

Dr. Ernest Martin's Home Study Course: Lesson 5

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped Home Study Course made between 1977-98 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin Ph.D. Former Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

HOME BIBLE STUDY LESSON 5 PROPHECY – CHRIST'S MARRIAGES

The Bible is made up of two themes, history and prophecy. We look forward to the fulfillment of the promises given to us. Nobody has received or inherited them, but that time is coming.

Acts 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

This verse is a proof of God, as He is the only One who knows the beginning from the end of all things. 1 Corinthians 15 is also a proof of God's power and the historical fact of Christ's death and resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: 5 And that he was seen of Cephas (Peter), then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me (Paul) also, as of one born out of due time. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

The Apostles were inspired by Christ to preach the concrete evidence as witnessed by so many of the reality and fact of the death and resurrection of our Saviour. There was rock solid evidence of these events, as there were so many witnesses. They were also inspired to preach the Gospel of Salvation for all, and the fact that His resurrection would be the certain foundation of our future resurrection also.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and

remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Notice that the dead in Christ will rise first, although this is a fact, there will only be a split second between the resurrection of the dead who have been dead for years, hundreds or even thousands of years, and those who are alive at the time of Christ's return who will be caught up into the clouds to join that throng to begin our eternal lives in and with Christ.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

The Earth is destined to become the 'footstool' of God and His Son, their headquarters from which the Universe will be ruled by them together with those who have been given the gift of Eternal Life to reign with them for ever.

Revelation 21:22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Many things are thought to have happened according to the Scriptures, and indeed they have, and many also have a future fulfillment. Isaiah 13 and 14 depict some such events, as also in Jeremiah 52. Babylon is to rise again to become a world power before the second advent, and then to be finally destroyed again.

Ezekiel calls Jerusalem the centre of the Earth at the time in the future when once again David will reign as King over God's people and His children in the Millennium.

Ezekiel 37:24 And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. 25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. 26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 28 And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

But before this happens, a false Kingdom will suddenly appear, one that looks just like the Kingdom of God, that seems to have all the credentials, even setting up and enforcing the rule of God's Laws, the Sabbaths, and Holy Days, Dietary Laws, etc., and will last for three and a half years.

Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Prophecies of Ezekiel indicate that a new Nebuchadnezzar will arise and so will ten kings or nations in the region of Mesopotamia, the Euphrates and Egypt, not in Europe as some suggest. A new world order will begin to be established in the area of Iraq and Iran, and other kingdoms. Jerusalem is still the centre of the world of the Bible.

Everything future will centre around that geographical location. The country of Israel with its population of Israelites, Jews, and Arabs will continue to be the focus of attention in world news. Many religious groups believe that Russia will invade Palestine before Christ's returns. Russia will not invade Palestine or Israel before the establishment of the Kingdom of God. Gog and Magog or Meshech are not Russia or Moscow. The events of Ezekiel 38 do not happen until the end of the Millennium.

A new Elijah will arise as it is prophesied in Malachi.

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord

Matthew 17:10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? 11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

The two witnesses, types of Moses and Elijah, as Priests will be witnessing to the world during the time of the Tribulation.

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, (3½ years) clothed in sackcloth.

The two witnesses will not wear the garb of religious hierarchy, or the 'fish' hats of the bishops.

When the Beast and the False Prophet ascend to power, there will have to be a Temple for them to usurp this position of standing in the Holy Place. The new Temple will be built on Mount Moriah, on the Mount of Olives, near the Dome of the Rock, perhaps only a hundred meters North. It will be a very beautiful building built over the very spot where Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac.

There would be a worldwide uprising of Moslems if the Dome of the Rock was demolished, and would cause universal Jihad.

We, members of the ecclesia, are not and will not be involved with the Temple when it is built, as we are now *in type* at the right hand of the Father in Heaven in His Holy Temple in Heaven.

Ephesians 2: 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us

together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

This false Kingdom will mimic the Kingdom of God so well that it will deceive almost all the inhabitants of the Earth into believing that Christ has arrived. Only the Ecclesia will not be fooled, and some will go through the Tribulation and be killed, but the Corporate Body of Christ will not die, they will be protected.

How can true Christians absolutely know that this personage in the Temple is not the real Christ?

1. The first person to sit in the future Temple will NOT be Christ Jesus.
2. If I have a human body, the person sitting in the Temple is NOT Christ.
3. If I have not been resurrected from the dead, it is NOT Christ.
4. If I have not been caught up into the clouds with Christ, it is NOT Christ.

There needs to be no doubt whatsoever in our minds. No matter how much it might seem that Christ has come, He has NOT come if we are human.

There will be no second born in the Kingdom, only Firstborn, those who are in Christ and will partake of His rank of being the Firstborn Son of God.

1 Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have **all** men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

God has Willed that ALL people will be saved, and therefore that is what will eventually happen, all in their order, and at the time appointed by God.

The Tree of Life is an Almond Tree, as was Aaron's Rod that budded. It is the first tree to blossom, and produce the show of new life. Christ was sacrificed on that Tree which represented Life.

Things in the Bible are couched in symbolic terms, but they are also tangible and real at the same time. As we study, we need to search out the meaning of symbolic words and symbols and the reality they depict.

Our being part of the Body of Christ is a mystery. The Lord's Supper taking of the wine and the bread were symbolic of His blood and His body. They were symbolic yes, but we can also in reality **in type** be a part of the life to

come on the same Almond Tree the Christ was crucified on, and was afterward resurrected.

Why are Human Beings on this Earth? To become part of God, His human children are to become joint heirs with Christ in His Body, which is the Ecclesia.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

It takes billions of years for light to travel from one side of the Milky Way to the other. The enormity of the Universe is well beyond the imagination of a human mind. There is one resurrection but there are different glories.

1 Corinthians 15:40 There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

As the stars and planets are all different, we will have individuality in the Kingdom. Salvation depends upon Christ, and our future position will depend to a degree upon our 'works', silver and gold, or hay and wood and stubble. We need to make our foundation secure, and our Foundation is Christ, and the durability and the quality of our part of the 'building' depends somewhat on what we do with our talents.

This 'labour' is absolutely nothing to do with the 'works' of the Law, but it is about the parable of the talents, where Christ was very clear that He expects us to be productive with the talents He has given us.

Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside

them five talents more. 21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Heavenly rewards, yes, and terrestrial rewards and gifts on Earth, yes!! The reward for those who respond to the gifts and talents given to them by Christ will be to be in the first resurrection and to have a position in the Kingdom of God ruling with Christ in the Millennium.

1 Corinthians 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Those in Christ who have put their abilities and talents to good use will be in the Kingdom of God. Those who have neglected to use their talents will miss out on this reward for living a productive life, and have to wait until a later time for Salvation.

In the Old Testament it tells of how Christ 'married' Israel, and then divorced them because of their physical and spiritual adultery with 'other gods'.

The Prophets make it very clear that Israel, the 'wife' of YHWH, throughout history consistently committed idolatry both physically and spiritually by worshipping other gods in ways which were both heinous and ungodly.

Isaiah 50:1 Thus saith the Lord, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.

Jeremiah 3:8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

We can only imagine the distress and pain that YHWH went through when He had to say: I am not your God, and you are not my people. God indeed does have feelings, and He has gone through pain and suffering like all parents do as their children are nurtured into adulthood.

Hosea the Prophet was instructed by God to take a wife of whoredoms, a prostitute, to make the point very clearly that Israel and Judah had committed adultery against God countless times over thousands of years.

Hebrews 8:8 For **finding fault with them**, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: 9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

When Christ returns, He will again 'marry' Israel. This will occur after a suitable period of giving Israel time to come to realize their former behaviour towards their Creator and their rejection of Him as their Saviour, and repent.

After Christ's return, Israelites and 'Jews' whether descendants of Judah or not, will have to come to realize that they have a lot to deal with and repent of as both they and their forebears throughout history consistently rejected God and His loving attempts to deal with them as His wife, and some who eventually said:

Matthew 27:25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

Orthodox 'Jews' will need to come to realize that their public religious lives are obnoxious to God.

That bobbing and mumbling hour after hour in public is exactly what Christ was talking about when He said:

Matthew 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. 7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Matthew 23:5 But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

The strange garb that is worn by those in Jerusalem to this day, the black robes and the black hats identify the religious Jews to all. The Kippah, is the little circle of cloth can be worn conveniently under a street hat. It is still the practice of many Orthodox Jewish men to wear a head covering throughout the day, not just during prayer. One tradition holds that a Jewish man should not walk more than four cubits in any direction with an uncovered head. They wear their hair with side curls which is supposed by some to be an indication of piety and spirituality. Their traditions are still part of what separates them from true Christianity.

Zechariah 13:4 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the (false) prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive:

The orthodox Jews wear garments that represent piety to most people, but they are not following Christ or His Holy Bible, they regard the 'doctrines of men', and their precious traditions they get from Talmudic sources as more important.

Matthew 15: 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Christ was totally disparaging about the religious leaders of the day, and His Word is equally clear about how He feels about them now.

Matthew 15:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

It is an awesome responsibility to teach others.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Jews deny the Lord that bought them, and so do those who call themselves Christians and deny the sacrifice of Jesus by continuing in vain partial attempts to keep the old Law.

2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. 15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.

Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. 14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

The West wall in Jerusalem is one place where they still practice their public prayers.

Matthew 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Christ 'married' Israel, the people that He had chosen to represent His way of life and living. But the children of Israel continuously committed both physical and spiritual adultery with false other gods, with heinous practices, many based on sex and violence, so Christ divorced them.

But eventually in due time, Christ will once again take Israel and Judah to Himself, once again call them His people, and marry them.

Hosea 1:9 Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God. 10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.

Marriage is a sacred sacrament now being dragged through the mire by those who flaunt their sexual orientation and preference for single sex 'marriages'.

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

A husband and wife are 'one flesh', and in order for God's children to be 'one' with Christ, in due time He will 'marry' them all.

Matthew 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Originally it was only Israel that had an intimate relationship with YHWH, or Christ, the possibility of Salvation, until the Gentiles were 'grafted' in.

Romans 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. 15 For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? 16 For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; 18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou

bearest not the root, but the root thee. 19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. 20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: 21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. 22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. 23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? 25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until** the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

The Paul explains to the Ephesians who were Gentiles, that due to Christ's life, His circumcision, all Gentiles are now seen by God as circumcised in heart, and as such are no longer 'strangers'.

Ephesians 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye (Gentiles) were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

'Israel', that is all the descendants of the twelve tribes of Jacob whose name was changed to Israel, are still 'blinded' to the truth. They will have to wait until the 'fulness of the Gentiles be come in' before they will be given the opportunity to enter the New Covenant that Christ has prepared for His currently divorced 'wife'.

But Christ is 'married' now, not to Israel, but *in type* to His Ecclesia, His group that he has been building since He made the announcement to His disciples that He would.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, (a tiny pebble!) and upon this Rock (Me, the Rock that guided Israel in the wilderness) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

How misunderstood that statement of Christ has been over the centuries, perverted by the suggestion that Christ would put the building of his 'church' into the hands of mere men!

The Restoration of all things is coming. Christ has only been married to one wife at any one time. Once we become resurrected and fully in Him, in the Millennium He will once again 'marry' physical Israel, and be their 'husband'.

Revelation 19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

