

To claim His Bride - He promised that one day he would return.

Been wondering what the hell is going on all around you and why the world is in such a state of chaos? Hell, I'm no scholar and even I can see what's going on! – It's the result of a bitter, and getting more bitter, betrothal gone bad and you have the best ticket in the house, a front row seat, from which to view it all. The fallout, is it not, is breathtaking to behold? It's the price of unfaithfulness – rejection of offered covenant blessings turning into covenant curses with a steady march toward chaos as the Lord's spirit withdraws after having been nearly wholly and summarily rejected by the Harlot Babylon. At least a few years ago, as recent as a decade, the Harlot, at a minimum, tried to keep her unfaithfulness a secret and intermittently, primarily during times of distress, appeared to make an effort to take advantage of opportunities to repent and return to faithfulness. Those efforts, at times, appeared to be requited with the intended groom keeping the relationship intact which, for the moment, prevented covenant blessings from being annulled. But not anymore, now we're seeing what happens when the secret is out, the pretense is dropped and the Harlot Babylon is no longer ashamed of her full-frontal wickedness and rejects the betrothal with unfaithfulness to her Lord.

Initially, in a gospel form, the global village gathered together, metaphorically speaking, and stood as witness to the betrothal and intended future marriage of the King of Kings as his intended bride sipped from the offered cup of wine, a covenant, signaling her acceptance and making sacred and holy the coming vows of a not too far distant wedding day, a traditional Galilean marriage solicitation. In Galilean tradition, the time between the betrothal and the wedding is a time of preparation. The intended groom departs to build an addition onto his father's house, a room in which they can dwell together. With the date and time of the wedding unknown to her, the bride, during this time, is charged with keeping herself pure, preparing her wedding gown and being always ready for the return of her man to claim her for his wife.

Can you imagine yourself as the groom preparing to return to claim and marry the love of your life how hurtful, discouraging, distressing and disappointing it would be for you to learn she has rejected you while you were away? Not only has she rejected you, but she's gone whoring and is with another. Not just any "another," she is with one that has sworn you to be his eternal enemy. How's that for betrayal? Nearly unable to breathe, the vacant anxiety you feel stabs and breaks your heart infinitely as you realize that after all the time you spent working and planning a future together, she has rejected and forsook those hopes and dreams. The time you spent away at your father's house preparing a place for her to live with you as a family will have to someday be shared with another. Heartbroken, not only do you have to find a way to overcome and withdraw some affection for her, the promises you made to give her all you possessed are, by her rebuff, terminated. Imagine the pain – can you sense it? Would your spirit continue to bless what could have been? Even if you wanted it to, sadly, it can't – she does not want you. Whatever the terms of the covenant and promise were, she has stomped on, spit on, desecrated and completely betrayed them. Unfortunately, now, for there to be another wedding, there'll have to be another bride.

Though not fulsome, it's an apt description of what has happened to our Lord. And since his intended bride, us, has become the Harlot Babylon, He can no longer uphold and support with His favor and blessing the wedding that could have been. The Harlot Babylon continues in her lascivious and profligate ways all the while expecting the continued blessings of the Lord - hoping He hasn't really noticed her error. But you can't freaking reject Him and then hope that

he still blesses you like you didn't. Justice forbids it. The resultant chaos that we're in the midst of is coincident to the Gentile rejection of offered covenants and a nearly complete and universal apostasy from our Lord's gospel. The cost of unfaithfulness and rejection in any relationship is always chaos, turmoil, bedlam, confusion, disarray, pain, fighting, etc. etc. etc.... and we're witnessing all of it first-hand. When she completely dropped her pretense of fidelity and devotion, Jehovah's response is a considered and reasonable reaction prophesied by past prophets. But how would we know that? – the last time Babylon as a whole cracked open her scriptures in any meaningful way the ink from John Hancock's signature was not yet dry on the Declaration of Independence. Sadly, the intended bride alienated herself first by simply going astray then by burdening herself with sin which of course ends in outright wrongdoing and infidelity. Regression on her part provokes and sponsors the rising generations in perversity and decadent living which renders them thoroughly corrupt. Amazingly, at the same time the Harlot Babylon is descending into the dark abyss of filth and slime, she seems to be throwing a global temper tantrum insisting on a provision for continued blessings from our Lord as alimony for a divorce from a wedding that will never take place.

So now, the Lord has sent an attorney in the form of a servant to restore justice and reestablish the nearly lost terms of a covenant marriage. His hope is that some few will accept Him and become the bride for whom He has prepared a place in his Father's house. There will be some. Are they you?

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