

The Mystery of the Bride of Christ (06)

We are currently studying the mystery doctrines of the Church.

Mystery doctrines are specific doctrines never disclosed to other generations of believers. They would be revealed with the historical advent of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

(Col.1:26) "That is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints."

During His earthly ministry, Jesus introduced the mystery doctrine of the kingdom of God to the Jews (Matt.13). This mystery doctrine was attacked by Satan, the evil one:

(Matt.13:19) "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road."

There are four types of warfare directed against the mystery doctrines by the evil one in the Angelic Conflict (AC). Read the Parable of the Sower in (Matt.13:11-15) Just one of seven parables Jesus taught.

The Jews rejected not only the message but their Messiah (Matt.21:33-46; Rom.11:11). Therefore both this message and Messiah were given to as many who would believe the gospel of Jesus Christ, including Gentiles. (John 1:11-13; Acts 13:46-48).

In today's lesson, Paul reveals the MYSTERY OF THE BRIDE OF CHRIST in (Eph.5:32) "This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."

<p>This lesson will study <u>six aspects</u> of Mystery of Bride of Christ.</p>
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1. Paul compared the marital relationship between a Christian husband and wife to Christ and the church (Eph.5:32; 2 Cor.11:2) [Church betrothed to Christ].

Paul is teaching that this special relationship was a mystery doctrine:

(Eph.5:32) This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

(Col.1:27) "To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Gal.3:28; 1 Cor.12:13)

2. The relationship of the priest-nation of Israel to God was that of mother of the messianic seed (Gen.3:15; 2 Cor.11:2-3; 1 Tim.2:13-15).

Eve until Mary gave birth to the messianic seed, the Son of God (Matt.1:1-17; Luke 3:23, 34-38; Luke 1:31-35; 3:23, 38; Isa.7:13-14; **Gal.3:16**). Messianic seed was a constant in the warfare of the Angelic Conflict (AC).

For example, Satan attacked the messianic seed through-out the Antediluvian and into the Postdiluvian civilization (Gen.6:2; 2 Pet.2:4-5; Jude 6).

(Hosea 2:2) “Contend with **your mother**, contend, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband; and let her put away her harlotry from her face and her adultery from between her breasts.” [Israel]

3. At the birth of The Son of God, Jesus Christ, Satan turned his attack directly upon Jesus personally. (Matt.21:33-46; Matt.2:16-18; Gal.3:16).

Jesus left this earth without His bride, the church (Acts 1:9-11). Jesus Christ will return for His bride, the Church, at the Rapture (1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-58).

Jesus Christ will return to take His bride to the Marriage Supper in the Millennium.

(Rev.22:7) “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for **the marriage of the Lamb** has come and His bride has made herself ready.”

4. In the Church Age, Satan’s attack is upon the bride of Christ, the Church (Acts 9:1-5).

Satan’s attack is upon the born again Church Age Believers (CAB) (2 Cor.2:11; 2 Tim.2:26; 1 Pet.5:8; Eph.6:11-17; 1 John 3:1).

Jesus promised that the gates of Hell could not prevail against the church (Matt.16:18; 1 John 3:8; 4:4).

5. After the wedding, but before the marriage supper (we call it wedding reception), Jesus Christ left the earth with a promise to return for His bride (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 2:31).

Two biblical examples of a Marriage Supper are Jacob’s marriage to Leah (Gen.29:21-26) and Jesus’ first miracle for His mother (John 2:1-11).

(Rev.22:17) “**The Spirit and the Bride say**, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.”

(Rev.22:9) “Then he said to me, ‘Write, blessed are those who are invited to **the marriage supper of the Lamb**.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’”

6. The death of the Son of God did not prevent Him from taking His bride. But it did prevent Him from taking her to the marriage supper (reception).

John the Baptist was the friend of the bridegroom and the followers of Christ were the bridegroom’s attendants at the wedding (John 3:29; Luke 5:34-35).

The bride’s dowry was paid by the blood (spiritual death) of the bridegroom (Acts 20:28; Eph.5:23, 25-27).

God raised His Son from the dead so that the wedding ceremony could be completed at a later date (Acts 1:2, 9-11; 2:31-36).