

The Mystery of Christ and the Church, Part 1

Adam, and Christ – the 2nd Adam.

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Summary: This is the first of 3 parts about Christ marrying His Church. We believe you will be thrilled and inspired by the many new insights into this “old” topic. The Bible calls it a “mystery”. This first part centers on Christ, the Husband, and how He is called the “second Adam”. Parallels – and differences – to the first Adam are noted. What is our ultimate purpose? What do angels look like? How can God as Christ, marry humans? How and when does this all happen? Print these notes then follow along with this rapidly moving 3-part series.

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Today's message is about a love story, a thrilling, godly love story. It's about the son of a great king falling in love with the bride chosen for Him by His FATHER, the Highest. This groom is also a king, and a great one also.

I'm going to TITLE this message: "THE MYSTERY OF THE BRIDE and GROOM" (note: later I changed the title to "Part 1, The Mystery of Christ and the Church – the Husband")

You know, we're about to have a wedding of our own! Our daughter Heather is getting married on Sunday, December 21, 2003 to Matt Terry. And we're having a marriage supper. It's exciting. It's on my mind... and it's a wonderful thing to think about. But God says His wedding supper of his Son Jesus Christ to the bride is a great mystery.

God's great truths are revealed to only a few for now. The truths are called “a great mystery” several times in the Bible. And the one we'll be talking about today is also a great mystery but I think you'll find it a moving love story, a love story full of Godly passion. Scripture shows there is godly passion and evil passion. You can be zealous in godly passion or you can be jealous in an ungodly way, for example. There is godly anger and carnal anger. So this story has a lot of joy in it, a lot of godly passion in it. It takes godly passion to accomplish anything of great and lasting value.

The reason I decided to share this study, is the principle given in **Hebrews 12:1-2** which I'll quote here. HOW do you think Jesus was able to stay faithful in the face of all his persecution, the pain of the cross, and all of that?

Hebrews 12:1-2

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2 looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

We have to also have something to look forward to, something we set before us, we place it there and keep it there, something that keeps us inspired in the down and low moments. **And I think this 3-part message about the mystery of the Bride and Groom will be that**

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kind of topic. It's exciting! ***This first message is vital*** in laying the groundwork of what is to follow. **Be turning next to Ephesians 5:30-32...**

At my daughter's wedding, two completely unique beings are coming together into one and their union will impact people everywhere they go. We all impact people, one way or another. And these unions are very serious, very important, are life changing!

And you've been called to be at this wedding, not as a spectator, but a participant. Not just *any* participant, but the *bride*. And we're going to get into all of that today....and I just find it terribly exciting! **It's a great love story...**the greatest love story ever! The thread of the story is woven throughout the Bible, from the earliest chapters of Genesis all the way through.

Ephesians 5:30-32

"For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." [THAT was said about Adam and Eve in Genesis 2] 32 this is a great mystery, but *I speak concerning Christ and the church.*"

This passage in Ephesians 5 actually tells us that when we see a man marrying a woman, or Adam and Eve, this is actually a type, only a type, since we humans have messed up marriage so badly, but a type of the union of Christ and the church. Paul calls it a GREAT mystery! **The New International Version (NIV)**, says this is a profound mystery.

The Greek word for “mystery” is *Musteerion* (moos-tayr-rion) - meaning “a mystery, a secret which has to be revealed”.

The first time the word “mystery” is used is when Jesus is telling his disciples in **Matthew 13:11** and *we* modern day disciples, “unto ***you*** is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God....” Unto *you*, the disciples. The world *cannot* know these mysteries unless it's revealed and their minds are opened.

One of the great mysteries of God is about the Son of God (Jesus) and a woman He is going to marry.

To understand the mystery we are going to discuss today, we need to first lay some background.

Now at some point in time past, God decided to create other life forms, and the first He created were the angels. *After* that He created the universe, for we can read in Job that the angels sang for joy in wonderful praises to God when they watched the Universe be born in God's creative power. (**Job 38:7**) Angels are called His servants.

* Angels are not of the God kind. They are created, and are *servants* of God.

* What do they *look* like?

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When they appear to man they usually appear as a man in white garment. There are other scriptures that show them, in their spiritual form, to sometimes have the form and shape of what we would know as animals on earth. Of course they are very powerful, very intelligent beings.

After a period of time, one of the princes of the angels, LUCIFER, rebelled and took a notable part – perhaps a third -- of the angels with him. These rebel angels, who tried to overthrow God, became known as demons. The story of Lucifer's rebellion can be found in **Isaiah 14:12-28** and **Ezekiel 28:14-17**. He was one of the covering cherubs over God's throne, who walked on the coals of fire before God's throne. He was a very intelligent, beautiful cherub. Today he is called “Satan”-- meaning *Adversary*. He's also called “the *Devil*”, meaning “accuser, slanderer”.

It could be that it was during this war that the earth was destroyed, along with all the dinosaurs. Michael - - a loyal warrior cherub led the fight against Lucifer.

Then, thousands of years ago, God restored the surface of the earth, and this restoration of the earth is what we read about in Genesis 1. The earth is billions of years old. The story of Genesis 1-2 is about the restoration of the earth and the creation of humankind.

I want to start with Genesis 1 the 6th day of creation. Remember that Genesis 1 is written from the perspective of someone on the earth viewing what was happening.

For example, the sun had already been created *billions* of years before but there came a time when God said, in Genesis 1, “Let there be light” (or, “LIGHT – be!”), that the light of the sun broke thru the polluted cloud cover surrounding the earth. [It could also be possible that Elohim simply put his own presence/light into the dark world.]

Genesis 1:24-28, 31

" Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature ***according to its kind:*** cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so. [dog reproduces after the dog kind] 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good."

26 *Then* God said, "Let Us make man ***in Our image, according to Our likeness;***"

Yes, God does look like something a man. We look like Him. God was there first.

God has a head, eyes, ears, arms, legs. When John was taken up to heaven in vision, in Revelation 1:10-17 , he saw Jesus looking like humans do. Actually, it's not so much that God looks like us, but we look like *God*. A minister told me a few years ago that God has no shape or form. That's plain wrong. God does have a spirit form and shape. And he designed man to look just like Him. He says so – in verses 26 and 28.

Continuing: Genesis 1:26:

"....let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27 So**

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God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Genesis 1:28

"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:31

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were ***the sixth day***."

Jewish tradition says Adam was created on the new moon, 1st day of what we know as the 7th month Rosh Hoshana, Feast of Trumpets, but it was the 6th day of that week, a Friday. The Bible doesn't say if it was the 1st day of 7th month or not, but neither does it contradict that notion.

Genesis 2 NEXT goes into much more detail of what happened on that 6th and 7th day.

The first few verses of Genesis 2 talks about God creating the Sabbath on the 7th day by resting on that day. I will in the future have a topic showing that the Sabbath is still the 7th day, not the first day of the week. God never changed the day the Sabbath is. The Sabbath is not one day in seven WE choose, but *the 7th day*, the day GOD chose and made holy by His presence. Then Genesis 2 backtracks to give more detail of what happened on the 6th day.

Genesis 2:7-9

"And the LORD God (YHVH Elohim) formed ***man of the dust of the ground***, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
8 LORD God planted [or HAD planted] a garden eastward in Eden, ***and there He put the man*** whom He had formed."

Had you noticed this before? ADAM was not created IN the garden, but in Eden, but not in the Garden of Eden. After he was formed, God then brought him into the garden....invited him in.

The garden was a type of God's holy presence, a type of heaven on earth. A type of the temple. It was God's presence. This first man will be called Adam meaning 'red dirt, clod'. Adam was a type of the 2nd Adam Jesus Christ.

1st Adam, 2nd Adam and their WIFE

Romans 5:14

"Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of **Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.**"

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1 Corinthians 15:45

"And so it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being.' The last Adam [Christ] became a life-giving spirit".

Now be patient, as all of this is laying the necessary groundwork for what will follow later in this message and in the 2nd message.

Genesis 2:9

"And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The **tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."**

Jumping now to Genesis 2:15

"Then the LORD God took the man and *put him in the garden* of Eden to tend and keep it."

The man does not yet have a wife. Before God gives Adam a wife, He makes sure he has a job. A lesson for us to this day.

16 "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of **every** tree of the garden you may freely eat [***which of course would include the tree of LIFE***]; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Now notice something else: the command is given to Adam. Eve has not even been created yet. Eve is nowhere to be found.

Genesis 2:18-20 Now the topic changes to finding a MATE FOR ADAM.

"And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." [THIS is the context of the next two verses]

19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. ***But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.***"

KEEP IN MIND SEVERAL THINGS AT THIS POINT:

*** Adam is a type of the reality, Jesus.**

*** The Garden of Eden is very likely, a type of the throne-room presence of God, which is the reality of the Garden type. It's what the garden of Eden pointed to.**

Why do I say this?

*** God's presence is here.**

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* **It has one entrance only**, on the east, just as the temple and tabernacle had only one entrance, also on the east.

That one entrance pictures there being only one way to God, and that is thru Jesus Christ, **Romans 4:12**, no other name given by which we can be saved, except the name of Jesus. Jesus says HE is *the way, the door, one way, one door*. **(John 14:6) We cannot find God through any other name, any other avenue except through Jesus. Not Buddha, not Islam, not any other god or method. Period.**

The tree of life is here, ***as well as the rivers*** flowing from the garden, were a type of the spirit of God.

*** We're trying to find a wife for Adam at this point, which is a TYPE of God finding a wife for CHRIST.**

Remember the passage in **Ephesians 5:30-32** that "we speak concerning Christ and the church"!!

The ANIMALS are *not* of the same *kind* as Adam and Eve, and they cannot marry them. **Also, I believe that just as mankind looks like GOD, the animals we see around us very likely look like *angels* in their spirit form.** I'll CITE a few references you can look up later.

*We know the cherubim and seraphim around the throne room have appearances of a LION (the wild animals), OX or CALF (the domesticated animals), EAGLE (representative of the bird kind) and the face of a Man (representative of the human kind). Revelation 4:2-7.

* Jesus comes back on a white charger. Revelation 19:12. That "charger" is probably an spirit *angel*.

* Other verses describe the demons as looking like frogs, dragons or serpents. **Revelation 16 verses 13-14**

13 And I saw ***three unclean spirits like frogs*** coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 **For they are spirits of demons, performing signs...**

We know God has CHILDREN. The children of any life form is like its parent! An elephant has baby elephants. An oak tree has baby oak trees. An eagle has eagles. IF GOD is going to have children, what do you think GOD has? Anything other than what HE is? Nonsense.

WE are called the children of God IF we have his SPIRIT (Romans 8:14). And we know we are going to be resurrected and changed to be spirit beings at the resurrection. I'll speak in more detail on this later.

JESUS, who was the WORD, the eternal companion of the one we know as God

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the Father, became human, and then died for our sins, and when he was resurrected, at that point He officially became the spirit, eternal son of God.

Romans 1:1-4

“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, **4 and declared to be the Son of God** with power according to the Spirit of holiness, ***by the resurrection from the dead.***”

According to Romans 8:29, Jesus is the FIRSTBORN of many brethren of many children of God.

Romans 8:29 “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be **the firstborn among MANY brethren.**”

Hebrews 2:11 says Jesus is not ashamed to calls us His brothers.

For you to have BROTHERS you have to have beings that are of the same **TYPE** as you are.

We call God our FATHER. A father is the same type as the child, when the child is fully born of God in the kingdom.

We are co-heirs with Christ and we will be fully born into that kingdom at the resurrection, though God sees the end from the beginning, and considers us His children even now! Fully born children of GOD have to be of the *same kind* as GOD. *Kind reproduces after its own kind.* If God is reproducing Himself, then His children have to be of the *same kind* that HE is.

1 John 3:1-3

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that ***we should be called children of God!*** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

So God wants children, considers US His children since He has given us His SEED, His SPIRIT called His seed in 1 Peter 1:23, “having been born again, not of corruptible **seed** but **incorruptible**, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...”

One more passage to show God is after having CHILDREN and remember, with the law of kind reproducing after its own kind, God's children have to end up being just like HIM.....of the God kind.

Romans 8:14-17

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and

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joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

SO WHAT WE HAVE SO FAR:

* God the Highest is a Father.

* He has a FIRSTBORN son, *Jesus, the first born of eventually many brothers*, meaning God will have many more children than just Jesus.

* Jesus was declared to be a fully born son of God at His resurrection, according to Romans 1:1-4.

* The Bible clearly says that the Lamb of God, Jesus is going to get *married*. So Jesus needs a WIFE... and when God looks among the spirit beings that He has created, there is NONE that is comparable or suitable for Him.

* So God is creating mankind, calling some to be part of his family now, gives them the Holy Spirit, lets them GROW in becoming just like He is, a perfect replica.

SO FAR, ONE SON has become a perfect replica of the Father:

Hebrews 1:1-4 “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ***3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person***, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”

Hebrews 1:3 NIV

".....the exact representation of his being...."

Hebrews 1:3 NEW LIVING TRANS

"The Son reflects God's own glory, and everything about him *represents God exactly*".

But Jesus is just the *FIRST* of MANY brethren, all of whom will grow into the IMAGE OF CHRIST AND OF THEIR FATHER IN HEAVEN....THAT'S US who are growing in that image now.

When I say He is, just the first, He IS the SAVIOR, He IS the captain of our salvation, He IS the husband...but there are more children of God being formed....who also have to grow in the image of God, in *being* like Him, not just *looking* like Him.

1 Corinthians 15:49

"And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the

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heavenly Man.”

So the church will be the *bride* of Christ, called out humans, given the Holy Spirit, and growing to be in the IMAGE of CHRIST, who is in the image of God.

Another verse says we are to grow into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
Ephesians 4:13.

That is done by letting Christ *live in us* and *grow* in us, and is done ultimately by being *clothed by Him*, with HIS righteousness growing in us, and ultimately even *imputed* to us where we may still fall short at the end. That's a different topic [much more clearly explained in the message “New Creation in Christ”].

Revelation 19:7

“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.”

So the Bible is clear: the Lamb, Jesus, is getting married, and to a *bride* who will have become just like HIM, for she is in fact from HIS very body, as Eve was from Adam's body.

WHO is the bride going to be?

2 Corinthians 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.***"

Let's wrap up this proof that Jesus is marrying the church by re-reading again,
EPHESIANS 5:25-32.

Ephesians 5:25-32

"Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ also loved the church** and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27 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. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives ***as their own bodies***; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. **30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.** 31 ***"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*** 32 ***This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.***

And Romans 7:4 also says we are going to be MARRIED TO CHRIST,

“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another -- to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.”

GENESIS 2 – “Dying” for your HELP-MATE

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Genesis 2:20

"So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for **Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.**"

By the way, the word helpmeet or Helper is NOT a derogatory word here. It's the same word used ELSEWHERE in the Old Testament to refer to GOD as being OUR help in time of need. God is hardly our servant! Check it out! It's amazing

Surely the day is wearing on. As the afternoon wears on, EVE is created.
At the end of the 6th day, Adam is introduced to Eve and marries her, at the end of the 6th day, just as Jesus the 2nd Adam, is going to marry HIS bride, the 2nd Eve at the END OF 6,000 years of man on earth.

Genesis 2: 21-22

"And the LORD God caused a **deep sleep** to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib [side] which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man."

I HOPE all kinds of BELLS are going off for you there's so much here!

EVE was not created from the dust of the ground, but from the BODY OF ADAM, who came first. Adam had to first go into a deep sleep before the woman could be created.

Remember EVE pictures what will be – in my view at least-- the 2nd Eve, the church.

WHAT DOES SLEEP PICTURE?

In the New Testament, dying is called sleeping, as when Jesus referred to Lazarus; and Paul says, concerning the resurrection, we shall not all sleep.

Before the New Covenant church could be formed on the day of Pentecost, what had to happen? Did someone had to DIE first sometime before that, and then WAKE UP to be RESURRECTED?

John 12:23-24

"But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. 24 Most assuredly, ***I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.***"

JESUS does not select His own bride. FATHER does. Jesus said so in **John 6:44 and verse 65** that NO ONE could come to Him Jesus unless drawn and selected by the Father.

Genesis 2:23-24

"And Adam said: ***"This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; (just as scripture says, we are members of Christ's body) She shall be called Woman (ISHA in Hebrew). Because she was taken out of Man."***

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

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ONE FLESH. *A type of being one spirit we'll see later between Christ and HIS bride.*

HOW GOD IS ONE – “echad”

GOD IS ONE so how can God have more than one member of the God family?

And is that blasphemy to say that? We need to lay this one to rest, as it's a real problem for some people. They think those who believe God is reproducing Himself are guilty of blasphemy.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is ONE! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might."

DID YOU know that the Hebrew word used for ONE here, refer to God being ONE, is ECHAD. And did you know, that that *same* word ECHAD is what is used here in Genesis 2:24, which says the husband and wife shall become ONE, one flesh *shall become echad, one, just as* God the Father and Jesus are one.

IN fact Genesis 2:24 is one of the verses that *proves* this word ECHAD can mean that more than one person can be one, can be echad. GOD IS ONE, one in spirit, one in type, one in goals, one direction, *but not necessarily one personality* just as Adam and Eve were 2 personalities, but were to become ONE. Again, the Hebrew Echad!

The same word for ONE, ECHAD, is also used in reference to *many people* becoming so united in goals and purposes that they were seen as *one*. We can find this in Genesis 11.

Genesis 11:5-7 “But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the LORD said, "Indeed the people **ARE ONE** [echad] and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.”

This is IMPORTANT, because Adam and Eve's wedding at the end of the 6TH DAY, and just as the 7th day was about to begin, pictures in a small scale, the marriage between Jesus and the Church and as Adam and Eve were to become one, so would Jesus and the CHURCH!

John 17:20-23

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that **THEY ALL** may be ONE, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be **ONE IN US**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be ONE just as We are one: [repeat that last phrase!] 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they **may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

The passages I've just quoted also explain the passages in Isaiah 43:10 and other

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places, where God is quoted as saying He is the ONLY God and after Him shall be no other.

Isaiah 43:10

"Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me."

And GOD is not forming other gods or creating other gods,He is bringing US into His family as *part of his one godhead*, one *God* family. There's the Father, and there's Jesus. But they're one. When there are many more children of God, married to Jesus, we'll all *still be one*, one in goal and purpose, one family going in one direction.

BACK TO THE STORY AND ANALOGY OF ADAM AND EVE:

I suspect, with all my being, that ADAM could see a scar where God had operated! He may have even seen some BLOOD on the ground as a result of the operation. You'll see WHY I think that in a minute. I could be wrong on this, but here's my conjecture:

BE TURNING TO JOHN 20...

I say this because I know Adam was a type of Jesus Christ, who also gave from His side to form His wife, the church. And Jesus could see and feel the hole in His side even AFTER He was resurrected!

Remember poor THOMAS, who was not there the first time Jesus appeared to all the disciples, except him?

John 20:24-29

"Now Thomas, called Didymus, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

But he said to them, "*Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.*"

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" **27 *Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."***

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

We also know that when Jesus returns, scripture says "every eye shall see Him whom they pierced"!!

What am I getting at, when I say something happened from the side of Jesus?

Move back to John 19:33-37

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"But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. 34 But one of the soldiers [HAD] ***pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*** 35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. 36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." 37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

Jesus had to *die from* shed blood. He wasn't already dead, but *died from* the spear wound, and that's why verse 34 should say HAD pierced.

The Church is the body of Christ, formed from His side, as surely as Eve was formed from the side of Adam's body.

There would be no church, no bride of Christ, if he hadn't given of his side as surely as ADAM did -- and spilt His blood to cover and form the church, His wife.

Just a thought: Perhaps Adam also spilled some blood, perhaps there also was a *scar*, a *wound* that Adam could see on his side, which would make it obvious where his wife had come from. When we see Adam in the resurrection, he might look just like Christ, and with a big scar on his side – from where the “side” or “rib” came to form Eve.

How great is Jesus' love for us, that this Husband gave of Himself so totally to cover and forgive and pay the penalty for his sweetheart, YOU AND ME, so He could have his very special loved one there beside Him and be married to her.

WE are now called members of His body... we are all ONE BODY, and that body is the body of Christ!!! We are like Him, have to be – if we're part of His very body!

Now when Adam looked at the animals, they were different from him. But Eve was like *him*.

WE must become like Christ, compatible, so the marriage will work! We have to grow to the fullness of the stature of CHRIST....be just like Him by the time the marriage occurs.

Genesis 3:1-7

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

WHERE WAS ADAM? Right THERE, but *not doing anything!!* ****verse 6*** ***"Adam who was with her"***. HEBREW for “with” is IMAAH, and could be translated: *accompanying, beside, in front of/before, with*. The word “you” from Satan is in the plural. KJV says YE.

1 Timothy 2:12-14

"And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For ***Adam was formed first, then Eve.*** 14 ***and Adam was not***

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deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

HE was not deceived by the Devil. He knew, he knew and remembered what God had said, so HE was the one who was considered the first sinner.

Romans 5:12 says,

"Therefore, just **as through one MAN sin entered the world**, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

God put the majority of the **blame on Adam**, who did not act to save his wife.

2nd ADAM DEFENDS HIS WIFE

The “2nd Adam” Jesus Christ, works daily as our Savior! He didn't just save us when he died for us on the cross. He is saving us day by day from Satan's onslaught! He daily defends us against Satan's accusations, for that is what “devil” means, accuser. Jesus is our defender. He is our HELPER to strengthen us when we need help. He is our FORT, our ROCK, our high tower, and Jesus, this 2nd Adam, fights for His bride this time around.

We men better learn from this and fight for our wives too!

I'll come back to this in a minute!

Now Eve was deceived. Eve made some classic mistakes:

a. **by conversing with the Devil.** Jesus, when he was tempted by the Devil in Matthew 4 and Luke 4, did not converse. He told the Devil a definitive answer and told him to get lost! You don't have an internal dialogue with right and wrong when you know clearly something is either right or wrong.

b. ***She should have called Adam to come help her***, just as we, the 2nd Eve, should call on the Lord, our Savior and husband to come help us when we feel tempted, and know we're sinking!

Contrast this to Christ, whom we know fights for His bride, prays for us, defends us!

Luke 22:31-32

“And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. **32 BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU, that your faith should not fail;** and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”

Jesus is up there interceding for you, praying for you, defending you!

Look at these scriptures, which show His undying love for a wife, you and me, who is constantly falling short, but He understands and He is patient:

1 John 2:1-2

“My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. ***And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate (ONE WHO SPEAKS IN OUR BEHALF) with the***

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Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (Do you realize you're the topic of many conversations!?)

Hebrews 7:24-25

"But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to **save** to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always **LIVES** to [LIVES TO DO WHAT? LISTEN].... **He lives to make intercession for them.** "

Hebrews 9:24

"For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear [to do what? LISTEN]....NOW TO APPEAR in the presence of God **FOR us**; (in our BEHALF!)"

Notice, He's not against us! He's **FOR** us! *He's not accusing you* before His father, but defending you! *What an incredible mate we have in Christ!!!*

Hebrews 13:5

"I will never, ever leave you nor forsake you".

Another example of how Christ fights for us and defends us:

Zech 3:1-2

"Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

Yet another example: **when Stephen was stoned**, he saw his husband Jesus, standing, giving him the honor, *standing UP* for him.....the day God stood for a human being, showing His respect and admiration...and that he was not leaving him to go thru this *alone!!!*

Acts 7:54-56

"When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, **"Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"** [Jesus is usually pictured as SITTING on the right hand of God. This time, Jesus STOOD for His saint, for STEPHEN, out of *respect* and *love* and to show He was standing with him in this trial!!!]

OPEN YOUR eyes! See your Husband defending YOU too! How many times is our husband standing for us, beside us? Do we know that? Do we know that? He is!!! He does!!!!

So this is what the 2nd Adam is doing. **He's fighting for you**, defending you, guarding you... He is with you... And He loves you dearly, dearly, dearly.

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Let's continue with the account in

Genesis 3:6-7

"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. ***She also gave to her husband with her***, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings."

This next time around, with the 2nd Adam, it's going to be definitely different!

When the serpent comes hissing up to the bride of Christ, the church, this time the 2nd Adam is ready to defend, and protect, as the first Adam should have done.

This time the 2nd Adam has faced this serpent of old, and has given Satan a royal trouncing!! He commanded that devil, get behind me Satan! So what happens next?

Genesis 3:22-24

"Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" -- 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and ***He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden***, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard ***the way*** to the tree of life."

So the way to the Garden was sealed and closed.... again, a picture, that God is not allowing just anyone into His presence until He first invites them and opens the way.

IF Adam and Eve were created on what we know as the Feast of Trumpets, Rosh Hoshana, then is it not entirely possible that this took place on the 9th day of the 7th Month... and then Satan is punished on YOM KIPPUR, the day of Atonement? JUST a thought. No proof, just a thought.

There is an apocryphal book called the Book of the Jubilees that states it was many years before Satan deceived Eve, but I don't believe it would take years. I don't think it was more than a few days at most. In any case, the Bible simply doesn't say, one way or another.

So God placed cherubs there, plural (Cherubim)...just as there are 2 cherubs, or plural is cherubim, over the ark of God.

Back to the winged cherubs guarding the *way* into the Garden: You know the winged creatures that you can see to this day at the British Museum, taken from ancient gates of Babylon or Assyria? Perhaps people saw these cherubs over the years. These beasts of Assyria or Babylon were bulls with human heads and were winged animals.

And also notice the entrance was to the EAST of the garden, just as the entrance to the temple

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was to the EAST of the temple.

****** So you've been invited, called, to be part of the Bride of Christ. We must not take that calling lightly!!!**

You've been called to be part of His body.

You've been called to honor and obey Him and take on **His** name (so we're called CHRISTIAN) --- and that is also why women should take on their husband's name. It's biblical. You become one, under HIS name. Actually under the Father's name....the *family* name of the family into which we are going!

God gave us new clothes, a new heart, a new spirit, a new life.
We are new. Totally new in his eyes.

But now you need to hear the sermon I have on, "What does God think of you now, now that you've repented and are his affianced bride"? I think you'll enjoy that message and the one on "New Creation" too.

God is not preparing His son's bride for a royal wedding by wanting her to feel like a failure all the time!

---But now, on the other hand, if we are *not* studying, if we are not coming out of the world, if we are *partakers of their sins* and lifestyles, then we will be *corrected* severely as the Laodiceans are. We better see ourselves if we're not seeking God and HIS *righteousness* daily!

But if we *are* recognizing our sins and weaknesses, and presenting them to God to cleanse us, and repenting, God sees us as new. That is when we will be fully perfect, totally incorruptible, without spot or wrinkle.

That will be all for now. Part 2 will be focusing on the CHURCH – the bride of Christ, and the incredible parallels with Isaac's wife Rebekah, the story of the Proverbs 31 bride, Ruth, Israel – and other exciting parallels which help us understand how we're being prepared to be Christ's bride.

Hang on to your seats, the exciting, thrilling ride is just beginning.

Until next time, this is Philip, your brother in our Messiah asking for blessings, peace and shalom to all of you as you walk in His light. Until next time.... Shalom and joy!

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