

#4 The Lord's Jealousy over the Church as His Wife

Crystallization-Study of Numbers (1) 2019/3/18-24

I. If we enter into the deep thought of the Bible, we will realize that the Bible is a romance, in a most pure and holy sense:

A. The male in this couple is God Himself, who desires to be the male of this universal couple.

Isa. 54:5-6 For your Maker is your Husband; Jehovah of hosts is His name. And the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth. For Jehovah has called you, Like a wife who has been forsaken and is grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one's youth when she has been rejected, Says your God.

B. The female of this couple is a corporate chosen and redeemed people, including all the saints of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

C. Throughout the centuries God has had a romance with man; thus, the Bible is a record of how God courts His chosen people and eventually marries them: **1.** In this union God is His people's life, and they are His expression; in this way God and His chosen people become a universal couple: **a.** When we as God's people enter into a love relationship with God, we receive His life, just as Eve received the life of Adam.

b. It is this life that enables us to become one with God and makes Him one with us. **2.** By loving the Lord as our Husband and thereby partaking of His life and nature, we become one with Him as His counterpart, enlargement, and expression.

D. God chose Israel to be His spouse; in typology certain women in the Old Testament reveal that the church is the counterpart of Christ: **[Mon]**

1. The church as the counterpart of Christ is typified by Eve as the counterpart of Adam; Eve's coming out of Adam typifies that the church comes out of Christ and has the life and nature of Christ. **Gen. 2:21** And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. **22** And Jehovah God built the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman and brought her to the man. **23** And the man said, This time this is bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called Woman Because out of Man this one was taken. **24** Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. **2.** Rebekah typifies the church as the counterpart of Christ being chosen from the world. **Gen. 24:67** And Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother. And he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. And Isaac was comforted after the death of his mother. **3.** Ruth typifies the church as the counterpart of Christ being redeemed. **Ruth 4:13** So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife; and he went unto her, and Jehovah made her conceive; and she bore a son.

E. The divine romance is portrayed in the Song of Songs: **S. S. 1:2** Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine. **1.** This book is a marvelous and vivid portrait, in poetic form, of the bridal love between Christ as the bridegroom and His lovers as His bride in their mutual enjoyment in the mingling of His divine attributes with the human virtues of His lovers. **S. S. 1:15** Oh, you are beautiful, my love! Oh, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves. **16** Oh, you are beautiful, my beloved; indeed,

pleasant! Indeed, our couch is green. **2.** According to Song of Songs, our relationship with the Lord should be very romantic; if there is no romance between us and the Lord Jesus, then we are religious Christians, not romantic Christians.

F. When the Lord Jesus came, He came as the Bridegroom for the bride: **John 3:29** He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full. **[Tue]**

1. The Lord Jesus regenerates the church so that the church may be His bride. **2.** Through regeneration we receive another life, the divine life; in this life and by this life we are qualified to become Christ's counterpart and to match Him.

G. At the end of this age, Christ will come to marry His redeemed and take her as His wife. **1.** On the day of His wedding, Christ will marry those who have been fighting the battle against God's enemy for years; that is, Christ will marry the overcomers, who have already overcome the evil one. **2.** There will be a glorious wedding day, at which time Christ will marry His redeemed ones. **3.** For eternity in the new heaven and the new earth, the New Jerusalem will be the wife of the Lamb; this is the fulfillment of the divine romance revealed in the Scriptures. **Rev. 19:7-8** Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints. **Rev. 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

II. The church as the bride of Christ must also be a warrior to defeat God's enemy: [Wed]

A. Spiritual warfare is a matter of the Body; we are a corporate army fighting the battle for God's interest on earth. **2 Tim. 2:4** No one serving as a soldier entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please the one who enlisted him.

B. Christ will come as a fighting General with His bride as His army to fight against Antichrist as Armageddon: **Rev. 19:19** And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army. **20** And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. **21** And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

1. When Christ comes with His army, He will come as the Son of Man. **2.** As the Son of Man, He will need a counterpart to match and complete Him; this counterpart will be His bride. **3.** The wedding garment—Christ lived out of us as our daily righteousness—qualifies us not only to attend the wedding but also to join the army to fight with Christ against Antichrist in the war at Armageddon.

Matt. 22:11 But when the king came in to look at those reclining at table, he saw there a man who was not clothed with a wedding garment. **12** And he said to him, Friend, how did you come in here without a

wedding garment? And he was speechless.

C. In Song of Songs we see that when the overcoming lover of Christ becomes one with God to be God's dwelling place, in the eyes of God she is as beautiful as Tirzah and as lovely as Jerusalem; however, to the enemy she is as terrible as an army with banners:

S. S. 6:4 You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, As lovely as Jerusalem, As terrible as an army with banners. **10** Who is this woman who looks forth like the dawn, As beautiful as the moon, As clear as the sun, As terrible as an army with banners? **1.** The lovers of Christ should be lovable and terrible at the same time; however, many believers have lost their loveliness before the Lord and their terribleness before the enemy: **a.** The lover of Christ is beautiful and comely before the Lord, as solid as the heavenly city and as serene as the sanctuary; at the same time, she displays the glory of her victory before the enemy and the world. **[Thu]**

b. The overcoming lover of Christ not only has a future that is full of hope and a life that is absolutely heavenly, but she is also a victor who constantly triumphs in her victory.

2. A terrible army signifies that the Lord's overcomers terrify God's enemy, Satan: **a.** The enemy is frightened by the church that is built up as the city of God. **Neh. 6:15** So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Elul, in fifty-two days. **16** And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations that surrounded us were afraid and fell very low in their own eyes, for they knew that this work was done with the help of our God. **b.** Satan is not afraid of individualistic Christians, even if they number in the thousands, but he is terrified of the church as the Body of Christ, the corporate warrior fighting against him and his kingdom. **Eph. 6:11** Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil.

D. David typifies the warring Christ in the midst of sufferings, and Abigail typifies the warring church in the midst of sufferings.

1. From 1 Samuel 25 onward, Abigail was always at the side of David the warrior and followed him in his wars: **a.** Abigail's marriage to David typifies the church enlisted an army for warfare. **b.** Abigail typifies the warring church, fighting for God's kingdom in the midst of sufferings.

2. The type of Abigail portrays the church's participation with the Lord Jesus in spiritual warfare: **a.** Not only must God's eternal purpose be fulfilled and the desire of His heart be satisfied, but God's enemy must be defeated; for this, the church must be a warrior. **b.** Spiritual warfare is necessary because Satan's will is set against God's will: **Matt. 6:10** Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth. **Isa. 14:13** But you, you said in your heart: I will ascend to heaven; Above the stars of God I will exalt my throne. And I will sit upon the mount of assembly In the uttermost parts of the north. **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the most High.

(1) Spiritual warfare has its source in the conflict between the divine will and the satanic will. **(2)** As the church, our fighting is to subdue the satanic will and to defeat God's enemy. **Rev. 12:11** And they overcome him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their

soul-life even unto death. **c.** The purpose of spiritual warfare is to bring in the kingdom of God. **Rev. 12:10** And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night. **[Fri]**

III. In Numbers 5:11-31 the dealing with a wife over whom her husband was jealous typifies Christ's jealousy over His believers and the church:

Num. 5:29 This is the law of jealousy when a wife, while under the authority of her husband, goes astray and defiles herself, **30** Or when the spirit of jealousy comes upon a man, and he is jealous of his wife. He shall set the woman before Jehovah, and the priest shall apply to her all this law.

A. Christ's fighting army is composed of the overcomers, who are a fighting wife to match Christ: **1.** In order to be a part of the Lord's fighting army, we must be chaste toward Him. **2 Cor. 11:2** For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. **2.** Our seeking and pursuing of anything other than Christ is spiritual adultery in the eyes of God. **3.** Those who commit spiritual adultery will be judged and cursed by God and will not be able to fight for God and serve God.

B. Jealousy is usually regarded as a negative thing, but it is one of God's attributes: **1.** The jealousy of God is like the jealousy of a husband over his wife. **2.** The most jealous one in the universe is God; His name is Jealous: **Exo. 34:14** (For you shall not worship any other god; for Jehovah, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God), **a.** He wants us to love Him uniquely, singly, wholly. **Mark 12:30** And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength." **b.** God is jealous whenever we love anything or anyone in place of Him. **3.** As a jealous Husband, God wants us to serve Him and Him alone. **Matt 6:24** No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. **4.** Knowing that our God is jealous, we should let His jealousy become ours so that we would care only for Him and allow no one and nothing to replace Him.

C. "Love is as strong as death,/ Jealousy is as cruel as Sheol;/ Its flashes are the flashes of fire,/ A flame of Jehovah"--**S. S. 8:6b**: **1.** All the seekers of the Lord have been captured by His love; it is as strong as death. **2.** With this love and with this jealousy is a flashing fire; these two—the consuming God and the jealous God, the consuming fire and the jealousy—go together. **3.** From the beginning of time, God has been a jealous God: **a.** Nothing can withstand God's jealousy; He will destroy all His enemies. **b.** God will remove all hindrances until He becomes the unique Lord, the God of all, the unchallenged King. **4.** Paul told the saints in Corinth that he was jealous over them with a jealousy of God and that he had betrothed them to one husband to present them as a pure virgin to Christ.

[Sat]

(Many Bible Words were added to deepen the understanding of the truth of the outline. Please pray-read those Words highlighted in yellow. There is no mention of the "The High Gospel".)

Crucial Point① : Love the Lord with the bridal love

OL1 : The divine romance is portrayed in the Song of Songs. This book is a marvelous and vivid portrait, in poetic form, of the bridal love between Christ as the Bridegroom and His lovers as His bride in their mutual enjoyment.

S. S. 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine.

OL2 : According to Song of Songs, our relationship with the Lord should be very romantic; if there is no romance between us and the Lord Jesus, then we are religious Christians, not romantic Christians.

In order for God and His people to be one, there must be a mutual love between them. The love between God and His people unfolded in the Bible is primarily like the affectionate love between a man and a woman. As God's people love God and spend time to fellowship with Him in His word, God infuses them with His divine element, making them one with Him as His spouse, the same as He is in life, nature, and expression.

The entire Bible is a divine romance, a record of how God courts His chosen people and eventually marries them. When we as God's people enter into a love relationship with God, we receive His life, just as Eve received the life of Adam. It is this life that enables us to become one with God and makes Him one with us.

The Old Testament indicates clearly that God came in to choose Israel to be His spouse. In **Jeremiah 31:3** Jehovah said, "Indeed I have loved you with an eternal love, / Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness." When God appeared to His people, He "dated" them and later even courted them. According to **Ezekiel 16**, God loved Israel when He saw her in the wilderness. **Verse 8** describes this love: "Then I passed by you and saw you; and then was your time a time of love. And I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness; indeed I swore unto you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord Jehovah, and you became Mine." By entering into a covenant with Israel, God betrothed her to Himself.

For Junior High and High School Students (including upper grade of elementary school)/College Students

A. You need to accept God's love in your love : God is love and people have love. Human's love was created according to God's love. Human's love can be compared to gloves. God's love is the hand, and human's love is the gloves. Human's love has a form of love, but it does not have enough power in itself. It is good for you to love your parents and classmates, but if you do not put God's love in your love, your love can not function properly and be strong. Call on the name of the Lord and put the love of God in your love.

Then your emotions love the things that you should love (reading the Bible, being diligent to study, loving those in distress, praying, preaching the gospel, etc.). You will not love things that you should not love (such as lying, cheating, being lazy, thinking that it is fine if you are okay). Furthermore, when you love, that love can continue to love with patience. Also, even those who can always love, will suddenly lose your love or lose your temper because

you do not put hands (love of God) in gloves (your love). You need to accept God in you.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

Eph. 6:2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with a promise, **3** "That it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth."

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, I am the gloves and you are the hands. I accept your love in my love. May I could be interested with my classmates, love them and share the gospel with you. Also, I will respect and love my parents with the love of the Lord. That way, I can be blessed by God and be involved in happiness and longevity. Amen!"

B. Be touched by God's love, love God with God's love and love people: **1 John 4:19** We love because He first loved us.

You need to love Christ in order to enjoy Christ. However, you can't love the Lord by natural love. Even if you love the Lord with your natural love, if you encounter difficulties you will immediately abandon the Lord. Instead, you should love Christ by the love of Christ. To do this, you should first exercise your spirit and be touched by the Lord. Then you can be touched by the love of the Lord and love the Lord with the love of the Lord.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, I love you. But I can't rely on my natural love. You loved me with the eternal love. Let me touch your love. It is for me to love you with the eternal love. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!"

NS200 Jesus Lord, Jesus Lord. How we long to touch Thee, More and more, more and more, That You may grow within us. "Blossom of Gold" may You bloom and grow. Bloom and grow forever Then all will see, all will know, You are the Lord within us.

C. God's love for you is the love the husband has for his wife. As a fiancée of the Lord Jesus, you should love the Lord purely: Love includes love between parent and child, friendship, love between husband and wife and so on. God's love contains all the love, but the most important relationship between God and man is the love of husband and wife.

2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

You are the fiancée of the Lord, a pure young woman and will be married when the Lord comes back. New Jerusalem is the wife of Christ. Like a bride who loves grooms, you should love the Lord purely and singly. Make sure you build up a love relationship, a romance, with your Lord, romance, to move forward in the Lord and become an overcomer. The Lord can make you advance only in this relationship. Building up a personal, intimate, loving relationship with the Lord is a matter of life and death for you!

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus, I love you with bridal love. I will build up a love relationship with the Lord from a young age. And I will enjoy a personal, intimate, loving relationship with the Lord. Open to you in the fellowship, touch you, let you enter in me and fill me. Only in romance with the Lord can I advance and become an overcomer!"

Crucial Point ② : _

God's jealousy over us in the divine romance

OL1 : In order to be a part of the Lord's fighting army, we must be chaste toward Him. 2Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

OL2 : Our seeking and pursuing of anything other than Christ is spiritual adultery in the eyes of God. Those who commit spiritual adultery will be judged and cursed by God and will not be able to fight for God and serve God.

OL3 : Jealousy is usually regarded as a negative thing, but it is one of God's attributes: Exo. 34:14 For you shall not worship any other god; for Jehovah, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God, OL4 : God is jealous whenever we love anything or anyone in place of Him.

OL5 : "Set me as a seal on your heart, As a seal on your arm; For love is as strong as death, Jealousy is as cruel as Sheol; Its flashes are the flashes of fire, A flame of Jehovah. (S.S. 8:6)" All the seekers of the Lord have been captured by His love; it is as strong as death. With this love and with this jealousy is a flashing fire; these two—the consuming God and the jealous God, the consuming fire and the jealousy—go together. Nothing can withstand God's jealousy; He will destroy all His enemies.

The dealing with a wife over whom her husband was jealous typifies Christ's jealousy over His believers and His church.... We may not be rebellious (leprous), we may be quite self-controlled and restrained (not discharging), and our behavior may be altogether right with both God and man, but as a wife to Christ, are we chaste?... If a wife appreciates any other man, she is on the verge of losing her chastity. In Revelation, Christ's fighting army is composed of His overcomers, who are a fighting wife to match Christ. In order to be a part of the Lord's fighting army, we must be chaste. The dealings in the book of Numbers show that the requirement for God's people to be formed into an army is very high.

The church and all the believers should have only Christ as their love. If the church or any of the believers seeks and pursues anything other than Christ, that is spiritual adultery in the eyes of God. Those who commit spiritual fornication will be judged and cursed by God and will not be able to fight for God and serve God.

Jealousy is usually regarded as a negative thing, but it is one of God's attributes. The most jealous one in the universe is God. He is jealous whenever we love anything or anyone in place of Him. He wants us to love Him uniquely, singly, wholly. The jealousy of God is like the jealousy of a husband over his wife. No husband could tolerate his wife's loving another man besides him. Likewise, God is jealous over us. Jealousy, therefore, is one of His attributes.

Knowing that our God is jealous, we should let His jealousy be ours that we would care only for Him, love Him, and allow no one and nothing to replace Him in our hearts. Furthermore, our love for Him should be pure, our mind should be single, and our entire being should be focused on Him.

For Young Working/Graduate Student Saints

A. In the Bible, there is the degraded jealousy and divine jealousy. The "jealousy" in Gal. 5:21 is the work of the flesh.

Gal. 5:19 And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are such things as fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects, 21 Envyings, bouts of drunkenness, carousings, and things like these, of which I tell you beforehand, even as I have said before, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the "jealousy" in II Cor. 11:2 or Exdos20:5 are the divine "jealousy" in the divine romance.

Exo. 20:4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, nor the form of anything that is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water beneath the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them, and you shall not serve them; for I, Jehovah your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 Yet showing lovingkindness to thousands of generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

This divine "jealousy" is the love of Christ that constrains you as the busy working young people and researcher. It constrains and leads you to be one with Christ and live to Christ, and not live to yourself.

2Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died; 15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

FN on V.15 [Live to Christ] : Living to the Lord is deeper in significance than living for the Lord. Living for the Lord implies that I and the Lord are still two; living to the Lord indicates that I am one with the Lord, as the wife is one with the husband in married life.

B. With this love and with this jealousy is a flashing fire; these two—the consuming God and the jealous God, the consuming fire and the jealousy go together. Nothing can withstand God's jealousy; He will destroy all His enemies :

Let us sing the following hymns of love and let the flame of love burn within us!

208 Praise of the Lord - Satisfaction with Him

1. O Jesus, Jesus, dearest Lord! Forgive me if say,
For very love, Thy sacred name A Thousand times a day
(C) O Jesus, Lord, with me abide; I rest in Thee, whate'er betide;
Thy gracious smile is my reward; I love, I love Thee, Lord!
2. I love Thee so I know not how My transports to control;
Thy love is like a burning fire Within my very soul.
4. Burn, burn, O love, within my heart, Burn fiercely night and day,
Till all the dross of earthly loves Is burned, and burned away.

Prayer : "Oh Lord Jesus, you chose us as your fiancé and the counterpart in love. I wonder why you chose a person like me. But praise the Lord. You chose me, encourage me and are transforming me. May the fire of your love and jealousy burn away all the negative things within me. Perfect me so that I can be a part of your bridal army! Amen!"