
“Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread My skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest Mine.”

1 Kings Chapters 3 to 10. 4:20 - 34 - the glory of Solomon’s Kingdom (the visit of the Queen of Sheba - 10:7 - 9)

“Judah and Israel were many, as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking, and making merry ...

24. For he had dominion over all the region on this side the river (Jordan) from Tiphshah even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side round about him. 25. And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon.”

Matthew 6:28–29 “And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29. And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”

Ezekiel 16:10 - 14 “I clothed thee...”

“I clothed thee also with bordered work, and shod thee with badgers’ skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk. 11. I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck. 12. And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head. 13. Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and bordered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. 14. And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through My comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.”

THE CHANGE

The Holy Nation Becomes An Abomination

Isaiah 1:2 – 6 “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me. 3. The ox knowers his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, My people doth not consider. 4. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. 5. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. 6. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and petrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”

Jeremiah 3:14 “Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married to you”

(Jeremiah 31:32 “which My covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD)

Ezekiel 16:32 “But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!”

Jeremiah 2:21 “Yet I planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into a degenerate plant of a strange vine unto Me?”

Jeremiah 3:20 “Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD.”

Jeremiah 31:32 “... which My covenant they brake, (coming out of Egypt) although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD.”

Jeremiah 4:30 “thou clothest thyself...”

“And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou retest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.”

Lamentations 1:1 - “become as a widow...”

“How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princes among the provinces, how is she become tributary!”

Through her own rebellion and stubbornness, she becomes like a beggar; her high status under Christ has been turned up-side-down. How foolish it is to reject Christ!

THE PREPARATION

Hosea 6:1- 3 “Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind up. 2. After two days will He revive us: in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. 3. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.”

Hosea 2:16 “And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call Me Ishi (my husband); and shall call Me no more Ba-al-i (my Lord)

In 1 Peter 3:6, Peter says, “Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord:”, showing forth the humility and modesty in the order of a human family in the Church, but the LORD, even our Lord Jesus Christ before He came in the flesh, allows His Bride-to-be a deep personal relationship with Him!!

Deuteronomy 13:3 – (obedient) descendants of unfaithful Israel came into the CHURCH / THE BODY / THE BRIDE

“... for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Ezekiel 11:19 -20 “And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: 20. That they may walk in My statutes, and keep Mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.”

Hosea 10:12 “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.”

John 7:46 “The officers answered, Never man spake like this Man.”

Luke 4:22 “And all bare Him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth.”

The Church -

Song of Songs 6:10

“Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?”

THE FULFILMENT

The Plan of God For a Bride for The Lamb Complete

The Promise of Victory Over Sin and Death

Psalm 89:3 - 4, 19 - 27 - ‘David’ = CHRIST

“I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn unto David My servant, 4. Thy seed with I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.”

“Then thou spakest in vision to Thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon One that is mighty; I have exalted One chosen out of the people. 20. I have found David My servant; with My holy oil have I anointed him: 21. With whom My hand shall be established: Mine arm also shall strengthen him. ...

26. He shall cry unto Me, Thou art My Father, My God, and the rock of My salvation. 27. Also I will make Him My firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. 28. My mercy will I keep for Him for evermore, and My covenant shall stand fast with Him. 29. His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and His throne as the days of heaven.”

The Promise of God to David regarding his son Solomon:

2 Samuel 7:12 – 14a “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. 13. He shall build an house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 14. I will be his father, and he shall be My son.”

But Paul, by the Spirit, relates the prophecy to Christ Himself as the Son:

Hebrews 1:5 “For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee? And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?”

For it is to the Son that the bride is promised!

The Promise of Resurrection for His Redeemed:

For the Bride cannot meet Him except by Resurrection!

Isaiah 25:8 “He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of His people shall He take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.”

Hosea 13:14 “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from Mine eyes.”

1 Corinthians 15:55

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

Hosea 6:2 – 3

“After two days will He revive us: in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. 3. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and the former rain unto the earth.”

1 Corinthians 15:3 – 4 “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4. And that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

- THE LATTER RAIN - Christ’s First Coming to the earth, to seek and to save the lost.
- THE FORMER RAIN - Christ’s Second coming to the earth, to judge and make war.

The Ultimate Result of God’s Plan in Christ Crucified:

Revelation 21:9 - 10 “Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.
10. 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...”

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is the Proof that Death is swallowed up in Victory!

The Ultimate Destination for God’s Redeemed Through Christ Crucified:

Psalm 48:2 - Holy Jerusalem “... the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness.
2. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.”

(“the sides of the north” - Astrologers with powerful telescopes have seen what looks like a passageway with its sides sparkling as if lined with diamonds and precious stones!)

“and His wife hath made herself ready”

Revelation 19:7

SESSION 1 DAY 3 Thursday 15th October

How Does the Bride Make Herself Ready?

This is nothing to do with Works! It is not trying to be holy, or acceptable to God!
It is as always only to do with Faith!

In Galatians 2:20, Paul states clearly his own position in the Church, as he waits for his Lord from Heaven, “I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.” And twice in v16, he states the same quality of Christian living - “the faith of Jesus Christ” and “the faith of Christ”

Not our struggles; not our ups and down from the fragility of human nature. We are to be far beyond that low standard of living!! The Church, His Bride is set on meeting One whose eyes are as a flame of fire! whose feet burn like fine brass! from whose mouth will come a sharp two-edged sword to destroy every trace of unrighteousness in a man or woman!

But at the same time, to His redeemed Body, He is our Beloved, and we are to Him His love, His fair one (Songs). We are preparing to meet Him with all His terrible wounds on His face and on His body. And we will count Him beautiful, because we know what it cost Him to love us so much!

The verse means that she is able to make herself ready! She knows that God Himself has provided for her to be ready! “The Spirit and the Bride say, Come!” (Revelation 22:17)

She Keeps Herself Pure for the Bridegroom

Psalms 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee”

John 15:3 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you”

2 Corinthians 11:2 “... for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3 “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye

should abstain from fornication:

v4 “That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; 5. Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:”

v7 “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”

Romans 7:4 “... that ye should be married to Another, even to Him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”

No idolatry! No spiritual fornication - uncleanness, foulness, carnality!
She is ABLE to make herself ready, because God has provided the proper Guidance and Instruction and Power for her.

The Word of God within keeps her clean and free from the desire for other loves.
The Word of God within keeps her clean and free from lies, deceptions, and false teaching, and from seducing spirits.

She Equips Herself for Her Future Life With Her Bridegroom

2 Peter 1:3 “According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

2 Peter 1:4 “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:5 - 8 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6. And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7. And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:13 - 18

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ...

Galatians 5:22 - 23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ...”

- 1 Corinthians 12:1 “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”
- 1 Corinthians 12:31 “But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.”
- Matthew 6:20 “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...”

Spiritual virtues are only obtained from God’s store! The things of spiritual beauty which keep her in love with Him. Everlasting things which begin in her heart and grow to maturity until she is fit to live with Him forever!

Spiritual gifts and wisdom which will also equip her to rule and reign with Christ for one thousand years!

She Waits Devotedly to Meet Her Heavenly Bridegroom

- Mark 13:35 “Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning: ... Watch.”
- Titus 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ...”
- John 14:2 “... I go to prepare a place for you”
- Matthew 6:21 “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”
- Luke 21:36 “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.
- Psalm 37:7 “Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him ...”
- James 1:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”
- John 10:4 - 5 “... and the sheep follow Him: for they know His voice. 5. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.
- Songs 2:16a “My beloved is mine, and I am His:”

She has a single eye, she is focused only on her Lord. And she is sure of His love for her! Tree frogs in the Rain Forest all have different calls, but each one only recognises the call of its own kind!!

She Works Doing Things Fruitful to the Relationship

- Luke 19:13 “... Occupy till I come”
- Matthew 7:21 “Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father in heaven.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 22 “Rejoice evermore. 17. Pray without ceasing. 18. In everything give thanks ... 19. Quench not the Spirit. 20. Despise not prophesyings. 21. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22. Abstain from all appearance of evil.
- Romans 12:1 “... present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”
- Colossians 4:5 - 6 “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. 6. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

She uses those ‘tools’ provided for her to be fruitful

One day - how soon? - the Waiting will be over, the work of the Church on earth will be over. The time will come when the Father will say to the Lamb on His right hand, ‘Bring them up to Me!’ And the Body will meet the Head in the Air!

“and His wife hath made herself ready”

Revelation 19:7

SESSION 1 DAY 4 Friday 16th October

The Position In Time of The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

First - The “Rapture” – the Ascension of the Saints.

“The first resurrection” Revelation 20:5b - 6.

The Holy Spirit goes with the Church and all the redeemed from the Old Testament.

2 Thessalonians 2:6 - 7. “... only He who now **letteth** will **let** (prevents, will continue to prevent) until He be taken out of the way.”

The Holy Spirit will remain with the Church on earth until Christ calls Him away with all the redeemed - those alive on earth and watching and waiting for His Coming, and those asleep in Christ AND those who died in faith not yet receiving the Promise. (Hebrews 11)

The whole world is then left without any restraint against their sinfulness.

Second - On Earth:

Eventually a One World Government will be formed under a First Ruler, ruling from Jerusalem. After the First, comes a Second, and after him, a Third, and then comes the man who will become the Antichrist. An Assyrian (Iraq)

Isaiah 10:5 - 6 “O Assyrian, the rod of Mine anger, and the staff in their hand is Mine indignation. 6. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of My wrath will I give him a charge...”

(The Antichrist will be a most vile man but in God’s Hands he will be a puppet! He will be launched on the world as part of the Judgments, and “to the Jew first”, who will be at that time, “the people of My wrath”. They will have utterly rejected God’s Salvation, Jesus Christ.)

Daniel 11

- v5. “And the king of the south shall be strong ... 8b. and he shall continue more years than the king of the north. 9. So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom”
- v15. So the king of the north shall come ... 16b. and he shall stand in the glorious land” (Palestine)
- v20. Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the

kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.”

v21. And in his estate shall stand up a vile person...”

- In Heaven

After the Rapture, the Lord Jesus Christ will present the redeemed before the Throne of God!

Psalm 22:22 “I will declare Thy name unto My brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise Thee.

Hebrews 2:12 “Saying, I will declare Thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee.”

Psalm 22:25 “My praise shall be of Thee in the great congregation: I will pay My vows before them that fear Him.”

This is the Song of the Lamb! which song the Two Witnesses are also able to sing, Revelation 15:3!

“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.”

After this, fulfilling what Paul said: “for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ” Romans 14:10b and 1 Corinthians 3:13 – 15, “Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.

v14 If any man’s work shall abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”

2 Timothy 4:8 “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.”

1 Corinthians 9:25b “but we an incorruptible (crown).”

1 Peter 5:4 “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

James 1:12 “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him.”

Revelation 2:10 “be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life.”

Revelation 4:10 “The four and twenty elders fall down before Him that sat on the throne, and worship Him that liveth for ever and overland cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ...”

So the redeemed from the Old Testament and the Church already have their crowns **before** the dawning of the Day of the LORD!

Third - The Rise and Reign of the Antichrist

Revelation 17:10 “And there are seven kings: five are fallen, (the kings of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medes & Persia, Greece) and one is, (Rome, the time John wrote the vision) and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.”

This is the same third Ruler which Daniel spoke of.

Daniel 11:20 “Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.”

And the next is the “man of sin” who becomes the Antichrist:

Daniel 11:21 “And in his estate shall stand up a vile person...”

Revelation 17:11 “And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth”

This man becomes the Antichrist when Satan enters him. He will be the World Ruler over the “fourth kingdom” which Daniel saw – the “little horn”

Daniel 7:7 - 8 “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.”

“three of the first horns plucked up by the roots” simply means that those three rulers who came in before the vile man played their part in the rise of the World Government, but then they ceased to have power after the vile man came in.

Returning to Daniel’s vision, which is history to us now:

Daniel 8:21 - 24 “And the rough goat is the king of Grecia ... the first king” - who we call Alexander the Great -

v22 “four kingdoms ... out of the nation, but not in his power” - Alexander died young in the prime of his power; Greece was divided into Four Kingdoms, Egypt, Central Asia, Southern Turkey and Mesopotamia - which includes IRAQ!

vs23 - 24. “And in the latter time of their kingdom, when transgressions are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power...”

The time when “transgressions are come to the full” will be at God’s planned Day of the LORD. This is “the end time” when all things are brought to account. The Book which the Lord Jesus Christ takes from the right hand of God on the throne is a book of settlement (Revelation 5). All rejection of and hatred against Jesus Christ will be paid for. The “king of fierce countenance” is the Antichrist, the vile man with Satan in him, ruling and moving through him, BUT all under the Control of the LORD God Almighty in the Day of the LORD!

2 Thessalonians 2:3 – 4 “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; 4. 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.

Daniel 9:27 - “the overspreading of abominations”
Matthew 24:15 - the abomination in the Temple.

For three and a half years the Plagues and Punishments pour down, with the Judgments of the Two Witnesses!

The Two Witnesses are Killed

This is Vital to the Timing of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!

And it is Vital therefore to know who the Two witnesses are - of Israel AND of the Church! (That is why they are able to sing both the song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb.)

Seven specially appointed angels pour out their plagues over the three and a half years. Right at the end, the Seventh Angel has a pivotal role to play!

In Heaven:

Revelation 10:7 “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.”

On Earth:

Revelation 16:17 – 21 “And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. 18. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. 19. and the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. 20. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.”

While the Seventh Angel pours out his vial of the Plague of Hail - great hail stones, each the size of a small child! - the Church, the Body, is now complete. James and John have been raised from the dead and taken up into Heaven. They will stand on the sea of glass and sing their song and be cleansed from their terrible experience during their ministry.

The “mystery of God” is the long hidden Secret which God kept until the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, that the Church should be a Body of both Jews and Gentiles **through Christ Crucified!**

1. Ephesians 3:3 - 6
2. Ephesians 1:4 - 5 and 9 - 12
3. Romans 16:25 - 26
4. Colossians 1:25 - 29
5. 1 Corinthians 2:5 - 8

1. “How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4. Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5. Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6. That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel:”

2. “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: 5. Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself,

according to the good pleasure of His will, ... 9. Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: 10. That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him: 11. 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: 12. That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

3. “Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26. But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:”
4. “Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26. Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: 27. To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28. Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29. Whereunto I also labour, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily.”
5. “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. 6. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: 7. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8. Which none of the princes of this world know: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

Ephesians 5:25 “... even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; 26. That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27. That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. ... 30. For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.”

The Church is Complete; the Mystery of God is Finished! The Marriage Supper of the Lamb can commence!! Hallelujah!!

"and His wife hath made herself ready"

Revelation 19:7

Sunday am 18th October 2020

Revelations of the Cross from Hosea

Luke 24:27 "And beginning at Moses, and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself"

So let us look at one of the prophets which the Lord said concerned Himself:

Hosea 6:1 - 3 "Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. 2. After two days will He revive us: in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. 3. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD:

(The latter and former rain - Session 1, Day 2 - Wednesday 14th October)

"For He hath torn" :

John 19:1 "Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged Him"

Psalm 129:3 "The plowers plowed upon My back: they made long their furrows"

"He hath smitten" :

Matthew 26:31 "for it is written, I will smite the shepherd..."

v67 "and others smote Him with the palms of their hands"

Zechariah 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against My shepherd ... smite the shepherd

"After two days" :

It doesn't mean that something happened "after two days", but that after two days was the third day, when the Lord rose again from the dead!

The time that the Lord Jesus died was the time of the Passover, the Jewish celebration of their exodus from slavery in Egypt. The Passover lamb was killed on the 14th day of the first month of the year – Abib, mid-February to mid-March. Exodus 12.

On the 14th day of the first month -

John 19:14 "And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he (Pilate) saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!"

Mark 15:37 "And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost"

1 Corinthians 5:7b “For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us”

Exodus 12:6 “And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.”

The Fourteenth Day was counted as a Sabbath. They could do no work on that day. It was as though it were a Saturday, the last day of the week. They could neither buy nor sell anything that was not for the Feast of Passover. It was therefore what we call Thursday. He died that day at the time of the evening sacrifice.

On the 15th day -

Mark 15:42 “And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath...”

Luke 23:54 “And that day (when Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus’ body) was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on”

John 19:31 “The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away”

Galatians 3:13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree”

The Fifteenth Day was called the Preparation for the Sabbath. We call it Friday. They prepared themselves for the ‘high sabbath’, being the second within a week. They could buy and sell and go about their work. Joseph and Nicodemus could therefore buy the anointing oils and the linen to bury the Lord’s body in. The women could buy their ointments and prepare them. The Lord’s body was still on the Cross, with His soul in Hell, taking all our sins down with Him.

The two thieves were still alive, hanging on their crosses. Their legs were therefore broken so that their deaths were hastened as their bodies should be taken down before the Sixteenth Day which was the Sabbath. The Jews, including the disciples, rested according to the law.

“In the third day” :

1 Corinthians 15:4 “And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures”

Matthew 28:6 “He is not here: for He is risen, as He said...”

Mark 16:6 “... He is risen; He is not here...”

Luke 24:6 “He is not here, but is risen...”

John 20:16 “Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto Him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master”

That Day was the Seventeenth day!

“He will raise us up” :

Ephesians 2:6 “And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus”

Almost the same words used by Paul to reveal our new position – seated in Heaven with Jesus Christ, the Risen, Crucified Lord!

“Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD”

This is how we know! - If we follow on to know the LORD! If we do not follow on to know the LORD, we will remain in our ignorance, in darkness, without Him!

Galatians 2:20 - 21 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. 21. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”

This is the life we are to live – by the Faith of the Son of God!

v21 “I do not frustrate the grace of God”

This is an important part of this passage. Paul says that he allows the Grace of God full freedom in his life. He is living under that Grace, which forbids him to sin, to disobey, to live a carnal life, and not under the Law which cannot save him from eternal Damnation. Only the shed Blood of Jesus Christ can make us perfect before the Law!!

"and His wife hath made herself ready"

Revelation 19:7

Sunday pm 18th October 2020

Revelations from the Cross

Matthew 26:29 "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom"

Luke 24:40 - 43 "And when He had thus spoken, He shewed them His hands and His feet. 41. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, He said unto them, Have ye here any meat? 42. And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43. And He took it, and did eat before them"

The Lord helped them to see and believe that He was truly alive from the dead, but He did not drink from the fruit of the vine! He is still fasting!

2 Peter 3:8 "... one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day"

If it is considered that 2000 years from the Lord's death and resurrection is only like two days to Him, well - you could also say, if one day is like a thousand years to Him, He feels as if it is 730,000 years to Him (365 days x 2000 = 730,000) !

But God is involved in time with man. Remember what the Holy Spirit said of the Israelites -

Psalms 95:10 "Forty years long was I grieved with this generation..."

Forty years was to Him an intolerable length of time.

Hebrews 3:7 - 10 "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear His voice, 8. Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9. When your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My works forty years. 10. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation..."

Those people lost everything that the Lord promised them. They perished in that howling wilderness! Needless! Without any reason other than their own self-centredness, stubborn will and rebellion.

They had been redeemed from slavery in Egypt by the blood of an innocent animal - that was the Way that God planned to bring out a special people unto Himself.

Now nearly 1500 years later – or is it like one and a half days to the Lord? Or is it like 547,000 years? How long did it seem to the Lord before He could fulfil His Promise to God to save mankind from Satan’s grip??!

Luke 24:15 “And He said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this
 passover with you before I suffer.
v16 “For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be
 fulfilled in the kingdom of God”

There would be no more Passover Suppers for Him, until the Great Celebration of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. If HE is waiting for it with such desire, so should we!

Isaiah 53:11 “He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied”

At that Great Celebration of Joy and when His Bride, the Church, are seated around a table prepared for the Feast, the Lord Jesus will see the clear results of His Sacrifice.

All the redeemed from the Old Testament days, those that died in faith, will be watching with great delight.

The angels, in their millions, and the special living creatures will also be onlookers of this most Glorious, Triumphant Event!

And He will be satisfied!

How He wants her, His Bride, to be with Him!

Songs 2:10 “My Beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, My love, My fair
 one, and come away”

John 14:3 “And if I go and prepare a place you, I will come again, and
 receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Including, and especially, At That Table!!

Songs 7:10 “I am my Beloved’s, and His desire is toward me”

Revelation 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let Him that heareth
 say, Come...”

If both the Holy Spirit and the saints call for the Lord Jesus to “Come!”, then it is He who hears them! And He says, “Come!” He longs for us to meet Him in the air, and so forever be with Him!

Songs 8:14 “Make haste, my Beloved, and be Thou like to a roe or to a young hart upon the mountains of spices”

The Bride yearns for her Beloved to come!

Ephesians 5:25 “... as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it”

Revelation 19:9 “And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they that are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said, These are the true sayings of God.”

One of those special angels tells John to write this wonderful statement of Fact! But He is still fasting from drinking the fruit of the vine. He is still waiting to drink that wine with His Bride, His Body, the Church!

Matthew 26:29 “But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom”

What Patience He shows! He will patiently wait until the appointed time. He is The Lamb, the Always Obedient One, the Holy One who took on the Position of a Son to the Father. When God on the Throne says, ‘Go!’ He will leave His side and collect His redeemed. Then He will still wait until the Appointed Time for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!

James 4:10 “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up”

Literally, He will lift us up, right up into Heaven and to His Throne!

James 5:8 “Be ye also patient; establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh”

This word was given on Day 3 of Session 3, Thursday 29th October, due to pastors meetings on the National Day of Prayer.

“and His wife hath made herself ready”

Revelation 19:7

SESSION 2 DAY 1 Tuesday 20th October

Four Days Meditation on Who is The Bridegroom?

The Lamb

Revelation 5: 8 “And when He had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”

Twenty-eight times our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ is called “the Lamb” in the Book of Revelation.

In this Book of Prophecy we see right into the Future. We see Him as He will be. We also see what this Same Person was in the Past.

5:6 “a lamb as it had been slain”.

Jesus Christ seen just before the Day of the LORD begins, looking as though He had been freshly killed.

5:9, 12 “for Thou wast slain”; “the Lamb that was slain”

Jesus Christ worshipped in Heaven at that time, for He alone was able to carry out the Instructions written in the book sealed with seven seals.

13:18 “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”.

Jesus Christ ready to come from Heaven to earth and lay down His Life to restore sinful mankind.

As soon as possible, He was proclaimed by John the Baptist as the Deliverer for the world.

John 1:29, 36 “Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world”; “Behold, the Lamb of God”

But before He came in the flesh, His Death was hinted at in the Old Testament – many times. The first was at the very beginning :

Genesis 3:15 “it (the Seed - Christ) shall bruise thy head, and thou (Satan) shalt bruise His heel”

The LORD God (Jesus Christ before He came in the flesh) curses Satan for beguiling the woman, and hints at His own suffering unto Death.

Then also in Genesis, when Abraham was ordered by God to offer up Isaac unto Him. Isaac was about 25 years old. He realised there was no animal with them for an offering!

Genesis 22:8 “My son, God shall provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering”

Usually taken to mean that God would replace Isaac with an animal for sacrifice - BUT isn't it also saying God Himself will BE the Sacrifice?!

A lamb killed as an offering for a man's inherent sin began with Abel. (We don't know what animals were killed to clothe Adam and Eve)

Genesis 4:4 “And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof”

A lamb killed for the deliverance of God's people began when God brought them out of slavery in Egypt, as recorded in Exodus 12.

Lambs and goats, bullocks, heifers, and birds were all killed under the Laws of Sacrifice for Cleansing laid down in Leviticus, but out of all these innocent creatures, the lamb is the one which reveals most closely the Nature of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not His mouth.”

Mark 15:3 - 5 “And the chief priests accused Him of many things: but He answered nothing. 4. And Pilate asked Him again, Answerest Thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against Thee. 5. But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.”

1 Peter 2:22 - 23 “Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: 23. Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him (God on the Throne) that judgeth righteously.”

So John sees this Same Humble Person called the Lamb, in Eternity, in the Ages to come, Equal with God, but still known as The Lamb :

Revelation 21:22 “And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it”

Equal with God on the Throne, Jesus Christ is revealed as the One who was sacrificed

HIS PHYSICAL DEATH WILL BE THE CENTRAL FACT THROUGHOUT ETERNITY

Now we shall see that ...

HIS BODILY PRESENCE WILL BE THE CENTRAL FIGURE THROUGHOUT ETERNITY

Revelation 5:5 - the elder knew Him as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, and the Root of the lineage of David, but the Holy Spirit revealed Him to John as a Lamb.

He will be recognised as a Person of Great Authority, full of Glory and Power, but at the same time, full of Humility and of Willing Obedience to God on the Throne.

Firstly During His Reign on Earth

Isaiah 6:1 “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple.
[Azariah – God made him a leper]

v3 “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.”

v5 “for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

John 12:41 “These things said Esaias, when he saw His glory, and spake of Him.”

Zechariah 6:12-13 “... Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and He shall grow up out of His place, and He shall build the temple of the LORD: 13. Even He shall build the temple of the LORD; and He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a priest upon His throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”

“He shall build the temple of the LORD” - the Church, which is His Body, and the Bride, the Lamb’s wife!!

Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter [a stone, Cephas] and upon This Rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Yes, the Rock, Himself, that Christ referred to when He said the gates of hell shall not prevail against It! He said in Revelation 1:18 “I am He that liveth, and was dead, ...

Revelation 1:18 “and have the keys of hell and of death.”

Then In Eternity, New Heavens and a New Earth

Ezekiel 1:26 - 28 and

Daniel 7:13 - 14

Both saw wonderful Visions of the Lord Jesus Christ in Eternity. Full of Glory, Power and of Great Authority, yet, as a man in human flesh, and under God’s Authority.

Revelation 22:5 “And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”

Revelation 21:23 “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”

1 Corinthians 15:28 speaks of Christ handing everything over to God on the Throne when God’s New Order comes in - New Heavens, New Earth - so here in Revelation we see the way it works!

Jesus Christ, God’s eternal Equal, as The Lamb, gives all His Achievements in bringing everything under His control over to God, and God, in His Deep Love for Christ allows all that Beauty and Purity and Brightness in Him to fill the Holy City!

Revelation 22:1, 3 “the throne of God and of the Lamb”; the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him.”

One throne, separate from the Throne of God, Christ will be back on His own Throne

And thirdly we see that ...

HIS PERSONAL APPEARANCE WILL BE THE CENTRAL FEATURE THROUGHOUT ETERNITY

The Personal Appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, because of what He endured for us to say today, that we are part of His Body, the Church, will be quite different from every other person in Eternity!

Isaiah 52:14 “... His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men”

Isaiah 53:2b “He hath no form nor comeliness; ”

Luke 24:27 “ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. enter into His glory?”

Psalms 3:7 “arise, O LORD; save Me, O My God: for Thou hast smitten all Mine enemies upon the cheek bone; Thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.”

Here is Christ crying out to God from the Cross, yet saying that His enemies had been smitten, and that the teeth of the ungodly had been broken! The only sense this makes is if we see that Christ was smitten for all God’s enemies to be saved and that His teeth were broken in the smiting upon His person!

Micah 5:1b “they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek.”

John 18:22 And when He had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest Thou the high priest so?”

Matthew 26:67 “Then did they spit in His face, and buffeted Him; and others smote Him with the palms of their hands”

Mark 14:65 “And some began to spit on Him, and to cover His face, and to buffet Him, and to say unto Him, Prophecy : and the servants did strike Him with the palms of their hands.”

In other words, they wouldn’t have used their hands to strike His face after they had spat on Him! Bibles with margin references add, ‘with rods’

Luke 22:63 “And the men that held Jesus mocked Him, and smote Him.”

Mathew 27:29 “And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand: ...”

v30 “And they spit upon Him, and took the reed, and smote Him on the head.”

Mark 14:27b “for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered”

Zechariah 13:7 “Awake, O sword, against My shepherd, and against the man that is My fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd...”

Isaiah 50:6 “I gave My back to the smiters, and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not My face from shame and spitting”

Psalms 129:3 “the plowers plowed upon My back: they made long their furrows”

Psalms 22:16c “they pierced My hands and My feet”

John 19:37 “and again another scripture saith, They shall look upon Him whom they pierced”

Zechariah 12:10b “and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced”

Revelation 1:7b “and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him”

Psalms 22:14 “I am poured out like water and all My bones are out of joint”

His whole body was covered in bruises, with slash marks from the scourging and the thorns banged into His head. His cheek bones were beaten to pulp. His lips cut and swollen from the beatings, and His hands and feet pierced through from the nails.

Lamentations 1:12 “Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto My sorrow, which is done unto Me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted Me in the day of His fierce anger.”

Isaiah 53:2c “and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.”

Isaiah 33:17a “Thine eyes shall see the king in HIS Beauty”

It will be His particular and unique Beauty that we shall see!

His Blood was spilt and poured out as Full Payment for our sins. It soaked into the ground. And He rose from the dead with those terrible wounds upon Him as the Full and Eternal GUARANTEE of His Salvation won for us. Hallelujah!!

Yes, indeed, the PERSONAL APPEARANCE of our Lord Jesus Christ will be THE CENTRAL FEATURE THROUGHOUT ETERNITY

HIS PHYSICAL DEATH WILL BE THE CENTRAL FACT THROUGHOUT ETERNITY

HIS BODILY PRESENCE WILL BE THE CENTRAL FIGURE THROUGHOUT ETERNITY

HIS PERSONAL APPEARANCE WILL BE THE CENTRAL FEATURE THROUGHOUT ETERNITY

“and His wife hath made herself ready”

Revelation 19:7

SESSION 2 DAY 2 Wednesday 21st October

Four Days Meditation on Who is The Bridegroom?

The Son of Man

Luke 22:69 **“Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God”**

Mark 14:61 - 62 “But He held His peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked Him, and said unto Him, Art Thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? 62. And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”

Matthew 26:63-64 “But Jesus held His peace. And the high priest answered and said unto Him, I adjure Thee by the living God, that Thou tell us whether Thou be the Christ, the Son of God. 64. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”

This is the last recorded mention of the Lord Jesus referring to Himself as the Son of Man. This prophecy made the high priest very angry!
How dare this carpenter’s son exalt himself to the Throne of God!

But why, when He was asked if He were the Son of God (Matthew) did He refer to Himself as “the Son of man”?

And what exactly does “Son of man” mean?

Matthew 8:20 “And Jesus said unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head”

He had no place in this world. He didn’t belong to this corrupt and evil world. He only knew the purity of Life in Heaven. He didn’t come to put down roots here!

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

He came down from Heaven. He was from Eternity. Bethlehem was not the beginning of His Life!

Luke 5:24 “But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins... “

God on the Throne, His Equal, gave Him the Authority to forgive sins as He operating on earth as God in the flesh.

Son OF Man - the word ‘of’ does not mean in possession, like His title “Son of God”. He is God’s Son; He belongs to God as the Head of His Family.
Or, Peter’s book - the book of Peter, the book Peter owns.

It means as in a description or condition, as ‘the hour of prayer’, the time of harvest’. We could say, ‘the hour FOR prayer’, the time FOR harvest’.

He is the Son of God, meaning firstly, of the same substance as God, FOR mankind. He came FOR us, to help us out of the mess!

Matthew 1:23 “... they shall call His name Emmanuel ... God with us”

He came down from Heaven to be God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16)

He is man’s Perfect God! We have no need for another god!
He is the God every human being should have! - to love, obey, worship and serve.
He is the Best Gift that God has given us.

Luke 24:46 “thus it behoved Christ to suffer...” - it SUITED Him, it showed Him off perfectly, of Who He is! It was right and proper to God that He should come. He was the Only One who could come to die to rescue us from Satan’s dominion.

Why did He speak to the high priest so, and refer to Himself as the Son of man, rather than the Son of God?

I can think of Two Reasons why!

1. Because He had already declared that God had appointed Him as the Judge of all men.

John 5:22 “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”

John 5:27 “And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man.”

John 12:47 – 48 “And if any man hear My words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48. He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

He declared that clearly to the Jews. The Pharisees and the scribes would have heard Him.

And we see the Vision of that in the prophet Daniel ...

Daniel 7:10c “the judgment was set and the books were opened

And this is John’s Vision of the Last Judgment:

Revelation 20:11–15 “And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

So this is what the Lord Jesus meant when He said that the Word itself would be the judge. He will sit upon His throne as God’s Appointed Judge of all the earth, and the Books of Scripture will be opened, as Daniel also saw.

It will be shown to every one who will stand before Him all the words which were rejected and dismissed and disobeyed. And they will also see where their name was blotted out of the book of life.

The Second Reason why the Lord calls Himself “The Son of man” is in Daniel :

2. It is a direct reference to Daniel’s Vision of the Throne of God and the time of Judgment!

Daniel 7:9 - 14
vs13 - 14

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. 14. And there was given

Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

Though Caiaphas would die - and be in Hell - yet he will see Christ coming in Glory in the Day of the LORD!!

Here is a very familiar Scripture,

Philippians 2:10 “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.”

And it should be linked to this!

Revelation 5:13 “And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”

Those already in Heaven will, of course, praise Him. Those on the earth will find themselves praising Him! And those in Hell, still awaiting the Final Judgment, will be forced to praise Him!

The Lord Jesus was saying to Caiaphas, ‘You and these with you shall be made by God to acknowledge that I am equal with God on the throne, even though you will be in Hell!

Christ was referring back to Daniel’s Vision 500 years before. But the Vision is still to come! The LORD’s Day has still to dawn!

This is John’s terrifying Vision of the Lord Jesus Christ appearing to him as the Judge of all the earth! John was the disciple described as the one “whom Jesus loved”. He had been singled out among the twelve with James and Peter. He had been a faithful apostle, pastor and servant in the Church, yet here he is petrified at seeing Christ with such Authority and Power and Brightness!

Revelation 1:12 – 18 “And I turned to see the Voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13. And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14. His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire; 15. And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters.

16. And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. 17. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. And He laid His right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18. I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

“as dead” ! But he was lifted up and told not to be afraid!

The Son of Man came to save sinners, but God has also made Him the Judge over all flesh, because that is what He is, man’s Perfect God, **Emmanuel, God with us**, the One who knows us through and through by coming in the flesh!

“and His wife hath made herself ready”

Revelation 19:7

SESSION 2 DAY 3 Thursday 22st October

Four Days Meditation on Who is The Bridegroom?

The Son of God

Matthew 14:8 “Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth Thou art the Son of God.”

The New Testament Scriptures clearly declare that the Lord Jesus Christ is called “**the Son of God**”.

Even Satan addressed Him sarcastically, “If Thou be the Son of God, (command that these stones be made bread; cast Thyself down)” as recorded in Matthew 4:3 and 6. Incidentally, the first proclamation that Christ is the Son of God was made, in Matthew’s Gospel, Matthew 8:29, by devils!

Matthew 8:28 – 29 “And when He was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. 29. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we do do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God? art Thou come hither to torment us before the time?”

But what does it actually mean? God is a Spirit. Christ told us that spiritual beings do not procreate! So how can God have a Son? Well, He doesn’t!!

Christ was MADE the Son of God, having been Equal with God from Eternity. It is the POSITION that He took in order for us to become God’s children!

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...” He is speaking of **His Finished Work**. Now the Gospel of sins forgiven can be preached freely. The sins are gone, forgotten, and Christ is at God’s Right Hand to build His Church by the Holy Spirit.

This verse in Romans is one of the clearest in the Scriptures of what it means that Jesus Christ is the “Son of God” :

Romans 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

Clear Fact! “declared to be the Son of God ... by the resurrection from the dead”.

When He rose again from the dead, God declared Him to be the Son of God. He had obeyed all of God’s Word. He had fulfilled the Scriptures. He had been obedient unto death. He was God’s Perfect Man. His First Perfect Son.

So He is the “only begotten Son” of God, because He was **brought forth** from the grave, from among the dead in Hell.

Romans 8:29 “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.”

This was God’s Will from Eternity! The Family which Christ created for God would have Christ as its Pattern and Guide as to how to live lives that were always pleasing to God - as Christ was always pleasing to God!

We will look at the Scriptures in the New Testament letters of Paul that speak of this revelation, of the “only begotten”, the “firstborn from the dead”

Colossians 1:15 “Who is the image of the invisible (as yet unseen) God, the firstborn of every creature.”

Christ is the Image of God; He is Equal with Him. Everything about Him declared the Person of God on the Throne who we are still not yet able to see.

Through His Resurrection from the dead, Christ is the Firstborn of God’s new Creation of sinless mankind! Believe it! This is the Lamb’s wife!! He has washed us clean from our sins by His own poured out sinless Blood!

Colossians 1:18 “And He is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.”

“declared to be the Son of God ... by the resurrection from the dead.”

In addition to His Position as the Firstborn of the (sinless) Family of God, He is the Head of the Church, which is His Body. The Family of God (on the Throne) and the Church of God (Jesus Christ) are the same group of people!

Hebrews 1:5 - 6 “For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee? And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son? 6. And again, when He bringeth in the first begotten into the world, He saith, And let all the angels of God worship Him.” (Psalm 97:7)

v5a “this day” is the day that the Lord Jesus was raised from the dead. He was begotten - brought forth - from the place of the dead.

v5b And to the second part of the verse, when He took on flesh, He took on a lower position to God. He behaved Himself towards God in a Son to Father relationship. (We’ll look at the prophecy which Paul quotes later)

We must worship Him for His Humility! It was by His Humility that He saved us!!

Revelation 1:5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead.”

Jesus Christ is the only One who can fully declare exactly what God is like, and who God is. He humbled Himself to take on flesh and live in this world. He had first to be born into a human family!

Matthew 1:21 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS.”

v23 “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son...”

v25 “And (Joseph) knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called His name JESUS.”

Jesus Christ born into this world as a new born baby! Mary carried Him and brought Him to birth. In human terms, He was her firstborn son, part of a Jewish family and community, with other brothers and sisters who were born to Joseph and Mary later. He was “brought forth” from the darkness of her womb into a world lost in sin.

But God’s Plan was to make sinners into HIS children! He made His Beloved One from Eternity His Firstborn Son in order to bring other sons and daughters into His Family.

Hebrews 2:10 “For it became Him, (God) for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through suffering.”

It perfectly suited God on the throne to make His Equal perfect in human flesh, in order to bring children into His Kingdom and Home - but it was through suffering.

He Rose Again From the Dead on the Third Day!

John 20:17 “Jesus saith unto her, Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to My Father: but go to My brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto My Father, and your Father; and to My God, and your God.”

The first words that the Lord spoke after rising from the dead! He waited to tell Mary Magdalene that they were all now part of His New Family - He was the Firstborn, and they were children after Him!

God, who He had always called “Father” was their “Father” and the One He had always called His God was their God. He had made it possible.

He had been brought forth from the darkness of Hell in order to give God a perfect Family.

Hebrews 1:5 “For unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee? And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?”

Psalm 2:7 “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee.”

2 Samuel 7:14 “I will be his father, and he shall be My son...”

Two Old Testament Scriptures are now fully revealed by the Holy Spirit!

Christ spoke of the day when God promised He would raise Him again from the dead.

And God proclaimed that He would behave as a Father to Christ and Christ would behave towards Him as a Son.

This is the Way God has planned for you to be part of God’s Family and be called a son or a daughter of God!!

Paul was very sure of this revelation. He spoke of God the Father and Christ with regard to Christ’s resurrection.

Galatians 1:1 “Paul an apostle, (not of man, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead;)”

Colossians 1:12 - “Giving thanks unto the Father ... hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son ... who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.”

We need to know what a Perfect Man looks like! God in human flesh has shown us by His obedience to God’s Word! We need Someone who is like God and can show us how man can please God!

Job realised that he could not attain God’s holiness on his own.

Job 9:32 - 33 “For He is not a man, as I am, that I should answer Him, and we should come together in judgment. 33. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.”

A Daysman - Someone who perfectly understands Man and perfectly understands God. Someone who can stand between the frail, helpless, sinful man and the Holy Righteous God!

But CHRIST, as God’s Perfect Man, can now show us how a man, prone to sin, can become a “new creature”, and be fit for the kingdom of God!

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

- “and His wife hath made herself ready” !

“in judgment” – Job meant not for punishment, but for a right solution for his life before God.

Let’s look at two verses:

1 Timothy 6:8 “And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”

- the ATTITUDE; no fret, no anxiousness.

Romans 8:32 “He that spared not His own Son but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not WITH Him also freely give us all things.”

- the PROVISION; His Promise Fulfilled in the Risen Christ, the Firstborn Son

We have in our Lord Jesus Christ, One who is our Joint-heir with God, in order for us to be heirs of God.

Romans 8:17 “And if CHILDREN, 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.” -

- “and His wife hath made herself ready”!!

“Suffer with Him ... glorified together” -

Made like Him.

Crucified!

"and His wife hath made herself ready"

Revelation 19:7

Sunday am 25th October 2020

Revelations of the Cross

John 18:19 - 23 "The high priest then asked Jesus of His disciples, and of His doctrine. 20. Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the (outer) temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. 21. Why askest thou Me? ask them which heard Me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said. 22. And when He had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest Thou the high priest so? 23. Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou Me?"

At this stage of His false trial, He was directed by the Holy Spirit to speak. He obeyed even though He knew that this would be the first of many blows of hatred against Him upon His face and body.

But Why was He directed to say what He said? What was He actually saying and asking? What was He bringing their attention to?

This is what He said in the morning to Pilate :

John 18:33 - 37 "Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto Him, Art Thou the King of the Jews? 34. Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of Me? 35. Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered Thee unto me: what hast Thou done? 36. Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from hence. 37. Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art Thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice."

"that I should BEAR WITNESS UNTO THE TRUTH."

This is what the Lord Jesus was bringing out, what God wanted to be revealed, when He stood before the high priest.

The high priest was to stand for the Holiness of God. He represented God, in all His Holiness and dealings with His people. He was to uphold the Law - the whole Law.

The Law of Witness was part of the Law!

Deuteronomy 17:6 “At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.”

Not one witness had been called at that point! The court of the high priest, the upholder of the Law of God on High, had not produced even one witness! Yet they had already agreed to seek His death!

Matthew 26:3 - 5 “Then assembled together the chief priest, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, 4. And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill Him. 5. But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

Mark 14:1 “After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by craft, and put Him to death.”

Luke 22:2 “And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill Him; for they feared the people.”

John 11:53 “then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put Him to death.”

They were so incensed with their hatred for Him, that finding witnesses was not an issue!

Matthew 26:59 then records that they sought for false witnesses - evidently suitably shamed to at least produce some witnesses!

v60 “But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none.

At the last came two false witnesses,

v61 “And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days”

v62 “And the high priest arose, and said unto Him, Answerest Thou nothing? what is it which these witness against Thee?”

v63 “But Jesus held His peace.”

He had made His point. He had nothing more to say. He was not there to defend Himself – He was willing for His lip to be cut, for His cheek to be bruised, for His eye to be swollen. He was and is the Lamb!

But the high priest tried then to take the moral ground! ‘Here are the witnesses. What have you got to say for yourself now?’

John 18:37 - Again, as Jesus said to Pilate :

“Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should BEAR WITNESS UNTO THE TRUTH.

This is the whole Purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ coming from Heaven - that Holy Place where everything is done according to the Will of God, in Truth and Righteousness.

In all He did in His sinless Body of flesh, blood and bones, was done in accordance with the Written Word of God.

John 17:17b “Thy word is truth”

John 8:17 “It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.”

Deuteronomy 19:15 “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

v18 “I am One that bear witness of Myself, and the Father that sent Me beareth witness of Me”

“of Myself” - who is The Truth. (John 14:6)

Revelation 1:5 “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness...”

Revelation 3:14b “These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness...”

Revelation 19:11 “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.”

He represents God perfectly!

He reveals God perfectly - the whole Nature and Character of God upon the Throne!

He cannot lie - He is the same as God is, except He is in a human body - without human nature!

All that He knows of God, He has been faithful to show us.

All that He has seen of God, He has faithfully told us!

He has perfectly fulfilled the Law of A Witness!

And He therefore expects all who claim Him as their Lord to be faithful witnesses unto Him!

With the Word of God and the Holy Spirit in us, we demonstrate what manner of God we worship and serve!

2 Corinthians 5:20 reminds us that we are “ambassadors for Christ”.

Again, I say, if the Christ we follow is a Crucified Christ, then we must be crucified people!

Only crucified people can demonstrate power over the world, the flesh and the devil!

Only crucified people can be victorious over the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life! (1 John 2:16, expounded from Genesis 3:6)

Genesis 3:6 “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

Only crucified people can fully bear true witness to Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead, and coming as the Bridegroom and the Judge !

"and His wife hath made herself ready"

Revelation 19:7

Sunday pm 25th October 2020

Revelations from the Psalms

Luke 24:44 "And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me."

Psalm 38

- v1 O LORD, rebuke Me not in Thy wrath: neither chasten Me in Thy hot displeasure.
- v2 For Thine arrows stick fast in Me, and Thy hand presseth Me sore.
- v3 There is no soundness in My flesh because of Thine anger; neither is there any rest in My bones because of My sin.
- v4 For Mine iniquities are gone over Mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for Me"

These are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ as He hung on the Cross dying for your sins.

"Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree"
(Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:23)

"Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows"

"And the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all". (Isaiah 53:4, 6b, 12)

"And He was numbered with the transgressors"

"And He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors"

- v11 My lovers and My friends stand aloof from My sore; and My kinsman stand afar off.

"Then all the disciples forsook Him, and fled"

"And they all forsook Him, and fled" (Mark 14:50)

- v12 They also that seek after My life lay snares for Me:

"This they said, tempting Him, that they might have to accuse Him. (John 8:6)

v13a But I, as a deaf man, heard not;

“But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground, as though He heard them not” (John 8:6)

v13b and I was as a dumb man that openeth not his mouth.

“Then he (Herod) questioned with Him in many words; but He answered him nothing” (Luke 23:9)

v14 Thus I was as a man that hearth not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs.

“Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not (1 Peter 2:23)

v19 But Mine enemies are lively, and they are strong: and they that hate Me wrongfully are multiplied.

“But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that miswritten in their law, They hated Me without a cause” (John 15:25)

“Then took they up stones to cast at Him: but Jesus hid Himself” (John 8:59)

“Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him” (John 10:31)

Psalm 39

(To the Chief Musician) !

v1 I said, I will take heed to My ways, that I sin not with My tongue: I will keep My mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before Me.

v2 I was dumb with silence, I held My peace, even from good; and My sorrow was stirred.

This is how He behaved as a lamb. “He held His peace”. What good and right things He could have said, but He was there to take their sin away, even the wicked and mockers!

v5 Behold, Thou hast made My days as an handbreadth; and Mine age is as nothing before Thee:

Isaiah said (53:8) “and who shall declare His generation? for He was cut off out of the land of the living”. In other words, He didn’t live a full span of years in this world! He was about 37 years old when He died in AD33. (The Newberry Edition shows the time-scale clearly from 446BC, the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to Messiah’s death)

Daniel 9:26 also says, "... shall Messiah be cut off, but not for Himself" - No! It was all for us, you and me!!

v7 And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee.

This is the outworking of the Faith of the Son of God, the Faith of Jesus Christ, the Faith of Christ, the Faith of Jesus. His Faith - the Faith which the Church, His Body, is to live by!

(Galatians 2:20, 2:16, Roman 3:22, Revelation 14:12)

He waited on God on the Cross to know when He should die, when the Full Atonement had been made. He waited in Hell for God to bring Him out on the third day.

(Psalm 119:62 "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee because of Thy righteous judgments")

v11 When Thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, Thou makes His beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Selah. (Pause and think about this)

Our Lord Jesus Christ was the Man whom God corrected for all man's sins. That perfect sinless Life, form and face was destroyed in the process. How truly terrible is a hard, unbelieving heart! How truly terrible is a stubborn will! How truly evil is that person who dismisses the Giving of Christ as worthless; His Giving of Himself for them in such a way! So how very wonderful is the gracious Gift of Repentance!!

The Bride will be there when the whole host of angels cry with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." The Bride has given Him all these things in her lifetime on earth, and will continue to give Him throughout all Eternity!!

(Only Psalm 38 was given on Tuesday 27th October, before teaching of Session 3 Day 1, as we held the meeting at the plot, and the tents had to be dismantled by 3:30pm!)

“and His wife hath made herself ready”

Revelation 19:7

SESSION 3 DAY 1 Tuesday 27th October

Three Days Meditation on the Future of The Bride?

What is The Destination of the Bride?

Revelation 21:1 – 2, 10 – 27

- vs1 – 2 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”
- v10 “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.”
- v11 “Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;”

The light of the City was most beautiful, even like a precious stone. Precious stones are beautiful, that’s why they are precious - costly and rare. The light shone as the warm colours of jasper - red, yellow and soft browns - but transparent, clear, sparkling like crystal.

1 Peter 1:7 “... your faith, being much more precious than of gold...”

1 Peter 1:19 “But with the precious blood of Christ”

2 Peter 1:4 “... exceeding great and precious promises:”

- v12 “And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates; and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:”

John measured the wall - v17 - and also described it as of jasper – v18. The wall was 216 feet high, nearly 66 meters! All glowing with these beautiful warm clear colours. Angels stood at the gates, welcoming those who entered in, for the gates are never shut – v25. There is no danger, and no night in the city - v25.

The names of these twelve tribes will be those listed in Revelation 7:4 - 8. These make up the New Faithful Nation of Israel who will live on the New Earth, but will come freely in and out of the City to see the King!

(The Tribes : v5 Juda, Reuben, Gad, v6 Aser (Asher), Nephthalim, Manasses, v7 Simeon, Levi, Issachar, v8 Zabulon, Joseph, Benjamin. Twelve thousand of each)

This Holy City is called the New Jerusalem because it has never known sin. Not any act or thought of unrighteousness, of pride or deceit, rebellion or just plain foolishness! It is a Place that forever will be devoted to pure and constant praise of God. It is a perfect sanctuary, a place of perfect Rest, and of joyful and free worship to the True and Living God and His Equal, the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is not a holiday camp! It is not for the indulgence of self! And it is BIG! Because God is generous, big-hearted! 1500 miles wide, 1500 miles long, and 1500 miles HIGH!

It is BRIGHT! The walls alone glow with light. Each of the twelve foundations on which it is built have their own special colour and brightness. Layer upon layer of glorious, spectacular, vibrant, colours, as the colours and brightness of precious stones. Colours of fire, brilliant blues and greens, pale greens and apple green, soft milky colours. These will burn like fire from jasper to amethyst and like the burning blue of a tropical sky!

And engraved in the foundations are the names of those twelve men who followed the Lord Jesus from the time of John the Baptist, when he pointed to Him, proclaiming Him to be the Lamb of God. Judas was officially replaced by Matthias, who was accepted among the twelve apostles by Paul. (Acts 1:26)

It will certainly then be BEAUTIFUL! The street is made of pure gold. It will glisten and shine wonderfully like transparent glass!

Then there are the trees, beautiful fruiting trees which will produce twelve different fruits every month - for Eternity! The trees of the tree of life, growing each side of the pure river of water of life. This magnificent avenue leads right up to the separate glorious throne of the Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, called in 22:1 & 3, God and the Lamb. The Uniqueness of Christ is Amazing! With all the Power and Glory of an Eternal and Holy God yet He has expressed His Humility, Grace, and Lovingkindness in human flesh!

Let us not forget that the gates, three in each of the four sides of the wall, are made of pearl. Each gate was of one pearl! How amazing is that! All the twelve foundations for the wall are recognisable precious stones from the earth. But pearl is an entirely different substance, and produced in an extraordinary way. Is it a Parable of the Cross?

Let us consider that soft creature living on the sea or riverbed, be it a mollusc or an oyster or mussel, has the protection of a shell. But sometimes grain of sand or grit gets into the shell. It would be an irritant to the gentle harmless creature! So, out of itself, it produces something exquisitely beautiful and precious, a pearl!

Our Lord Jesus poured out of Himself, and covered the hard, unwanted intrusion into what was a perfect fellowship and harmony between God and man. In doing so, brought forth something wonderful for us, those descendants of our first damaged and corrupted parents! He brought us the Power to live a Crucified Life in harmony with God's Holy Spirit, the Power to take hold of Eternal Life through His Name. It will be overcomes who swarm through those beautiful gates to live in this glorious Home!

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansion: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

So our Heavenly Bridegroom is preparing a home to suit each one who makes up "His Bride". Is it a hard task for us to prepare to meet Him and experience what He has specially designed for us?!

“and His wife hath made herself ready”

Revelation 19:7

SESSION 3 DAY 2 Wednesday 28th October

Three Days Meditation on the Future of The Bride?

Who is the Bride?

Revelation 2:1 – 2 **“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”**

We see John looking at a great and wonderful City, a place so beautiful and without sin of any kind!

Revelation 21:9 - 27

v9 “And there came unto me (John) one of the seven angels (1:4c, etc) which had the seven vials (bowls) 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 was told that he was being shown the Bride, the Lamb’s wife! The Holy Spirit showed John that the Holy City is synonymous with the Bride! How amazing is that?

v10 “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,”

John had already seen – as we read in vs1 to 2 – this great City coming down onto the New Earth! Now he is shown the City as being equal to that body of redeemed people called “the Lamb’s wife”!

v10 “the holy Jerusalem”

The first sighting of the City - it was Holy! If the City is Holy, then the Bride must be Holy!

1 Timothy 3:15 “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

1 Peter 2:5 “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

The first description of it :

Revelation 21:11 “Having the glory of God:”

So the Bride must also have the glory of God in her life.

Romans 5:2 “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

The next description is :

v11b “and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;”

Matthew 5:14 “Ye are the light of the world ... 15. It giveth light unto all that are in the house.”

Matthew 6:22 “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”

That beautiful light of the City, like a precious stone - costly and rare - is to be the kind of light in the eye of the Bride, shining out upon the world!

The next description is :

v12a “a wall great and high”

Songs 8:10 “I am a wall”

Why should the bride depicted in the Song of Solomon say she is a wall? Now we see why! The Holy City has a wall, so the Bride must represent that. A wall makes a boundary. The wall to the Holy City simply marks the boundary. Beyond it is the New Earth!

The Bride marks the boundary, the difference between her holy life and the life of the world, Christ-less. The bride described in the Songs is confident, she is bold, she knows she is different from the other women!

The next description is :

v12b “and had twelve gates; and at the gates twelve angels”

As we saw yesterday, the gates are never shut, there is always a welcome for those who come into the City. So the Bride is made up of those people with open hearts to all who would seek God. She is without favouritism.

The Gentiles will enter the City, and so will the Jews - the New Nation of Israel - and the gates are open to them all.

Also, she is at home with the angels at her gates! Here is a wonderful revelation of how close the Church is to angels, and particularly to those Seven special Angels :

After John had been lifted up by the Lord, terrified after seeing Him as the Son of Man, the Judge, he was told by Him that the seven stars in His right hand were the pastors of the seven churches, and that the golden candlesticks John had seen were the seven churches.

Now in Chapter 4 of the prophecy of Zechariah where he is shown the two witnesses, as the two olive trees pouring in the oil into the candlestick, he also sees that the candlestick has seven lamps!

And these seven lamps are also called in the book of Revelation the seven Spirits, the seven angels who will blow their warning trumpets and pour out their bowls of terrible plagues. All in the Day of the LORD. (1:4c, 4:5b, 5:6, 7:1, 8:2, 6 - 12, 9:1 - 14, 10:7, 11:15, 15:1, 16:1, 2 - 17, 17:1, 19:9- 10 (he), 21:9, 15 - 17, 22:1, 6, 8 - 10)

In Revelation 2:1, for the pastor at Ephesus, Christ says, These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.... He emphasises His allegiance and authority over the local churches and their leaders.

But in Revelation 3:1, for the pastor in Sardis, He takes it even further! "These things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars..."

He brings together the angels who will specifically uphold the Righteousness of GOD in the Lord's Day with the pastors of the local churches! (those seven churches probably represented almost the whole of the Church at that point in the Church's history)

So we see that the Church - that body of **holy** people - is integral with the Seven Angels of Judgment!

Again we see that to be a "new creature in Christ" is to be completely separate and different from 'ordinary' human beings! The Seven Angels are as close to the Church as lamps upon the candlestick! What an astonishing revelation of Truth and Righteousness for redeemed human souls!! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Who then is the Bride?

It is a body of people who have taken on the divine Nature of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:4 “that by these (great and precious promises) ye might be partakers of the divine nature...”

- She cannot be arrogant or full of pride and self-seeking!
- She cannot be unteachable, for her Bridegroom was the most teachable Person in earth and heaven!
- She cannot be disobedient, or wayward, or rebellious, for her Bridegroom was the most obedient Person in earth or heaven!
- She cannot be centred on herself, carnally minded, or vain – conceited; with a high opinion of herself – and partly of this world and partly of heaven, for her Bridegroom is from Heaven and knows nothing, and has no part, of this world!
- She cannot have an unforgiving spirit, with bitterness in her soul, for her Heavenly Bridegroom freely forgave every evil and hateful human being!
- She is therefore entirely separate from the ways and motives of the world.

These are the kind of people that make up the Bride :

- Those who have heard the Call of God in Christ Crucified
- Those who know they are washed from their sins and have their conscience cleansed (Hebrews 9:14)
- Those who love the Written Word of God, and fill their lives with it (Colossians 3:16)
- Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit and live and walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 25)
- Those who overcome Satan by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony (Revelation 12:10 - 11)
- Those who are longing and yearning in their hearts to meet their Heavenly Bridegroom in the Air, and forever be with their Lord! (Songs 8:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:17)

Revelation 22:15 “For without (outside of the Holy City) are dogs, (unclean people) and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.”

Revelation 21:27 “And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie, but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

But they shall shine forth like the brightness of the Holy City! HALLELUJAH!
HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!

Additional Associated Scriptures

- John 20:23 “Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.”
- Hebrews 9:23 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”
- Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
- Mark 4:14 - 23 “And when He had called all the people unto Him, He said unto them, Hearken unto Me every one of you, and understand: 15. There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. 16. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. 17. And when He was entered into the house from the people, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. 18. And He saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entirety into the man, it cannot defile him; 19. Because it entirety not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? 20. And He said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22. Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23. All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”
- Mark 16:20 “And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.
- Luke 24:32 “And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?
- Psalms 85:10 “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”

- Galatians 5:24 “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
:25 “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”
- Exodus 6:2 - 3 “And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD:
3. And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by My name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.”
- Matthew 6:22 “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”
- Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: and who can know it?”