

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Thirteen

The Serpent's Bride

The Lord's bride is set forth for us in Eph. 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

Thus, the Lord's church is his bride. She is spoken of as being a virgin and having the beauty that the Lord has imputed unto her:

1. 2 Cor. 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

2. Psa 50:2 "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined."

3. Isa. 61:1 "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; 3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning,

the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified."

In contrast to the description given unto us of the Lord's bride, the serpent's bride is described to us by the name given to her in Rev. 17:5, "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." There are thirteen words in her name. She is the opposite of a virgin in that she is the Mother of Harlots. She is the opposite of true beauty in that she contains the Abominations of the earth. Just as the Old Serpent had a curse proclaimed upon him by God in the Garden of Eden, so his bride is also under a curse.

Furthermore, her so-called gospel is a curse and her preachers are accursed as well: Gal. 1:6 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Furthermore, the worshippers under this false church are also accursed: 1 Cor. 16:22 "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha." Anathema literally means accursed. Maranatha means our Lord has come.