***Jesus Came & Jesus is Coming Again***

**“Even so, come Lord Jesus come!”**

Before His return we, His Ekklesia, must enter the place prepared by The Father from the beginning. We are to be the Bride! The call for the Bride is a call to be a catalyst for His return. What is this Bride?

God’s purpose for His creation is to provide a family for Himself, and a Bride for His Son as His eternal companion to reign with Him forever. Human history began in Eden with Adam and Eve joined as a bridegroom and bride (Gen. 2:24). “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

Natural history ends with a prepared Bride being presented to God’s worthy Son (Rev. 19:7). “For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” Jesus will return for a victorious Church who is empowered by understanding her bridal identity. Understanding the role and nature of the call for the bride will help us see and imbibe the heart of God, so in turn, the bride will release that cry for Maranatha!

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’” (Rev. 22:17). “It shall be, in that day...that you will call Me [Jesus] ‘My Husband’” (Hos. 2:16).

1. As sons of God, we are in the position to experience God’s throne as heirs of His power (Rom. 8:17). As the Bride, we are in the position to experience God’s heart (affections).
2. Even as women are the sons of God, so men are the Bride of Christ. Both describe positions of privilege before God, rather than pointing to something intrinsically male or female. Experiencing the reality of the Bride of Christ by walking in intimacy with God does not undermine one’s masculinity, but strengthens it—John the Baptist, the apostle John, etc.
3. The generation the Lord returns will be the first time in history that the Spirit will universally emphasize the Church’s spiritual identity as the Bride of Christ. The Bridegroom message is about Jesus’ emotions for us, His beauty, His commitments to us (to share His heart, home, throne, secrets, and beauty), and our response of wholehearted love and obedience to Him.

This message starts with experiencing Jesus’ heart and affections for us. The inheritance that the Father promised Jesus is a people whom He fully possesses.

“I [the Father] will give You [Jesus], the nations for Your inheritance” (Ps. 2:8). “For the LORD’s portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance” (Deut. 32:9).

Paul prayed that the saints would understand the “riches of glory” of being God’s inheritance. “...may know what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints” (Eph. 1:18).

Our faithfulness or love for Jesus, and people, are the only things that we will take from this age. The “currency” in eternity for the redeemed will be the love that we cultivated for Him in this age. “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints” (Heb. 6:10).