

# *A Bride For His Son*

*A Message from Jesus Ministry*

Through His Friend  
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# Chapter One

## A Bride for His Son

The Apostle Paul said of the many examples recorded in the Bible, “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Cor. 10:11). Many of the events recorded in the pages of the Old Testament are prophetic in that they are a type of the activities yet to occur in the future. Some are showing circumstances that will happen on a spiritual scale now and in the future. Examples from thousands of years ago are actually foretelling similar matters that are to take place in the Church spiritually at the end of this age.

It is amazing to see the many stories we thought to be interesting bits of historical fact are parallel examples to the prophetic parables from Jesus in the New Testament and have everything to do with the time in which we live!

Most Christians understand the story of God asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on the altar and they realize it is a type of God sacrificing Jesus for the sins of the whole world.

But there is another account in the lives of Abraham and Isaac that few understand.

### Abraham, Isaac, and Rebekah

This story begins with Abraham’s quest to find a bride for Isaac. It is found in Genesis 24. In the spiritual application, Abraham again is likened to God the Father and Isaac is compared to Jesus just as they were in the example of Abraham’s sacrifice.

“Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, ‘Please, put your hand under my thigh, and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac’” (vv. 1-4 NKJV).

We see that Abraham entrusted to his oldest and most responsible servant the serious and sober task of finding a wife for Isaac his son. It is important to note that this servant was in charge of all Abraham’s house and all that he owned.

“And the servant said to him, ‘Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?’” (v. 5 NKJV).

There are two important concerns to note in this exchange between Abraham and his servant. The first was there might be a real chance the woman wouldn’t be willing to go to a distant land to marry a stranger—a man she had never met. And the second point is that we, as Christians today, are not to go backward from where God has sent us. (See Luke 9:62.)

“But Abraham said to him, ‘Beware that you do not take my son back there. The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, “To your descendants I give this land,” He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there.’ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter” (vv. 6-9 NKJV).

It is worthy to note that Abraham didn’t want this faithful servant to take a wife for Isaac from the pagan women in the land of Canaan. It was Abraham’s relatives that were acquainted with (not that they always obeyed) the only true God (see Gen. 31:53). So it was out of this group that Abraham’s servant was to find a wife for his son Isaac.

“Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and departed, for all his master’s goods *were in his hand*...” (v. 10 NKJV).

It is interesting to realize that all Abraham’s wealth was available to, or at the disposal of, this servant to accomplish the task of finding a wife for his master’s son. So it is with us; all God’s resources are available to find a wife for His Son.

“...And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw *water*. Then he said, ‘O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. Behold, *here* I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, “Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,” and she says, “Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink”—*let her be the one* You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master” (vv. 10-14 NKJV).

Did you notice that this faithful servant of Abraham was a converted worshiper of God? His desire was the same as Abraham’s. He prayed with sincerity and looked to God in faith for answers to his prayers.

“And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. Now the young woman *was* very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up. And the servant ran to meet her and said, ‘Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher.’

“So she said, ‘Drink, my lord.’ Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink. And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, ‘I will draw *water* for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.’ Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw *water*, and drew for all his camels. And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not” (vv. 15-21 NKJV).

Rebekah was a virgin; the Bride of Christ must also be a virgin spiritually. The Bride of Christ will not come from pagan religions. She will be a worshiper of the one, true, and Almighty God. She will come from God's own people just as Rebekah came from Abraham's own relatives!

There is one more significant parallel to note. Water, throughout the Bible, has been representative of the Word of God. As Rebekah was willing to give water to the servant of Abraham and the ten camels, **so the Bride of Christ will be ready to dispense the life-giving water (the Holy Spirit and the Word of God) to many.** "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let him that heareth say, 'Come.' And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17).

"So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten *shekels* of gold, and said, 'Whose daughter *are* you? Tell me, please, is there room *in* your father's house for us to lodge?'

"So she said to him, 'I *am* the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor.' Moreover she said to him, 'We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge'" (vv. 22-25 NKJV).

"And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD. And he said, 'Blessed *be* the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of His mercy and His truth: I *being in the way*, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren" (vv. 26-27).

Abraham's servant worshipped God and thanked Him for answering all his prayers.

"So the young woman ran and told her mother's household these things.

"Now Rebekah had a brother whose name *was* Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well. So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, 'Thus the man spoke to me,' that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well. And he said, 'Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels.'

"Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who *were* with him. *Food* was set before him to eat, but he said, 'I will not eat until I have told about my errand.'

"And he said, 'Speak on.'

"So he said, 'I *am* Abraham's servant. The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has. Now my master

made me swear, saying, “You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell; but you shall go to my father’s house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.” And I said to my master, “Perhaps the woman will not follow me.” But he said to me, **“The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father’s house.** You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family; for if they will not give *her* to you, then you will be released from my oath.”

““And this day I came to the well and said, ‘O LORD God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go, behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin comes out to draw *water*, and I say to her, ‘Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink,’ and she says to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,’—*let her be* the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master’s son” (vv. 28-44 NKJV).

It is important to notice that Rebekah was willing to go far above and beyond what was asked of her. **She exemplified the same personality and character that God is looking for in the Bride of Jesus Christ!** A man may drink a half gallon of water at one time if he is very thirsty, yet a camel may drink up to twenty gallons of water. Ten camels could drink as much as 200 gallons of water. She watered all ten camels until they were done drinking! This is the character the Father desires of His Son’s Bride!

“But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew *water*. And I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her *shoulder*, and said, ‘Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.’ So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also. Then I asked her, and said, ‘Whose daughter *are* you?’ And she said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master’s brother for his son. Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left.

“Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, ‘The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. Here *is* Rebekah before you; take *her* and go, and let her be your master’s son’s wife, as the LORD has spoken” (vv. 45-51 NKJV).

**It is surprising that Laban and Bethuel, the relatives of Abraham and Isaac, could tell immediately that this mission of finding a wife for Isaac was from the Lord. Yet today the leadership of mainstream Christianity can’t see the hand of God directing His servants to find a Bride for Jesus Christ!** Does this tell us that Laban and Bethuel, in the land of Mesopotamia, were closer to God than modern institutions of religions today?

“And it came to pass, when Abraham’s servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, *bowing himself* to the earth. Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver,

jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave *them* to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

“And he and the men who *were* with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, ‘Send me away to my master.’

“But her brother and her mother said, ‘Let the young woman stay with us *a few* days, at least ten; after that she may go.’

“And he said to them, ‘Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master.’

“So they said, ‘We will call the young woman and ask her personally.’ Then they called Rebekah and said to her, ‘Will you go with this man?’

“And she said, ‘I will go’” (vv. 52-58 NKJV). Can you imagine the faith it took for Rebekah to ride off with these men to marry a man she had never seen? She was willing to go from her relatives and friends to be the wife of Isaac. It will be the same with the Bride of Christ. She will also have to move from where she is to where God wants her spiritually.

“So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her:

‘Our sister, *may you become  
the mother of thousands of ten thousands;  
And may your descendants possess  
the gates of those who hate them.*

“Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed” (vv. 59-61 NKJV). This brings to mind the statement of the Apostle Paul, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1). The servant of Abraham was totally committed to his master and God and Rebekah was willing to follow his example.

“Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels *were* coming. Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; for she had said to the servant, ‘Who *is* this man walking in the field to meet us?’

“The servant said, ‘It *is* my master.’ So she took a veil and covered herself.

“And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s *death*” (vv. 62-67 NKJV).

This is a story of an arranged marriage. This custom may seem a bit strange today. Yet the hand of God was clearly in every aspect of these events. It is a remarkable love story because the Almighty God was guiding it. And, what is even more significant is that it has an important parallel to another great wedding soon to come at the end of this age.

## Chapter Two

### A Story for the Church Today

This story of Abraham, Isaac, and Rebekah, in many ways, parallels events about to take place in the Church today!

Let's look into a similar love story in the New Testament of the Bible. It begins in Matthew 22 and tells of an arranged marriage also. The account of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 24 was a forerunner to this great wedding of Jesus Christ. This prophecy of Matthew 22, given by Jesus, foretold the events leading up to His own wedding at the end of this age.

### The Father Seeks a Bride for His Son

Jesus began the parable by saying, "The kingdom of heaven [or the Kingdom of God] is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son" (Matt. 22:2 NKJV). In this case, it is God the Father who is arranging a wedding for His Son Jesus Christ! **Isaac's wedding symbolized the future wedding of Jesus Christ--the greatest wedding to ever be organized in all the history of mankind!**

You see, hidden within the parables from Jesus were prophecies preserved for the Church. These parables were given to hide the true meaning so the average person wouldn't understand. So even though they heard what He said, they were not able to perceive what He meant.

"And [God the Father] sent out His servants to call those who were invited [previously called to be Christians] to the wedding; and [in this case] they were not willing to come" (Matt. 22:3 NKJV). The Father has sent His servants to carry the Good News of the Kingdom of God and the Marriage of His Son to the churches—to all those who were previously called.

God the Father has sent out, by the hands of His servants, invitations to many Christian organizations to this great wedding of His Son Jesus Christ. The outrageous part of this story is that "they were not willing to come"! Remember Abraham's servant said, "...Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land..." (Gen. 24:5)? In Rebekah's example, she was willing to go to "the land" where Isaac lived and marry a man she had never met. For many believers, churches, and denominations at the end of this age, Jesus prophesied that they were not going to be willing to go above and beyond and announce the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. They wouldn't work to prepare for His wedding and that great banquet! They were not going to be willing to make the cry, "The Bridegroom comes!"

Jesus prophesied in another parable that because of this reluctance, "...the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen" (Matt. 20:16).

You might say, "Wait a minute! If I were invited to this great, wedding banquet of the Son of God, I would be ready and waiting"! Well, you are invited! But are you willing to make the personal sacrifices necessary to enter the wedding banquet of Jesus?

You see, this is a prophecy about the Church and it is prophesied that the Church has been sleeping. The cares of this world and the enticement of wealth and riches has caused the Church to go to sleep spiritually!

This is made clear in another of Christ's prophecies in Matthew 25:1-13 where Jesus said, "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, 'Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him.' Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, 'Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.' But the wise answered, saying, '*Not so*; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the Bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But He answered and said, 'Verily I say unto you, I know you not.' Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

They all slumbered and slept!

It is truly sad to know that many will not be ready for Jesus Christ and this great wedding. Furthermore, they have not been willing to make the bold announcement of Christ's Second Coming!

Why can't they make "the Cry" of Matthew 25:6?

**It is because they are asleep and can't see His coming; therefore, they are not willing to announce what they cannot see!**

Most of Christianity is still preaching His First Coming when they should be preaching His Second Coming! Most are yet asleep! Talk about being disorientated! This is the state of Christianity today!

Continuing in Matthew 22, we see the Father in action, "Again, He sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared My dinner; My oxen and fatted cattle *are* killed, and all things *are* ready. Come to the wedding.'" But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business" (vv. 4-5 NKJV). More than once the calls and announcements have gone out, yet the response has been the same.

These are all who were previously called or converted. An announcement has gone out to the churches to wake up and join in announcing the Second Coming of Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church. But today's major denominations and churches have been unwilling to join God's servants in announcing, "**The bridegroom comes**"!

**How is it possible for a Christian to "make light of the wedding of Jesus Christ" and go on with personal interests and business pursuits?**

The Apostle Peter explained it well when he said in 1 Peter 4:17, "For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God." **We are being judged everyday!** **It is by each of our decisions that we demonstrate to God whether we are willing to follow Christ or do our own thing!** Many Christians tell God the Father, in many different ways, everyday to "take a hike" by the way they are living!

"And the rest seized His servants, treated *them* spitefully, and killed *them*" (Matt. 22: 6 NKJV). Some even persecute and kill those God sends with the "Good News" of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

"But when the king heard *about it*, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city" (v. 7 NKJV). Now this occurred in Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and fulfilled part of this prophecy, but more is yet to come.

God the Father has finally become wroth because of how His faithful servants have been treated both from within and without the churches. You see, **as Abraham had a faithful servant that was sent to find a wife for his son Isaac, so God the Father has sent out His faithful servants to find a wife for His Son Jesus Christ!** Because the messages of the Kingdom of God and the Wedding of the Lamb have been rejected by many, they will suffer The Great Tribulation because of the way they have treated both the message and the messengers!

Am I making this clear enough for you to understand? **Those that are to qualify to be a part of the Bride of Christ will be sealed to that position before The Great Tribulation begins.** "...Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel" (Rev. 7:3-4). They will be sealed because they believed God the Father and were willing to do His will.

I want you to see the correlation between Matthew 25:1-13 and the quote above from Revelation 7:3-4. "The sealing" of Revelation 7:3 and shutting the door of Matthew 25:10 are synonymous. God will not allow The Great Tribulation to start until the right number of faithful servants is approved for the wedding banquet. But those who wake up too late will discover the door to the wedding banquet has already slammed shut and the times of great testing will have already started. There will be much weeping and gnashing of teeth. This is the same time spoken of by Jesus in Revelation 3:18 when He said, "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire..."

Christians by the millions will begin to wake up when The Great Tribulation begins, but it will be too late! Too late to be part of those that were actively announcing Jesus Christ's Second Coming! The Bride will have accomplished that portion of her work and will have her reward sealed!

Today much of Christianity is not actively involved in announcing the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Some have even said that they couldn't make "the Cry" or announce the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

"Then He [the Father] said to His servants, **'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy'**" (Matt. 22:8 NKJV). This prophecy is speaking of organized Christianity and it is being fulfilled today! Just as Abraham told his faithful servant not to take Isaac back to Abraham's former area of dwelling, so we are not to take Jesus back to the churches that have already rejected both the announcement and the message that the Bridegroom is coming. We are not to try and find a wife for Him from within the churches that have rejected the invitation to the wedding. They were already invited but because they said they wouldn't come, the **Father said they are not worthy!**

This, my friends, means many who call themselves Christians are not worthy! Many have a form of Godliness but deny the power that comes through Jesus. Jesus said, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46 NKJV).

You see, nearly two thousand of the major churches and denominations have already received the announcement and invitation to the wedding of the Lamb of God. It came in the form of *The Little Book* but they rejected it! *The Little Book* is a repeat of many of the scriptures already available to the Church preserved in the Bible.

Individual Christians in these churches and denominations still have the opportunity to make it into the wedding banquet of the Lamb of God. But this can only be accomplished by being willing to move as Rebekah did!

Christians today must move spiritually from where they have been sleeping to where the Father wants them to be! This means waking up and changing our attitude and approach toward God. God wants us to announce the Kingdom of God and the return of Jesus Christ! By doing this it may be possible to enter the wedding banquet of the Lamb.

There is a part of this prophecy that you may not understand. I want you to realize that God is not saying that all those in charge of modern religious institutions have missed salvation by rejecting the invitation to announce the Second Coming of Jesus.

The parable in Matthew 22 is speaking of the kingdom of God. **This measuring and testing is not referring to salvation. It is about qualifying to be part of the Bride of Christ and our positions of governmental responsibility in the Kingdom of God!**

Because of the attitude and refusal to make "the Cry" of announcing the Second Coming of Jesus to the brethren, many in charge of traditional, Christian churches will realize too late that they missed being part of the Bride of Christ and will suffer much during The Great Tribulation. Part of their "weeping and gnashing of teeth" will come

when they realize they woke up too late to be a part of those sealed as the 144,000 and the Bride of Christ.

It is like the Apostle Paul said, “Because of God’s grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day [for Christians that day is now], fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames” (1 Cor. 3:10-15 NLT).

ONE OF THE GREATEST MISTAKES OF MODERN CHRISTIANITY TODAY IS THAT THEY HAVE KEPT JESUS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE MANGER AND THE CROSS. THEY ARE IN A TIME WARP!

They haven’t fully realized that **JESUS CHRIST IS ALIVE, HE HAS BEEN MOVING ON, AND IS NOW PREPARING TO COME AGAIN! JESUS CHRIST HAS MOVED ON FROM HIS BIRTH, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION AND IS NOW PREPARING TO RETURN WITH POWER AND GREAT AUTHORITY!**

## Chapter Three

### A New Commission for the Father’s Faithful Servants

The Father has told His servants, “... **those who were invited were not worthy**” (Matt. 22:8 NKJV). They were not worthy because they refused to announce the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! They were unwilling to provide the proper Spiritual food at the right time and season.

We have not been paying attention to the Lord of the harvest! We are now entering the time of The Great Harvest, yet many think it is still planting season. The Great Tribulation will start the greatest spiritual harvest in history.

“Therefore [the Father said] go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding *hall* was filled with guests” (Matt. 22:9-10 NKJV). The Father’s servants are going out to find anyone that will display an attitude of enthusiasm for the Second Coming of Christ and the wedding of the Lamb as Rebekah demonstrated by drawing water for the camels!

Now, because organized Christianity has rejected the announcement and invitation to join Him at the wedding banquet of His Son, God’s faithful servants have been told to turn away from the religious institutions and look for new guests.

Let's look at another parallel between Rebekah and the Bride of Christ. Now Rebekah was a beautiful woman, a virgin, and she had many wonderful attributes. But we learn, as the story of Isaac's marriage continues, that Rebekah also had a point in her character that was not so beautiful. She had a trait, or flaw, of being conniving. This was demonstrated when she came up with the plan to trick Isaac into thinking Jacob was Esau. This same ungodly quality will again surface in some of those wanting to be part of the Bride of Christ. Some will try to be deceptive about their relationship with Jesus and try to slip into the wedding banquet as part of the Bride of Christ. But this vain attempt to show that they are part of the real and genuine Bride will be quickly spotted by the Father.

A person is not going to get away with anything when the Father is there observing the quality of the Bride for His Son!

What this shows is that, in finding a Bride for Jesus Christ, there will be some that will cling to the Bride, the Body of Christ, with flatteries. They will be attracted to the commotion and excitement of the Bride, but they will not have put on the righteousness of the saints. They will not have put on Christ!

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness [a person is in spiritual darkness when he is away from the close, personal relationship of Jesus Christ]; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth’” (Matt. 22:11-13 NKJV).

The wedding garment the Father is looking for is the righteousness of Christ which is the covering of His shed blood. Faith in the power of Christ's blood provides the white robe which is the righteousness of a saint. (Please read Rev. 7:14 and 19:8.)

“For many are called, but few *are* chosen” (Matt. 22:14 NKJV).

Some of the Father's faithful servants are doing as Jesus taught. They are leaving the ninety-nine and seeking to save those which are lost. (See Matt. 18:12-14.) They are out searching for the spiritually wounded; those damaged by the religious confusion in this present, evil world.

The wedding banquet will be filled with guests, but not with those who think themselves worthy. The wedding will be attended by those with childlike faith; those who realize their need for God and are willing to accept and do His will!

Remember the attitude of service that Rebekah displayed? Those who become part of the Bride of Christ will be like Rebekah. They will be selflessly looking to the needs of others and go beyond what God's servants have asked them to do!

In the parable of the bridesmaids of Matthew 25, I wondered who it was that makes “the cry.” Who, in this group, was awake enough to make such an announcement? It surely wasn't the bridesmaids; they were all slumbering and sleeping. I asked God, “Who is it that makes this announcement?” He revealed to me that it was the Bride of

Christ! It was she that was awake and alert enough to make “the cry” that the Lord was coming! She was the one that worked all night to be ready for her husband when He came looking for her.

It was the Bride that could see Him coming. She had the advantage because she hadn’t fallen asleep!

As Abraham’s servant was looking for a woman willing to go far above what she was asked to do, so the Father’s faithful servants are searching for those Christians who are willing to do the Father’s will in sounding “The Cry” of Matthew 25:6.

Some things aren’t mentioned in the parable of Matthew 22. Obviously those Christians who refused to announce Christ’s Second Coming will not be there. But nothing is said about those faithful servants that were willing and eager to announce the Coming of Jesus. Will they be there? They will have a very special place at that banquet because they were the obedient servants. What did Jesus say about these servants in Matthew 24? He said, “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath set over His household, to give them their food in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when He cometh shall find so doing” (Matt. 24:45-46 ASV).

Whom does a man place in charge of his entire household?

It is his wife!

Christ is no different. It will be these loyal servants that have been actively announcing the Second Coming of Christ, as we notice in Matthew 25:1-13, that will be positioned over the entire household of God to provide the nourishing, spiritual food as the Church of God needs it. It is these reliable, trustworthy servants that will make “the cry” that Jesus Christ is coming again!

### **Joseph’s Work for Israel**

The work of Joseph, the son of Israel, mentioned in the book of Genesis is a type of the work to be accomplished at the end of this age.

Joseph was sent on ahead of his family and relatives to preserve Israel. Joseph said, “...God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance” (Gen. 45:7). This moving story of Joseph parallels a spiritual preservation of Israel that is to occur before The Great Tribulation begins.

There is a prophecy in Isaiah 49 that is also speaking of a gathering and a preserving of Israel. It will help us understand what God is doing in our lifetime.

### **Israel is Gathered**

There will be a spiritual gathering of God’s people from around the world. They will be His special servants (like Joseph) to accomplish His will.

There has been much controversy about the meaning of Isaiah 49 and the prophecies it contains, but it is the Holy Spirit that will lead us into all truth.

“Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far [Today we might say, “Listen all you in the British Isles and all you in America]; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath He made mention of my name. And He hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand hath He hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in His quiver hath He hid me” (vv. 1-2).

This chapter begins with an announcement to the children of Israel. It is a declaration of the authenticity of the work God gave this servant to do!

God states that, “...Thou *art* My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified” (Isa. 49:3). But this older servant said, “...I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: *yet* surely my judgment *is* with the LORD [Jehovah = “the existing One”], and my work with my God [’ēlôhîm; plural intensive—singular meaning, God—noun masculine plural]” (v. 4). We see here this servant of God realized His judgment rested with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

He is disguised behind the name “O Israel.” Some think this is speaking of Jesus Christ. And in parts of this chapter Jesus is the sole person that could fulfill the statements made. Jesus, however, is not the only person spoken of in this chapter. Jesus Christ—the God of the Old Testament, has never been referred to in the Bible as “O Israel.”

This person had spent a lifetime laboring with nothing physical to show for his efforts. Yet God had been grooming him all his life to carry out a tremendous job in his latter life.

He is like Abraham’s oldest and most trusted servant. The job and responsibility given this person are similar to that of the other servants of God found in Genesis 24, Matthew 22, Isaiah 49, and Revelation 7, 14.

Jesus never thought that His life was spent for nothing. He knew exactly why He came. He knew His life would be cut short, but that was God’s plan before the foundation of the world. His life was a perfect success in every way!

I asked God, “Who is this ‘O Israel?’” I was then led to Psalm 80:1, “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest *between* the cherubims, shine forth.” Did you notice that “Israel” and “Joseph” were used interchangeably? They were treated here as if they were synonymous. Let’s further establish this fact by examining Genesis 48:16. Israel (Jacob) said, “...let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac...” So we see that Joseph would, at times, be called Israel and Israel, at other times, Joseph. We can use this key to help unlock some of the meaning of Isaiah 49.

The statement made by God could be read, “Thou art My servant, Joseph, in whom I will be glorified.”

This Joseph, or Joseph-type group, then will be a servant, or servants, sent by God to carry out a very important responsibility, as we will see in a minute.

Here in Isaiah 49:5 we find **the purpose of this mission or ministry** which was assigned to him before he was born, “And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb *to be* His servant, **to bring Jacob again to Him, though Israel be not gathered,** yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.”

So we see this older, trusted servant (or servants) of God is given an assignment to bring Jacob again to God, even though Israel will not be physically gathered. We may think it is a big event to gather people from the twelve tribes of Israel, but God says that, “...It is a light thing that thou shouldest be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel...” (v. 6). What seems impossible to men is no big deal to God!

I want to interject a personal struggle I had with understanding Isaiah 49. I was reading and meditating over these verses and asking God about the prophecies they contained. Many of them (from the last part of verse six through the rest of the chapter) speak of Christ’s earthly ministry, yet some (the first five and one half verses) seemed to be referring to someone else. I was confused.

After much prayer and meditation, God revealed that, yes some of the verses are speaking of Christ’s terrestrial ministry. But other parts are referring to Jesus Christ in another person. This means—the Spirit of Jesus in the person He is directing! It is the Spirit of God in a Christian. This is, if you will understand, the Spirit and Power of Elijah or Jesus Christ.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” (Mal. 4:5-6). That prophet was, and is, Jesus Christ!

This will be clear if you realize that God said, “...Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit...” (Zech. 4:6).

Therefore, anything that is accomplished by the will of God will be carried out by His Spirit regardless of what physical body is used. God can use any of us or even a stone to call out praises to His name. Jesus is going to do all that is contained in this prophecy. It doesn’t matter how many layers of prophecy, regardless of how many centuries of time go by, or how many servants He uses, He will do it, by and through, His Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27). Therefore, as the Spirit of Jesus directs His servants, so the work of God will be done!

# Chapter Four

## The Bride of Christ

There is more to learn about this raising up the tribes of Jacob and restoring the preserved of Israel. They will earn the title “Bride of Christ” by their works. We see in Revelation 7:2-3 that, “. . . I [John] saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, ‘Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.’”

Before The Great Tribulation begins, God will seal His diligent servants.

Did you notice that Jesus didn’t say believers? These are the Father’s most faithful servants. Servants work! They have been working to announce the Kingdom of God and the wedding of Jesus Christ! Do you see the comparison to Rebekah?

There has been much confusion in the religious community about this phrase, “Sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads” (Rev. 7:3). What does it mean “to seal” the servants of God in their foreheads? Some think it suggests they will be raptured. There is no such indication from scriptures to show this sealing to be any kind of rapture. In Ephesians 1:12-14 NKJV we read, “That we [the Jewish Christians] who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you [the Gentiles] also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

We see in Ephesians 4:30, “And **grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**”

The sealing (Rev. 7:3) has to do with having the Father’s name written in their foreheads (Rev. 14:1). This means they will carry the Father’s last name—God! They will be part of the Bride of Christ and the God Family! (If you would like to understand more about God and His plan, please download our free booklet *The Godhead, the Holy Spirit, the Family of God.*)

**Revelation 7:4 is speaking of a spiritual gathering of the peoples of Israel!** This is not explaining a bringing back of the twelve tribes of Israel to a physical location. Neither is it speaking of the Jewish people alone. The Jewish people are only one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

**This Joseph-type ministry will gather 144,000 servants of God; 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes will provide spiritual food to those clamoring for answers when organized religion falls apart during The Great Tribulation!** This group will be like God’s “red cross” to aid and assist those that will “awake” spiritually during the times of great turmoil and suffering.

This Joseph-type person (group) will, in some ways, pattern the example of Joseph in the book of Genesis. These 144,000 will be pulled from their brethren (the Church) as firstfruits to God in the same way Joseph was extracted from his family. They will help the rest of the Church through the hard times ahead. It was Joseph, through the power of God, who preserved his family Israel through seven years of serious drought. And this group of 144,000 will assist the Church of God through three and one half years of suffering during The Great Tribulation.

Remember the words of Jesus, “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matt. 24:22). (The tribulation for the world will last another three and one half years.)

These servants will disseminate a message of hope from Jesus to an innumerable multitude of believers. This will result in the greatest spiritual harvest in the history of the world. This uncountable group of believers will be transformed into true worshipers of God through suffering. We see this large number being purified and made white in Revelation 7:13-14, “And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, ‘What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they?’ And I said unto him, ‘Sir, thou knowest.’ And he said to me, ‘These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”

**God never calls out individuals or groups to do nothing!** There is always a reason and a purpose. I hope you will understand that these 144,000 servants of God are brought together to serve as servants to the rest of the believers during difficult times just as Joseph was called out to preserve his family!

This group, because of their hard and difficult work before and during The Great Tribulation, will be close to Jesus. When He comes again, as mentioned in Zechariah 14:4 and Revelation 14:1, we will see these 144,000 faithful servants of the Father right next to Jesus.

“And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which [1] were not defiled with women; for they are virgins [had no other religions and didn’t worship any other gods]. [2] These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. [3] These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God” (Rev. 14:2-5).

This prophecy is speaking of a spiritual gathering from the twelve tribes of Israel—those God calls the “firstfruits”—the Bride of Christ. They, as part of “the firstfruits,” have matured first in their relationship with God and are now ready to help others reach maturity. These disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ learned to know Him so well that they were able to follow Him everywhere He went. They didn’t talk about Him only in the past. They knew Him so well that, as great ballroom dancers, they could follow His every step!

**It is so sad to realize that most of modern-day Christianity can be compared to a bus full of believers driven by the clergy. The leaders are attempting to go down the road but are never looking forward. They all have their eyes transfixed on the rearview mirror, looking backward into the past, while trying to move forward. Their eyes and minds are fixed on Jesus as a baby in a manger and His death on the cross, but they can't see what Jesus is doing today!**

How can anyone see Jesus, to follow Him, when they are looking only backward?

The Bride of Christ, however, is so different! These 144,000 faithful servants see Jesus Christ after He has returned to Heaven. They have a close, intimate relationship with Him—in Spirit! And they “follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth”! They are not living in the past. Their relationship with Jesus is very much in the present and they are looking forward to what God is doing today! They anticipate the Second Coming of Christ and the Kingdom of God and are working hard to see its fulfillment!

**“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready” (Rev. 19:7).**

The tribe of Dan was not mentioned in the 144,000 because it had sold itself into idolatry; therefore, God rejected it as part of the Bride of Christ. We do, however, notice that from the tribes of Manasseh and Joseph (which are the same tribe) came 12,000 servants from each. You see, Manasseh and Ephraim were the two sons of Joseph. They received the birthright from Jacob (Israel) and were told, “...I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren...” (Gen. 48:22). This was a double portion; one portion to each of Joseph's two sons.

We look at these birthrights and blessings and think little about them. Yet the Almighty God who lives forever never forgets His blessings and promises. Even though, in the days of the apostles, God sent the message of salvation to the Gentiles, He has never forgotten His promises to the people of Israel!

Many of these tribes of Israel are major nations in the world today. And from these nations will come the 144,000 beautiful worshipers of Jesus Christ with the same attitude and enthusiasm that Rebekah demonstrated. As the servant of Abraham was to find a bride for Isaac from Abraham's own people, so the Bride of Christ will be found among God's own people. If you have a problem with God's reasoning, please read Romans 11. It is quite clear in the New Living Translation. (This is also explained in *The Little Book* which is downloadable from our website.)

## **The Little Book in Prophecy**

In Revelation 10 we see Jesus with information for the Church, but most religious institutions do not recognize Jesus in this chapter because they are sleeping spiritually. This is why the Father, through Jesus, has to warn the Church seven times in the second and third chapters, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

Christians that are awake will recognize Jesus after His resurrection and ascension into heaven. They will be able to discern His teachings for the Church, identify His prophecies given to the Church from within the pages of the New Testament, and realize that He is fully capable of giving the Church instructions now!

Jesus had, "...in His hand a little book open..." (Rev. 10:2). Notice first that this little book is open. The information contained in this little book has been open and available all along, but we must be awake to realize what the Spirit is saying to the Church. The little book contains information that has been in the pages of the Bible for centuries, but it is Jesus that must open it to our understanding.

John (The Church) was told to, "...Go *and* take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel [a messenger, envoy, one who is sent; a messenger from God—Jesus was a messenger sent from God] which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, 'Give me the little book.' And he said unto me, 'Take *it*, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey'" (vv. 8-9).

The information contained in the little book is sweet in the mouth but ends up making the stomach very upset.

What is it about *The Little Book* that is so hard for the churches to digest? If you want the complete answer to this question, please go to our website at: [www.thelittlebook.com](http://www.thelittlebook.com) and download a copy yourself!

My heart cries out to God for His people. Many are Spiritually deaf. They cannot hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. They have lost their way—lost their spiritual bearings. Their inward spiritual compass doesn't point to the true Gospel—the Kingdom of God. We cry out to them, yet it is as if they are inside a glass, soundproof box and can't hear a word we are saying. We make gestures pointing them to Jesus and explain that Jesus is coming back to take up the controls of all government and rule this world as King of kings and Lord of lords. Yet they hear nothing we say.

This is one reason God will allow The Great Tribulation. It will be needed to awake all Christianity out of its spiritual slumber. It is now time to get serious about our relationship with God! The coming of Christ is a lot closer than when we first believed! Christians will not have to suffer all The Great Tribulation—the full seven years. Their time of suffering will be forty-two months. "...But for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:22) by the Second Coming of Christ.

We are so saddened by the lack of response to *The Little Book* from the religious community today. Yet God says, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isa. 58:1). So we stand as watchmen on the wall announcing what God has given us.

You see, *The Little Book* has already been given to the leadership of Christian churches, denominations, and ministries around the world and, for the most part, they have rejected God's invitation and announcement to the Church.

So we, as individual Christians, are told as we continue with the story in Revelation 10 that we must eat *The Little Book* and, “...Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings” (v. 11). God’s faithful servants must make a second announcement.

This “prophesy again” is a second announcement. It is primarily for the Church and is the substance of *The Little Book*.

Remember *The Little Book* was sweet in the mouth and bitter in the stomach? It is wonderful to realize Jesus is coming soon and Satan’s evil reign of terror will finally be over.

Jesus continues to explain *The Little Book*, “And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months’” (Rev. 11:1-2).

Throughout the Bible when examples of measuring are given it often refers to times of testing. Such is the case in this prophecy. This is the part of *The Little Book* that is hard to digest! This testing to determine the quality of character, strength, and endurance is done throughout the Church—The Temple and the Altar. This measuring will last forty-two months or three and one half years.

The “holy city” is referring to the Church. We see this in Revelation 3:12, “...I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is new Jerusalem...” Jerusalem today is spiritually called, “...Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified” (Rev. 11:8).

This chastising of God’s people doesn’t mean that He doesn’t love them. God loves His children very much and it is for this reason that He is telling them about what is soon to happen. He is preparing the 144,000 servants to be the mother, nursemaids, and helpers for His children through the rough times to come. God’s love is so great it is beyond description.

We are instructed in Hebrews 12:5-8, 11, “...My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons... Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

Just because God’s people are asleep doesn’t mean He has left them. This is the reason many Christians today will have to suffer the pains of The Great Tribulation. **Just because they didn’t respond to God’s invitation to announce the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, doesn’t suggest that He doesn’t love them.** They may have to be “cast out into outer darkness” but they are not forgotten by God.

The unconverted people of the world are not being judged now, "... the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles [unbelievers]..." (Rev.11:2). They may have much suffering, but they are not being judged during this time.

We now see the conclusion of the work of God before and during The Great Tribulation. We notice in Revelation 21 the same Holy City (the Church) that had to be tried and tested for forty-two months (Rev. 11:1-2; Dan. 12:7) is refined and coming down out of heaven with Jesus Christ. This occurs after the resurrection. (See 1 Thess. 4:16-17.) "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:2-4).

So we have covered the Bible from the book of Genesis to Revelation with the greatest love story of all-time! It started with a physical example and continued to its final fulfillment in the Kingdom of God with Jesus Christ and His Bride (144,000 servants) sitting on His throne (Rev. 3:21) with the twelve apostles sitting on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (See Matt. 19:28; Luke 22:28-30.)

It is necessary to explain at the end of this book that talking about a wedding and being married to Christ are "word pictures" to help us, as humans, grasp the concepts of living in Spirit form. It is a way of explaining the closeness we will have with our Father and Jesus Christ. Jesus explained the resurrection to the Sadducees when He said, "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven" (Matt. 22:30).

God is a Spirit. Jesus Christ is a Spirit. Those transformed into Spirit beings will not be male or female. There is nothing sexual about this close association and union with Jesus Christ. There will be billions of "children" because of the work of the Bride and Christ. It all takes place on a spiritual level because of a transformation in a physical mind then another transformation into a spirit body.

## **A Challenge for You**

How does this incredible love story affect your life?

Here we are, at the end of the age, with the Kingdom of God approaching. We are living in Bible times, but most haven't realized it. As Christians, we are being judged everyday! God has been showing us, through the prophecies from Jesus in the New Testament, what is happening around us today. Even more than that, Jesus is revealing to us what is ahead for the Church in the near future.

**What are you personally going to do with this information from Jesus?** Are you going to act on it and come alive spiritually? What are you going to do to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ?

The greatest deed you can do is to help others awake from their spiritual slumber and use the Holy Spirit you have been given to help others grow Spiritually. Remember Jesus said, “Ye shall know them by their fruits...” (Matt. 7:16) and “...they were judged every man according to their works” (Rev. 20:13). Jesus also said, “...Verily I say unto you, ‘Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done *it* unto Me” (Matt. 25:40). You see, it is by our works and actions that we prove to God we love Him!

Would you like to be numbered among those sitting in the wedding banquet of the Lamb of God? Are you willing to wake up and become active in your Christian life?

I love all my Christian brothers and sisters and I want the best for each one of you. I desire every one of you to sit down with Jesus Christ in the Kingdom of God and be a part of this great wedding banquet. But to be there you need to be a hard worker!

We must be real students of Jesus and be learning everything we can about Him. It is required of us to be servants filled with zeal to accomplish the will of the Father.

James, the brother of Jesus, put it this way, “...be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but **a doer of the work**, **this man shall be blessed in his deed**” (Jas. 1:22-25).

We, as part of God’s faithful servants, have been commissioned by our Father to gather Christian worshipers from the twelve tribes of Israel. This is being done Spiritually. They will not be physically gathered.

God is looking for a few good workers—about 144,000 that are willing to serve as the Bride of Christ. He is watching for those willing to be diligent about making “the cry” of Matthew 25:6 NKJV, “...the bridegroom is coming...”!

If we have approximately a little over one billion Christians on earth now and divide that number by 144,000, this means that about one in every 7,000 Christians alive today would be judged worthy to be part of the 144,000. “...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth...” (Rev. 14:4). Another way of looking at this is one faithful servant of God will be available to help 7,000 or more believers become transformed into mature, dedicated worshipers of God.

It is necessary, at this point, to explain the prophecies contained in chapters two and three of the book of Revelation. These were actual churches in John’s day but they are also prophecies about the seven different eras of the Church of God down through the ages until the Second Coming of Christ. Today we are in the Laodicean era of the Church.

Christianity has become complacent and lazy. Many don't believe they are required to do anything after accepting Jesus as their savior. No wonder there will only be approximately one in 7,000 Christians the Father will find worthy to be part of the Bride of Christ.

It is out of this last era of the Church that Jesus says, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21). This is the only period of the Church that Christ gave the invitation to sit with Him in His throne! The 144,000 will come out of the Laodicean era of the Church and will be the Bride of Christ.

Out of this time period of the Church will also come those who thought they had it all together; those who didn't need any more of God. Some may not even be converted, "...they found, both bad and good..." (Matt. 22:10). It is this group that will be refined during The Great Tribulation.

Jesus said to this church, "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; 'These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 'I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, 'I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;' and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me'" (Rev. 3:14-20).

**I hope you are able to see and understand the magnitude and importance of the decisions you are about to make!**

Would you consider working to announce the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? Please don't be as most of Christianity today—still sleeping—still looking backward, while the "Bridegroom" is coming!

If you would like to be part of the 12,000 gathered from each of the twelve tribes of Israel to help the rest of God's people through difficult times, then please **stand up and be counted!**

Please get on board and be filled with zeal and enthusiasm for the Coming of our Lord! We appreciate your heartfelt prayers as we work together to do God's will.

Let's begin to work with the Father to bring Him much glory. For Jesus said, "Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples" (John 15:8).

If you are interested in working with the Father in carrying out the work of announcing the Kingdom of God and the Second Coming of Jesus, then please read our

free booklet *How God's Work is Accomplished*. You can find this and all our booklets and articles at: [www.thelittlebook.com](http://www.thelittlebook.com).

## The Conclusion

“Then a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!’

“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! **Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

“Then he said to me, ‘Write: **“Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb...!”**’” (Rev. 19:5-9 NKJV).

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*Customs and Traditions of the First Century Church of God*  
*If a Man Dies, Shall He Live Again?*  
*The Day of the Lord, Understanding the Book of Revelation*  
*Faith is a Faithless World*