

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

Thursday

Rev. 19:7-8, 14 – Footnotes 7¹, 14¹, 14²

I think that all of us have had experiences of the sweet dispensing that is so personal, so intimate, so affectionate, and so spiritual. That is how the Lord accomplishes His dispensing but the enemy will always come to attempt to interrupt the dispensing. So the Bible puts these two matters together a number of times. We read Ephesians chapter 5, verses 25-27, and then we read chapter 6, verses 10-12. What do you see in Ephesians 5? The bride. What do you see in Ephesians 6? The corporate warrior of God. No book unveils the church the way Ephesians does. Ephesians shows us at least 12 different aspects of the church but these are the final two—the bride and the warrior. Actually it is through the bride that the Lord gets His expression.

This we see in the book of the Song of Songs. In the Song of Songs the lover is transformed to be the same as the Beloved, the female version of Solomon. She is called the Shulamite, the feminine version of Solomon. At the end of the Bible you see the New Jerusalem prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. That is the church at its consummation. So the bride is really for expression. Now we come to the warrior; the warrior is to fulfill the other intention in Genesis 1:26. The bride is to express God; the warrior is to exercise His dominion. Actually, these two aspects of the bride and the warrior fulfill Genesis 1:26.

This is not the only place where we can see this; we also see it in Revelation 19, verses 7-8 and 14. In verses 7 and 8 it says that the marriage of the Lamb has come and the bride has made herself ready. She is adorned in fine linen, bright and clean. Then just a few verses later in verse 14, the scene changes and the Lord is coming to fight the Antichrist. He comes with his armies who are dressed in fine linen, bright and pure. In other words, they are dressed in their wedding dresses. Here the Bible puts together the ultimate marriage with the warrior. When the Lord comes back we also have the romance and the warrior just as Ephesians puts together the bride and the warrior.