

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST UNVEILED

Part 2 – Wilderness Journey of a Bride

Debby Baril – February 23, 2003

Hosea 2:14-20 AMP – “Therefore, behold, I will allure her (Israel) and bring her into the wilderness, and I will speak tenderly and to her heart. (15) There I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor (troubling) to be for her a door of hope and expectation. And she shall sing there and respond as in the days of her youth and as at the time when she came up out of the land of Egypt. (16) And it shall be in that day, says the Lord, that you will call Me Ishi (my Husband) and you shall no more call Me Baali (my Baal-master). (19) And I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to me in righteousness and justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. (20) I will betroth you to Me in stability and in faithfulness, and you shall know (recognize, be acquainted with, appreciate, give heed to, and cherish) the Lord.

PURPOSES FOR THE WILDERNESS JOURNEY

Not just a place of punishment, initially a place of deliverance (from Egypt).

1. Place of Passion

- Allure: tender, even seductive speech
- Tenderly: gentle encouraging words such as a man speaks to his desired bride
- He will betroth you- legally binding as the marriage itself

2. Place of Restoration

- Give back the vineyards-restores destiny and purpose (Jeremiah 29:11-14)
- Valley of Achor – place of sin – (Joshua 7:20-26)
- the very sin that brought you into the wilderness will now be turned around and made as a door of hope and expectation
- First love renewed and restored

3. Place of Dependence

-Have 2 choices: depend on self and die, depend on God and live.

a. Provision

Deuteronomy 8:3-4 And He humbled you and allowed you to hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you recognize that man does not live by bread only, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord. (4) Your clothing did not become old upon you nor did your feet swell these forty years.

Deuteronomy 2:7b AMP – He knows your walking through this great wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing.

b. Power

Exodus 13:21-22 AMP – The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. (22) The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

-God will bring you to the wilderness where it's only you and Him

3. Place of Separation

-Separate from past lovers/loves

-Can concentrate totally on Him & His advances, no distractions

II Corinthians 11:2 AMP – For I am zealous for you with a godly eagerness and a divine jealousy, for I have betrothed you to one Husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

-A place to come back to first love (Revelation 2:4)

4. Place of Discovery

Rebekah's Wilderness Journey

Genesis 24:1-4, 10, 57-61

Abraham- Father God

Servant – Holy Spirit

Isaac- Jesus

Rebekah – Bride of Christ/Church

-Rebekah developed a relationship with the servant

-It was a time of learning all she could about the one she was betrothed to

-wilderness is a time of developing sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, obedience

-a time of recognizing the Holy Spirit's work in our life

-a time of cooperation with Him

-recognize He has all the Father's resources at His disposal, all the gifts, everything you need

John 16:13-15 AMP – But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message (on His own authority); but He will tell whatever He hears from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him, and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come (that will happen in the future). (14) He will honor and glorify Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you. (15) Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He (the Spirit) will take the things that are Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.