

How Does the Bride Prepare?

Imagine that your wedding is three weeks away. Your life-long dream - your "Desire" - will finally come. You will be married. But this will be no ordinary wedding. This will be a Royal wedding.

But now you realize you are in a dilemma. You have not prepared for the wedding. You have nothing ready. What do you do?

Your personal affairs have not been taken care of. Your wedding clothes have not been selected, nor attended to. You are now in a state of shock, as you realize just what there is yet to be done, to prepare or your wedding. You then ask yourself, "What steps should I take to 'prepare' for the event?"

You know that this wedding is a very special wedding. You then begin to realize that you will be taken away to a Far Country, so there can be no "loose ends" when you leave with the Bridegroom. You then sit down hurriedly, and scribble out a crude check-list, a "To-Do" List. You must have everything done at the proper time.

You pick up a tablet, and a pen, and begin your list. It looks something like this:

My Wedding Preparation To-Do List

The Bride's Personal Preparation

1. Pay off Monetary Debts
2. Pay off Unforgiveness Debts
3. Make Restoration where needed.
4. Be up-to-date on tithes
5. Give away imprudent excess to the poor
6. Make out a will

The Bride's Wedding Preparation

1. Wash the Body
2. Pick out the Clothes
3. Wash the Clothes
4. Iron the Clothes
5. Put on the Clothes
6. Put on the Belt
7. Put on the Bridal Veil
8. Be Ready and "Watching"

You then begin to put down details on your list. Now Your list looks something like this:

My Wedding Preparation - Details

Personal Preparation Details

1. Pay Off all 'monetary' debts.

Owe no man anything, but to love one another (Romans 13:8).

2. Get all 'unforgiveness' debts taken care of.

Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. 25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. 26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing (Matthew 5:23-26).

3. Make restoration where needed. Give to the Poor.

And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Master, Behold, Master, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold (Luke 19:8)

4. Be up-to-date on the tithe, which is YHWH's portion.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith YHWH of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it (Malachi 3:10).

5. Sell all that you have, and give to the Poor.

Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me (Luke 18:22).

6. Make out a will. Good stewardship requires that the rest of the Father's house be provided for.

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children...(Proverbs 13:22).

Wedding Preparation Details

1. The Bride Washes Her Body

a. The first part of the Bride's preparation is the washing of the body. Notice the command is for "you" to do the washing:

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith YHWH: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:16-18)

We see above that the washing of our body is the 'cleaning up' of our doings. However, the cleaning is done from inside-out. The cleaning must first come to our innermost being - our "heart."

b. We then realize that we must cry out to YHWH to do the washing, the cleansing. He will do so when we acknowledge our sin.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. (Psalms 51:2-3)

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalms 51:7)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

And from Yahushua Messiah, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood... (Revelation 1:5)

For everything regarding the bride's preparation must be by YHWH's Grace - by his own power, by the Set-apart Spirit, to accomplish.

c. We then realize that we have tried to wash under our own efforts, our "own works," but we have not really accomplished the required washing.

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. (Proverbs 30:12)

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Set-apart Spirit; (Titus 3:5)

So we see the first step, of washing the body, is the Regeneration that occurs initially, and is the Righteousness YHWH imparts to us by the Set-apart Spirit.

d. Our "washing" must be accompanied with prayer and fasting.

But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; (Matthew 6:17)

e. Our own "washing" includes allowing 'Messiah-in-you' to wash the feet of others.

And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. (Luke 7:44)

If I then, your Master and Teacher, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. John 13:14

...Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. (Matt 25:40)

2. The Bride Chooses Her Clothes.

After washing the Body, the Bride must then choose the clothes, the Garments she will wear. We are told much in Scripture that we must have clothing, and we must wash our clothes before coming into the presence of the King:

And YHWH said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day YHWH will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. (Exodus 19:10-11)

In the above passage we see a very important principle. We must wash our clothes, before we may come into the presence of YHWH, the King. We are given a similar word in Ephesians:

Husbands, love your wives, even as Messia also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be set-apart and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

Some today have thought the only washing necessary is the washing of the body, the Regeneration, and imparting of Righteousness, as seen in the first section above. They have assumed that since a white robe was first given to them at salvation (See Isaiah 61:10), there is no garment-washing needed. When we were first redeemed, we were each given a Robe that was white. However, over time we have all soiled, spotted, and dirtied our robes, and they must be made white again.

There is much washing needed for our clothes. Our Garments have become full of spots, and wrinkles, and full of blemishes. How has this happened? "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins..." (Psalms 19:12,13). Every day we face the possibility of sinning, and thereby "spotting" our garments. (See also Matthew 24:12 and James 3:2). Our garments need to be prepared. But in order to wash our clothes, and prepare our garments, we must know and understand just which clothes to wash. We must understand just what our wedding clothes - our garments, and our robe - really are.

What are the Bride's Garments?

Before we look at washing the garments, we must look first at a few basics. We must first understand what our garments are.

In this section we will give a brief recap of what we saw clearly from Scripture, in (Righteousness Sown, Righteousness Harvested). We found that that the Scriptural, prophetic meaning (the 'now' meaning for us) of our garments, and our robe, is our works.

Garments, Robes, and coverings in Scripture speak of many things. In general, they speak of what we do. These 'works' consist of two types of Garments:

- a. Filthy Rags (Isaiah 64:6)
- b. Fine linen, clean and white (Revelation 19:8)

We saw that these garments can either be filthy rags - works produced from our own efforts - our own strength, in trying to keep and observe YHWH's Word. Or they can be clean and white garments - works produced by the leading and strength of Messiah-in-you.

We saw also that Scripture shows a parallel example, in that the Fruit we produce is likewise our works, both good and bad. The Fruit and the Garments are one and the same parable - to teach us that both garments and fruit can be good, or bad. They are good if they are works of Messiah-in-you, or bad if they are works done by our own initiative or ambition (See 1Corinthians 3:9-15, showing the contrast of good and bad works).

We also concluded that our clean garments are NOT those of Titus 3:5:

"...not by works of Righteousness, which WE have done..." (Titus 3:5)

We saw clearly that it was "not by works of Righteousness, which WE have done." No, these works, no matter how good, and how Righteous, noble or sincere, are merely filthy rags and barren branches, in the sight of YHWH.

We saw that the Garments we are to prepare, however, are the works of Righteousness as seen in Isa 61:10:

I will greatly rejoice in YHWH, my soul shall be joyful in my Elohim; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness..." (Isaiah 61:10)

We must make it absolutely clear, that what counts for our garments, or works of Righteousness - is ONLY what YHWH Himself has done, by His grace, and not we ourselves.

We found that the clean and white garments of our 'works' consist of two parts:

- a. The initial work of the Set-apart Spirit, "by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Set-apart Spirit" (Titus 3:5).
- b. The ongoing life of "Messiah-in-you" to produce the "Fruit of Righteousness" in us, by His Life in us, and by His Grace to accomplish. This occurs only when we allow Him to walk in us, in obedience - obedience to the Father, obedience to His Word, to His Set-apart Spirit, and obedience to His own Commandments. We found that in order to identify which Commandments He refers to, we need only imitate Messiah, and do what He did. We then saw that this was simply the "Torah" that He, as the Word, gave to Moses - which He calls "My Commandments" (Romans 5:9-10; Colossians 1:27; 1John 2:7; 1John 5:2-3).

The net result is that both the initial work, as well as the ongoing, daily life of Messiah-in-you, is all by His Grace - His power in us to accomplish and complete the work. We saw that it is Messiah Yahushua Himself - as both the Seed and the Tree - who is our Righteousness.

Likewise, we saw that what He produces in us, becomes both the Fruit of works, and the Garment, or Robe of Works - of His Righteousness - of His obedience in us, as He lives in our bodies, and as He provides the Grace to accomplish the works.

With this understanding, we will go on to discuss the next step: the washing of our clothes, our garments.

3. The Bride Washes Her Clothes

We have seen that our works - what we do - are our Garments, our covering. So how do we wash our Garments - our works? We saw the answer above, in Ephesians 5:25-27. It is by the 'washing of water by the Word.'

This washing of water by the Word is not simply 'reading' the Scriptures. It is in reading, hearing, and doing of the Word, that brings the cleansing of our garments - our works. However, again we must be warned, that even the cleansing of our garments can NOT occur by our own efforts:

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Set-apart Spirit; (Titus 3:5)

How much more shall the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to Elohim, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living Elohim? (Hebrews 9:14)

Notice that any "works of Righteousness, which WE have done..." can not, and will not, avail anything, because these are 'dead works.' It is only what Messiah-in-you does, that "serves the living YHWH." It is only the Set-apart Spirit in you, that can make your garments clean. We are told why this is true in the following passage:

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6)

But we are told which righteousness does produce much:

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Yahushua Messiah, unto the glory and praise of Elohim. (Philippians 1:11)

Remember, fruits of Righteousness are works; Garments and Robes of Righteousness are works. Fruit and Garments are one and the same parable.

We must fully understand that it is ONLY 'by works of righteousness which HE has done' that will become clean garments for us. You ask, "How does this happen?" It is when you allow 'Messiah-in-you' to do the 'works' in you.

The only clean garments you can have, are the works of Righteousness which 'Messiah-in-you' has done, when you allow Him to walk in obedience, in YOUR body. This is the making of the clean Garment. This is the washing of water by the Word-in-you.

In order for you to wash your Garments - to produce 'good' works - you must Allow Messiah-in-you to keep his own commandments today, while walking around in your body, in the same way he did when he walked around in his own body 2,000 years ago (Luke 4:16).

Therefore if you want to wash your clothes, you must allow 'Messiah-in-you' to wash your 'garments' - to bring the 'doing' of His Word into your life and daily practice. And that includes allowing 'Messiah-in-you' to observe His weekly and annual Sabbaths, while living in your body.

As was said previously, when we were first redeemed, we were each given a Robe that was white. However, during the long waiting period, we have all soiled our robes, and they must be made white again. Only Messiah-in-us can clean the Robe. Only as we allow Messiah-in-us to do, only that will he do. He will not force us to do anything.

What is NOT included in this washing instruction is the special Robe-washing that will take place, for those virgins that will come later - that do not ascend alive as the Company of the Bride. As a result, they must go through the furnace of testing, and perhaps physical death. This washing may be seen in (Rev 7:14).

4. The Bride Irons Her Clothes.

After the clothes are thoroughly washed, to remove the spots, they must next be ironed, to remove the wrinkles:

...not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be set-apart and without blemish (Ephesians 5:27b)

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

The heat and pressures of the day are our "light affliction, which is but for a moment" - and indeed it does "work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. However, these afflictions do us good only on one condition. And that is ONLY "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen...."

These afflictions are our preparation and testing from YHWH, who is unseen. If, in our afflictions, we lash out at the affliction, or those around us, who cause the afflictions - we then tend to forget that the affliction is from YHWH, for our good. The final result of that affliction is, that the affliction does us no good at all! The garment has not been 'changed.' It is still 'wrinkled,' because it did not respond to YHWH's heat-and-pressure ironing of our garment - how we responded to the affliction. Notice the result of patience (patient endurance) in the following passages:

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (James 1:3-4)

We see the result, the work of patience, is 'perfection.' One of the hallmark goals of the Bride's preparation is the word 'perfect.' With the result of patient endurance bringing perfection, we see that the wrinkles are gone, in how she responded to trials and afflictions (See Revelation 3:10; Revelation 14:12). The Bride may now proceed beyond the ironing. She may now begin to put on her Garments.

5. The Bride Puts On Her Clothes

The Scriptures are abundant in describing the putting on of the Garments that are prepared for the Bride. We saw in the first section above, the one, overriding Truth. This is the Truth that all of our Righteousness - both the washing of the Body in Regeneration, and the Washing of the Garments of Works - must be done by "Messiah-in-you" in order to avail anything.

With this said, we will now look at the 'putting on' of these garments. Let us first be reminded that it is not merely 'Garments' that are to be put on, but proper 'Wedding Garments' as we see in this passage:

And Yahushua answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son... And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few chosen. (Matthew 22:1-2; 22:11-14)

In this parable for the Bride, we see the importance of the 'Wedding' Garments. These are not just any Garments; these Garments are not just 'Good Works' that one may perform. We will look at the Scriptures, to confirm what the Bride has chosen, and to

give us a further clue of what else she is to put on. First we will list the Scriptures, then note what we see in the Scriptures:

I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my judgment was as a robe and a diadem. (Job 29:14)

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of YHWH; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon? (Isaiah 51:9)

Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the set-apart city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. (Isaiah 52:1)

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. (Romans 13:12)

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. (1 Corinthians 15:51-54)

For as many of you as have been baptized into Messiah have put on Messiah. (Galatians 3:27)

And that ye put on the new man, which after Elohim is created in righteousness and true set-apartness. (Ephesians 4:24)

Put on the whole armour of Elohim, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11)

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: (Colossians 3:10)

Put on therefore, as the elect of Elohim, set-apart and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Messiah forgave you, so also do ye. (Colossians 3:12-13)

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (1 Thessalonians 5:8)

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for Elohim resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5)

In the above passages we see many things that the we are to "put on." As Bride-Candidates, we should investigate each aspect of the above passages diligently. The one central idea is that we are to put on Messiah Himself. When this occurs, His attributes

begin to shine forth, through our own personality, as seen in the above passages.

First we see 'Righteousness,' as the male noun, in the passage in Job 29:14. As we saw in (Righteousness Sown, Righteousness Harvested), the Hebrew word for Righteousness, Strongs number <06664>, is the noun of the male gender, telling us that this is the "Seed" of Righteousness, the living Word from YHWH Himself. We are then told in the above passage in Job, "It clothed me."

Indeed, this is just as we saw, that the male Seed of Righteousness sprouts as the female plant, and produces the female fruit of Righteousness, which is our works, and our garments - with the result that 'it' clothed me. Again, it is 'our' Righteousness, and 'our' Garments - ONLY to the extent that 'Messiah-in-us' has done the producing!!

With this understanding, we can see the many attributes expressed in the remaining verses - the 'one new man' that is Messiah; the attributes of righteousness, holiness, mercy, forgiveness, and love - are all attributes Messiah-in-us desires to express, as living out His life in our bodies. It is these attributes that are produced by Messiah-in-us, that become the Wedding Garments that clothe us. Let us be warned at this point. It is the many 'Good' works produced by self, that could find us clothed in filthy rags.

6. The Bride Puts On the Belt

The next item the Bride is to put on is the Belt, or Girdle. The Girdle is an outer belt, or band, used to secure the clothing, and to hold it in place during various activities. Like the clothing, the Girdle has many prophetic qualities very similar to those of the Garments. The one special quality we may see related to the Girdle is that of 'perfection' - perfection indicating ripeness or finality of preparation.

Again, we will show a few of the Scripture passages, with highlighting, and then make a few observations. Let's look at the following passages:

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, YHWH appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am El Shaddai; walk before me, and be thou perfect. (Genesis 17:1)

And the curious girdle of the ephod, which is upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; even of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen. (Exodus 28:8)

And thou shalt embroider the coat of fine linen, and thou shalt make the mitre of fine linen, and thou shalt make the girdle of needlework. (Exodus 28:39)

He shall put on the set-apart linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are set-apart garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on. (Leviticus 16:4)

Thou shalt be perfect before YHWH thy Elohim. (Deuteronomy 18:13)

Let your heart therefore be perfect to YHWH our Elohim, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day. (1 Kings 8:61)

It is El that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. (Psalms 18:32)

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. (Isaiah 11:5)

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)

Yahushua said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. (Matthew 19:21)

And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. (Luke 8:14)

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the Elohim of love and peace shall be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (Ephesians 6:14)

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, Elohim shall reveal even this unto you. (Philippians 3:15)

And above all these things put on charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness. (Colossians 3:14)

That the man of Elohim may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:17)

Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Yahushua Messiah; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:21)

Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? (James 2:22)

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Yahushua Messiah; (1 Peter 1:13)

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of Elohim perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. (1 John 2:5)

No man hath seen Elohim at any time. If we love one another, Elohim dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. (1 John 4:12)

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (1 John 4:17-18)

And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. (Revelation 1:13)

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before Elohim.
(Revelation 3:2)

As we look at the passages above, we can begin to notice several things. First, the prophetic items that make up the Girdle appear to be similar to the items we saw as Garments in the previous section. Like the Garments, these qualities appear as fruit and works, and include such attributes as Righteousness, Faith, Love, and Perfection (maturity and completion).

One great illustration of the "Divine Commentary" aspect of the New Testament can be seen in two companion verses above. Notice that one of the items of priestly Garments was the "Curious Girdle" of Exodus 28:8. The name for this garment in Hebrew is 'chesheb,' Strong's number <02805>, from <02803> meaning "devise, think, imagine, consider, purpose." This definition reveals the importance of our thoughts, and our motives - how we think, and purpose in our minds. The Apostle Peter tells us we are to "gird up the loins of your mind..." (1 Peter 1:13a).

We then see in Exodus 28:8 that the 'Curious Girdle' shall be the "same work thereof - even of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen." These items are regarded by all as very costly or valuable, and are items to be guarded and treasured. The meaning thus portrayed is that for a priest ('Believer'), his thoughts and works are to be the same. They are to be of 'gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen'- all of which are prophetic terms, each of which speaks of one particular, treasured aspect of the working of 'Messiah-in-you' within your heart, mind (your thoughts), and actions.

The one additional quality we see over and over in the above passages is that of 'perfection.' This implies to us that the putting on of the "Girdle" is the bringing to perfection - bringing to completion - of the Bride-Candidate's Garments.

7. The Bride Puts on Her Veil

The Bride is the Glory of the Husband (1Co 11:7). As such, she has a covering, and even a hidden quality with regard to the rest of the virgins. There are several things we must know about the Bride's veil. First we will notice the following about the Bride:

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. (Proverbs 31:22)

This covering is first of all, of her own making. But in other passages, we have seen that the Bride's covering is "given" to her (Hosea 2:9; 1Co 11:15). So again we must conclude that the Bride's covering veil is the result of a co-operative effort, between the Bride-Candidate and the Set-apart Spirit.

The Bride's covering veil is a sign, or indicator, of one who is a Bride-Candidate. In this regard we must be warned: the Bride's covering veil, the token of her Bride-Candidacy, may at times be in jeopardy. Notice the following passage:

The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me. (Song of Songs 5:7)

As we saw in [The Bride-as Seen In Chavah \(Eve\)](#), it is the 'Watchmen' - the Church Leaders - those that are charged with keeping of the 'Walls of Salvation' in the lives of the people - that smite the Bride. These 'Watchmen' going about the City are 'Shepherds' in

name only, and they do not really guard the welfare of the Sheep (See Eze 34:1-10). The goal of satan is to use these well-meaning Leaders to remove the Bride qualities from the Bride, through the Leaders' ignorance of Scripture.

The Bride is hereby warned, that it is only by studying Scriptures for oneself, that will allow one to break free of the 'paradigms' that the Doctrines of Men have created. We must trust that we can hear from the Set-apart Spirit, who promises to lead us into all Truth (Psa 25:5; Psa 119:104,128; John 16:13; 1John 2:27).

Additional insights into the Bride's covering may be seen in "[Covering Principles for the Bride](#)". As a finish to the preparation of the Bride's Clothing, we will list the final verses of Proverbs 31, without comment. Notice the great number of 'Bride attributes' that can be seen:

- 17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.
19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.
23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.
26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.
29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.
30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth YHWH, she shall be praised.
31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.
(Proverbs 31:17-31)

8. Now Ready - Watching and Waiting

After going through the long process of preparation, the Bride is finally prepared. She hopes she is "Ready" for the Bridegroom's knock, but still she can not be sure. The Apostle Paul was not sure that he would make the First Resurrection Company, so how much less can we be sure? The only thing left to do, is to watch, and keep our Garments (Rev 16:15). We must keep the Garments, to prevent them from becoming spotted, or soiled. Then we must "Watch."

How does the Bride "Watch?" Let's look at a few passages, then comment on what we see.

Bind up the testimony, seal the law ("Torah") among my disciples. And I will wait upon YHWH, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him. (Isaiah 8:16-17)

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. (Matthew 24:44)

For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave

authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you, I say unto all: 'Watch'. (Mark 13:34-37)

And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for YHWH. (Luke 1:17)

And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. (Luke 12:36)

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. (Luke 12:40)

The master of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. (Luke 12:46)

So Messiah was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. (Hebrews 9:28)

It is apparent from the above passages that the Bride is to "Watch." This is a process that involves seeking, waiting, making ready, and looking for His appearing. Above all, it includes the command to "Watch" - a reference to several Old Testament Hebrew words. The word "tsapha," Strong's number <06822>, meaning 'Watchman, watch, behold, and look,' occurs 37 times. From [Prophetic Numbers in Scripture](#), we understand that the number 37 speaks of the Word of YHWH. Thus we see the word 'tsapha' refers to watching, beholding, and looking, to the "Word of YHWH."

A similar Hebrew word for "Watch" is "shamar," Strong's number <08104>, meaning "observe, watch, beware, Watchman, heed, and keep." The BDB Hebrew Lexicon sheds more light: "to observe; celebrate; keep sabbath or covenant or commands; perform a vow."

From these and similar words for "Watch," we see that the true 'Watchman' is one who chooses to observe, keep, and heed, the Word of YHWH, and who is watchful to keep His Covenant Commandments. This is our primary work, as we wait, and look for the Bridegroom. Again, it is simply to allow 'Messiah-in-you' to do the work, as we allow Him to do so.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him:
for the marriage of the Lamb is come,
and his wife hath made herself ready.
(Revelation 19:7)