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Allusion, Images, Symbols: How to Study Bible Prophecy

Lesson #3 – The Beautiful Bride

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Risë Rafferty 2025 Q2 L3 The Beautiful Bride

The Beautiful bride

Best thing about this story Ezekiel 16 is the story teller – God Himself. Telling His own love story with His people. He prefaces the story He says, "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations." Why would God want us to know our abominations? To impose guilt or shame? Is that the point? How I look at it: let's say I had didn't feel good and had miserable and go to the doctor. The last thing I'd want to hear from the doctor is, I have no idea what's wrong with you. Bye. No! I want to know exactly what the problem. I want to know exactly what's wrong with me because then there's hope of healing. humility.

v. 3 "Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem: 'your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan your father was an Amorite and your mother was a Hittite.'" The story begins with the bride's birth, where she was born and who her parents were. Born in Canaan. We may think of Canaan as land that was promised to Abraham, or to the children of Israel – the land flowing with milk and honey, the promised land, where God's people eventually make their home, it was not always so. Canaan was Ham's son. Ham

was one of Noah's 3 sons, who shamed his drunk father. When Noah learned of it, he cursed Canaan not Ham! - this curse is not like the curse we may think of coming from a tribal witchdoctor, jinxing evil upon someone. This was Noah revealing the future, the playing out of Ham's evil character in the lives of his descendants. It was through Ham and Canaan that evil rose again in the earth. The Amorites and Hittites were children of Canaan and original dwellers. Before God's people occupied it, it was the land of those who had rejected God.

v 4,5 - "As for your nativity on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born."

Grotesque description of the birth of a baby girl.

She wasn't washed, swaddled, held, loved on, no dignity, her own parents find her unappealing. Undesired. Loathed on the day she's born.

This is our story: where we came from and how sin left us. When we go back to our beginning, the birth of our sinful, carnal

nature- we see a serpent in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, who came across like he wanted something better for us, had our best interest in mind. But after we sinned, where was he?! -left us without dignity, regarded us as unappealing, undesirable. He secretly loathed us! we would have been left untouched uncared for, no sympathy. There is ZERO HOPE for a baby that is thrown out into an open field! There would've been zero hope for us Dead in trespasses and sins, in our blood, if the story ended there but it doesn't...

V. 6 - **"And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!'"** God passes by - intentionally!

He rescues this baby and gives her life. What does God use to accomplish this? His word. **"I said to you in your blood "Live."** To say God's word is powerful is an understatement. His word is regenerative. It creates what it says. We have a friend named Loto who served nearly 20 years in prison after turning himself in for being a drug dealer and committing great crimes as such. One night after a big deal, just as he had done some cocaine, He hears the words in his head "come home." Twice! In the midst of his blood God says live.

V 7, 8 - **I made you thrive like a plant in the field and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful... When I passed by you**

again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love;"

God passes by again at a specific time, the **right time**, the time of love. In Biblical Prophecy - not only will you find the significance of the woman - you will also find the significance of time. The God who inhabits eternity keeps time. He has a set time for the plan of redemption. Unlike most people's wedding day - God's wedding begins on time, occurs during a specified time. Behold the Bridegroom cometh was the message that heralded the final work of atonement in the heavenly sanctuary referred to here as "the time of love." Listen to God's description of what occurs during the day of atonement. **"I spread my wing over you and covered your nakedness. v. 8 "Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you and you became Mine, says the Lord God."**

Notice what this covenant is based upon - God's oath - His promise. God enters into covenant with her and "you became Mine."

v.9 - Then I washed you in water, yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood and I anointed you with oil. This is also part of the work of the day of atonement. When God comes and tells us in our blood to Live- "born again" - we enter into a covenant relationship with Him. Then He washes the guilt and the presence

of the blood of sin away. He anoints us with oil, an OT ritual that had great meaning, she is anointed with the Holy Spirit for her position, her place and purpose. He clothes her with beautiful finest clothes - He decks her out. Which symbolizes Him clothing us with His righteousness and His beauty and perfection. And He feeds her pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil - sounds delicious. manna Man does not live.. but by every word

V 13, 15 - **"You were exceedingly beautiful and succeeded to royalty. Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed upon you, says the Lord God.. but you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it."**

What does it mean to trust in our own beauty?

Please don't limit this to physical beauty. NO-

This could be trusting in the work of your own hands, ingenuity, smarts, industry, personal resources, like Caan.

Trusting in our own reasoning and ability to make things happen
- Abraham

Trusting in our own talents, charisma, personality like Absalom.

Trusting in position, wealth, alliances, numbers, and arms like Israel did again and again.

What are the dangers of us trusting in our "own beauty"?

- Beauty is deceitful- doesn't tell the truth - lead into a lie
- Beauty is vain (empty, unsatisfactory, transitory - meaning it doesn't last, dissipates with age).
- Ps 52:7 -strengthens us in wickedness
- Jeremiah 17:5 "Cursed is the man who trusts in man
And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart **departs from the LORD**. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert,
- We end up walking in the sparks of our own kindling and the ultimate result is self-destruction
- Trusting in self leads us to **seek to manipulate, force, and control others minds and consciences according to our own standard**- this is the ultimate manifestation.

And prophetically the issue of trust will be the issue that decides the kind of relationship we have with God, to whom do we belong, whose side we stand.

The story continues with a long, sad delineation of the saga of her adultery. But the story doesn't end there.

V 60-63 - God providing full atonement for His bride