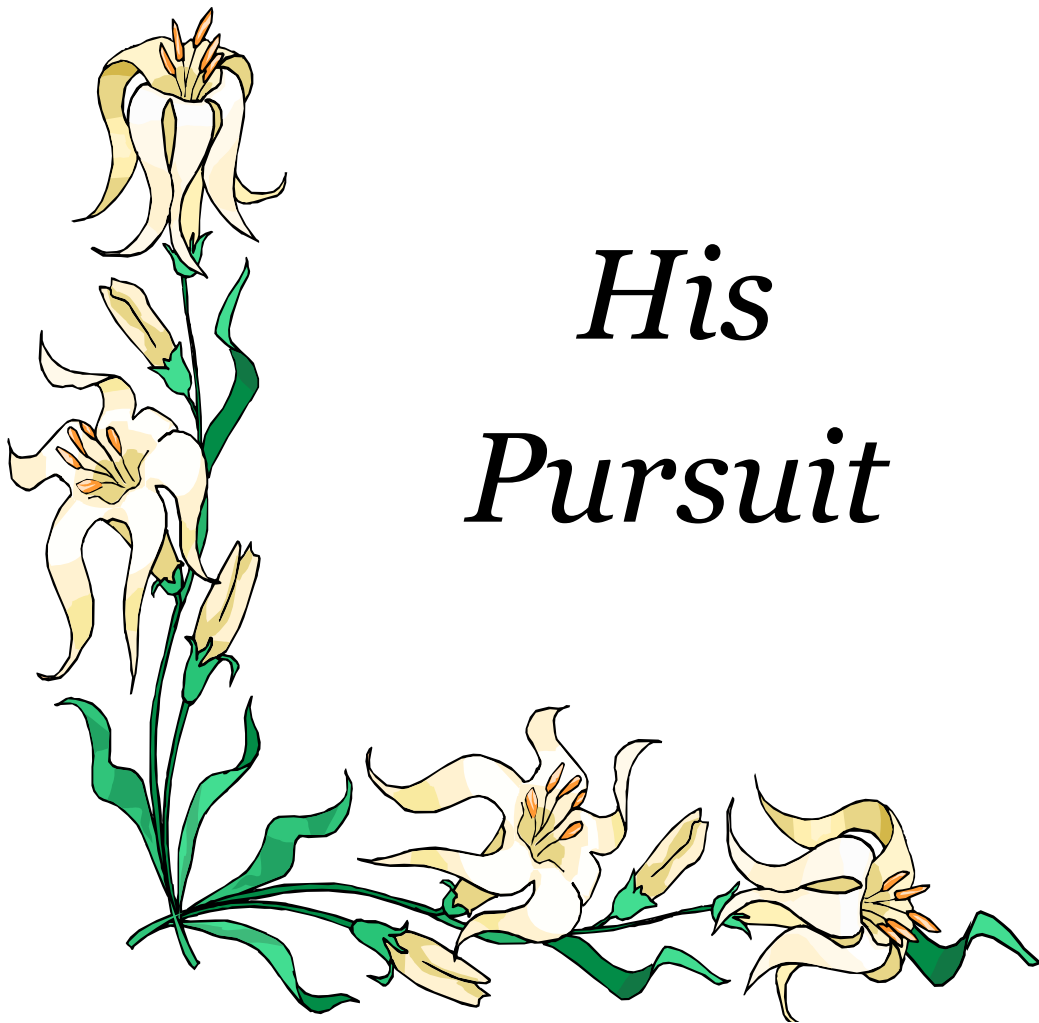


Evil and the Bridegroom

Session Two



His Pursuit

Evil and the Bridegroom

Session Two

His Pursuit

37

Evil and the Bridegroom

This study is about the greatest love story of all time – the saga of how the God who is love wins the heart of His bride and how our faith struggles are at the center of this cosmic romance.

38

Let's talk now about how the God who is love wins the heart of his Bride.

39

The Nature of God

Since God is love, it was very likely that the one God, who is love, would choose to create an other being with whom to share a love relationship and lavish His love upon.

40

The Nature of God

God is absolute good. If God were to make a being other than Himself, it could not be absolute good, or it would be merely an extension of Himself and not other. The other being could be good, but not absolute good. But if it was less than absolute good, it would have the potential to become evil.

41

The Great Question

- **The Question:**
God knew the beloved other would become sinful, resulting in much suffering. Would the good of the ultimate love relationship be worth the suffering?
- **The Answer:**
I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18 NIV)

42

God's Choice

God knew the Bride would become sinful, but he also gave her a destiny to become pure and holy like her Groom.

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son... (Romans 8:29 NIV)

43

Planned from the Beginning

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... as He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blame before Him in love...He has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time... (Ephesians 1:3-4;9-10 NRSV)

44

The Preparation of the Bride

... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27 RSV)

45

The Father Plans A Bride for His Son

Romances - 9

“On Creation”

by

St. John of the Cross.

• The Collected Works of Saint John of the Cross. Revised edition. Tran. Kieran Kavanaugh and Otilio Rodriguez. Washington, DC: Institute of Carmelite Studies, 1991. Pages 62-63.

46

The Strategy

Question: How did God do this?

Answer: Union

(See The Strategy Scriptures handout)

47

The Strategy

God the Father sent the Son to become human.

48

The Strategy

The Incarnation

And the Word became flesh . . .

(John 1:14 NKJV)

Divinity and humanity became one.

49

The Strategy

The Strategy: Union

- He united himself with her
 - The Incarnation – Took her evil upon himself
 - The Crucifixion – Took her death upon himself
- He united her with himself
 - The Resurrection – Gave her his eternal life
 - Pentecost - Gave her his Holy Spirit

50

The Strategy

- Though the Groom and His Bride are other, their destiny is to become one.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a profound mystery - but I am talking about Christ and the Church. (Ephesians 5:31-32 NIV)

51

She Will Be Like Him

Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. . . . Behold, I tell you a mystery; . . . we will all be changed (1Corinthians 15:49-51 NASB)

“. . . what we will be has not yet been made known. But . . . when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

(1 John 3:2 NIV)

52

Multiply by Zero

$$S \times 0S = 0S$$

$$\text{Sin} \times \text{Zero Sin} = \text{Zero Sin}$$

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ JESUS. (Romans 8:1 NASB)
. . . He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. (1John 3:5 NASB)

53

The Groom takes
her evil and death on himself
and conquers them.

54

The Groom fights the Dragon

(See The Groom Fights the Dragon Scriptures handout.)

55

The Trinity Works Together

. . . [T]he Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world. (1John 4:14 NASB)

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things (John 14:26 NASB)

56

Jewish Marriage Customs

- The Father arranges for the Bride.
- The Groom proposes to the Bride.
- The Groom leaves her and goes to his father's house to prepare a place for her.
- The Groom returns to get her.
- The Groom takes her back to live with him.

57

The Father Arranges for the Bride

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. (1John 4:9 NKJV)

58

The Son Loves Her

. . . Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, . . . that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27 RSV)

59

The Groom Prepares a Place

- "In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. (John 14:2-3 NKJV)

60

***He Leaves Her,
Promising to Return for Her***

... as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "...why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

(Act 1:11 RSV)

61

***When He Leaves
He Sends Her A Gift***

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; *that is* the Spirit of truth"

(John 14:16 NASB)

"... when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you . . . the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

(John 16:13-15 NIV)

62

He Promises to Return for Her

"I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. . . . In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. (John 14:18-20 RSV)

63

He Will Come Again For Her

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout Then we . . . will be caught up . . . to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."

(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NASB)

64

Their Future Together

But God, . . . because of His great love with which He loved us, . . . made us alive together with Christ. . . raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

(Ephesians 2:4-7 NASB)

65

Their Future Together

. . . heirs of God
and co-heirs with
Christ

(Romans 8:17 NIV)

66

Their Future Together

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. . . . And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true."

(Revelation 21:1-5 RSV)

67

God's Gifts to Her

"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared
for those who love Him"

(I Corinthians 2:9 NIV)

68

Question?

Which would you rather have, this
or remain in the Garden of Eden, not
knowing good and evil?

69

Evil and the Bridegroom - Session 2 - Scripture Handouts

The Strategy Scriptures

Eternity Past

. . . God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (Ephesians 1:3-4 NKJV)

The Incarnation

The Word became flesh . . . (John 1:14 NIV).

. . . Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself. . . being made in the likeness of men. . . to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-8 NASB)

who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree . . . (1Peter2:24 NKJV)

The Resurrection

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins . . . (Eph 1:7 NKJV)

These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead . . . (Ephesians 1:19-20)

. . . He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies . . . (Romans 8:11 NASB)

He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14)

The Ascension

And He . . . When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (Hebrews 1:3 NASB)

. . . Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one -- I in them and you in me . . . (John 17:21-23 NIV)

The Second Coming

. . . To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (Heb 9:28 NKJV)

. . . For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:13-20 RSV)

For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-11 NASB)

The Groom Fights the Dragon Scriptures

The Dragon

[T]he great dragon . . . that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth . . . (Revelation 12:9 NKJV)

Now the serpent . . . said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'? . . . You will not certainly die" (Genesis 3:1-5 NIV)

. . . [T]he devil . . . was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth . . . for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44 NIV)

The Groom

. . . The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. (1John 3:8 NIV)

. . . Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . (Eph 5:25-27 NIV)

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Hebrews 2:14-15 NKJV)

. . . Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. (Romans 6:9 NKJV)

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1Co 15:55 NLT)

The Victory

"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. (John 12:31 NASB)

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. . . . He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. . . . Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:11-16 NIV)

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire . . . forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10 NASB)

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord (Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV)

. . . who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2 NASB)