

**TIME FOR A WEDDING!**  
(continued from inside)

God made the universe, including this world we live in. **Our world is not in its original condition, nor are we.** The “tornado” of man’s sin has caused horrific, evil destruction to God’s house in which He placed us for its care. Yet, God already had *another* part to His plan. **Instead of putting Man into the “house” of this earth, God planned to put Himself into Man, and make Man His house!** No, Man does not become God, but man can become God-resident! There is a big difference. (Eph. 3:14-21).

**God has His own Holy Spirit as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO),** doing His utmost to see that our “house” is not spoiled in the making. Sometimes, a groom will carry his bride across the threshold of their first home. The Holy Spirit will carry us *now*, and all the way across heaven’s threshold if we let Him!

Yes, Jesus is the Bridegroom. Those who are truly married to Him are both **the bride AND the house** in which God through Christ and the Holy Spirit is to live. If we eliminate the Person of the Holy Spirit, the work cannot be done (Eph. 1: 13, 14; 4: 30). If we eliminate the Biblical Christ, we eliminate God Himself, and basically bar Him from the property (Jn. 5:23; 1 Jn. 2:23). No wonder Jesus told the rejecting Jews:



**A COINCIDENCE AND A FACT:** Chapter and verse numbering is not original to the Bible, yet a stunning coincidence leaped out at me! World War 1 started in **1914**. Luke **19:14** says “*But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We will not have this man to reign over us.’*” **Here is the coincidence:** Satan did this very same thing, thereby starting **the original First World War**. He did not want God ruling over him. In **PRIDE** he **rebelled**. Then, Satan got the human family ensnared into the same heart and mind attitude. God had “performed” “**A WEDDING CEREMONY**” there in the Garden of Eden. Satan soon brought about a divorce, separation and alienation. The War still rages, but God secured the victorious outcome by the Cross and Resurrection of Christ. God’s Holy Spirit is continually working behind enemy lines, as well as aiding, equipping, healing and instructing God’s own soldiers. Let Christ reign in you *now*, with your glad and full surrender and cooperation.

“*YOUR house is left to you desolate!*” - (Lk. 13: 35). Before, He had said “*My Father’s house*” (Jn. 2: 16), but they wouldn’t have it any other way but their own. So, Jesus backed off and basically said, “**OK, YOUR house... desolate!**” That same *cause and effect* works today; not just with the Jews; with all of us!

**THE MAGNITUDE OF MARRIAGE**

One old Christian song is titled **How Great Thou Art!** It expresses the greatness of God. But, Oh, that we humans could understand how great God feels that *WE* are to *Him!* This is why “**The Golden Text of the Bible**” says “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*” (Jn. 3:16).

**Despite the vastness of the universe,** we humans are so valuable to God that the Old Testament writer couldn’t comprehend it, asking “*What is man that You are mindful of him?!*” (Ps. 8: 3, 4). Those same verses are quoted in Hebrews 2: 6 and onward, and linked to Christ’s death for our salvation from sin. Why? Because **God is not married to the sun, stars or the universe,** but He *IS* intimately united to *us...*or at least *He wants to be*. Will we let Him? He sent His only Bridegroom to rescue us and unite us to Himself in marriage. Will we have Him? (See Matt. 22; Lk. 19: 11-27).

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**IT’S TIME FOR A WEDDING!**

by Gabriel L. Mancino

**THE BRIDE AND GROOM**

Long ago, a groom was called a “**bridegroom.**” With this symbolism God referred to Himself in relation to those who were truly His people, *and He took this seriously.* Later, God came to our level by Jesus Christ so we could actually see and touch *who* and *what* we are to be “married” to. ( 1 Jn. 1: 1-4).

It was customary for a groom to be introduced by someone called “**the friend of the bridegroom.**” This “friend” had a number of great responsibilities. In the case of Christ’s entry into His ministry, John the Baptist was chosen by God to introduce Jesus.

Many people thought that John was God’s promised “Messiah.” John quickly corrected their error. For John to have taken advantage of their ignorance would be like a “**best man**” running off with the bride!

(continued inside)

I think you will like these “**Gold Nuggets**” about marriage— even if you don’t like that word!

**THE STOCK MARKET AND STOCK EXCHANGE**

Many people keep an eye on the world’s economic health. Stocks go up and stocks go down. Yet, the “*increase-decrease*” focused on in this article measures personal, national and global health far more perfectly. Let’s see what this has to do with marriage!



“**DON’T TALK WHILE I’M INTERRUPTING!**” God wants to get our attention. We are so occupied. Yes, some things are even worth missing a flight or an important meeting for. But what things are worth being unprepared for our departure from earth and a “safe arrival” in eternity? Where will we spend eternity? God is concerned and says, “*Be still and know that I am God*” (Ps. 46:10). What loving interruption! Listen for it, and act! (2 Pet. 3:9).

## TIME FOR A WEDDING! (continued from front page)

John told them the difference between himself and Jesus, then said, "He must increase. I must decrease." **THAT** controls "the stock market" where it matters most! That attitude and principle indicates the health of any individual or nation. **If Britain is to become GREAT Britain again, THIS is where it will happen.** It happened here before; **not in colonizing others, but by cleansing ourselves!**

The world is bankrupt in God's presence; "broke"... penniless in front of the Supreme Banker. Yet, "broke" is not enough. **We need to be broken.** By "broken" I mean deeply and genuinely humbled to admit our absolute poverty and inability to rescue ourselves from sure and final disaster. (Matt. 18: 21-35).

There is solid ground to know that our "Stock" can be preserved! The Supreme Banker, Himself, has taken all shares and complete control of our desperate situation. **However, we must get married, first!** YES, there is a "hitch!" Get "hitched!" (i.e. "married!")

**This is "a package deal,"** like the one that took place in the Bible's "Book of Ruth." When the crisis came, Boaz told the "first-in-the-queue" family member: **"Listen, if you buy this property, you also have to marry this woman!"** That primary relative backed off because of how it would effect other parts of his life that he felt were more important. This is why most people refuse to get "married" to the Lord. They refuse to let loose of "other things," and this is a killer. Jesus said so. (Mk. 4: 18, 19; Lk. 14: 26, 27, 36; with 1 Tim. 6:9).

### MARRIAGE HATRED

This subtitle is from Jesus' words: "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children,

brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple" (Lk. 14: 26, 27, 36). Some people love to find fault with this. Soon after starting work at the **Gas Company** in my small hometown in America many years ago, a co-worker asked me who I loved most. I immediately said "God." **Quickly and sharply he replied as if he was a prosecuting attorney:** "What about your parents and family?!" During work that day, the Lord showed me that putting Him first actually elevated my love for family, friends *and even for enemies* more than I ever loved them before. **It was a "win win" decision!** So, yes, I "hate" all else, that is, I love them *less*, and in a sure and eternally-serious way.

### MARRIAGE BY SUBSTITUTE

My wife and I came to London in 1982, having been married only 3 years. June 23 will make 40 years. **We didn't marry substitutes.** I married *her*. She married *me*. Abraham's grandson, Jacob, was less fortunate! **The trickster** (Gen. 27) **got tricked** (Gen. 29).

God held marriage sacred throughout Bible history; "from the beginning," as Jesus said (Matt. 19:8). His position still stands. Marriage is a reflection of the union between God and the people who truly love and are united to Him, through Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:25-33 with Jn. 14:6). This is the supreme reason not to **morph marriage (that is, change it).**

"The marriage vow," based on God's original creation of one man and one woman, makes it clear that we cannot be married and yet flirt or be unfaithful with others. The same applies with our relationship to God, for the Bible says "if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him" (1 Jn. 2:15). The original creation not only reveals God's intention for couples, but also their inward nature of holiness. Holiness of heart and life makes union with God a possibility and a delight. The whole



We meet at Christ Church on the corner of Brent Street and Heriot Road in Hendon (NW4) at 5:45 pm Sundays. Nearest Tube: Hendon Central.



Bible confirms this. God allows no substitutes for marriage or for holiness.

### MEETING FOR MARRIAGE

"Go out to meet Him!" the call suddenly came, referring to the coming Bridegroom (Matt. 25:6). The Bible always says to **be ready**, not **get ready**. Yes, one depends on the other, but *getting* and *keeping* are different things. Many marriages confirm this fact. Many Christian conversions do, too. **Please note: we must come out before we can "go out"** as Matt. 25:6 said. (See 2 Cor. 6:14 to 7:1 for "come out").

"Remember Lot's wife," Jesus said (Lk. 17:32). That's the shortest Bible verse with **Jesus speaking**. The shortest verse in the Bible is **Jesus weeping!** (Jn. 11:35). "Lot" was Abraham's nephew who, with his wife and family, lived in the doomed city of Sodom. They were commanded to leave the city and not to look back. Lot's wife disobeyed, and died. Yes, "**Jesus wept**" is the shortest Bible verse. But from what Jesus said in Matt. 11: 23, 24, I believe that **GOD may have wept** for Sodom, though He had to destroy it...and **London and all of Britain is following in its footsteps.**

### RIGHTEOUS REMARRIAGE

Many of us have heard Jesus' words, "**You must be born again.**" (Jn. 3: 7). That demand puzzled the religiously-trained Jewish leader that Christ said it to. St. Paul added *another* shock by saying that we must be **married again!** What? "**Born again?**" **Married again?**"

The only allowance for remarriage was by the death of one of the married couple. Paul mentions this in Romans 7. He was illustrating how the Jews were "married" to the Law of Moses. Other religious people are essentially "**in the same boat,**" including vast numbers from every branch of "professing Christianity." But we are free to be

"married again!" **Even unmarried non-religious people are "married" to something,** and are as connected to it as to their skin.

Having Christ as "The Heavenly Bridegroom" is **no free-for-all; no do-as-you-please!** Well, in a way, I can do whatever I want. But if I love the Heavenly Bridegroom, there are things I do not want to do if I wish to please Him! Anything He does not approve of has to go.

There is only one "Bridegroom" that God provided for the *collective* "bride:" Jesus Christ. The "bride" is that body of people, *made up of individuals like us*, but who love, trust, obey and submit to Him...on His terms, not *our own*.

### A JEALOUS SPOUSE IN HIS JEALOUS HOUSE

As with **the word, "hate,"** mentioned on the previous page, *some* people have a problem about **God being "jealous."** Marriage and relationships have been horrifically changed. Yet, many would still be grieved, if not enraged, if another would flirt with their spouse or boy/girl friend. God, in all His perfections, has a far greater right to be jealous than we humans. By the way, His jealousy is not only for His own benefit, but for *ours!*

Material things are easily destroyed. Tornadoes and hurricanes devastate huge areas with houses, possessions and people very quickly. Yet, Man wins the prize for devastation. He has worked at the job 24/7 since Eden; perfecting the art, along the way. But, though **dogs** may be **vicious, donkeys stubborn** and **tornadoes destructive**, they are not evil. Man is different in this essential area, despite denials of the fact of man being born with a sinful nature.

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Join me at the Salvation Army  
5 Brampton Grove, Hendon  
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