CHAPTER 14

WHO IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST?

In this book, we conducted a comprehensive Biblical study so that we could answer the question, "Who is the Bride of Christ?" In doing so, we looked at the Biblical characteristics of the Bride of Christ in a step-by-step manner. From our studies, we were able to understand that not all believers in Jesus as Messiah will be the Bride of Christ. However, all believers in Jesus as Messiah will be in heaven. God's perfect Will for every believer is to be saved by accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior AND grow from being a baby believer to a spiritually mature believer. Those individuals who are saved and who grow to spiritual maturity will be the Bride of Christ. Those believers who practice and follow the ways of the world and who do not grow in spiritual knowledge and understanding of God and His kingdom will be like the five foolish virgins who were not ready when the bridegroom came to get his bride.

While no believer is saved by doing good works, God requires that all believers live sanctified and holy lives separated from the ways and practices of the world and dedicated and consecrated unto God and unto His kingdom. By doing so, those believers will be led by the Spirit of God and grow to spiritual maturity and be found to be faithful servants to God and His kingdom.

The Bride of Christ will be a sanctified, holy and without blemish nation of people unto God. She will be a glorified Bride and her glory will be seen as a witness in all the earth. She will be a praise and honor unto God while being a faithful servant unto Him. She will love God with all her heart, mind, soul and strength. She will seek God, His ways and how to please Him at all times. She will not seek her own pleasures or her own will but will submit to do God's perfect Will in her life. She will overcome the desires of the world and the spiritual obstacles that stand in her way from being perfectly acceptable to her heavenly Bridegroom.

The Bride of Christ will be a royal priesthood. Just as it was the duty of the priests in the Old Testament to teach God's people His Torah, even so, it will be the duty of God's Bride to teach God's people about His Torah/Word and His infinite ways for all eternity. Those who keep the commandments (Torah/Word) of God and teach others to do so will be great in the kingdom of God. Those who break the commandments (Torah/Word) of God and teach others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of God (*Matthew 5:19*). The Bride of Christ will keep the

commandments of God and have the right to the tree of life which is the Torah (*Revelation 22:14*).

The Bride of Christ will be a people after God's own heart just like David who loved God's Torah/Word and kept His commandments. She will teach God's Torah to the nations of the world during the Messianic Age (*Isaiah 2:2-3*). During eternity, she will teach all believers in heaven the riches of the Torah of God to those believers who will not be the Bride of Christ.

The Bride of Christ has a deep personal relationship with God and a deep spiritual intimacy with Him. She will have clean hands and a pure heart unto God. While in heaven, she will live and dwell in the presence of God and His glory. She will dwell with God in the city of the Bride, the heavenly Jerusalem, for all eternity. She is like the most precious of stones and a pearl of great price.

So, these are some of the Biblical characteristics of the Bride of Christ. But, who is the Bride of Christ? This book makes NO ATTEMPT to judge any individual member of the family of God to determine if they are the Bride of Christ. It is my desire that every reader who reads this book will be the Bride of Christ. It is my desire that I will be the Bride of Christ. However, only God can judge the hearts and lives of all believers to determine who is the Bride of Christ and who is not. It is the believer's responsibility to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength so that God's Spirit can lead you and guide you in all the truth so that you can bear much fruit in the kingdom of God for His glory.

It has been God's desire since He created Adam in the Garden of Eden to live with man and to dwell with His Bride for all eternity. Because of man's sin and disobedience, God's plan has had to be delayed until He redeemed man by sending Jesus the Messiah and our heavenly Bridegroom to purchase and obtain a Bride through the shedding of His blood on the tree of Calvary. From the time that Jesus was resurrected and ascended unto the throne of God, God has been preparing a heavenly home for his Bride. The longsuffering and patience of God to live and dwell with His Bride is coming to a close. Soon the heavenly shofar will be blown and the cry will be made in the heavens, "Behold the bridegroom cometh!"(*Matthew* 25:6)

The final words of Jesus to his Church before He comes for His Bride is found in *Revelation 22:16* as it is written:

" I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. "

May all those who love His appearing cry unto Him the words of *Revelation* 22:17 as it is written:

" And the Spirit and the bride say, COME, And let him that heareth say, COME. And let him that is athirst COME. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. "

EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS !!!

FROM THE AUTHOR

I pray that this book has been a source of inspiration and rich blessing to you. If you would like to have a greater understanding of the biblical festivals and how they teach in great detail about the first and second coming of Jesus and about our personal relationship with God, I would highly encourage you to purchase my book, "*The Seven Festivals of the Messiah.*". You can obtain a <u>hard copy of this book</u> by writing to *Hebraic Heritage Ministries International*. You may also obtain volume discounts when you order the book through *Hebraic Heritage Ministries*.

If this book has been a blessing to you and if you have a greater interest in studying the Hebraic Roots of Christianity, I would encourage you to visit the *Hebraic Heritage Ministries Web Site* and join the GLOBAL network of ministries and people who are studying the Hebraic Roots of Christianity by filling out the ministry questionnaire. At the Web site, you will find MANY ARTICLES that will help you in studying the roots of your faith. Most of all, please become a <u>member of our network</u> by filling out the ministry questionnaire. Hebraic Roots ministries is linked with other Hebraic Roots ministries and individuals all over the WORLD who are also studying the Hebraic Roots of Christianity.

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM

Spiritually, the Bride of Christ is the heavenly Jerusalem. In addition, when God creates the new heaven and earth (*Revelation 21:1-3*), the Bride of Christ will live and dwell in the heavenly city of Jerusalem in the presence of God for all eternity (*Revelation 21*). However, God also loves the physical and natural city of Jerusalem. In *Luke 19:41*, Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem. In *Isaiah 62:7*, it is written:

"And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth. "

In Psalm 121:4, it is written:

"Behold he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

In Psalm 122:6, it is written:

" Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they will prosper that love thee. "