



Day 1 EVE THE Beloved



The mother of all the living this is the meaning of Eve's name. For just a moment, feel the weight of that name. See its scope. Behold its immense honor and its sacred place in God's design. For crying out loud, woman is called "the mother of all the living!"

What makes this beautiful mantle even more significant is the fact that Eve received her incredible name after her role in the fall of humanity and even after the pronouncement of God's curses on men, women, and the serpent Satan. Don't miss this: Eve was declared the beloved mother of all the living after she failed and became afflicted.

In a brief series of devotions, we will survey moments across all of Scripture that show God working through womanhood and the very nature of femininity itself to speak a message of hope to His broken creation. You, my sister in Christ, play a vital role. You represent the grand finale of creation in two senses of the term both as a woman who was the absolute final creation in God's creative process and as a foreshadowing of God's ultimate triumph as described in the final three chapters of the Bible.

You are an earthly picture of a heavenly reality. Many of God's teachings and instructions in the Old Testament seemed just as obscure to the original recipients as they do to modern ears. Why curse Eve this way? Why the subjugation in the Old Testament and the calls to submit to husbands in the New Testament? Why was Levirate marriage (as in the Book of Ruth) a thing in the Old Testament?

The Israelites were instructed to set up their camp in what seemed like an odd way even a way that was logistically impractical. The Old Testament's sacrificial system involving the sacrifice of a lamb seemed obscure irrelevant to the sins of God's people. Countless generations of Israelites lived their lives not fully realizing that they were replicating the very throne room of heaven on earth when they setup their tabernacle according to the same blue print. (Compare Numbers 1 to Revelation 4, which was written millennia later). Countless lambs were sacrificed according to God's instructions before it was revealed these earthly lambs were only foreshadows of the ultimate Lamb, Jesus. (Compare Leviticus 1 to Hebrews 10, which was written millennia later.) continued...



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Read Hebrews 10:1-4:

“1 Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come, and not the reality itself of those things, it can never perfect the worshipers by the same sacrifices they continually offer year after year. 2 Otherwise, wouldn’t they have stopped being offered, since the worshipers, purified once and for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? 3 But in the sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year after year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins (CSB).”

You see, these Old Testament images were mere glimpses at a tremendous heavenly truth. It was never about the blood of bulls and goats (v.4), but about Jesus’ atoning blood. So, what does this teach us about the difficult passages in the Bible pertaining specifically to femininity? What do they foreshadow? Press this statement to your heart in preparation for this week’s devotional journey: God was foreshadowing something heavenly in His unbroken love for fallen Eve. His Old Testament imagery foretold a coming redemption. Today, His New Testament teachings on femininity are glimpses of His plans for heaven itself!



Day 2 EVE THE Beloved



Did you know that Jesus is fasting from wine? (Found in Matthew 26:29.) He told His disciples He was waiting for the right moment.

Today, we will see just what that moment was. The sole point in the creative process at which God described anything in His creation as less than “good” was the sight of man by himself; hence the “for this reason” part of Genesis 2:24. “This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.” God established that man would leave his parents before the first couple in the world even became parents! It’s beautiful. The means by which God ordained the creation of new life was the ultimate expression of love between a man who has given himself up for his wife and a woman who has committed to stick with him through anything. So, Eve became the first of all brides, the church will be the grand finale of all brides, and God creates new life through them both.

Read John 2:1-11:

“On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’s mother was there, and 2 Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding as well. 3 When the wine ran out, Jesus’s mother told him, “They don’t have any wine.” 4 “What does that have to do with you and me, woman?” Jesus asked. “My hour has not yet come.” 5 “Do whatever he tells you,” his mother told the servants. 6 Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained twenty or thirty gallons. 7 “Fill the jars with water,” Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim. 8 Then he said to them, “Now draw some out and take it to the headwaiter.” And they did. 9 When the headwaiter tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom 10 and told him, “Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people are drunk, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now.” 11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.”

I love Mary’s role in this passage. She seemed to goad the Savior into performing His first miracle and anywhere from 120 to 180 gallons (v.6) of high-quality wine were the result. Since Old Testament laws and rituals pointed forward to something truer and greater in heaven, what about the ordinances we carry out in the New Testament era? What about communion, baptism, and ordination? What about weddings, and what about this wine? continued...



Day 2 EVE THE Beloved



Read Matthew 26:26-30 in which Jesus shared a Passover meal with His disciples:

“26 As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take and eat it; this is my body.” 27 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them and said, “Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 But I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” 30 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

Jesus equated His own body and blood with the elements of the Passover meal. At last, that ancient meal’s prophetic purpose was partially revealed. It was a ritual pointing forward to Jesus. However, Jesus also gives a prophecy here about the next time He will drink from the fruit of the vine, and this text is in the New Testament not the Old! Ready your heart as both our devotions and our lives walk the aisle to Revelation’s altar. Married or not, we are all part of an epic wedding story. We are God’s bride. The wedding banquet is set. The Groom approaches.



Day 3 EVE THE Beloved



Women have unique difficulties in this life because Satan has a unique hatred for women. Let's look at the fall and curse of Eve. Let's go to the source of the pain. Let's look at a passage that has been cited as the very impetus behind some people leaving the Bible behind. Face it head-on with me:

Read Genesis 3:13-16: "13

So the Lord God asked the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." 14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. 15 I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel. 16 He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children with painful effort. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you."

If this hurts to read, just imagine how much it hurt to hear. Imagine how much it hurt to say. Now, if you look closely at verse 15 and remember that God was speaking to Satan, you will see a reason for the particular hostility Satan has for femininity. It was a prophecy about Jesus. He was born through woman and woman only. Satan merely struck Christ's heel. Jesus crushed Satan's head.

That Jesus was born of Mary, without any contribution from man shows it was through woman alone that God physically provided Jesus. Woman alone has the capacity to bear children, and this miraculous ability to bear life itself was the means by which God stepped down into His own creation to save the day. Man had nothing to do with it. Even through the pain of being able to bear children and all the struggles that ability brings, God established woman's very design as an absolutely critical part of the way the world would be saved.

So, whether you bear children or not, you experience the echoes of Eve's affliction after the fall. That which afflicted Eve was, however, also given a beautiful purpose. This is the nature of all human afflictions after the fall. God works through our pain to achieve beautiful ministry; ministry that could not have otherwise come about. continued...



Day 3 EVE THE Beloved



Read Jesus' words to His disciples before the crucifixion in John 16:20-22:

“20 Truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. 21 When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering because of the joy that a person has been born into the world. 22 So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.”

Jesus, whose birth was prophesied through the pronouncement of childbirth pain, drew upon it to describe the ultimate rescue of the world; pain followed by indestructible joy. Again, this applies to all and not only to those who have born children. So, at two points in Scripture, we see birth pangs as indications that Jesus is coming into the world. You, likewise, have the capacity to bring Jesus into someone's world. Your pain, like Mary's, could be the means by which someone in your life comes to know Jesus. So, dedicate your pain and affliction to ministry. Turn your trials into testimonies. Bring Christ into the world.



Day 3 EVE THE Beloved



Let's face head-on once again an often misunderstood passage about a woman in the Old Testament. Women's Bible studies often look at Ruth, but seldom dive into the awkwardness of chapter 3. Levirate marriage (see Deuteronomy 25:5-10 and Genesis 38:1-10) is yet another awkward Old Testament institution that pointed forward to a beautiful heavenly reality.

Read Ruth 3:5-13:

"5 So Ruth said to her, 'I will do everything you say.' 6 She went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law had charged her to do. 7 After Boaz ate, drank, and was in good spirits, he went to lie down at the end of the pile of barley, and she came secretly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. 8 At midnight, Boaz was startled, turned over, and there lying at his feet was a woman! 9 So he asked, 'Who are you?' 'I am Ruth, your servant,' she replied. 'Take me under your wing, for you are a family redeemer.'"

This was not a proposition. It was a marriage proposal. When Ruth, under the coaching of her mother-in-law Naomi, called Boaz a "family redeemer" in verse 9, she was telling Boaz something he already knew. Everything had already been reported to Boaz in chapter 2. He knew full well that he was related to Ruth's deceased father-in-law, Elimelech, and was thereby deemed by God's law as one of the few men in Bethlehem to marry Ruth (see also Ruth 4).

Taking God's proclamation that two would become one flesh in a literal and physical sense, the people of Boaz and Ruth's day saw intimacy as tantamount to matrimony. Now, with this invitation from Ruth in chapter 3, Boaz had the long-awaited confirmation that Ruth wanted to marry him.

Heroically, Boaz stood before the elders of the city gate the next morning with an excessive number of witnesses. He abided by the customs of Levirate redemption including the trading of sandals, payment of the full price for the distressed plot of the Promised Land Israel, and likely also the customary breaking of the seven wax seals to its title deed. When a plot of the Promised Land fell into distress, on the back of its title deed was written the stipulation that, within seven years' time (hence the seven seals), a blood-relative redeemer who was willing and able to pay the full price could open the seals, marry the bride (if eligible), and save her from ruin. This is precisely what Ruth was inviting Boaz to do redeem her and save the day. continued...



Day 4 EVE THE Beloved



Look at what Jesus does for us in Revelation 5:1-5 and see how Boaz was just a precursor: “Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides, sealed with seven seals. 2 I also saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?” 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or even to look in it. 4 I wept and wept because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or even to look in it. 5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

The awkwardness of Ruth 3 was pointing forward to something triumphant! Just as Boaz redeemed Ruth, Jesus redeems us! Jesus alone is able to open the scroll with seven seals which is the distressed title deed to the earth. Boaz’s redemption of Ruth foreshadowed Christ redeeming His bride the church! Just as Boaz already knew everything about Ruth, Jesus knows everything about us. Boaz paid the full price. Jesus did too! So, invite Him to be your Redeemer today.



Day 5 EVE THE Beloved



Since the very first woman, God has been sculpting a beautiful foreshadowing of coming perfection.

The corporate church, the bride of Christ, is far from perfect right now. Anyone who has ever volunteered to serve at a large-scale Kids Ministry outreach can attest to that. Anyone who has ever put herself out there to have a trusting relationship with someone in the church and been hurt can attest to that. Christ's bride is far from perfect, but God knows this, and He is in the process of perfecting her. When His work is complete, the result will be literally heaven. In the meantime, however, we have this tension. The things that were broken in Genesis are triumphantly resolved in Revelation, but what about now?

Read Ephesians 5:22-27: "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord, 23 because the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her with the washing of water by the word. 27 He did this to present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless."

On Day 2, we saw Jesus equate His body and blood to the elements of the Passover meal. Did you know that, before that, Jesus gave this cripplingly awkward teaching to test their faith in front of a huge crowd? Jesus knew that He would soon sit at that table and invite His disciples to eat that bread symbolizing His flesh and drink that wine symbolizing His blood, but Jesus did not fully explain it with symbolic language in John 6:47-71. The crowd scattered because they did not hear Jesus' words through spiritual ears. They thought Jesus was telling them to eat Him! They did not grasp that He was using earthly terms to describe a spiritual reality. Meanwhile, though the disciples did not understand Jesus' challenge either, they trusted Him. They were the only ones to stick around. As a result, only they would later receive His explanation that "eating His flesh" and "drinking His blood" actually meant taking communion an earthly symbol of a heavenly reality.

When reading the Ephesians 5 call for wives to submit to their husbands, we must trust that God is giving earthly instructions that foreshadow a heavenly reality. Note how husbands are outright told to be to their brides what Christ is to the church and sacrifice themselves: continued...



Day 5 EVE THE Beloved



In verses 28-33, see the scope of the husband's task. His authority is not about him. It is about Jesus. He cannot lead anything until he, like Jesus, is willing to give up everything:

"In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, 30 since we are members of his body. 31 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. 32 This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband."

This passage is politically incorrect, but that has no bearing on its truthfulness. It is better to defy the world and trust God's Word than it is to defy God's Word and trust the world.

Ephesians 5 foreshadows a greater and truer heavenly reality, so we trust it. It is actually about Christ and the Church (v.32)! It is a foreshadowing of how the Church will follow Christ and be made perfect. So, hear this passage through spiritual ears. Trust the Word and what it foretells.



Day 6 EVE THE Beloved



Eve was beloved both in her initial perfection and after her subsequent fall into sin. Israel was God's chosen nation even when she was unfaithful to Yahweh, and the New Testament church is the Bride of Christ though she is not yet perfected.

Our devotions have moved systematically around Scripture exploring ways in which God's unique design for femininity is an earthly reflection of a heavenly reality. Now, it is time to focus on the ultimate fulfillment of that which Eve's nature, curse, and redemption foretold. It's time to focus on Revelation where the bride at last is perfected and prepared. The Groom approaches.

Read Revelation 19:6-9:

"Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder, saying, 'Hallelujah, because our Lord God, the Almighty, reigns!' 7 Let us be glad, rejoice, and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself. 8 She was given fine linen to wear, bright and pure. For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, 'Write: Blessed are those invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb!' He also said to me, 'These words of God are true.'"

So, you see it has not been mere conjecture all along to equate the church with Christ's bride. The Bible opened with the first wedding and ends here with the ultimate wedding feast! Read verse 8 once more and see just how important holy women are to God.

Read verses 11-16:

"Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and he judges and makes war with justice. 12 His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on his head. He had a name written that no one knows except himself. 13 He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. 14 The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. 15 A sharp sword came from his mouth, so that he might strike the nations with it. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. 16 And he has a name written on his robe and on his thigh: King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

This is the Groom! The numerous references to Jesus as the bridegroom throughout the Gospels climax at this prophesied moment. Jesus first rode in on the foal of a donkey to be slain, but here He rides in on a warhorse to slay. continued...



Day 6 EVE THE Beloved



At this point in the book of Revelation, Christians have been slaughtered and have called out for deliverance. Even those believers who were martyred in the Tribulation have asked God to avenge their blood while they are in heaven! Now, at last, at precisely the perfect time, redemption rides.

Certainly, if there is a heavenly purpose to God's design for femininity, there is a heavenly purpose to masculinity. We have seen what Eve foreshadowed, but this is something different. When men fight to rescue, protect, and redeem, it is because masculinity foreshadows this warrior aspect of Jesus' nature. This prophesied day is coming when Christ will forever make every wrong right. The Hero, the Groom is coming to rescue His bride. Hold fast. Set your hope on the coming wedding day and persevere in the meantime.



Day 7 EVE THE Beloved



Read Revelation 21:1-21:

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.”

Behold the bride and consider how far she has come. Do you remember Eve? Just look at her now!

“3 Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away. 5 Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new.” He also said, “Write, because these words are faithful and true.” 6 Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life. 7 The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son. 8 But the cowards, faithless, detestable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.” 9 Then one of the seven angels, who had held the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues, came and spoke with me: “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10 He then carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 arrayed with God’s glory. Her radiance was like a precious jewel, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.”

Eve’s beauty pointed forward to this triumphant moment whereupon the bride’s veil is pulled back and God makes everything new! In the penultimate chapter of the Bible, we see a literally crystal clear representation of how earthly constructs like marriage foreshadow heavenly realities. Now, note in verse 17 how the angel uses a human measurement so that we mortals can grasp it! Apparently, our whole sense of measurement is incorrect. Apparently, what we know to be gold is grossly corrupted because, according to verse 21, gold is actually transparent as glass:

“12 The city had a massive high wall, with twelve gates. Twelve angels were at the gates; the names of the twelve tribes of Israel’s sons were inscribed on the gates. 13 There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. continued...



Day 7 EVE THE Beloved



14 The city wall had twelve foundations, and the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb were on the foundations. 15 The one who spoke with me had a golden measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 The city is laid out in a square; its length and width are the same. He measured the city with the rod at 12,000 stadia. Its length, width, and height are equal. 17 Then he measured its wall, 144 cubits according to human measurement, which the angel used. 18 The building material of its wall was jasper, and the city was pure gold clear as glass. 19 The foundations of the city wall were adorned with every kind of jewel: the first foundation is jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates are twelve pearls; each individual gate was made of a single pearl. The main street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.”

Because these shattered shards of a broken Eden merely foretell of a perfect eternity future, because these tattered and sin-spattered experiences are just glimpses at an immaculate heaven that lasts forever, which one is reality? Which one is worth living for? Eve was made for perfection. As her daughter, you are heiress to Eden. The Redeemer who paid the full price for our sin has gone to prepare a place for you. Know this truth and, with it, remember whose you are.