

“Behold What Manner of Love!”

Part Three – A Bride for the Kingdom

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In Parts One and Two of this series we learned how YHUH bestows on His children a special love that identifies them as His disciples and fulfills His dream of creating couples in His likeness, male and female, who will rule the paradise He made for them. Now we will study the identity of a kingdom bride.

The subject of women is cloaked in mystery. Even the world sees there is something mysterious about women. This mysteriousness is used as a seduction that exploits and degrades women. Women who follow the world find great power in using this allure and mystery to seduce men.

YHUH's plans for women are much more powerful than what the world offers. To understand this plan, however, we must understand some of the mystery about women.

The first mystery is, who do women resemble? Scripture states Eloheem's likeness is both male and female:

So Eloheem created man in his own image, in the image of Eloheem created he him; male and female created he them. Genesis 1:27

Eloheem created mankind male and female in the image of Eloheem. So where is the female? We have the Father, the Son, and the Ruach Qadosh (Holy Spirit). One of these three has to be female since woman is created in the image of Eloheem.

Some say the Father is both male and female in one. If this is the case then YHUH would have made man in His image that way. Instead He created the male and then made the female from the male. If the male and female are truly in the image of Eloheem, then there must be a female who was brought forth as a wife for YHUH too.

In Proverbs eight we find a Being who was brought forth from YHUH even as Chavah was brought forth from Adam:

YHUH possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Proverbs 8:22-24

This Being is called “Wisdom” in the Old Covenant, but she sounds almost exactly like the Ruach Qadosh (Holy Spirit) or Comforter in the New Covenant. Both came forth from the Father and have the role of instructing and correcting mankind, and those who sin against (or blaspheme) both are lost:

Now therefore hearken unto me (wisdom), O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of YHUH. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.
Proverbs 8:32-36

But the Comforter, which is the Ruach Qadosh, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach

you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. John 14:26.

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father; he shall testify of me: John 15:26.

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Ruach Qadosh shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Ruach Qadosh, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. Matthew 12:31,32.

The only attribute Wisdom in the Old Covenant doesn't seem to share with the Comforter or Ruach Qadosh in the New Covenant is their gender. Wisdom is referred to as “she” whereas the Comforter is referred to as “he.” However, the word for “he” in Greek is actually a non-gender specific word and could be translated as he or she, thus harmonizing with “she” used for Wisdom in the Old Covenant.

The evidence is compelling that Wisdom/the Ruach Qadosh fits the position of YHUH's wife exactly. Not only did YHUH bring Wisdom forth from Himself even as He brought Chavah forth from Adam, but we also find Wisdom rejoices before YHUH even as YHUH admonishes men to rejoice with the wife of their youth:

Then I (wisdom) was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Proverbs 8:30

Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Proverbs 5:18

This solves the mystery as to who Chavah resembles. She was created in the image of YHUH's wife, who is called Wisdom, the Comforter, or the Ruach Qadosh.

The exciting part of this discovery is now women have a role model! Without knowing the identity of the One in whose likeness she was made, women do not know their own identity. Now she can look to the Ruach Qadosh/Wisdom for her exemplar.

This opens up a wealth of information for women. Since “Wisdom” is a title for YHUH's wife, we also find the same title is used for the wives re-created in Her image. For example, a virtuous woman is priced as “*far above rubies*” which is the same price given for “*wisdom*”:

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. Proverbs 31:10

... the price of wisdom is above rubies. Job 28:18

Once we see wisdom is a virtuous woman, then we can also see how important it is for man to find his wisdom (virtuous woman):

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. Proverbs 8:11

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver; and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Proverbs 3:13-15

YHUH says there is nothing a man can desire that can be compared to getting this “wisdom” whose price is above rubies, the same price as a virtuous woman. More texts show us how YHUH gives a prudent wife and those who find this wife obtain favour of YHUH just like they obtain His favour when they find wisdom:

... and a prudent wife is from YHUH. Proverbs 19:14

Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of YHUH. Proverbs 18:22

For whoso findeth me (wisdom) findeth life, and shall obtain favour of YHUH. Proverbs 8:35

By comparing Scripture with Scripture we see a pattern emerge revealing women's identity and potential. Women are made in the image of the Ruach Qadosh who is YHUH's wife. Both the Ruach Qadosh and the women in Her likeness are called "wisdom" in Scripture. We can tell which is which by the context. Once the mystery of a woman's identity is solved by this pattern, the pattern then also reveals her incredible potential. This is confirmed in YHUH's first assignment to women.

YHUH created Chavah to be a help "meet for him (Adam)" The word "help" in Hebrew means "aid." So she was to be an aid to him. However what is incredibly astounding is that she was to be "meet for him." This phrase is actually one word in Hebrew - "neged"- and means "a front, usually over against or before" as in Psalms 16:8: "I have set YHUH always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

YHUH created woman to be an aid as a front before her husband. This explains why she is called his "wisdom" and why he is instructed to get her, love her, keep her, exalt her and embrace her:

Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. Proverbs 4:5-9

What an amazing arrangement YHUH made here! Man is created and given a helper with abilities that even surpass his own in order to promote him, bring him to honor, and give his head an ornament of grace and a crown of glory. More important than all these obvious benefits for man however, is the humility and love this brings about. The man is humbled by the fact that his wife is the one who has brought him so much wisdom and honor and he loves her even more for it. Meanwhile the wife is kept humble because she is not in the public eye receiving the praise for her abilities, while her love is intensified by the enjoyment she receives from her husband's appreciation for her help. As she is daily his delight, she is rejoicing before him.

In order for women to fulfill this arrangement she must be re-created in the likeness of the Ruach Qadosh. In the Garden of Eden this likeness came naturally. After sin however, this likeness is restored only through obeying YHUH.

YHUH made available to fallen mankind a covenant in which we could be restored to the likeness of Eloheem, male and female. This covenant was ratified through circumcision signifying a man putting aside his desires in order to do what YHUH said instead. This made it possible for YHUH to re-create mates for each other according to His original plan rather than men marrying whomever they desired. This is why we are told in Proverbs: "...a prudent wife is from YHUH." (Proverbs 19:14).

In Malachi 2:14 YHUH calls the wives whom He gives men who enter into covenant with Him "the wife of thy covenant", "thy companion", or the "wife of thy youth":

Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because YHUH hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

In Proverbs we are given a description of the "wife of thy youth" as compared to the "strange woman":

Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? For the ways of man are before the eyes of YHUH, and he pondereth all his goings. His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray. Proverbs 5:15-23

This wife, who is the wife of the covenant, is a woman YHUH intends a man to rejoice with, whose breasts are to satisfy him at all times and whose love is always to be his ravishment. Her breasts represent instruction since

YHUH desires to “*instruct me in the night seasons*” (Psalms 16:7) and the bride relates how her beloved lies “*all night betwixt my breasts*” (Song of Songs 1:13). Breasts in Scripture are a symbol of instruction, even as the breasts of Jerusalem satisfy her people: “*Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her; all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory.*” Isaiah 66:10,11

Many men recoil at the thought of being taught by a woman, much less by their own wife. In our society husbands are told they are not to be taught by their wives but rather their wives are only to be taught by them. To suggest a husband is to lie betwixt the breasts of the wife of his covenant and receive instruction from her is almost unthinkable. Nevertheless husbands being taught by their “wife of youth” is consistent with the precedent set in the Garden of Eden as Chavah was the one feeding Adam. It was right that she fed him, her fault was giving him knowledge of good and evil by feeding him from the wrong tree. Today wives must strive to give their husbands knowledge only of truth from the Tree of Life in order to pass the test Chavah failed.

So we see the “*wife of thy youth*” influences her husband to do what is right. However, she has an imposter called the strange woman who seeks to lead men toward the world instead. She is also described in Proverbs:

To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her Eloheem. For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead. None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life. Proverbs 2:16-19.

Women who reject YHUH's leading in their life and forget His covenant are called a “*strange woman.*” YHUH watches men to see whether they listen to and embrace a woman who influences him to do what is right, or a woman who leads him to compromise with the world. YHUH's blueprint is that women who pass the test Chavah failed become a wife for His men who want to obey Him, since He can then safely trust her influence on him as he lies betwixt her breasts at night.

Many think the “*wife of youth*” merely refers to a man's first wife. However this is not necessarily so, since a man's first wife may not be prudent. If her influence is toward the world then she could not possibly be the wife of the covenant YHUH gives to His covenant-keeping men. This is illustrated in the story of Israel's return to the promised land that we looked at in Part Two. As you may remember, YHUH did not approve of the marriages men had made with women of the surrounding nations, and declared this a transgression:

And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel. Now therefore make confession unto YHUH Eloheem of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. Ezra 10:10,11

These men had to separate themselves from the bosoms of their strange wives, regardless of whether they married them first or last, in order to raise righteous seed with their wives of youth for the kingdom of YHUH.

Now therefore let us make a covenant with our Eloheem to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my master, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our Eloheem; and let it be done according to the law. Ezra 10:3

Obviously it didn't matter if she was the first or last wife. The requirement to put her away applied only if she was a “*strange wife.*”

If the wife of “*thy youth*” does not necessarily refer to a man's first wife, then what does it mean? YHUH uses the term “*thy youth*” to refer to the time when His covenant was established with Israel:

Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant. Ezekiel 16:60

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.

Hosea 2:15

The “*wife of thy youth*” is the “*wife of thy covenant*” because YHUH refers to the time when He established His covenant with Israel as the time of “*thy youth*.” Understanding “*thy youth*” to mean the time when YHUH established His covenant with Israel harmonizes with YHUH's requirement for His men in Ezra's day to give up their previous wives since these wives were not according to His covenant.

As we noted, YHUH warns men not to embrace the strange woman over the wife of their youth (Proverbs 5:18-20). This makes one wonder why a man would want to embrace a strange woman instead of the wife of his covenant. The reason is clear in Scripture, and obviously painful for those wives who seek to lead their husbands to do what is right:

For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them. Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof: And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me! Proverbs 5:3-13

Men who follow the strange woman lament in the end that they hated instruction and refused those who instructed them. Since the wife of the covenant seeks to teach her husband YHUH's truths, obviously she is rejected for that very reason. Her husband didn't want her restricting him with her instructions and corrections and preferred the smooth, alluring speech of one who encouraged his heart towards worldly desires instead.

Obviously it is important to rightly identify the wife of youth so the righteous woman isn't rejected and the strange woman embraced. Sadly it is often the case that the wife of youth is the rejected wife, forsaken and grieved in spirit:

For YHUH hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy Eloheem. Isaiah 54:6

One of YHUH's strongest warnings to His men who are in covenant with Him is for them not to deal treacherously with the wife of their youth. He refuses to even accept their offerings if their spirit is against this wife:

And this have ye done again, covering the altar of YHUH with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand. Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because YHUH hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant ... Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.
Malachi 2:13,14,15

YHUH makes clear He holds men accountable for dealing treacherously with the wife of his covenant. It's easy to see how a man married to a righteous woman who points him towards obedience to YHUH and His laws while the world is trying to seduce him into pleasure-seeking and selfish gratification, that he would find the world's way more attractive and fun and become irritated with the wife of his youth and refuse her.

It is also inevitable a man who enters into covenant with YHUH while married to a strange woman will have to make the tough decision whether to obey YHUH and displease his wife or compromise his obedience to YHUH in order to keep peace in his home. For these troublesome situations YHUH asks, “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” Amos 3:3.

These are some of the issues we will address in part 4, as we study what a man must do to be a bridegroom for YHUH's kingdom. My prayer is what we learned in this study will inspire women to want to be a “wife of the

covenant” seeking to be re-created in the image of the Ruach Qadosh so she can be wisdom to her husband, influencing him to obey YHUH. If her husband refuses her help she will no doubt feel forsaken and grieved in spirit. Her determination, however, to remain a wife of the covenant, and not to compromise in order for her earthly husband to accept her, will qualify her to be mated with a kingdom Bridegroom as YHUH unites those who are re-created in the image of Eloheem. The trials she encounters in her marriage could very well be the exact tests and proofs needed in her life for her to be approved as a Bride for the Kingdom. All hope is not lost because her present husband rejects her.

Likewise, I pray this information will encourage husbands married to wives of the covenant to appreciate the wisdom YHUH gives these wives as they are re-created in the image of the Ruach Qadosh. Truly, the gift of a prudent wife from YHUH is more precious than rubies, and nothing that can be desired can be compared to her.