

## Message Two

### The Bride

Scripture Reading: Gen. 2:21-23; Eph. 5:27; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2, 9-11

- I. The marriage of the Lamb is the issue of the completion of God's New Testament economy, which is to obtain for Christ a bride, the church, through His judicial redemption and by His organic salvation in the divine life—Gen. 2:22; Rom. 5:10; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2, 9-11.**
- II. The church as the bride of Christ is a matter of satisfaction and rest in love—Gen. 2:21-23.**
- III. The Lord's recovery is for the preparation of the bride of Christ, who is composed of all His overcomers—Rev. 19:7-9:**
  - A. All the overcomers will be the New Jerusalem as the bride of Christ for one thousand years in its initial and fresh stage—v. 7.
  - B. Eventually, all of the believers will join the overcomers to consummate and complete the New Jerusalem in full as the wife of Christ in the new heaven and new earth for eternity—21:2, 9-10.
- IV. The readiness of the corporate bride depends on the maturity in life of the overcomers—19:7; Heb. 6:1; Phil. 3:12-15; Eph. 4:13:**
  - A. In the New Testament the word *mature* is used to refer to the believers' being full-grown, mature, and perfected in the life of God, indicating that we need to grow and mature unto perfection in the divine life—Matt. 5:48.
  - B. We need to continue to grow until we are matured in the divine life to become a full-grown man at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ—Eph. 4:13.
  - C. A mature believer knows the Body and cares for the Body, being Body-conscious and Body-centered—1 Cor. 12:17, 8-19, 21, 24.
- V. The overcomers are not separate individuals but a corporate bride; for this, building is needed—Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:15-16:**
  - A. The overcomers are not only mature in life but also are built together as one bride—Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2, 9-11.
  - B. The central and divine thought of the Bible is that God is seeking a building as the mingling of Himself with humanity—Gen. 2:22-23; Rev. 21:2, 9-11.
  - C. The goal of the Lord's recovery is to recover Christ as life and everything to us so that we may be built up—Eph. 3:8; 4:16.
- VI. As the bride, the church needs beauty—5:27; S. S. 4:7-15:**
  - A. The beauty of the bride is for the presentation of the bride to the Bridegroom—Eph. 5:27.
  - B. The beauty of the bride comes from the Christ who is wrought into the church and who is then expressed through the church—3:17a:
    1. Our only beauty is the shining out of Christ from within us.
    2. What Christ appreciates in us is the expression of Himself—S. S. 4:7-15.