

# We Are The Church—His Betrothed

The points below are not proof the Church will escape the Great Tribulation Period, but are in contrast with the teaching of those who believe the Church will go through the Tribulation. If we get serious about the real proofs scattered throughout the Word of God, we can certainly be assured of our “escape” – as Jesus Himself said, “From this time of testing and torment which will come upon all the earth, to *test them that dwell upon the earth.*” (Luke 21:36; Rev. 3:10.)

## We Are Betrothed To Christ

### Israel First: Betrothed To God.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her. <sup>15</sup>And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt. <sup>16</sup>And it shall be at that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi; and shalt call me no more Baali. <sup>17</sup>For I will take away the names of Baalim out of her mouth, and they shall no more be remembered by their name. <sup>18</sup>And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. <sup>19</sup>And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness, and in mercies. <sup>20</sup>I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD.” (Hosea 2:14-20).

In the valley of Achor, located near Jericho, Achan’s sin was discovered, judged, punished, and put away. In like manner, if Israel and Gomer will deal with their sin and put it away also, that very act will result in God’s blessing and bring *restoration* and *hope*. The names *Ishi* (“My husband”) and *Baali* (“My Master”) are significant. The former is a term of affection and represents the closest loving relationship. The latter indicates servitude and inferiority. God will then enforce a new covenant for them by breaking the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth—to give them the peace unto rejoicing and singing as in the days of their youth when coming out of the land of Egypt; *and I will betroth thee unto Me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know your Lord.*

### The Church is Second: Betrothed To Christ.

<sup>24</sup>Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; <sup>26</sup>That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup>That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup>So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. <sup>29</sup>For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: <sup>30</sup>For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. <sup>31</sup>For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. <sup>32</sup>*This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.* (Ephesians 5:24-32)

Though God promises Israel to be His wife, they have not yet cried out, “*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*” Please keep in mind that in Ezekiel 9, by the Spirit, God is rising up from the Mercy Seat in the Most Holy Place. He displays Himself as a bright light hovering over this hallowed place. As He rises to leave because of the numerous sins of Israel, He emerges into the Holy Place; then the outer court where He hovers over the Eastern Gate. He is grieving over the sins of Israel while noting the great destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar’s army. As He hovers over the massacre, He whispers:

<sup>37</sup>O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! <sup>38</sup>Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. <sup>39</sup>For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, *Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.* (Matthew 23:37-39).

When will all Israel say, “*Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord?*” You and I do not know the answer to that question. But we do know a great body of Israelites has already come to the Lord Jesus Christ

in humble repentance over her sin. I am also assured that when the Father signals for Jesus to sound that Trump, all those who have been washed in the precious blood of the Lamb—to include Christian Israel—will be ready to meet Him in the air right along with the Church, simply because they have become a part of His body. *All who fail to come to Christ* will enter the 7-year Tribulation period.

## **We Are Sealed Unto The Day Of Redemption**

**At Salvation: We Are Sealed With Promise:**

<sup>11</sup>In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: <sup>12</sup>That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. <sup>13</sup>In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, *ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise*, <sup>14</sup>Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11-14—My italics).

The inheritance in verse 13 is God's wisdom and prudence as He makes known to us the mystery (Spiritual Truths) of His will which is above and beyond the ability of the natural man, and has been kept secret; but God has opened up the mystery to us, His people because of His good pleasure which He planned for us. We should always glorify God in all we do; in all we say or think. Paul, in verses 13 and 14, is speaking *specifically* to the gentile Christians as observed in the use of "Ye". However, it should be noted that the same blessing is inherited by Israelite Christians of today.

If you have not yet seen the direction of this article, please continue to the end and hopefully we will all see the glorious power manifest by God to this final generation of saints—in contrast to the destruction coming upon the rest of the world—those who dwell on the whole earth, in contrast to those who dwell in Heaven (see Revelation 12:11; specifically, 12). Have we yet to grasp the wonderful mysteries of just Who our God really is? The mysteries of His peace which man cannot understand—but know when they have it? Can we truly understand the fullness of the *Holy Spirit of promise*? Only the Lord knows the magnificence of His kingdom. Will we be willing *now* to continue to the very end of this life in praise to our God?

*"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."* (Eph. 4:30).

The Holy Spirit of Promise likely includes promises we are now receiving during this age, to include Luke 21:35-36 and Revelation 3:9-10. It also includes rewards given at the Judgment Seat of Christ after the rapture of the Church to all who have been faithful and obedient by the standards of His Word. This may also include the promise that those who remain righteous and faithful to the end will escape from the time of terror (the full seven years of the great tribulation).

- Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for the meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father **sealed**. (John 6:27)
- Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this **seal**, the Lord knoweth them that are His. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. (II Tim. 2:19)
- Who hath also **sealed** us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts (II Cor. 1:22)
- In Whom ye also trusted, after that you heard the Word of Truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that you believed, you were **sealed** with that Holy Spirit of Promise. (Eph. 1:13)
- And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are **sealed** unto the day of redemption. (Eph. 4:30).

## **We Are Appropriated To Sit In Heavenly Places With Christ Jesus**

**At Salvation: We are sitting in heavenly places with Christ Jesus.**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in *heavenly places in Christ*: (Eph 1:3)

<sup>5</sup>Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) <sup>6</sup>And

hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: <sup>7</sup>That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (Gal.2:5-7).

<sup>10</sup>To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in **heavenly places** might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, <sup>11</sup>According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus Our Lord: (Eph 3:10, 11).

### **At Salvation: We Are A Chosen Generation.**

<sup>9</sup>But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; <sup>10</sup>Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

In contrast to the eighth verse, we see “but ye”, meaning those who are “chosen” are no longer in the flesh; but walking in His Spirit. God has not forgotten or *left to chance* His own plans for a people who will commit the remainder of their lives in His walk. He has reserved that decision specifically for Himself. No one has to beg or plead; for Christ Jesus calls us through His Holy Spirit.

**A Royal Priesthood.** Believers in Christ are changed from the inside out. They are governed by a brand new system; a holy system governed by the King of kings and Lord of all lords. In the O.T., the priesthood was restricted to a qualified minority. Their distinctive activity was to offer sacrifices to God on behalf of His people and to communicate directly with God (Ex.28:1; 2 Chron. 29:11). But now, through Jesus Christ, every Christian has been made a priest before God (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6). The priesthood of all believers means:

- 1) We have direct access to God (Eph. 2:18; Hebrews 4:15-16).
- 2) We are under obligation to live holy lives (1 Pet. 1:13-16; 2:5-9)
- 3) We offer up spiritual sacrifices unto God:
  - a) Living in obedience to God; nonconformity to the world. (Rom. 12:1-2).
  - b) Prayer and praise. (Psalm 50:14).
  - c) Serving with holy hearts and pure, willing minds. (Phil. 2:17).
  - d) Performing good deed; helping the sick, elderly, etc (Heb. 13:16)
  - e) Generous in giving. (Romans 12:13).
  - f) Presenting our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness. (Romans 6:13, 19).

<sup>7</sup> That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: <sup>8</sup> Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: <sup>9</sup> Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. <sup>10</sup> Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: <sup>11</sup> Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. <sup>12</sup> Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. (**I Peter 2:7-12**)

*Those who dwell on earth*—in every case—according the word, are those who have never during the Church age, made any commitment to Jesus Christ. The Scripture consistently conveys to the reader the fact that all who *reside, live, dwell, inhabit the earth* during the tribulation period must make the decision whether to commit their lives to Jesus, the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings – or remain with their present father, the devil. Their decision will mark the remainder of their eternity. Earth dwellers are earth people who think the same way the population of Noah’s day thought.

*Remember Jesus loves the righteousness of His own people.*

## *Who Am I in Christ*

- I am a child of God (John 1:12)
- I am saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- I am loved by God and he gave his one and only Son for me (John 3:16)
- I am a new creation in Christ; the old has gone and the new has come! (2 Cor 5:17)
- I have peace with God (Romans 5:1)
- The Holy Spirit lives in me (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- I have access to God's wisdom (James 1:5)
- I am helped by God (Hebrews 4:16)
- I am reconciled to God (Romans 5:11)
- I am not condemned by God (Romans 8:1)
- I am justified (Romans 5:1)
- I have Christ's righteousness (Romans 5:19, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
- I am Christ's ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- I am completely forgiven (Colossians 1:14)
- I am tenderly loved by God (Jeremiah 31:3)
- I am a temple in which God dwells (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- I am blameless and beyond reproach (Colossians 1:22)
- I am the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13)
- I am the light of the world (Matthew 5:14)
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:5)
- I am chosen by Christ to bear fruit (John 15:16)
- I am a member of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- I am a saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3)
- I am chosen by God, holy and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12)
- I am a child of the light (1 Thessalonians 5:5)
- I am holy, and I share in God's heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1)
- I am sanctified (Hebrews 2:11)
- I am one of God's living stones, built up in Christ as a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5)
- I am firmly rooted and built up in Christ (Colossians 2:7)
- I am a prince (princess) in God's kingdom (John 1:12; 1 Timothy 6:15)
- I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)
- I am God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10)
- I will not be separated from the love of God (Romans 8:35-38)
- I am betrothed to Him; at my new-birth, I became engaged to Christ Jesus (Hosea)
- I am sealed with Holy Spirit of promise from my new-birth (Ezek. 9; Eph. 1:13)
- I am seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:5-6)
- I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession and created to sing his praises (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Blessings from Tom & Linda  
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