

Fully Awake, Alert and Aware!

Opening text: Revelation 19:5-9

*5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great! 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "**These are the true sayings of God.**"*

Here's a voice from the throne of God. It is a voice that comes from our future. It is a voice that comes from the end of the Book, and it speaks of things right at the end of time. The end of the Book tells us that this future is not far away: "*behold I am coming quickly*" (21:7, 12, 20). "*The Spirit and the Bride say, come, and let him who hears say, come! And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires let him take the water of life freely*" (v.17), "*even so come Lord Jesus*"(v.20).

These are the true sayings of God! – blessed are those called to this marriage made in heaven!

1. Jesus is coming for His Bride

Two weeks ago we spoke about a time in our near future when Jesus will come to fetch His Bride. We read in Matthew 25:1-13 a parable that Jesus spoke about Him returning for His Bride. I want you to know that Jesus is indeed coming again!

In that story, we see the importance of living vigilant and with a sense of urgency. We see the importance of preparedness, readiness and alertness.

Matthew 25:10 – ..."*those who were ready went in*" ...

At midnight a cry was heard but the Bride was asleep. 5 of them were foolish and never made it. They were asleep at the crucial time of His appearing. Interestingly, there were at least 2 other crucial times in the ministry of Jesus where his own disciples were found asleep, when they should have been awake:

- a) In **Luke 9**, as Peter, James and John were on a mountain alone with Jesus, he transfigured Himself. What a powerful encounter... yet He found them asleep.

Verse 32 - "*when they were fully awake, they saw the glory*". We need to be fully awake to see the glory!

- b) In **Matthew 26**, as Jesus is about to face the crucial hour of the cross, He found them asleep 3 times. Jesus said, "*could you not watch with me one hour?*" (v.40).

V.45: ... ““Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand” ...

In the Old Testament, we read about Samson and Jonah

- c) In **Judges 16:19**, we read how powerful Samson lost all his strength when he went to sleep on Delilah’s lap. Her songs put him to sleep. If we flirt with the world, we too will go to sleep.
- d) Jonah went to sleep in the bowel of the ship at a time he should have been awake and calling on the true God, the only Who could save them.

Jonah 1:6: *So the captain came to him, and said to him, “What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.”*

A sleeping prophet was of no use, neither is a sleeping believer!

Ephesians 5:14-17 AMPC - ¹⁴ Therefore He says, **Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine (make day dawn) upon you and give you light.** ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), ¹⁶ Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is.

At crucial times when God’s people should have been awake, they were found asleep: Jonah, Samson and Peter, James and John. I believe that we are living at a critical time in the history of man and we need to awake.

Romans 13:11-12 AMP - *Do this, knowing that this is a critical time. It is already the hour for you to awaken from your sleep [of spiritual complacency]; for our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed [in Christ].* ¹² *The night [this present evil age] is almost gone and the day [of Christ’s return] is almost here. So let us fling away the works of darkness and put on the [full] armour of light.*

At this critical time there is a cry, a voice that is sounding loud and clear, a voice that speaks to the each one of us not to be asleep, but alert, revived, awaken, with fire in our lamps and abundance of oil. Jesus warned us that in the last days, lawlessness will abound and *the heart of many will grow cold* (Matthew 24:12). It is not time to have a cold heart but a heart on fire!

The foolish virgins were disqualified, for nothing else but their lack of oil in their vessels and no fire in their lamps (Symbols of the Holy Spirit).

- The fire would have **directed** them to Jesus
- The fire would have **identified** them (**V.2** – *I do not know you*). His Bride is known as the one who carries the flame.
- The fire would have **qualified** them (the absence of that flame was the only reason five were disqualified).

God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. I believe that in these last days, God wants to speak to our world through a burning church – a church on fire for Jesus!

2. We are the Bride He is coming for

We see this Bride, literally from Genesis to Revelation:

- a) In Genesis we find the Bride in chapter 2:20-24. We read about a man leaving his family and joining together with his wife.

V.24 - *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

- b) **Ephesians 5:25-27, 31-32** says that Genesis 2:24 is **all about Christ and the church!**

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Paul then quotes Genesis 2...

*³¹ “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This is a great mystery, **but I speak concerning Christ and the church.***

From the first book of the Bible to the last, it is all about Jesus and His Bride.

- Eve came out of the body of Adam, we are the body of Christ
- In Genesis, God looked for someone comparable to Adam and today He looks for that Bride comparable to Jesus: glorious, sinless, holy and without blemish.

We were none of that. We were sinners. Jesus and sinners were not a comparable match. Jesus had to become like us, and we had to become like Him. Jesus took our nature so we could take His nature – and become compatible.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

God, by in His grace made us compatible with Jesus. By that grace, as we follow Jesus to the end, we will one day be in that glorious wedding that Revelation 19 talks about.

Let us read that portion again:

Revelation 19:7-9 - *⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me,*

“Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

Verse 7: ... *“and His wife made herself ready”.*

Are you ready? As we await His return and that glorious day, I believe that we need to live prepared, alert and ready! We need to live holy and filled with the Holy Spirit – the oil and that flame that directs us, identifies us and qualifies us!

3. Times of preparation for the Bride

Prophetically speaking, I believe that these are times of preparation for the church. We are being prepared to meet our king, just like Esther was being prepared to meet King Ahasuerus.

Esther 2:9, 12 - *9 Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favour; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king’s palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.*

¹² Each young woman’s turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve months’ preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.

- a) Like the church, Esther was being prepared to meet the King
- b) The preparation took one year – the era of the church is called *‘the acceptable year of the Lord’*
- c) Seven choice maidservants were provided to beautify the bride. That is symbolic of work of the Holy Spirit in the church. The Bible speaks about the working of the Holy Spirit in sevens:
 - Isaiah 11:2 speaks about 7 operations of the Holy Spirit
 - Zechariah 4:1-6 – 7 lamps
 - Revelation 4:5 – 7 Spirits of God
- d) In **V.12** we read about oils and perfumes – symbolic of the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

His wife made herself ready. Let us get ready. Let us be alert, expectant, anointed and prepared!

Revelation 22:17 - *¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

These are the true sayings of God!

This is a voice right from the very throne of God. It is a voice that comes from our future. It is a voice that comes from the end of the Book, and it speaks of how we should

live at the end of time. That future is not far away: “*behold I am coming quickly*”! Are you ready? That is why this month we are talking about REVIVAL and next week’s conference will be about REVIVAL. We want to be fully awake, fully alert and fully aware!