The Bride

The word *bride* in Hebrew does not merely refer to a woman about to be married, it carries within it a profound mystery. It comes from the root *kâlal*, which means *to complete*, *to make perfect*. The bride is not just one who is chosen, but one who is *completed*, made whole through union.

"For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." Isaiah 62:5

We were *created* to be the bride, but we are not *born* as the bride. We are born imperfect, fallen, fractured by sin and subject to the brokenness of this world. But when we say *yes* to the Bridegroom, when we receive His covenant love, we are no longer simply wanderers or servants or even children. We are destined to become the bride: the perfect one, the completed one.

This is why we can never be truly whole apart from Him. There is something deep in the human soul that longs, yearns, to be filled, to be known, to be completed. We search for meaning in people, in achievements, in beauty, romance, movements, or wealth. We seek to be joined to something that will satisfy the ache of our incompleteness.

But if we are destined to be His, then nothing else will do. None of those things are the Bridegroom. None of those things can perfect us.

It is not enough to merely find the Bridegroom; we must *marry* Him. We must enter into covenant, joining the deepest places of our heart and soul to Him. Becoming the bride is not about religion. It's about union. It's about intimacy. It's about letting Him fill every empty place and transform every broken one.

The bride is not just chosen, she is *prepared*. She is *perfected* by love. As we surrender, as we yield, as we allow His Word to wash over us, the preparation begins. And in that holy process of surrender, He becomes our perfection.

That's why Paul writes:

"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." Colossians 2:9–10

You are *complete in Him*. That is the mystery of the bride. She is made perfect not by striving, but by *union*. Not by the world's standards, but by the Bridegroom's gaze. He sees what we cannot. He loves what we think is unlovable. He washes what we thought was stained beyond cleansing. He calls us *perfect*, and then He makes us so.

"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." Matthew 5:48

This is not the perfection of performance. It is the perfection of transformation.

"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 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

The bridal preparation is not one of outward beauty, but inward holiness. The garments she receives are not made of thread, but of righteousness. She is clothed with purity. Arrayed in the acts of faithfulness. Washed in the Word. Glorious in surrender.

"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." Revelation 19:7–8

She has made herself ready. Not by her own strength, but by her *yes*. By her devotion. By her love. By her longing.

This is who we were created to be. Not wanderers. Not orphans. Not merely believers. But the bride, beloved, completed, and perfectly prepared for the One who is coming.

Colossians 2:8-10 "*Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <u>and you are complete in Him</u>, who is the head of all principality and power."*