

THE DIVINE ROMANCE

*I love thee Jesus
And thy love to me
Draws me ever to seek thee
And run after thee
Draws me ever to seek thee and run after thee*

The Bible is a romance. Have you ever heard this before? Although this may at first sound strange, if you enter into the deep thought of the Bible you will realize that the Bible is a romance, in the most holy sense, of a universal couple.

The male of this couple is God Himself. And the female of this couple consists of God's redeemed people throughout the ages.

Spoken by the Prophets

Several times in the Old Testament God referred to Himself as the Husband and to His people as His wife: "Turn O backsliding children, for I am married unto you" (Jer. 3:14); ... "I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; and I was a Husband unto them"(Jer. 31:32). Isaiah declares, "For thy Maker is thy husband; the LORD of hosts is his name (54:5); and in Hosea, "I will betroth thee unto me in lovingkindness and in mercies" (2:19). Such verses testify that God, although He is almighty, nevertheless desires to be a husband to His people.

In the Song of Songs

The Song of Songs is a unique book. No other book in the Bible describes so well the intimate relationship between God and His people. The bride's love for her bridegroom is beautifully expressed: "let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth"; "He brought me to the banqueting house and His banner over me was love; "My beloved is mine and I am his". His response to her is even more touching: "Behold, thou art fair my love"; "Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb". "thou art beautiful, O my love...comely as Jerusalem". Surely these verses reveal God's heart – a union with His people in perfect love.

In the four Gospels we see a continuation of this divine romance. John the Baptist told his followers: "He that has the Bride is the Bridegroom", referring to Christ. And Jesus asked His followers: "Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them?" Each of the four gospels presents Christ as the bridegroom coming for the bride.

In the New Testament Epistles

In the New Testament Christ and the church are clearly portrayed as husband and wife. To the believers in Corinth Paul writes, "I have espoused you to one husband that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (2 Cor. 11:2).

Perhaps the strongest portion of the Bible showing this marriage union is in Ephesians. Christ as the husband and the church as the wife are thoroughly revealed. As the Husband, Christ “loved the church, and gave Himself for her.” His tender feeling of love and care for His wife, the church, is also seen in verse 29 – “For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church.” Such verses convey the reality of the spiritual union between Christ and the church.

In the Book of Revelation

Finally, in the book of Revelation Christ is unveiled as having a wedding: “let us rejoice and exult, and let us give glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready” (19:7). The enjoyment of this special feast is a loving reward for His people who have prepared themselves for His return.

The entire revelation of the Bible, then, shows us the love story of a universal couple. In its final book, it says, “And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come!...and let Him who is thirsty, come; let him who wills take the water of life freely” (Revelation 22:17) .

Condensed from messages
in Romans and Exodus