

THE BEAUTY OF THE BLOOD WASHED CHURCH

Rev 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Rev 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Rev 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 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.

A glorious church - A church full of honor, splendor, beauty. The idea of “shining,” or of being “bright,” would convey the sense here. Probably there is still here an allusion to a bride “adorned for her husband”

(Rev 21:2)

Not having spot - Not having a stain, a defect, or any impurity - still retaining the allusion to a bride, and to the care taken to remove every blemish.

Or wrinkle - In the vigor and beauty of youth like a bride in whom there is no wrinkle of age.

Or any such thing

- (1) The passage here shows us what the church will yet be; In heaven all will be pure. On earth we are preparing for that world of purity; and it cannot be denied that here there is much that is imperfect and impure. But in that future world, where the church shall be presented to Christ, clothed in the robes of salvation, there shall not be one unholy member; one deceiver or hypocrite; one covetous or greedy man.

Psa 45:11 So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.

Psa 149:4 For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

GOD'S GREAT LOVE FOR THE CHURCH

1. **He gave himself or it:**

2Co 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2. **God So Loved:** Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

3. **Herby Perceive we the Love of God:** 1Jn 3:16 Hereby perceive we the love of *God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.
4. **From His Side:** Joh 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.
5. **The Purchase Price of His Love:** “feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood” Acts 20:28.

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN TO BE IN THE CHURCH

1. **Born Again:** Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again (**From Above**) , he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of **water** and of the **Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

2. **Baptized into one Body (Church)** 1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
3. **No more foreigners, but fellow-citizens:**

Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

For an habitation of God - For the indwelling, or the dwelling-place, of God. Formerly he dwelt in the temple. **Now he dwells in the church, and in the hearts of his people;**

THE CALLED OUT ONES

1. **The Word Church comes from the Greek word *Ekklesia* which literally means:** A chosen or called out assembly.

Rom 9:26 And it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, Ye *are* not my people; there shall **they be called the children of the living God.**

1Co 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints**, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have **been called unto liberty**; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

1Th 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, **who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.**

1Pe 1:14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

1Pe 1:15 But as **he which hath called you is holy**, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Col 1:13 **Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:**

Col 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

THE CHURCH IN SCRIPTURE IS KNOWN AT THE CITY OF GOD

1. **In Scripture, Sion, or the Church of God is called a City:** Sion was a fort or mount in Jerusalem, and the temple was built upon it; hence the church of the Jews was called, as some conceive, by this name Zion, because there they would assemble. **But after, it was a name of**

title given to the Church, whether Jew or Gentile (Hebrews 12:22).

Heb 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

Heb 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Psa 125:1 **A Song of degrees.** They that trust in the LORD *shall be* as mount Zion, *which* cannot be removed, *but* abideth for ever.

Isa 51:11 Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy *shall be* upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; *and* sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

Isa 26:1 In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will *God* appoint *for* walls and bulwarks (**Spiritual Protection**).

Isa 26:2 Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.

Isa 12:5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: *this is* known in all the earth.

Isa 12:6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great *is* the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Mat 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

2. **In respect of Zion's renown and her Glory:** As Jerusalem was renowned above all Cities, so God's Church is now above all people and societies in the world.

1Pe 2:9 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 marvellous light:

3. **A city is a place built by men**, for people to inhabit, or dwell in: **The Church is built by Jesus Christ**, for a habitation for God's presence.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

4. **A city is usually compassed about with walls**: That it may be thereby become more safe and secure to dwell in, and some cities have two or three walls, to make them more secure.
 - a. **The Church of God has walls about it**: We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks" (Isaiah 26:1).

THREEFOLD WALLS OF THE CHURCH

1. **The Wall of God's Providence**: God had a hedge (or a wall about Job); Job 1:10.

Psa 125:2 As the mountains *are* round about Jerusalem, so the LORD *is* round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

2. **A wall of Protection of God's Holy Angels**:

Psa 34:7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

3. **A Wall of Fire**:

Zec 2:5 For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

CITIES ARE ENRICHED BY IT COMMERCE

1. Changed lives are our commerce

Isa 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

