

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

September 12, 2023 – The Cry of the Bride: Maranatha – Erlinda Cruz

God's Desire for Voluntary Lovers (Ephesians 1:5-8)

“having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,... made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood (the 2nd Person becomes a man and sheds His blood), the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence (carefully thought through plan)”

Ephesians 1:5-8

Love is dignified by the power of choices. The Father is looking not just for mandatory obedience but for voluntary love. This necessitates the power to say “yes and no” to be real.

God, in His perfect wisdom, creates a realm, knowing that sin will reign, and the curse of God will be upon creation because of the sin. He knew that humans would rebel against Him and agree with the leadership of the kingdom of darkness, be broken, demonized—dead in their trespasses.

The glorious truth of the mystery is that it was determined in the eternal counsels—that humans who respond to the leadership of God's grace could obtain redemption through the blood of His Son, so that the redeemed could experience the fullness of God's glory in this age and forever.

“elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ”

1 Peter 1:2 NKJV

It was determined before the world began that God would become a man and be crushed by God's wrath so as to fulfill the family plan.

It would cost God everything and is the reason why rejecting the free gift of salvation is met with such heavy eternal sanctions—the Lake of Fire.

Are you ready with your voluntary love?