

INTRODUCTION TO THE BRIDAL PARADIGM

I THE BRIDAL PARADIGM

A What is a PARADIGM?

1. Something that is used as a pattern or model
2. A set of ***assumptions, concepts, values and practices that constitutes a way of viewing reality*** for the community that shares them
3. Eg: like looking at something through new lenses – it allows you to see something in a new way with greater clarity and understanding

B What is the BRIDAL PARADIGM?

1. The ***Bridal Paradigm*** is a pattern or model, a set of concepts, values and practices that identify a way of viewing God and man's relationship with God
2. When we read scripture based on this view we see the Word in a new way
3. The phrase "***Bridal Paradigm***" is not found anywhere in the Bible – it is a set of Biblical concepts critical to our understanding and relationship with God in this hour of human history.
4. We approach our Christian walk and reading of scriptures from the perspective of:
 - A Bride awakened to love
 - Betrothed in love
 - Waiting for her partner's return to be with Him forever

C The BRIDAL PARADIGM contains four general themes

1. **The knowledge of God** – character, nature, emotions, ways etc
2. **God's pursuit of man** – desire for relationship and partnership
3. **My identity and value to God** – the object of God's desire and passion
4. **My response to his pursuit** – a lifestyle that reflects gratitude to God

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D The BRIDAL PARADIGM reveals the three faces of Jesus that will be most relevant at the End of the Age

- Bridegroom
- King
- Judge

II THE FATHER'S OVERARCHING PLAN

A History of Redemption

- 1 **Begins** with a Bride -Gen 1 & 2
- 2 **Ends** with a Bride – Revelation 19 – 22

“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.” Rev 19:7

B From ages past, from the beginning of time and before the earth was created; God has had one goal and plan in mind and that was to prepare an equally yoked bride for his Son. This has been his guiding principle throughout all history.

1. God planned from eternity to have for Jesus a people who were like him. (Eph 1:4, Rom.8 29, 1 Pet 1:2)
2. God gave the entire created order, material and eternal universe, for His Bride. (1Cor. 3:21-23)
3. God has orchestrated all history to work for her good. (Rom. 8: 28)
 - a. Acts 17:26 – God steers history to prepare the Bride in voluntary love.
 - b. Rom 8: 28 – God gives us the understanding of history’s paradoxes.
 - c. 1 Cor. 3: 21 – God shows us the universe was created for man.

C Purpose of Humanity – (Gen 1: 26-28; 2: 18)

1. Created man in the image / likeness of Jesus.
2. Created man to be a suitable partner for Jesus.
3. Created the earth as man’s training ground for future co-rulership with Christ.
4. All history BEFORE the Wedding Feast is preparation for AFTER the feast!

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III BRIDE IN HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS - GEN 1: 26; 1 JN 3: 2-3

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ...so God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him... Gen. 1: 26-27

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. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 1Jn. 3: 2-3

- A** We have been welcomed into the **Father's Embrace**. (Jn. 17: 23; 1 Jn. 3:1)
- B** **New heart** – right emotions to God; what he thinks of me; teachable spirit.
- C** **New body** – right now we can experience healing in this realm but will receive new immortal bodies at his Second Coming.
- D** **New position** – a new position was offered to the seven churches in Revelation to those who overcame the temptations and difficulties of their hour.
- E** **New earth** - to reign with Christ.
- F** We will **look like him** and **act like him** with hearts overflowing with gratitude.

IV BRIDAL CONFESSION

"And it shall be, in that day," says the Lord, "That you will call Me 'My Husband,' and no longer call Me 'My Master,'... Hosea 2: 16

And the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires let him take the water of life freely. Rev. 22: 17

- A** Hosea suggests a **greater level of maturity** in love between us (the Bride), and Jesus (the husband). This greater maturity in love suggests that we will develop not only the subservient context of servant-master but that **the main definition of our life in God will be wife-husband**. The dual role of relationship between wife and husband is to reflect our relationship with the Lord.
- B** As a **servant**, which is still a revelation to be walked in, life is **one simple act of obedience after another**. In the servant-master relationship, the servant has no influence upon the master.
- C** Yet in the husband-wife relationship, the wife has **great influence**. Jesus is calling forth a Bride who recognizes the **influence in love** she has with her husband.

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This relationship of husband-wife is **the deepest revelation of our lives** in God. It reflects the level and depths of **love and intimacy**, the co-partnership in **expressing dominion over the earth**, the place given to the first Adam and his wife Eve; and the joy of being fruitful in love that increases the **governmental authority of our lover, king and Lord**.

- D** So what is it today he needs to do to move our hearts closer in mature love with him? Think of this for a moment. He is **moving our hearts** from servant-master thinking to husband-wife concepts. The fact that creates stress tells us how little revelation we have concerning this subject. **When we understand this** and have it revealed to our hearts, it begins to change us.

***'...That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.'* Eph. 1: 17-18a**

- E** Developing a clear identity of **who we are to Him**, the hope of this calling to a new and living way, and allowing this new paradigm to re-write the tablets of our hearts.
- F** **Mature love** defined. Goal of the Godhead is to produce 'mature love' in the life of the Bride. The definition of 'mature love' is found in Song of Solomon 8: 6-7.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave: its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement [a flame of Yah] flame. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. If a man would give for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly despised. Song. 8:6-7

- 1 The invitation by the Lord for the Bride to take Him as the seal [mark] on her life. It's God who seals the heart with fiery love and the Bride who invites it, welcomes it and asks for it.
- 2 ***Love that seals [marks] the heart and arm***
 - a. Heart. Emotions and spirit level of our lives.
 - b. Arm. Our works.
- 3 ***Love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave***. This is the definition of mature love God is placing like fire on the hearts and works of the Bride. It is a love that will not shrink back though death [whether literal or spiritual] intimidates her.
- 4 In the beginning she was more concerned with him giving her a happy life. She saw him [Jesus] as a means [method, way] to an end [happiness]. He called this 'immature love' and accepted it. He did not cast her off. However, his goal is to **mature her love so that 'He' is the end goal of her life**.