

# THE BRIDE

## THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

Every student of the Advent message should know that in 1844 Christ entered into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to be married to the New Jerusalem . (Dan. 7 :13 ; 8 :14; Rev . 19 :7, 8 ; 21 :9 ; EW. 55, 251 ; GC. 427.)

It is unfortunate that many fail to grasp the significance of Christ's union with the Holy City. It means nothing more to many than Christ merely receiving a kingdom from His Father.

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But why be so carnal in our understanding of the Word of God?

Can we imagine for a moment that Christ has been longing with the longing of His infinite love merely to receive a city. Oh no; “Christ . . . loved the church, and gave Himself for it, . . . that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing.” Eph.5:25, 27.

## THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

The church of Christ is the true Holy City (Rev.11:2), and in the earth made new will inhabit the literal Holy City. Even now, every child of God is a part of the New Jerusalem, and his/ her name is inscribed there. He /she is no longer a citizen of the earth, but has been translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. (Col. 1:13.)

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He is a citizen of the New Jerusalem. Thus Christ's marriage in the most holy place refers to the reception of His church (His people) in an eternal union with Himself. When we dimly realize something of Christ's unspeakable love for His church, we may appreciate with what earnestness, yea, with what infinite longing, the heavenly Bridegroom waits for the consummation of the blessed union with His church in the most holy place.

## THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

“The church is the bride, the Lamb's wife. Every true believer is a part of the body of Christ.” 7BC.985-6.

“The church is the bride, the Lamb's wife . . . . If she understood this, she would be all-glorious within.” 7BC.985-6.

# THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

We, as members of the church of Christ, are individually to be married to Christ in an eternal union. The church is merely made up of individuals who are to be partakers of this blessed union with Christ in the most holy place.

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Christ has promised that if faithful, He will write upon us His Father's name, and His own name, and the name of New Jerusalem symbolising marriage to Him in that we take His name and the name of His Father); and that we will belong to His household, never-more to go out. (Comments Rev.3:11, 12.) Thus, “by the marriage is represented the union of humanity with divinity.”

COL. 307.

# THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

And let there be no misunderstanding as to what kind of union Christ is calling us to in the most holy place -it is a blessed eternal union with His own dear self forevermore.

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Further, it must be realized, that this work of final at-one-ment (marriage) involves a work of investigative judgment. GC.422,428,480. The judgment takes place before the marriage. Its purpose is to determine who is accounted worthy of the experience of the final atonement, and to be a part of that eternal city.

## THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

It is true that in the parable of Matthew 25 the members of the church (virgins) are represented as the guests (GC.427) at this same marriage . Under the figure of virgins, the church is to be ready with its lamp burning, waiting for the bridegroom. But mark: the church of Christ is more than a guest at the marriage, although only so represented in Matthew 25.

## THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

One parable alone is not sufficient to represent the experience of the waiting church. In another sense, and the more important sense, the church is the bride of Christ.

“The church is the bride, the Lamb's wife. If she understood this, she would be all-glorious within.” COL. 421

## THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

Christ is at the marriage. The door is open (Rev . 3 :8). He has called, but she will not yet hear. So He says: “Behold I stand at the door and knock . . .” Rev.3 :20. Christ is waiting for His bride. “The church is the bride, the Lamb's wife.” If God's people only realized this, they would come to the judgment by faith and enter into the marriage.

## THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

She would put on her beautiful garments, fine linen, clean and white, and become all glorious within. Then indeed she would look forth fair as the morning. Clad in the armor of Christ's righteousness, she would enter upon her final conflict, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.

## THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

This is the call now going forth to the church of God "The hour of His judgment is come." At the judgment bar Christ is waiting for His bride - His people. He is waiting at the judgment to make an atonement for you [marriage], to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord." Lev.16:30. He is waiting to clothe His people with the garments of His everlasting righteousness.

## THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

But they must gather about the sanctuary (Joel 2:15-17); they must come to the judgment; they must come to the marriage. "ALL THINGS ARE READY, COME UNTO THE MARRIAGE."  
Matt. 22:4.

## THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE

May He grant us all the eyesalve to remove the dreadful blindness. May He grant us all true repentance, a broken and contrite spirit which is the only disposition that will save us in the judgment, where we will be “clothed in fine linen, clean and white,” made all-glorious within, and be filled with the latter rain.

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
REPRESENTED AS  
SLEEPING  
RIGHT UP UNTIL THE  
CLOSE OF PROBATION**

“And at mid-night there was a cry made,  
Behold the Bridegroom cometh ; go ye  
out to meet Him.” Matt.25:6.

“If Satan had his way, there would never  
be another awakening, great or small, to  
the end of time.” ISM. 124.

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He would keep the people asleep in their present condition until the Day of Atonement could be ended. Then, not having acquired the seal of God and latter rain to prepare them for the time of trouble, they would be unsheltered in the day of wrath. But this is not in God's order. He will send an awakening message to His church.

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It will do its work. In response to it  
“there will be among the people of the  
Lord, such a revival of primitive  
godliness as has not been witnessed  
since apostolic times.”GC. 464.

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
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If many had their way, there would be no awakening of the virgins until the close of probation. How is God going to seal them while they are asleep? We protest against this false teaching, pointing out that those who will be slumbering and sleeping right up until the close of probation will surely be lost.

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If the cry “Behold the Bridegroom cometh” is not heard until the close of probation, then it follows that during the loud cry the church is slumbering and sleeping! This of course cannot be.

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
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“Those who have held the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end will be wide awake during the time that the third angel's message is proclaimed with great power.”

7BC.984.

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
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“When the earth is lighted with the glory of the angel of Revelation 18, the religious elements, good and evil, will awake from their slumber, and the armies of the living God will take the field”

7BC.983.

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In the period before the close of probation, are God's faithful people awake or asleep? The end time prophetess to the world says they "will be wide awake."

A little reflection will show us that the awakening depicted in the parable takes place before the latter rain, not after the latter rain.

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
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“I have no specific time of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take Place-when the mighty angel will come down from Heaven, and unite with the third angel in closing up the work for this world; my message is that our only safety is in being ready for the heavenly refreshing, having our lamps trimmed and, burning. [Matt.25:6].”

# THE WISE VIRGINS NOT REPRESENTED AS SLEEPING RIGHT UP UNTIL THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

Careful thought will also reveal that the separation of the wise and foolish virgins will take place before the latter rain, not after the latter rain. It is before the latter rain that the wise are separated from the foolish, the gold is separated from the dross, and the chaff is separated from the wheat. (See 5T.81-2 and EW. 269-271.)

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
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The shaking “is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place [before the latter rain]. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths.”

2SM. 380

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
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Yet those who expect the sealing as Christ is closing probation, would have us believe that the foolish remain in the church, giving the loud cry, too, until the close of probation. But does not the above statement reveal that only those who have the seal of God (“without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths,” Rev.15:5), will act a part in the closing work? Assuredly!”

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
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“Oh, that every lukewarm professor [foolish virgin] could realize the clean work that God is about to make among His professed people!”

IT.190

“O, what a day is before us! What sifting will there be among those who claim to be the children of God”

TM.163

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
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God's people will be sifted, even as corn is sifted in a sieve, until all the chaff [foolish virgins] is separated from the pure kernels of grain." IT. 431. This takes place before the latter rain.

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That the wise and foolish virgins will be separated before the loud cry is demonstrated in the past history of the Advent movement. The mid-night cry of the summer of 1844 is a clear type of the loud cry (see EW. 277).

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This, students of the Advent movement have always recognized. Now the parable of Matthew 25 had its fulfilment in the 1844 experience, and so forms the basis of an important lesson as we endeavour to understand the future. In the preaching of the first angel's message from 1833 to 1844, the virgins went out to meet the Bridegroom.

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Christ was expected to come in the Spring. But when He did not come in the Spring, there was a tarrying time. All slumbered and slept - the foolish with a careless abandonment of faith, the wise with an endeavour to maintain a little of their experience. Then in the summer of 1844, it was found that the 2,300 days was to end on October 22.

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
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The sleeping Advent believers were awakened by the cry, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." But the foolish virgins could not be benefited by the light from heaven. The tarrying time had revealed their destitution, and they could not join the mighty work of the mid-night cry.

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Even so, the foolish virgins will find no part in the loud cry of the third angel. Friends, have you noticed that both the wise and foolish virgins come to the marriage-both parties come to receive the seal of the living God represented in the experience of the marriage. But there is a vital difference.

**THE WISE VIRGINS NOT  
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The wise enter in before the loud cry. The foolish come to receive the seal of God after the loud cry. But the door is shut. The foolish virgins come to receive the seal of God too late. They have purchased their “oil” from false vendors. They come too late. Friends, don't come too late!

## **THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?**

In some places the work of sealing God's people in the closing work is presented as the work of the Holy Spirit; in other places as the work of the third angel and other angels.

# THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

For example:

Angels:

“I then saw the third angel. He is the angel that is to seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner.”

EW. 118

“holy angels, unseen, were passing to and fro, placing upon them the seal of the living God.”

5T. 475

# THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

For example:

Angels:

“This mightiest of angels has in his hand the seal of the living God.” (See also Ezek.9:4;Rev.7:2; TM.444.)

# THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

For example:

Holy Spirit :

“And grieve not the Holy Spirit whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

Eph.4:30

“As the wax takes the impression of the seal, so the soul is to take the impression of the Spirit of God and retain the moral image of Christ.”

Review, Nov.1, 1892

## **THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?**

Does this mean that there are two different seals to be placed upon God's people in the closing work? Not at all!

## THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

Speaking of the sealing of the one hundred and forty-four thousand, the prophet Ellen White says:

“Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost. represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those ‘that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done’ in the church.”

3T. 267.

# THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

Take particular notice of 3T.267 passage.

1. It reveals that the seal is wrought in the soul by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is in harmony with the promise of the new covenant - the Holy Spirit writes the law (character) of God indelibly in the soul for eternity. Heb.10:15, 16; GC. 485.

## THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

2. It reveals that the same seal is also represented by a mark placed by the angels. This is in harmony with EW . 118; 5T.575; TM.444-5; Rev.7:2, etc .

# THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

This unity and close association between the work of the Holy Spirit and the angels should not surprise us. The same unity is represented in the angel messages. For example:

1. The Third Angel's Message:
  - a. The loud voice is called the voice of an angel in many places.

## THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

- b. It is also the voice of the Holy Spirit  
“It [the third angel’s message] is represented as being given-with a loud voice: that is, with the power of the Holy Spirit.”

7BC.980

# THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

- 2 . The Angel of Revelation 18:
  - a. It is represented in many places as the voice and work of an angel
  - b. It is also the voice and work of the Holy Spirit. “I have no specific time of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place-when the mighty angel will come down from heaven, and unite with the third angel...”

## THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

Thus, returning to the sealing work, we could say that the seal is a mark

- a. placed inward by the Holy Spirit;
- b. placed outward by the angels.

## THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

James White, the great pioneer leader of the Advent movement, wrote:

“The Sabbath is the seal ; the sealer is the Holy Spirit.” There are some who think that there are three seals connected with the work of God's people in these last days: the Holy Spirit, the law (Sabbath), and the seal placed by the angels.

# THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

James White, the great pioneer leader of the Advent movement, wrote:

On further study, it will be found that these three are aspects of the one great seal which the 144,000 receive. **The law is the principles of character written in the soul: the Sabbath is the sign that the new covenant has been fulfilled; the Holy Spirit has inscribed that character in the human soul;**

# THE SEAL OF GOD - WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR ANGELS?

James White, the great pioneer leader of the Advent movement, wrote:

the angels, who have been closely associated in the work of redeeming the soul, place a mark upon the forehead - a mark which they can see and know that this person must have special protection in the last terrible scenes of this earth's history.