

Happily Ever After

“On Being a Pure Bride”

I. SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:3-4 – “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of YAHUAH [God] *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. YAHUAH [God] Himself will be with them *and be* their ELOHIYM [God]. And YAHUAH [God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’”

II. A BRIDE FIT FOR A KING

“Each young woman’s turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months’ preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.” (Esther 2:12)

“And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her. So, Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign. The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so, he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen...” (Esther 2:15b-17)

If I understand the story of Esther, even before she would be evaluated by the king, she had to go through a twelve (12)-month preparation period, going through a one (1) year bathing ritual: six (6) months with the oil of myrrh, six (6) more months with other perfumes and preparations. I was curious about why the oil of myrrh was used in the first six (6) months, and I learned that it has many healing benefits, including being used to treat wounds and has been proved as an excellent antibacterial and anti-fungal, able to even decrease some parasitic infections, and many other things such as treating acne, and even providing healing to organs internally.

The story of Esther is a wonderful example of the preparation that you and I must be going through... in such a time as this... as we are now getting ready to become His bride, as we meet Him on His return, to be loved more than all others, and to obtain grace and favor in His sight.

Yes! We desire, and strive to be more prepared than all the other virgins who were not, who did not have the essential oil in their lamps.

Now, let's take a closer look at Esther, and see how closely her story reflects a story of what today's bride of Christ should look like.

III. ESTHER: AN EXAMPLE OF CHRIST'S BRIDE (Church)

A. REDEMPTION

Esther's story is a story of redemption, a story of an orphan girl who was chosen by a great king to be his bride. Likewise, you and I have been chosen by YAHUSHA [Jesus] to be His bride, his church.

B. PURITY

Esther was a virgin who was favored above all others for her wholesome and pristine beauty. Likewise, you and I as part of His church, are to be a virgin who is waiting... who is alert! Not falling asleep! And certainly keeping enough oil (Holy Spirit) within our lamps.

C. WISDOM

Esther was a woman, a lady with enough wit and wisdom, to stealthily seal the fate of her enemies by the hand of her husband. You and I too, through the almighty hand of our Husband YAHUSHA [Jesus], are able to stealthily seal the fate of our enemies... by loving and sealing their fate, for their good or alternative, for their destruction... it's a result of their choice and not our spiritual malpractice toward them. Yes, we love and witness to those individuals who hate us. And, by binding all satanic forces, that attempt to attack us... be recognizing and calling evil by its name, we are told by our Betrothed that **"behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. [And] you will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the RUACH [Spirit] of your Father who speaks in you."** (Matthew 10:16-20)

Likewise, Esther was a bride who was willing to lay down her life for her people.

D. SACRIFICE

These words wisdom from our Betrothed from Matthew 10 are a prophesy that He has given to us, where he tells us that like Esther, He will lead us into times and places where we will be a sacrificed, as we are betrayed by others, and brought before governors and kings because of our love for... our belief and commitment to Him, our Husband.

E. HEROISM

Esther was a woman who stood against every possible odd by her faith in YAHUAH [God] alone... who paved the way of rescue for her people, saving them from utter extermination. We, too, must stand against every possible odd by our faith in YAHUAH [God] alone... not by our faith in man, but by our faith in YAHUAH [God] through the sacrificed blood of our Husband YAHUSHA [Jesus]. For that other Team so loved us, that He, our Father, gave His only begotten Son YAHUSHA [Jesus], our Husband, so that if you and I believe in Him... and agree to be reborn in Him, that we should not perish but have eternal life. And make no mistake about it, as is stated in today's scripture, our future life together with our Husband will be a life of "happily ever after" with Him. But...

Now, as we are waiting for His return, in such a time as ours, as we live in and experience the passing of this year 2020 (5780), whether you realize it or not, your life is divinely ordered by YAHUAH [God]. And He wants you, as He wanted Esther, to fulfill your ordained purpose. Ask yourself: what is it that He is requiring me to do for Him now? If you are still alive and breathing today, then I assure you that He still has a purpose for you. Are you ready now to embrace His call and mandate, *regardless of the cost*? What are you willing to sacrifice today for your Husband YAHUSHA [Jesus]? Are you willing to submit to Him today, at any cost?

IV. HAPPY IN HOPE (For Ourselves)

In last week's "Happy in Hope" adult lesson study, we are asked to think about ourselves as the bride of MESSIAH [Christ], having a heart that is looking forward to our eternal future with Him. We are reminded that it is written that we have a living and blessed hope that focuses on the resurrection of the dead – our saved loved ones and ourselves, who will be resurrected into a blissful life eternal at His glorious return. We should be preparing ourselves for Him now, as we *head toward* and *ultimately reach* the finish line, where we will be able to ultimately live a blissful life with Him. He promises us that we will "enter YAHUAH [God]'s *Presence* behind the

veil, where this *hope* we have [is] a sure and steadfast anchor of [our] soul, where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* [our] YAHUSHA [Jesus]...”

V. HAPPY IN HOPE (For Others)

Enjoying the blessed and living hope we have in MESSIAH [Christ] for ourselves is one thing. But having a reason for our hope ready for those who ask for it is another matter, is it not? How do we explain our love of our Betrothed to others? Our faith in Him? The joy that He give us? How do we explain our *commitment*? Our *sacrifice*, our *suffering*, and our *longing* for Him, and His return? Let us pray to YAHUAH [God], that He will give us the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] as our YAHUSHA [Jesus] has promised us, that we might give a good, well-informed answer that we can communicate logically, carefully, earnestly, and above all... loving to others.

Yes, it's dark outside these days, but hope can shine within us. So, we must be of good cheer as “we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of [this] hope firm [until] the end” (Hebrews 3:6b).

VI. THE ESTHER SEASON

We, as the Bride of MESSIAH [Christ], are entering an Esther Season. If we are *true* to our Husband, and it doesn't matter where we live – what country we live in, or what church we attend. Because as He did in Esther's time, today YAHUAH [God] is calling His people to enter into a season of prayer and fasting. Make no mistake about it: now is NOT a season about bringing *your* list of petitions to Him. Instead, now is a season of YAHUAH [God] offering a very generous and gracious opportunity for you to repent and to receive His mercy... but He is requiring stillness and silence in His presence. You must come to Him with humble ears, ready to hearken (to listen to and to give a respectful attention to) His word, and to heed it, to obey His every command. How quickly and how long this season will be is going to be different for everyone. But, each and every one of us need to be to deny ourselves, to take up our cross every day, and follow Him. Yes, dear brothers and sister, what I am saying is this: be ready to become *uncomfortable*! Be ready to *sacrifice*! Be ready to *suffer*! ...and to *serve* Him as He *asks* you. Our lives must be a life of “go and sin no more”! Be comforted, though, because the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] is promised to you, if you ask, and He will continue to lead you, if you remain connected to Him.

Do not make the mistake, that as persecution and calamity comes to His Body, to America and the world, that YAHUAH [God] is giving you permission to ignore the

sufferings of your brethren and sisters as while they go about their own live, according to the individual choices – good or bad – that they make. He is not! We need to remain with a ready heart and mind... to suffer and sacrifice for our ADONAI YAHUSHA HA'MASHIACH [Lord Jesus Christ], for the sake of others. And, the bride of MESSIAH [Christ], the true Body of YAHUSHA [Jesus] – His “Remnant” – must become and remain unified... one body in Him, by the help of the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit].

VII. JUDGMENT UPON HIS HOUSEHOLD

Judgment IS going to fall on His Body, His Church! Many will fall away. Apostasy is coming. We will watch it unfold before our very eyes in massive numbers. I believe that many will give in, and take the easy road. Few will choose to stand up, stand firm and fight for the true Gospel of YAHUSHA [Jesus]. For there are many wolves within the Body of MESSIAH [Christ] who are fleecing the sheep and growing fat off of them. These are NOT the bride of MESSIAH [Christ]; rather, YAHUAH [God] calls them “whoremongers”. In the latter days, compared to the pure bride of YAHUSHA [Jesus], they will be called the “great harlot” ... and we should recognize that both His bride and the harlot are given their titles by their actions, by their deeds... by their choices. How you choose today, and if you are turning toward and facing your Betrothed today, and how you walk each day will determine your ultimate title: “bride” or “harlot”.

VIII. WATCH & BE READY

YAHUAH [God] is good! And now is a time where He will forgive, and show mercy toward those who give themselves totally to Him: as Esther gave herself to the king, and as a bride yields to, gives herself totally to her husband.

Please dear brothers and sister... don't misinterpret the times and seasons today, for each of us are entering into the Esther Season. And as Esther, you need to remain as the true, pure, and totally committed bride of YAHUSHA [Jesus].

IX. OUR PROMISE

For our Husband promises: **“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of YAHUAH [My God], and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of YAHUAH [My God] and the name of the city of My YAHUAH [God], the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My YAHUAH [God]...”** (Revelation 3:12a)

And you and must I hold on, despite what may come, for we are promised that there is “a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth of this world will pass away. Also[that], there will be no more sea. ... [that] the holy city, [the] New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from YAHUAH [God], [is] prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And [there is] a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of YAHUAH [God] *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. [And] YAHUAH [God] Himself will be with them *and be* their ELOHIYM [God]. And YAHUAH [God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes; [and] there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. [That] there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’”
(Revelation 21:1-5)

Dear family... dear brothers and sisters... dear friends, I long for that day, don't you?

My prayer is that when all is said and done... that I will meet you there, in the land and the time of “happily ever after”.

References & Credits:

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