

The Church that claims to be the Bride?

In these is a group of People professing to be the church bride.

Rev. 3:17 Because thou sayest, **I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing**; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Rev. 18:7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, **I sit a queen, and am no widow**, and shall see no sorrow. 8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day,

Note: “Am no widow,” the Believe only believe attitude of this church that professes itself to be the Bride.

Matt. 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. John 14:2 . . . I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” That place is the New Jerusalem which is adorned with the righteousness of the saints. Rev. 19:8, 21:12 Twelve gates, twelve foundations.

Strong’s 3933 Virgin

Maiden, adjective [*attributive*]

1 (of a woman, *especially an older one*) **unmarried**: a maiden aunt.

bridesmaid | 'brīdz, mād |

noun a girl or woman who **accompanies a bride** on her wedding day.

Note: Not Young, These Virgins are Bridesmaids to accompany the Groom to the Bride—the Lamb's wife, that great city, the capital of Christ’s kingdom, the throne of David Given to Christ, the holy Jerusalem.

A mere profession of discipleship is of no value. ***The faith in Christ which saves the soul is not what it is represented to be by many.*** “Believe, believe,” they say, “and you need not keep the law.” **But a belief that does not lead to obedience is presumption.** The apostle John says, “He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” 1 John 2:4. **Let none cherish the idea that special providences or miraculous manifestations are to be the proof of the genuineness of their work or of the ideas they advocate. When persons will speak lightly of the word of God, and**

set their impressions, feelings, and exercises above the divine standard, we may know that they have no light in them. MB 146.2 1896.

Obedience is the test of discipleship. It is the keeping of the commandments that proves the sincerity of our professions of love. When the doctrine we accept kills sin in the heart, purifies the soul from defilement, bears fruit unto holiness, we may know that it is the truth of God. When benevolence, kindness, tenderheartedness, sympathy, are manifest in our lives; ***when the joy of right doing is in our hearts***; when we exalt Christ, and not self, we may know that our faith is of the right order. “Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.” 1 John 2:3. MB 146.3

Note: Those who claim we can't keep the law, qualify it by claiming they are the bride. Yet by not keeping the Law they deny God's Covenant of peace. “. . . All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those **who have kept His law**. . . .” GC 637.1 Hebrews 10:16.

In the following is the real Churches experience under the same plagues as in the preceding Rev. 18:8, under a different attitude and condition. These never claim to be the Bride!

The True Church during the time of Jacobs Trouble.
Are not claiming to be the Bride!

As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God's people in the time of trouble. And as he accused Jacob, he will urge his accusations against the people of God. He numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above. He has an accurate knowledge of the sins ***which he has tempted them to commit***, and he presents these before God in the most exaggerated light, representing this people to be just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. He declares that the Lord cannot in justice forgive their sins and yet destroy him and his angels. He claims them as his prey and demands that they be given into his hands to destroy. GC 618.2

As Satan accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the uttermost. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be severely tested. As they review the past, their hopes sink; for in their whole lives they can see little good. They are fully conscious of their weakness and unworthiness. ***Satan endeavors to terrify them with the thought that their***

cases are hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations and turn from their allegiance to God. GC 618.3

Though God's people will be surrounded *by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth's sake; they fear that every sin has not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the fulfillment of the Saviour's promise:* I “will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world.” Revelation 3:10. *If they could have the assurance of pardon* they would not shrink from torture or death; but should they prove unworthy, and lose their lives because of their own defects of character, then God's holy name would be reproached. GC 619.1

On every hand they hear the plottings of treason and see the active working of rebellion; and there is aroused within them an intense desire, an earnest yearning of soul, that this great apostasy may be terminated and the wickedness of the wicked may come to an end. But while they plead with God to stay the work of rebellion, it is with a keen sense of self-reproach that they themselves have no more power to resist and urge back the mighty tide of evil. They feel that had they always employed all their ability in the service of Christ, going forward from strength to strength, Satan's forces would have less power to prevail against them. GC 619.2

They afflict their souls before God, pointing to their past repentance of their many sins, and pleading the Saviour's promise: “Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.” Isaiah 27:5. Their faith does not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. Though suffering the keenest anxiety, terror, and distress, they do not cease their intercessions. They lay hold of the strength of God as Jacob laid hold of the Angel; and the language of their souls is: “I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.” GC 619.3

Had not Jacob previously repented of his sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life. So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while *they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to judgment and have been blotted out, and they cannot bring them to remembrance.* GC 620.1 1Tim 5:24

Satan leads many to believe that God will overlook their unfaithfulness in the minor affairs of life; but the Lord shows in His dealings with Jacob that He will in no wise sanction or tolerate evil. All who endeavor to excuse or conceal their sins,

and permit them to remain upon the books of heaven, unconfessed and unforgiven, will be overcome by Satan. ***The more exalted their profession and the more honorable the position which they hold, the more grievous is their course in the sight of God and the more sure the triumph of their great adversary.*** Those who delay a preparation for the day of God ***cannot obtain it in the time of trouble or at any subsequent time.*** The case of all such is hopeless. GC 620.2

Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire,—so resplendent is it with the glory of God,—are gathered the company that have “gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.” With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, “having the harps of God,” they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, “the voice of harpers harping with their harps.” And they sing “a new song” before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb—a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience—an experience such as no other company have ever had. “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.” These, having been translated from the earth, from among the living, are counted as “the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb.” Revelation 15:2, 3; 14:1-5. ***“These are they which came out of great tribulation;” they have passed through the time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation; they have endured the anguish of the time of Jacob's trouble; they have stood without an intercessor through the final outpouring of God's judgments.*** But they have been delivered, for they have “washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” “In their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault” before God. “Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.” They have seen the earth wasted with famine and pestilence, the sun having power to scorch men with great heat, and they themselves have endured suffering, hunger, and thirst. But “they shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” Revelation 7:14-17. GC 648.3

Note: The Only thing that does have unconditional confidence to be the Bride is the New Jerusalem. The Throne of David-Christ, the City of our God.

Note: It is easy to imagine Jacob's worry of Esau and Laban joining forces

against him. Or Job's family and enemies against him, and David fearing Israel and his family against him, read his psalms. And many others whose earthly support was taken away. Before Christ's ascension they lived without and only by the promise of a future intercessor, the investigative judgment had not begun in their day Rev. Chapters 4 and 5 but the process of trials and our decisions living without an intercessor had Due. 8:2—Hezekiah 2Chron. 32;31. In the following this is illustrated in the following in red, italic bold.

Heb. 13:36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38 ***(Of whom the world was not worthy:)*** they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

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