

The Bride – Called, Chosen, Faithful

Notes By Tracy Hogan

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In some books in the Bible we can see parallels in the life of the believer today. Esther is one of them, with her life depicting the Bride of Messiah – those who are coming forth in these last days. From the moment she was adopted, chosen, and the time she spent being purified – were all preparing her to enter the King's house, where she was enthroned. In her life, we see the three stages that every believer should be going through.

Let's take a closer look, and I pray by the time we are done, we will have a better understanding of God's eternal purposes, why He created us for such a time as this, and the season of God His Church is in today (**1 Chronicles 12:32**).

Esther 1:1-19 READ

King Ahasuerus (Xeres/greek), from Shushan, the capital of the Persian Empire, ruled over 127 provinces. In 3rd year of reign, he holds a 180-day feast for the chief officers/princes over the provinces, where he displays his riches, glorious kingdom and the splendor and excellence of his majesty. What a generous king! He then holds a second 7-day feast for the common people of Shushan, in the king's court.

Golden goblets and royal wine served in abundance...no one forced to drink, only served to each guests' desire (**Est 1:7-8**).

This speaks of our relationship with the Lord. He will never force Himself upon us – but will give us as much of Him as we desire. We get to decide how much we'll know Him, by the choices we make. Wine is a type of joy. Shulamite, who depicts the Bride, was sick with love...your love is more fragrant than wine (**SOS 1:4, 2:4**) There was **no compulsion – love was her motive to drink of the One she loved** – that is what drew her to His banqueting table.

On the 7th day the king wants queen Vashti to come, to show her beauty, but she refused, rebelled – too busy doing her own thing, and disobeyed the king. This not only made the king angry, but also created a problem for him (**Esther 1:9-12**).

So, King Ahasuerus seeks counsel from the “7 wise men” who knew the times. This was the king's protocol for all who were familiar with the law and judgments. The “counsel” declares Vashti not only wronged the king, but everyone, and that she is to come before the king no more, for her actions will cause contempt and wrath to arise, therefore her position is to be given to another who is better than her (**Esther 1:13-19**).

Vashti's rebellion caused her to eventually be kicked out of the kingdom! She had serious consequences for her rebellion in not obeying the king. She was too busy with her own agenda. She had to be removed, if not, her rebellion would poison the people, breeding a spirit of contempt for those in authority.

Sadly, this depicts the state of the Church today, at large. Yeshua is calling the Body of Messiah to come dine with Him, but many are refusing to come. Refusing to come because of carnality, and the choices they make that say they love the world more than Him (**1 John 2:15**). Refusing to come out of Babylon, away from Jezebel's table of idolatry and bow to His Authority.

We see the king gave Vashti time to repent. It was not until the 7th year of his reign that he enforced her removal (**Est. 2:16**). **Be advantageous for us to remember:**

Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. **Often we do not see immediate consequence and we keep sinning thinking we are ok.**

Good news, we still have time for Him to qualify us to be His Bride, if we will seek and follow Him whole-heartedly (**Jer 29:13**).

We see this in Esther's life with how she walked through three houses, or spiritual phases, to qualify to be the king's wife.*

1. House of Mordecai – Adoption:

1st phase all new believers enter. We are saved and justified by faith. We are now “adopted” with the spirit of adoption (**Romans 8:15, 5:1**).

2. House of Women – Purification

2nd phase we're to go through. Things were given to her purification (**Esther 2:9**). Speaks of our trials and afflictions (**Isaiah 48:10**). Trials are meant to purify and perfect us to become love, molded, conformed into His likeness in our words, thought and deeds, qualifying us as overcomer's (**Revelation 3:21**). His Bride will be spotless (**Ephesians 5:27**).

The Lord orchestrates “custom designed” test/trials in our lives to purify us, wanting us come to total death to self – conformed to His image, that we could be vessels who carry His glory in the fullest measure. Vessels of noble use, pure, profitable to the Master, ready for any good work (**2 Timothy 3:20-21**). It takes understanding His ways, and not doing it our way (**Isaiah 55:9**).

3. House of the King – Enthroned: Called, Chosen and Faithful (All 3 Required)

After her purification, Esther won the king’s favor above all other virgins (believers) and was chosen to be queen (**Esther 2:16-17**). It was not automatic – it was a process. The Bride made herself ready for her wedding day (**Revelation 19:7-9**). She was different than the others, believe it was her attitude, she did not ask for anything, the others did (low vs high life).

SOS 6:8-9 There are 60 queen, 80 concubines, virgin without number, but my dove, my undefiled and perfect one stands alone, above all, and all the other praised her. **Esther was called, chosen and faithful, therefore enthroned.**

This can be understood where we see the three qualifications for following the Lamb are listed in Revelation, “*These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful*” (**Revelation 17:14**). Only the Bride/Overcomer’s will be with Him at that time.

3 Houses in the 3rd House: Called = Adopted Chosen = Purified Faithful = Enthroned, endured trials His way.

The wedding takes place. Great joy in the kingdom – the king distributes gifts to everyone (**Esther 2:18**).

Does it end there? NO! A great battle takes place – a battle trying to wipe out God’s people. Mordecai refused to bow to Haman; therefore he plots to kill all the Jews. Mordecai via king’s servant tells Esther she must go to the king. At first her response is weak (**Esther 4:11**). Mordecai lets her know if she stays silent, don’t think you will not perish, and God will raise up some one else, **reminding her that she had come to the kingdom for such a time as this (Esther 4:14).**

This is the hour the Church is in! We are in a real battle for our lives, for our family’s, for our marriages, for our schools, for our communities, for our government, for our nation. Right now we are losing the battle as most in the Church are in sin - compromise/mixture, giving Satan legal grounds to plunder us! Most are asleep, in a coma, choosing to stay silent.

We have a real enemy, who has a 3-fold agenda: steal, destroy, and to kill (**John 10:10**). Satan wants to abort the Bride coming forth (Revelation 12:4). **Why?** He knows her coming forth is his dismiss. We see this in Esther’s life.

We’re in the season of the wheat and the tares being separated. Not everyone is the Bride – the Overcomer, scripture is clear (**Matthew 25, SOS 6:8-9**). The Word of God teaches it is only those who overcome who will qualify to rule and reign with our Bridegroom King for all of eternity. We can fall from grace: once saved always saved, is a false doctrine putting a slumber over the Church. Only those who endure to the end will be saved, not the beginning (**Revelation 3:21, Matthew 24:13**).

The Lord is cleansing His Church and sending His judgments to the Church, starting with the pastors (**1 Peter 4:17**).

We all have the same opportunity. The invite went out to all (**Matthew 22**). Revelation 3:20 says, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. All invited, few are chosen, found faithful, because not willing to pay the price to know Him intimately.

The Bride is not gender based. It speaks about an intimate relationship, about spiritual maturity into the deeper things of God. About living the sacrificial life and forsaking the selfish low-life. Bride, bridegroom, bridal chamber 41 references in scripture – the Lord’s choice of words for a reason. It is the highest level of relationship, it is union with Him (**John 17**).

His Bride will be one without spot or wrinkle. He will settle for nothing less, nor does He deserve anything less. He is not going to marry a harlot, nor is He going to lower His high and holy standards to our low filthy standards. We are seriously mistaken if we think He is. It is a position in Him that is worth dying for, if that is what He requires.

SHARE: 1) Dream eating feces/time of purification 2) Word Lord spoke to me 2010 3) Church dream

To be seated with Him in heavenly places is not a geographical location. Speaks of a position in Him, through an intimate love relationship. If you love me, you will obey me. **Our obedience was meant to restore us back to intimacy (Rev 3:19).**

The Father has a dream – His dream is to have a family. He will have a Bride for His Son who is worthy of Him. Who will glorify His Son, and who will be equally yoked to Him in word, thought and deed.

The Lamb is going to have a Wife who is spotless, who is faithful. He is not going to marry a harlot – would we? Why do we think He should settle for anything less? This is how He sees His Church today. *He is greatly grieved over all the sin in the Church, all the compromise of His Word* - all our pride, the lying, cheating, bitterness, gossip, adultery, pornography,

profanity, drunkenness, all the “cash deals” we do on the side to avoid paying VAT – this is called cheating, lying and stealing. For all the other lovers we chase after but Him – the lust of our eyes and flesh, and how unreliable, and double-minded we are – that we don’t keep our words to one another, and to Him. We will be held accountable for every word.

He is equally greatly grieved that we are settling for the low life, for so much less than why He died for us.

He died and gave us faith, that we could become His Bride to rule and reign with Him – not to save us from hell. This is the eternal purpose for why He died, but it requires a response on our part – to want to be conformed to His likeness.

There is a beginning and end to faith. Receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your soul (**1 Peter 1:9**).

Faith precedes understanding. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (**Hebrews 11:1**).

We see in James, that faith is not only a “substance” of the unseen, but it’s an action: (**James 2:14-26**).

READ James 1:3-4 Be assured and understand that **the trial and proving of your faith** bring out **endurance** and **steadfastness** and **patience**. **4** But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that **you may be perfectly and fully developed**, lacking in nothing.

The purpose of our trials and testing is to work: endurance, steadfastness and patience within us. **Why?** Verse 4 tells us, so that we can **become perfected**, lacking nothing – so we can receive the end result of it to be His Bride (Hebrews 6:1).

Esther, three houses depicts the bridal preparation process we should all be walking through, if we want to fulfill our destiny. If we want to grow and mature in God, being perfected in love, becoming like Him (**Matthew 5:48, 1 Peter 1:16, 1 John 2:6**).

Three stages to full salvation:

- 1) Justification = by faith we are saved, most Christians never get further than this stage
- 2) Sanctification = our soul/mind being purified, renewed/transformed, trials, total surrender our will (Roms 12:1-3, Eph. 4:23).
- 3) Glorification = union, God’s end vision for all – impossible to get to this stage without stage 2.

We also see these three stages in **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14** ...because God from the beginning **chose you for salvation** through **sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth**, **14** ...for the **obtaining of the glory**... **Note:** believing in Truth is what sanctifies us, causing us to be conformed to His likeness. He is Truth and we are all called to be like Him!

How much we are willing to die to self, be conformed to the image of Messiah, willing to become selfless love with the one life we were given, determines what kind of relationship we will have we Him – we get to decide.

There were the multitude, the 70, the 12, the 3 (James, John and Peter) and the 1 – John the beloved. All speak of a different relationships, different levels of intimacy and maturity in Him.

1. Servant 2. Bond Servant 3. Sons/Daughters – Sonship 4. Friend – Abraham my friend (John 15:14) 5. Bride/Union

We do not want to die before it is our time – different ranks in heaven and hell (Mary K. Baxter: Divine Revelations of Hell, **Matthew 5:19, Luke 7:28 John the Baptist, SOS 6:8-9**).

1. Which one do we want to be? We get to decide. It is an open book test, we all have the same teacher, same Holy Spirit.

2. Are we willing to pay the high price? Do we consider Him worth knowing? Luke 14: 26-27, 33 define the cost for true discipleship, not everyone is a disciple. Yeshua makes it clear if we do not do these things, we cannot be His disciples.

3. Are we willing to go through trials/affliction His way? Remember Isaiah 48:10. Attitude – don’t waste your trials.

4. Are we willing to die to self – deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow the Lamb – live the crucified life (**Matt 16:24**)?

5. Are we willing to make choices consecrating ourselves unto Him, so the Sanctifier of Truth can sanctify the areas in our hearts/mind/emotions that need cleansed, healed, redeemed, restored and reconciled? (**Romans 12:1-3, Eph. 4:23**). Our soul is not automatically saved (**James 1:21**).

6. It will all come back to prayer. That is the place of intimacy – relationship. Takes time, it is a discipline and a sacrifice.

We have a role to play – a choice. Like any other relationship if not nurtured, not guarded/tended, it will fall apart.

CLOSING: We are in the season of the changing of the guard. Old leadership/ways of doing things are going. He is not going to tolerate our pride, rebellion, compromise, religion, witchcraft/Harry Potter, grieving the HS anymore. As well as, He is bringing an end to the prosperity ministries.

We are headed for dark days, difficult days in the near future. His Church is not prepared. This is the pastors' job – most have failed Him, He is grieved. They are to be gatekeepers, guard what comes in and out of the sanctuary. Most are starving and poisoning His sheep with doctrines of demons. The Lord has shown me this, spent many months walking this land in prayer, amongst the sheep – He often would let me walk through a living parable, then give me the teaching later or sometimes in the moment, all relating back to His body, His Church. He is not happy – pastors need to know this – I could never find a “shepherd” tending the sheep in countless walks/miles I did, but saw they were left to their own devices – lost, scared, confused, stuck, lame, bleeding to death, dying in their mud/filth. The good news is, He is the Good Shepherd, who goes after the one, who has a yes in their heart to know Him, who wants Truth. He will equip those who are willing.

What was done in the past, will not work for what is needed going forward, to navigate the dark days ahead.

It will be the best of times and the darkest of times. Best of times for those who have been making themselves ready, who have considered Him worth knowing, who are like the sons of Issachar who knew the seasons of God (**1 Chron. 12:32**). It will be the worst of times for those who chose to not heed the Bridegroom's invite, by making themselves ready. They will be like those who built their house on sand – it will be to their destruction (**Revelation 3:3**).

Exciting times are ahead for those who are keeping watch and making themselves ready. We are in the 7th day, the 3rd day (transfiguration/transformation/resurrection power). **The indwelling of the 7 Spirits of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2).**

This is what the Lord Yeshua walked in and raised Him from the dead. The power of the ages to come that the Bride of Messiah will walk in (**Hebrews 6:5**). This is God's plan for His overcoming Bride to co-partner with Him in these last days.

We saw the 7 Spirits in the book of Esther. Esther 1:13-14, The king spoke to the “7 wise men” who knew the times. They gave counsel, were in the king's presence and held first place in the kingdom. Esther was given 7 maids (**Esther 2:9**).

Esther 5:1, we see it was on the 3rd day that she put on her “royal robes.” She was in the “inner court” in the king's palace, in front of the king's royal throne, and found favor with the king. This is the hour we are in for those who have been making themselves ready – to be enthroned, and filled with resurrection power, 7 Spirits of the Lord.

7 Spirits are around His throne (**Revelation 1:4, 4:5, 5:6**). For the eyes of the Lord (7 Spirits), run to and fro across the earth searching for those who were blameless (will rest on the Esther/Bride) (**2 Chronicles 16:9, Zechariah 4:10**).

7 Spirits will be for the Bride, the Overcomers. Those who were willing to be purified to His standards, who overcame by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony and who do not love their own life, unto death. Those who have matured in bridal love meaning, a total surrender of their will for His, no matter what the cost.

This is the company of people He is raising up in this hour. This is why He gives us faith and wants our faith to keep growing, through trials and testing, so that we can become the Overcomers – passing through stage 2, into stage 3, to be carrier's of His glory, by becoming His Bride, who will rule and reign with Him for all of eternity. He who overcomes I will grant to him to sit beside Me on My throne, as I Myself overcame (**Revelation 3:21**). This is the purpose - the end result of our faith: Forming in us the qualities that will make us Overcomers, thus qualifying us to become the Bride of Messiah.

One reason Yeshua says, “That if we love Him, we will obey Him,” is that He knows what we are called to – He saw our end from the beginning to be His Bride. He knows what it will take to get us there. More often than not, He's asking and requiring us to obey Him, when we will not understand the reasons why. **That requires faith.**

Heaven is coming to earth first – His Kingdom formed within us (**Luke 17:21, Revelation 1:6**).

We're in the hour for the new wine to be poured into the freshly prepared wine skins, ushering in His Second Coming, and return. This Bridal Company will be forerunners, carrying His glory, and will help the body mature. They will represent the true government of God, the true priesthood after the Order of Melchizedek, and the true prophetic voice that will go forth from the throne of God, causing His Kingdom to be established here on earth, fighting the battle with Him until every captive that can be set free is freed! She will be a warrior Bride who wears her combat boots, laboring with one hand, wielding her sword in the other – all to His glory - PTL! (**Nehemiah 4:17**).

We also see in Esther the number 12. 12 represents government. Esther spent 12 months being purified. She was being prepared for the throne – that's what we are being prepared for as the Bride of Messiah, to rule and reign with Him from the throne. It was also in the 12th month of Adar, that Haman plotted to kill God's people; at the same time it was the 12th year of king Ahasuerus reign. Instead of God's people being destroyed, His government was established destroying His enemies!

There is no neutrality in God's kingdom. We are in a real battle. We are either fighting on the side of good or evil. There's no middle ground. Too many in the Church believe that there is a comfortable middle ground, with one foot in His kingdom and one in the world – that's called compromise. We want all the benefits of the kingdom, without 100% commitment to the King.

We want our full inheritance from our Father in heaven, but not willing to pass through death-to-self. We are all called to live the crucified life, deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. We need to not forget that when we received Him as Savior, we signed the dotted line, saying that **He bought us and this makes Him Lord over our lives (1 Corith. 6:19-20).** Most think this is negotiable. In a way it is. If we choose not to obey, by violating the covenant we made with Him, there are consequences to our disobedience. There can be serious ones to the point that we can end up in hell. I want to encourage you to choose the high life and let go of the low life – the compromise and mixture, the foolish pleasures of this world's fatal systems that want to destroy your soul and prevent you from fulfilling your high and lofty destiny. Ultimately, it will come down to are we willing to let Lamb, the Lover of our soul, possess our soul – to purify us to His holy standards? **We are all called to be the Bride of Messiah – few are chosen and faithful, we get to decide by the choice we make in this life (Matt. 22:14).**

Share Word from August 7, 2016: *"His Light and Love is what transforms us. It is Truth that sets us free. It is her time (Ireland's) for love to be awakened – time for her to come into Bridal Love. Those who come (to Assembly), not all, but some will be carriers of this Love – of this awakening, into the nation. I encourage you to become love, to seek His Light where no darkness dwells. It is a new day for this nation. It is the 3rd day – new beginnings. It is the day where He Who sits upon the throne says I will make all things new for those who are willing – those who are willing to love Him and obey Him with an undivided heart – for those willing to tear down and cast out the idols of their hearts. He is coming soon. Tell the people to prepare – prepare by becoming love, prepare by letting love purify their hearts, cleansing them from every way and every thing that they have touched that has profaned them. If they do, He will come and make His abode with them (John 14:23). It is His desire – it is His eternal purpose to be One with His people. Tell them He is coming back soon for His Bride – one who will be without spot or wrinkle – He will take no other."*

Before moving into this afternoon's teaching on Why Repentance and Intercession, and our time of prayer, needed to establish a foundation of God's eternal purposes to help us better understand the high call that is on our life, and why a lifestyle of prayer is critical, if we are to fulfill it.

Additional Notes may or may not have time to share:

#1 question the Lord will ask on that Day: how much did we become love with the one life He gave us? Most will have regret.

1. God looks at the heart – our motives why we do something.
2. God is Love – everything He does is out of this motive.
3. Our #1 priority/focus, call that is on all our lives is to become love – conformed to His likeness through dying to self. Paul said, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death (Philippians 3:10).
4. It is crucial that we know the call that is on our lives – most do not. It comes back to relationship and developing a hearing relationship. The higher the level of consecration in one's life, the clearer they will hear the voice of the Lord. A lot of good intentions in the Church that are worthless to Him (Matthew 7:21).
5. How much we are conformed to love, to His death, to His likeness in word, thought and deed will determine how well and how much we will fulfill the specific call that is on our lives.
6. Paul's number one desire was to know Him. To know the power of His resurrection, to share His sufferings, to be transformed to His death – speaks of dying to self – living the life of the Lamb, selfless. Paul said, I die daily.
7. Paul's number two desire was to present to Messiah a chaste virgin – the Bride (2 Corinthians 11:2). For the Lamb to receive the reward of His suffering – the reward was His Bride from all nations. Ask of me and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth as your possession (Psalm 2:8).
8. This should be our focus – Kingdom minded – eternal, and not on the temporal. This should be the foundation of why we pray, about Him being satisfied to have His Bride by His side as He deserves, not about us being satisfied.

Notes do not reflect all that was spoken when first taught, but are just that – notes for the author's use to teach from. Therefore, because more detail was shared when spoken, notes have a potential to be misconstrued, pending on the readers level of understanding of the Holy Scriptures, if not understood with all that was spoken.

**Additional insight to Esther's Three Houses provided by Pastor Eugene Underwood, Spirit Life Ministries.*