

The UNION

Get Ready to Meet the King!

God Calls His Church to
Truth, Faith and Holiness

Joan H. Richardson

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Epilogue

⁶ Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love *is* strong as death; jealousy *is* cruel as the grave: the coals thereof *are* coals of fire, *which hath* a most vehement flame.

⁷ Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would be utterly condemned.

(Song of Songs 8:6-7)

She Is His Temple

The ultimate expression of love in marriage arrives when the Bridegroom returns for His bride, His beloved. He is her King and her Head, and she is His by His choice; her honor is to serve Him. Let love be her aspiration. The Savior is within her as His own body, united with her in truth and in love.

By their betrothal His bride is His, joined together with Him. She belongs to Him and He is hers, making her holy by washing her with His Word. We who believe are metaphorically living stones in the city of God. Not pebbles or quarried stones, we're sparkling gems, purified by fire and glorified through pressure. His words shape, chisel, and place us side-by-side in our proper places. Finally, He puts us all together, allocating our parts in the holy city. Known by its people, a city on a hill cannot be hidden for its lights. One day, that city will be Jerusalem:

¹¹ "O afflicted one, storm-tossed, *and* not comforted,
Behold, I will set your stones in antimony,
And your foundations I will lay in sapphires.

¹² "Moreover, I will make your battlements of rubies,
And your gates of crystal,
And your entire wall of precious stones."

(Isaiah 54:11-12 NASB)

The congregation is spiritual yet tangible; diversified yet singular. We are not prepared to meet Yeshua by many teachings but by His unchanging Word changing us.

²⁵ Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother. (Galatians 4:25-26 NASB)

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The passage likens Hagar to Mount Sinai, corresponding to the earthly Jerusalem, under the law like the bond slave. Unlike Hagar, Sarah represents New Jerusalem since she was not living under the law, but was a free woman.

Abraham fathered children by two women but was united by a marriage covenant to Sarah; two had become one flesh. When God promised Abram seed, it was for his barren wife. In old age, he was made virile, shown by his son Ishmael, but God required faith despite Sarah's circumstance. He does the same with us.

Losing this life, each one gains life; discarding this name, we take a new name; releasing the world, each finds his destiny; surrendering the temporal, we gain the eternal; giving a blessing, we receive an increase; dying to what's past, we live for eternity. Though we can't see the details, we long for His Kingdom and His righteousness and are filled with His Presence. His gifts are greater than words; His salvation, beyond comprehension.

⁵ And a voice came from the throne, saying,

“Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.” ⁶ Then I heard *something* like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying,

“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

⁷ 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.” ⁸ 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. (Revelation 19:5-8 NASB)

The End of A Reign

Many have feared the ominous end of the world. Although it's a dark and disastrous day, a terrifying day, its culmination ends Satan's rule over the world. The end of this world's systems establishes the beginning of the promised Kingdom of David by the authority of his seed—Yeshua, the true King of all the earth, our own best Friend. At that time He lifts the oppression of its injustices. Walking together in agreement with the truth, we're filled with Yeshua by our faith in His words.

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In a moment, Christ appears like a thief at night for each of us. Till then He is with us when we don't understand; when the darkness is great and we feel so alone, He is there. As days turn to years, we gain victory after victory and press in, setting our sights on the end line. Through the fray of war, out of fiery trials, we endure till the end has passed and the new is present:

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:11-16)

... And He Is Hers

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (Revelation 21:22-23)

We are His temple on earth; He is ours when the kingdom of heaven ends the divisions of time: *And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.* (Rev. 21:22)

¹⁷ "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. (John 17:17-19 NIV).

¹⁷ For behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth.
The former things will not
be remembered or come to mind.

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- 18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating.
For behold, I am creating Jerusalem
for rejoicing, and her people for joy.
- 19 Then I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and be glad in My people.
No longer will the voice of weeping
or the voice of crying be heard in her.
(Isaiah 65:17-19 TLV; cf. Rev. 21:1-8)

Together we've discovered the union in various places: the Union of God with one new Mankind; the Union of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as God. It's the union of believers, both Jews and gentiles; the union that comes through a common faith, the result of knowing the Truth. All together, we are one in the Union of God.

- 7 You are all fair, my love,
And *there is* no spot in you. ...
- 12 A garden enclosed
Is my sister, *my* spouse,
A spring shut up,
A fountain sealed. ...
- 15 A fountain of gardens,
A well of living waters,
(Song of Solomon 4:7, 12, 15a NKJV)

At the threshold of her Marriage, she receives Him as her own, and all that was lost fades like a dream:

22 Then the angel showed me a river of the water of life—bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the city's street. On either side of the river was a tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴ They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵ Night shall be no more, and people will have no need for lamplight or sunlight—for *ADONAI Elohim* will shine on them, and they shall reign forever and ever! (Revelation 22:1-5 TLV)

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⁴ And they shall rebuild the old ruins, [their return]
They shall raise up the former desolations,
And they shall repair the ruined cities,
The desolations of many generations. ...

⁷ Instead of your shame *you shall have double honor*,
And *instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion*.
Therefore in their land they shall possess double;
Everlasting joy shall be theirs. ...

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
My soul shall be joyful in my God;
For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments,
And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
(Is. 61:4, 7, 10 NKJV) [Jerusalem's response]

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch. [her *y^eshu^wâh*]

² The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴ You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the LORD delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

⁵ For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your sons marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you. (Isaiah 62:1-5 ESV)

Baruch Ha-ba b'shem ADONAI!

"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!"