

Section Two: The Kingdom of God on Earth (Present)

Category A: Church – Kingdom Intelligence Report #2

Topic: The Purpose of the Mystery

While there can be a variety of valid viewpoints in regard to the purpose of the Church Age; the further we step away from the details involved in the building of our Savior's church, the biggest picture of that primary purpose becomes clear and obvious. At the mega macro level, God's purpose for the furtherance of Plan B, in this profound mystery known as the Church Age, is to provide Adam 2.0 with a wife. If the first Adam had a wife, why shouldn't the second Adam have a wife? He should and He will, consisting of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Adam 1.0 wife's name was Eve. Adam 2.0 wife's name is "**Ekklesia.**" The bridegroom/bride portrayal in the New Testament is so strong that it can't be relegated to something merely symbolic. It is meant to express a relationship that is real and spiritual (1 Corinthians 6:16-17). The amount of Biblical text is significant, including the testimony of John the Baptist in John 3:28-30 –

"You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent ahead of Him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. He must increase, but I must decrease."

Our Lord describes Himself as a bridegroom in Matthew 9:15. In one of His warnings about being ready for His Second Coming, Jesus uses the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13; portraying Himself as the bridegroom who arrives at the midnight hour (v.6). In Paul's discourse on marriage in Ephesians 5:22-33, the comparison of a human marriage to that of the relationship which exists with Christ and His church is unmistakable, as revealed in 5:28-32 –

"So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."

The mystery of the Church is more than the inclusion of Gentiles in the Kingdom of God on earth. It also involves a spiritual unity with Christ that is comparable to the physical union of husband and wife. The Church's destiny is heaven and when it arrives there, Revelation 19:7-8 states:

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.' It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

Is it any wonder that the Apostle Paul's concern for the Corinthian church was that she wasn't doing a very good job of making herself ready! So he admonishes them in 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 –

"For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."