

REVIVAL NEWS

From Revival Ministries Australia

P.O. Box 2718 BC TOOWOOMBA Q4350 Australia

Phone: 61-7-46130633; e-mail: rma@revivalministries.org.au

Website: www.revivalministries.org.au

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THE BRIDE CHURCH A HELPER COMPARABLE TO HIM

Nicholas Jackson

It has been a season in the nations where fear has gripped many in the world and within the church also. One could say there has been a climate of fear which causes extreme ideas and divisions. Many can be trying to prophetically understand what is going on. In these times many within the church begin to speak about things to do with “end times”. However, let’s stay focused on what is clearly God’s will. What is God doing in our day? *“The counsel of YHWH stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations” Psalm 33:11.* His will and purpose has never changed. Through this teaching I am going to open up the Scriptures concerning one of the great mysteries of God’s will. I am going to speak more of the *“great mystery...concerning Christ and the church” Ephesians 5:32.*

The end is declared from the beginning

God spoke through **Isaiah** the prophet saying, *“Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure” Isaiah 46:9-10.* We are to look back to the beginning and see God’s *end*. God’s purpose, His pleasure and the counsel of His will were seen from the beginning. So, we are going to look into **Genesis** to see what God’s intention for us has been, from the beginning.

The Creation of Man

Genesis chapter 1 gives us the overview of the six days where God created everything. We see that man, male and female, was made in the image of God and then blessed to be *“fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion...” (Gen.1:26-28).* But in **Genesis chapter 2** we see more intimately how God created man, male and female. We see more of the details and thus can understand more of the picture of God’s heart in creation.

An intimate creation

Out of all God’s creatures, man was different. God said man was made *“in Our image and according to Our likeness” (Gen.1:26)* and then in **Genesis 2:7** we see the intimate way in which God did this, *“YHWH God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being”.* God breathed His own life

into the man. He formed the man. He was made to be able to relate with God like no other being that He created in the earth. He was made to rule God's creation in the nature and character of God. The man was made to rule the earth in the same manner that God would.

A HELPER COMPARABLE TO HIM

God showed Adam His creation and gave the man His commands (**Gen.2:8-17**) and then made a most profound statement, ***"It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him"*** **Genesis 2:18**. On the surface this looks quite normal. God does not want us to be lonely. He likes the idea of marriage and living in community. We were not made to live in isolation.

These are all true statements but there is something deeper to this.

Adam, a type of Him who was to come

The Apostle Paul, in the midst of teaching how in Adam all of us will die but that in Christ we will live, drops the most amazing statement, ***"...Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come"*** **Romans 5:14b**. **Adam was a type of Him who was to come!** When God created Adam, he was not the fulfilment of God's plan. Adam was a shadow of the One who was to come! Adam was a type of Christ, the Messiah. God declares the end from the beginning! Adam was always pointing to the greater reality of Christ. Adam was **made in the image of God**. Jesus the Messiah **is the image of the invisible of God (Col.1:15)**. Adam was **made a living being/soul, Christ is a life-giving spirit (1 Cor.15:45)**. Adam was a created being, **Christ is the Lord from heaven, God Himself in the flesh (1 Cor.15:47)**.

A helper comparable

Firstly, this word *helper* means *help, comfort, one who helps, to give aid*. God was not looking for a servant for Adam. He was looking for a *helper*. This is not someone inferior to Adam. This is not someone who will be a slave to whatever he wants. Many times in the **Psalms** God is called our *helper*: ***"You are my help and my deliverer"*** **Ps. 70:5**; ***"trust in YHWH, He is their help and their shield"*** **Ps.115:9** – to name a couple. God wanted someone to help Adam, to walk with Adam and serve the purpose of God with Adam, together. God ***"blessed them, and said to them, "Be fruitful...""*** **Gen.1:28**. The commission was to **them**. They were to walk together in the inheritance. God has made the husband and the wife to be ***"co-heirs of the grace of life"*** **1 Pet.3:7**. They are co-inheritors. They were to have dominion over the earth **together!**

The fulfilment

Adam was a type of the One to come. God wants a helper for the Messiah, Jesus. God Himself in the flesh, wants a helper. He wants a ***"helper comparable to him"***. God has always wanted a people with whom He can share all His glory. He has always wanted an intimate relationship with a people whom He can share His authority, power, His heart, will and purpose. It was not good for the Messiah Jesus Himself to be alone. God wants a helper for Him! A helper comparable to Him, a church which has come to ***"the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"*** **Ephesians 4:13**.

We were made to walk together with Christ in the inheritance. As children of God we are ***“joint-heirs with Christ” Romans 8:17***. We are to have dominion with Him as we ***“have been raised up and made to sit together with Christ in the heavenly places” Ephesians 2:6***. We are to be fruitful in making disciples with Him, baptising and teaching others and His promise is ***“I am with you always, even till the end of the age” Matthew 28:18-20***. We are to preach the gospel to all nations, exercising dominion, knowing that He will work with us, ***“the Lord working with them, and confirming the word through the accompanying signs” Mark 16:19***. We were made to do all things with Him. A helper comparable to Him!

THE CREATION OF THE WOMAN

The rib made into a woman

The creation of the woman was an awesome event. God did not take some more dust and form a woman and breathe into her His life. She was not a separate creation to the man, Adam. God caused a deep sleep to come on Adam and He ***“took one of his ribs...then the rib which YHWH God had taken from man He made into a woman” Gen.2:21b-22a***. God took a part of the man and ***made*** a woman. This word ***made*** is important. It is the Hebrew word ***banah***. This word means *to build*. From the rib of the man God ***built*** a woman! She was not a different creation, but a ***building*** from the material of the man!

Jesus is building a Church

Remember that Adam is a type of Him who was to come! God is building something out of Christ. When Peter got the revelation of who Jesus is, then Jesus was able to say, ***“upon this rock I will build My church” Matthew 16:18***. Jesus has now given five ministries to the church ***“to equip the saints, to do the work of ministry, to edify – build up – the body of Christ, till we all come...to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Ephesians 4:11-13***. We have been ***“built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets...” Ephesians 2:20***. When Jesus died, it was as if God put the Man, Jesus, into a ***“deep sleep”***. For three days and nights the body of Jesus lay in the tomb while Jesus was active in the Spirit (***1 Peter 3:18-19***). Through His death and resurrection, now His material, His divine nature, can be released in all who believe (***2 Peter 1:4***) so we can be ***“built”*** into a Woman, the Bride, the helper comparable to Him!

We come from within Christ

The work of Jesus on the Cross was ***“so as to create in Himself one new man” Ephesians 2:15***. The church is created ***in Himself***. We are made of Him! Being built now into a new corporate man. The woman was always in Adam, but God had to take her out of him and build her. The woman came from the man. The church was always in Christ, ***“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world” Ephesians 1:4***. So when Jesus died on the Cross and rose again, God began to take out a people for the Man, Christ Jesus. When we were born again by the Spirit of God, the nature of Christ, that “rib”, came into us. From that rib, which is the nature of Christ birthed in us, God began to build a Woman, a Bride, a church; to be a helper comparable to Him! We are made of Christ! We are of His very nature and substance! We are ***“His body, the fullness of Him, who fills all in all” Ephesians 1:23***.

THE PRESENTATION

He brought her to the man

After God built the woman out of Adam, it then says that ***“He brought her to the man”*** **Gen.2:22b**. God presented this woman to Adam. She was a work of God. She was built by Him and then He brings her to him. What a miracle! There was no helper suitable from all the other creatures (**Gen.2:20**). But God knew how to bring forth a helper suitable to him!

She will be presented to Christ

The apostle Paul wrote, ***“Husbands, love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of the water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish”*** **Ephesians 5:25-27**.

Jesus is building this woman by His Word! He will present her to Himself glorious! No spots and without blemish! Spots and blemishes are elsewhere referred to as false prophets or false teachers who are ***“spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you”*** **2 Pet.2:13**. This glorious church is so washed by the Word that there is no room for false doctrine. She is glorious. She is filled with the pure doctrine of God’s word, ***“the apostles’ doctrine”*** **Acts 2:42**. Every minister is to have the heart of apostle Paul who said, ***“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you a chaste virgin to Christ”*** **2 Corinthians 11:2**. There will be a pure virgin Church presented to the Man – Christ!

BONE OF HIS BONE AND FLESH OF HIS FLESH

She is the Body of Christ

When Adam saw her he cried, ***“This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man”*** **Gen.2:23**. The woman is the body of the man, bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. Paul wrote to the **Ephesians**, ***“husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones”*** **Eph.5:28-30**.

We are His Body. This is not just a nice religious term for the church. We are His Body because we are made and built of Him! Jesus loves us! Not because of anything we have done. He loves us, nourishes us and cherishes us because we are His body! We are members of Him! When we are presented to Him a glorious church, Christ will see Himself in us! He will see that we are made of the same substance – ***“For both He who sanctifies, and those who are being sanctified, are all of one”*** **Hebrews 2:11**. We are one!

THE MARRIAGE

Joined to the Lord

Finally, it is written, ***“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh”*** **Gen.2:24**. This is the climax! They are joined and one! They have left every other tie and have become joined! This word ***joined*** in

Hebrew is *dabaq* and means: *to cling, to stick, to stay close, to adhere, to catch by pursuit, follow closely*. This sounds like the call of **discipleship!** Disciples are followers and adherents. They are ones who stick and pursue Jesus. Why is there a revival of discipleship in our day? Because it is time for the Bride to come forth. It is time to live out the reality of being **“joined to the Lord”** and **“one spirit with Him” 1Corinthians 6:17**. We are to be led by His Spirit, one spirit with Him, married!

THE FRUIT OF THE MARRIAGE

Bearing fruit to God

God created the man and the woman to be joined together and then He **“blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful...’ Genesis 1:28a**. The purpose of our marriage with Christ is to bear fruit! **“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another – to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God” Romans 7:4**. We are married to the resurrected One! This means that the fruit we bear will remain forever! **“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain...” John 15:16**.

Making disciples, bringing up sons

The major fruit we are to bear out of this marriage is disciples who grow to become sons! Speaking prophetically of the bride of the Messiah, it says in **Psalm 45:16**, **“Instead of your fathers shall be Your sons, whom You shall make princes in all the earth”**. This happens when the **“the royal daughter is all glorious within...” Psalm 45:13**. Jesus told us to **“make disciples of all the nations”** and that if we did that, **“Lo, I will be with you always, even till the end of the age” Matthew 28:19-20**. Jesus is with us, His church, to bring forth fruit in the earth. Paul the apostle, as part of the Bride church, used birthing language to describe the ministry work, **“My little children, for whom I labour in birth again until Christ is formed in you” Galatians 4:19**. This is the fruit of the Bride church operating with her Husband: presenting **“every man perfect in Christ” Colossians 1:28**. God wants sons! Mature sons! They come forth from a glorious bride who is in union with her Husband, Jesus the Messiah! A corporate Son is coming forth from a corporate Bride, **“She bore a male Child [‘huioi’ in Gk – meaning a mature son who inherits] who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron” Revelation 12:5**. There is wonderful fruit coming forth!

A CAUTION

Remember Abraham

Abraham was married to Sarah. God had promised him a son: a seed. And that his seed would be as numerous as the stars of the heaven if you could count them (**Gen. 15:1-6**). Abraham believed. This did not happen straight away. In fact, it seemed like nothing was happening. Sarah was barren. The promised fruit was not coming. Sarah had an idea to give Hagar, her servant girl, to Abraham so that a son could come through her (**Gen.16**). It worked! There was a son! There was fruit! But, was it the fruit that God had desired and promised?

Be patient

Beware of being impatient. In these times of restoration things can sometimes seem slow. Many of us have come out of traditional “church” because we have known there was something more. We have known that there is a Bride Church, not tainted by man. Abraham and Sarah agreed together to try their own way to bring God’s promise to pass. It is tempting. We can look to appeal to the masses. We can look to have a cool band, trendy songs, motivational preaching and attract lots of “fruit”. It looks good from the outside and it seems to do the job. ***“The son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, with Isaac”*** Genesis 21:10. Paul quoted this in Galatians 4:30, ***“the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman”***. The true Bride is the freewoman!

Stay in the secret place

It is from the secret place with our Bridegroom that we are able to be fruitful. Do not look to make God’s promise happen. Abide in the Vine and you will be bear much fruit (Jn.15:5). Ishmael was blessed by God, ***“Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed”*** Genesis 21:13. He would be a nation. The church that is in bondage with religion and man’s tradition is still blessed by God, but it is not the ***heir***. Ishmael was still the offspring of Abraham, but he was not the ***heir***. Let us join with apostle Paul and labour and travail together in prayer and in the ministry of the word so that the glorious Bride arises, able to bear a mature Son in the earth to rule all nations and inherit all things (Rev.21:7)!

“This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church”
Ephesians 5:32