

## Mystery: Bridal Relationship

### hints and foreshadows of Bridal Relationship in the Old Testament

(Isa 62:5) And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

context: Jerusalem - watchmen (Isa 62:6-7, Mt 23:37)

(Je 2:2) “Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: “I remember you, the kindness of your youth, the love of your betrothal, when you went after Me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.”

(Ho 2:14, 16, 19-20) <sup>14</sup>“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, will bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her. <sup>16</sup>“And it shall be, in that day,” says the LORD, “That you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer call Me ‘My Master,’ <sup>19</sup>“I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; <sup>20</sup>I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the LORD.

context: Harlotry of Idolatry (New Covenant - Hos 1:6 - 2:1, 23 & 1 Pe 2:9-10)

Song of Solomon - Metaphor

### Mystery in the New Testament - Literal, not just Israel

(Ep 5:32) This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

(Ep 5:25-27) <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup>that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup>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.

**Intense, Jealous Love & Radical Commitment** (no concubines - partnership)

(Ex 34:14) for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God

(Jas 4:4-5) <sup>4</sup>Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

(Ep 5:30-32) <sup>30</sup>For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup>“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

**Radical Unity** (Jn 17:21, Eph 1:6)

His Bride is a City (Rev 21:2, 9) - He has One Bride (Eph 2:22, 1 Pe 2:5)

(Rev 19:7-9) <sup>7</sup>“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.” <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’”

Partnership of Eph 5:26-27 & Rev 19:7 is found in Eph 4:11-16

**as His Bride we Receive Intimacy**

**as His Ministers we must want Him to Receive His Bride**

(2 Co 11:2) For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

(Jn 3:29-30) <sup>29</sup>“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. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. <sup>30</sup>“He must increase, but I must decrease.

**Friends of the Bridegroom are Committed to Preparing the Bride for Him  
they don't use, compete with, or disparage His Bride**

**Bride: Committed to Jesus    Friend of Bridegroom: Committed to His Church  
His Bride being Ready is a Prerequisite to His Return (Jerusalem Mt 23:39)**