

## CouplesInBloom.com – Inside The Bride

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Revelation 21:2, 9 ⇨ “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, **prepared as a bride** adorned for her husband. And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.” The root word of “prepared” means **fitness**, and the word “bride” means **veiled** as a young married woman or betrothed girl. The idea is that what is hidden inside her is very good.

From a human perspective, goodness is central to a man and woman about to marry. The taking of two wives in the Old Testament was a cultural leftover and not God's idea. Old and New Testaments state God's intention of having only one wife / spouse ⇨ Song of Solomon; Hosea; 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6. In ⇨ Genesis 29, Laban gave Leah to Jacob instead of giving Rachel... **not** what Jacob wanted. Leah was **veiled** in the dusk and could not be seen for who she was until the light of day exposed her ⇨ Genesis 29:23-25.

The name Laban means *white*; Laban *whitewashed* / deceived Jacob with a substitute bride. This was Jacob reaping the deception he previously sowed. The blessing he stole was permanent, and so was the consequence, even though God forgave him. Note that the lineage of Jesus Christ came through Leah, Jacob's original wife (through their son Judah) and **not** through Rachel, Jacob's additional wife. This and other tough lessons from God ⇨ Genesis 28:16-22; 32:1-32 changed Jacob the deceiver to become Israel.

**However:** the lesson today is this: **Leah was not what Jacob paid for; she was not beautiful to him or fitting to his desire.** God also seeks a beautiful bride ⇨ Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 21:2-9, but many Christians are **wife-swapping: not giving God the wife He paid for... not being the bride fitting to His desire.** Spiritual **wife-swapping** is hiding behind the **veil** of Christianity instead of being **prepared as a bride, fitting** to God.

Christianity is a covenant **God** initiated and **we** agree to (or not) ⇨ John 3:16. No one can redefine His covenant and still receive His benefits. As God tore His veil for intimacy with us ⇨ Luke 23:45, so we must tear our veil for intimacy with Him ⇨ Joel 2:13. We have no inherent good ⇨ Romans 5:8; so what does God look **inside the bride** for?

God wants a bride with a heart on fire for **Him** and **Him alone**. **Not** a heart just to do deeds but a heart for **His person**. *Christian service as a primary motivation is idolatry*, as is duty to religiosity, to morality, hunger and thirst for signs and wonders, and even a life goal of the fruit of the Spirit... all idolatry, **IF** He doesn't find **Himself inside His bride**.

Many Christians believe all we have to do is get the Gospel to every nation, and then Jesus will return ⇨ Matthew 24:14; that is not complete. It is **not** information distribution Jesus died for, but rather people more consumed with Him than everything else in life... *including obedience* (which is being a Pharisee). Pharisees saved the day when Scripture was under attack; their error came in making the Bible a god instead of God being God.

The Bible **is** God's Word ⇨ 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Jesus **is** God's Word become flesh ⇨ John 1:1-18, and Jesus came to say He **is** coming back for **the ultimate bride: you?** Your veil will soon be gone! What will God find **inside the bride (you)? Be filled with Him.** ♥