

Called, Chosen, and Faithful

by Brian Convery, 9/07

As we approach the festivals of the 7th month our thoughts can be filled with a tremendous amount of speculation and anticipation as to the four specified times of meeting (moedim), or as they are commonly referred to as, “festivals” which take place during it. As we are aware these specific times of meeting before God are delineated in His word in Leviticus 23 as well as other locations.

We are all familiar with the fact that these days start on the first day of the 7th month as determined by Gods New Moon/Abib calendar. Trumpets, which is the first of the four, starts on the day of the new crescent being seen in Israel. That is how a month starts in Gods instruction on such things to the faithful. This is one of Gods enduring signs to us for keeping accurate time. It falls under the promise which Christ Himself gave us to never leave nor forsake us for He is the same yesterday (old covenant), today (new covenant), and forever (the kingdom). In fact these new moons are one of the 5 specific concerns Paul instructs us about in Colossians 2:16-17.

“Therefore let no one judge you in food, or drink, or regarding a festival day, or a new moon, or Sabbaths which are a foreshadow of things to come, ‘therefore’ [alla #235] the ‘body as a whole’ [soma #4983] is of Christ.”

In verse 18 we are cautioned about anyone defrauding us of our reward based on these truths mentioned above. There were agents of the angel of light working over time during those days to convince the called of God that they could eat anything they wished and that the entirety of first covenant instructions were done away with. It is still the same today folks.

Those who are of the body of Christ will understand about new moons, festivals, Sabbaths, food and drink and many other simple truths of God and should not be swayed to fall away from the very clear instructions given to us, to the false humility of a worthless worship of the angel of light.

What I am going to review today will not be covering any of those specifics in any great detail for we have done that often in the past individually and collectively and each of us are to seek out our own salvation. What I will be covering today is a review of a process, which is very important to Gods plan of salvation and the building of Their family as depicted in the foreshadowing plan of the reality to come.

The events surrounding the feast of Trumpets remind us of a vital part of it. A brief review of this day tells us why God named it Teruwah (#8643). The BDB tells us that the Hebrew word has two uses; “shout or blast; of war, alarm, or joy.” It becomes obvious in which manner it is to be used when we study the events and prophecies surrounding this particular day. Most of us are also aware that these blasts on a trumpet on the annual holy days or moedim of God are outlined in Numbers 10. There we read that the trumpets being used and referenced throughout are the **2 silver trumpets** (v:2). This chapter in Numbers outlines when they are to be blown. There are many functions listed but the 3 we are concerned with in regard to why God calls the first day of the 7th month the blowing of trumpets are; 1) when Israel was to go to war, 2) an annual feast day, and 3) the day of a new moon. Once again these are just three of the many reasons listed in Numbers 10 for the blowing of these silver trumpets. They are simple to remember. The first day of the 7th month is 1) a new moon day, 2) a joyous festival day, and 3) a day in which Christ will return to make war on the nations gathered to do so against Him.

We are told in Lev. 23:24 that this day is a memorial of blowing of trumpets. It is **not a memorial of shouting**, as some would have us believe. That takes away the importance assigned to the day by God. The Hebrew word translated as memorial is *zikrowni* #2146 in Strong’s. It means, “memorial thing, day or writing,” from #2142 *zakar*; “remember as in recall or call to mind.” (BDB)

One of the events of this day, which we are to call to mind, to remember, is found in Rev. 19:11-21. In these scriptures we see Christ, the Word of God, appearing in the heavens to wage war with the nations of the earth, which oppose Him. Matthew 24:27 tells us, His coming will be seen by all for it will be as lightning comes flashing from the east to the west, of the expanse of the heavens. The trumpet of war will be blown long and loud on that day. Rev 19:14 tells us,
“and the armies in heaven clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses”.

Verses 7 and 8 identify who these folks are. They are those who comprise Christ’s wife, His body as a whole. They are those who have qualified to occupy that very important function in the family of God. She has made herself ready and thus she was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean, and bright, for the fine linen is her righteous acts. She is of His flesh and of His bone and they have become one. She is the second Eve just as much as He is the second Adam.

There are some who claim this can’t be the case for she would not be married until after the feast of Trumpets. Of course this is based on their traditions and not the word of God. They say those returning with Christ on Trumpets are angels and not the saints who have qualified to be the bride.

Without getting into a long discourse on that point all we have to do is turn over a few pages in the scriptures to get the biblical answer as to who these folks are who are with Christ. This is simply recalling the word of God. The chronology of the events in Rev 19 is simple and clear to me as long as I don’t cloud it with the traditions of men and organizations of men. If we turn to Rev. 17 we find another chapter explaining to us a chronology of events. In verse 14 we read the following,

“These will make war with the Lamb, [the ten kings mentioned in the preceding verses] and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings, and those with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Have we ever read of the process of being called, chosen, and faithful being applied to angels anywhere in the scriptures of God? The answer is clear and so is the identity of whom it is who returns with Christ on the feast of Trumpets. For on this first day of the seventh month the scriptures clearly and repeatedly tell us that the bride of Christ will return with Him to make war on the nations. It is her first official function at her husband’s side. Those who follow the tradition that she will not even be resurrected until after this day need to get back to the bible on their own and read all the simple patterns as to this reality. We have done so often and they are outlined in great detail in many of the studies we have on line with “Pentecost and all its Fullness” being of primary importance.

One of the signs of spiritual Israel is that she will be clothed with the sun (or brightness thereof) and has the new moon under her feet. Just think what an incredible sight that will be. The wife of Christ at her husband’s side returning to make war with Him on those who have persecuted her and her seed. The scriptures of God refer to her as being “called, chosen, and faithful.” Have we given that a lot of thought? I think many of us have for that is the reward we are striving for. Do not confuse that with the gift of salvation. We do not earn salvation. We receive it as a gift from God. Yes, we do have to be obedient to the Father and to the Son to receive it, but all the same, it is a gift bestowed by God. God will not give this gift of salvation to those who are rebellious. We however do not earn it for we are all supposed to be obedient to God period. God does not have to bestow this gift on anyone They do not wish to. Obedience is expected of us. This is all part of the plan of salvation. The household of God contains many functions and responsibilities. The function of father or patriarch is already filled, as is the function of the son and all its related responsibilities. What is being filled at this time is the function of the wife of Christ. Our purpose in the plan at this time is to be qualifying to occupy that function with all its related responsibilities. To do exactly that is a reward, which goes far beyond the gift of salvation, beyond eternal life. It is a very vital function in the family plan itself. It is very difficult to attain but that is the very reason we have been called at this time. How do we know this?

Matthew 22:1-14 tells us about the wedding supper of the Son of God and those who will be chosen to be

the bride. “And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son and sent out his servants [prophets] to call those who were invited to the wedding [OT Israel], and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants [prophets], saying tell those who are invited [Judah], see I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready, come to the wedding. But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them [Judaism]. But when the king heard, he was furious. And he sent out his armies [Rome], destroying those murderers, and burned up their city [Jerusalem]. Then he said to his servants [Apostles], the wedding is ready, but those who were invited [Israel as a whole and then just Judah] were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways [Gentile nations], and as many as you find, invite to the wedding. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all whom they found, both bad [gentiles] and good [Israel]. And the wedding was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment [righteous acts]. So he said to him, friend [not enemy] how did you come in here without a wedding garment and he was speechless. Then the king said to his servants, bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few chosen.”

Verse 14 sums up this process, “For many are called, but few chosen.”

Yes, it is a difficult qualifying process. This process transcends salvation. It goes beyond the gift. It is a reward for being **faithful** unto our vows to Christ. He shed His life for us. He is our Passover Lamb. Not all will share in the depth of that. There are some who will utterly reject anything to do with being obedient to God let alone going beyond simple obedience, and they will be mercifully terminated as scripture so clearly defines.

When thinking of the process of qualifying to be the bride of Christ one must remember many things. We have received much instruction and wisdom from the scriptures to that end.

One of the very vital lessons of Passover is found in Exodus 12:3-4. “Speak to all the congregation of Israel [not some mucky-mucks], saying: On the tenth of the month [abib] every man [individually done] shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor [prophetic of the gentiles being called to it] next to his house take according to the number of the persons; according to each man’s needs you shall make your count for the lamb.”

What an incredible spiritual lesson we are given here. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of the father’s house. We understand that there was to be no flesh left to the morning following the Passover meal of that night. It was to be completely consumed. Exodus 12:10 tells us so. It is clear that there was to be a number of partakers sufficient to see this was so. That is not just a physical command but a spiritual one as well. There is a set number who will comprise those who will completely internalize the body of the Lamb of God. It will be their focus and goal in life. That my friends is exactly the process taking place at this time in the plan of salvation and the building of the family of God. This particular time frame we find ourselves called in is for the perfecting of the bride, those who are part of the whole body of Christ under the terms of the second covenant, for there were not enough who qualified to do so under the terms of the first covenant with physical Israel. So now a second is in place to complete the number required. Now the highways are being searched to do so. The house of the gentiles are invited as well as some of the dispersed of Israel until that number is complete and then God’s focus returns to physical Israel as the feast of Tabernacles depicts.

Now all this is not just about being called and chosen as much as those are vitally important to the process. It is about being faithful to the very end.

When we talk about such things there are some who get offended. That’s unfortunate for them for it shows a lot of immaturity on their part. Why do I say this? Because they throw out accusations towards us such as exclusionists, uppity, and self-righteous. They obviously do not comprehend or recognize that God is the author

of the words and the process depicted in Matt 22:14, “Many are called but few chosen”. Thus they are very immature in their accusations and understanding. In time they will know differently. But for the present those who do understand the process should and will be serving them as well as all others.

There is a set number for the Lamb of God at this time in the process of building the family. That is a simple fact supported by the scriptures. God reveals to us the qualifying resume of the bride in Proverbs 31:10-31. This is a resume for the bride of Christ. It explains the necessary qualifying conduct and attributes the wife must possess. Remember the wife is also to be a mother in the household. Verse 29 tells us, “Many daughters have done well but you excel them all.” I wonder if this fits the category of exclusionist and uppity and self-righteous? I bet they wouldn’t call God that even though these are His words.

It is not a put down to not qualify to be the bride in the family of God. However it can and will be a disappointment. But be absolutely clear about this, it is not a gift, but a **reward** for excelling in the attributes necessary to function in those responsibilities. It is as Rev. 19:7 says, “and His wife has made herself ready.” And in verse 8, “for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” We are not rewarded for doing what is expected of us. We are rewarded for exceeding that, for going beyond the expectation of being obedient to God.

Lets read some of the things God says are expected of a virtuous wife. God starts the resume out with a question. Proverbs 31:10. “Who can find a virtuous wife?”

It goes far beyond being called, it goes beyond being chosen as we will see later on from a first covenant example. It encompasses being completely faithful to our Husband in all things. God continues through verse 11. “For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.”

We have got to come to grips with that very clear statement. Our husband expects us to use what we have been given to produce for Him. That applies to every single one of us. He is trusting in us to do so. The King of creation is telling us that. What could be so valuable about those who will be chosen to occupy the function of the wife in the family of God? The answer should be coming clearer to us each and every day of this life’s struggle. What is the main function of a marriage between a man and a woman?

Gen. 1:28, “Then God blessed them and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.”

The bride of Christ will be used to create and fill what? It will no longer be limited to the earth!

Rev 22:17 declares to all who read it, “And the spirit and the bride say come! And the one hearing let him affirm come. And whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Oh yes, she will be very busy in the act of expanding the family of God just as a wife’s responsibility of being one with her husband should be.

Romans 8:19 tells us that, “the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly awaits for the revealing of the sons of God.”

Creation didn’t start and stop with this earth and with mankind. So what sons are we talking about here?

Verse 17, “and if children, then heirs-heirs of God [that’s the Father] and joint (or co heirs) with Christ.”

Its very clear it is talking about the bride here. The potential responsibilities are staggering to think about. So yes, her husband’s heart safely trusts her to see those responsibilities through.

Proverbs 31 also tells us, “she rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and a portion for her maidservants.”

Now just imagine that. She has a sense of humility and a work ethic that goes far beyond the norm. God

continues to tell us, that she clothes her family with the very best she can, even making it with her own 2 hands when necessary. She is very prosperous and busy feeding the household good food in and out of season. She doesn't restrict her activities to an 8 to 5 time frame but provides as need arises. She doesn't look down her nose at anyone in the household but cares and provides for them all as best she can. So does it stop there with the basics of cooking, cleaning, clothing, etc.?

Not at all!

She is very industrious outside of the household as each and ever one of us should be. Verses 16-20, "She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength and strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good and her lamp does not go out by night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy." Here we see she not only provides for her own household but for those outside of it as well. This is something we should focus on from both the physical and spiritual perspectives.

Verse 27, "She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness."

These are resounding lessons, which should be blowing loudly in all our ears. There is much more she does here in this incredible resume of the bride of Christ, which we can all read for ourselves. But this is the reason why her husband tells her, "Many daughters [children of God] have done well but you excel them all."

He sums this up by telling us, "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Yes, she has made herself ready; she has clothed herself in righteous acts. She is faithful and true and her worth is far above rubies. The Son of God will proclaim her virtue and value from the gates of heaven for all to hear and see.

So with this understanding what does it mean to be called, chosen, and faithful as stated in Rev. 17:14? I think proverbs 31:10-31 has given us a very good start to understand what it means to be deemed faithful. Of course that is in reference to qualifying to fulfill the role of Christ's faithful wife. That goes far beyond the basics of what is required for the gift of salvation. To a great extent that is covered in what it is to be called. The process for the bride is much more entailed and is a 3-part process starting with the calling of the Father. The Greek used here in Rev 17:14 is #2822 *kletos*. Strong's says it is from the same as #2821; "invited, ie appointed, or specifically a saint."

Vine's says of it; "an adjective meaning called or invited."

Every single human being will have the opportunity of being called to salvation, but not all at this time and not all to be the bride. The calling at this time is not the general call to salvation in any sense of the meaning. It is for a very specific function to be performed in the family of God before the expansion of that family can continue.

So who does this calling/inviting?

Remember Matt 22, the parable of the wedding. Here we see a father who was a king inviting many different people to his sons wedding. But most were not willing to come due to one reason or excuse after another. This didn't deter the father however, for he continued to seek out and invite others whom were willing to attend. Here we see a parable about the first and second covenant participants.

Now once it was filled, things were to proceed.

However, prior to the wedding commencing, the father came in and inspected the guests and saw one individual without a wedding garment on (righteous acts). So the father had him cast out. He then says, many are called but few chosen.

There is a lot here folks. The word translated called here is the same as in Rev. 17:14 used of those who accompany Christ on Trumpets. But lets briefly acknowledge something here first about this “calling” or “inviting”. It is directly tied to those who were invited to the wedding as GUESTS and then being chosen. Did we get that? Chosen for what? Many of the guests did not know they were being invited for any other reason than to witness to and celebrate the marriage of the son. That is why so many refused to come. They didn’t think it was important enough to do so.

Have you ever wondered why there is no mention of a bride here in this parable? That seemed odd to me until I understood that there was a much bigger lesson being taught here than just being a guest at a wedding. You see, it is from these guests that the bride is chosen! This calling, this inviting, should take on a much deeper sense of commitment and understanding. There are those who will wake up to it in time and those who will not. Accepting the calling or invitation as a “guest” is only the first step to being chosen by the Son as His bride. It is from this pool of His Father’s invitees that the Son will actually choose His wife. Remember John 6:65. “And He said, Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by my Father.”

As Matt 22 clearly tells us many will not even take up that calling and that is why the wedding has not taken place yet, and that is why Christ has not yet returned, for the number of the count of the bride is not yet complete. The invitations are still going out. When the choosing is completed and the count of the faithful who have qualified is complete then Christ their husband will return for them. Once again our study entitled, “Pentecost and all its Fullness” goes into a lot of biblical detail as to that day and what leads up to it. We have covered a lot of this in the past and it is important to remember it, to bring it to mind, to recall it often and especially as we approach Trumpets, for it is at that time the bride will be carrying out her first official function with her husband. So yes, we are called to be saints, those who will be clothed in fine linen, washed and set apart with the washing of the water of His word, so that we can be presented to Him having no spot or wrinkle or any such blemish. It is a process. It isn’t just lip service as many today profess. It is a lot of hard work from the heart. It is all about love and service to the members of the household of God and to those outside of it as well.

The picking and choosing is to be done by the Father and the Son. We are to go about our business of qualifying in a most unpretentious way. To most it will come as a complete surprise. Remember Matt 25:37-40. “Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink, or a stranger and take you in, or naked and clothe you, or sick or in prison and come to you?”

It is a way of life, a dedication, not just to family but to others as well. Christ told us that even a sinner loves his own. That is the easy part of the process or at least it should be. But in this day and age that is even getting more difficult to find, for many are giving into the dark spirit of Satan and manifesting his spiritual sickness of dominion in all things and over others. Man and woman were not commissioned to have dominion one over the other at creation. Gen 1:28, “... have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Who was to do this? “Then God blessed THEM and God said to THEM, be fruitful and multiply; fill all the earth [after their own kind] and subdue it.”

They were to do all this jointly, together.

The dominion deception of Satan, of one trying to dominate the other, came in after Adam and Eve sinned together. One of the declared results of their sin of those delineated by God in Gen 3 is found in verse 16. “Your desire shall be toward your husband and he shall rule over you.”

Marriage has thus evolved into a contest of wills between a man and a woman with so many being shattered

and the resulting destruction of the family. Brethren the love of many is waxing cold.

We must remain true and faithful to our calling. We have accepted the invitation to attend. We must prepare our garments so we are acceptable to be there and conduct ourselves in this calling and in this life to be acceptable to Christ as His faithful bride.

When we first accept the calling of the Father unto His son we are fragile and tender in our understanding and ability to feed ourselves let alone another. We are but babes in Christ. But we are expected to grow and mature in His teachings and understanding or in other words in His grace and knowledge. He gives us the room to grow or not to grow, as well as giving us the necessary help.

We have often covered Hebrews 5:12-13 and 6:1-3. These verses describe this process of growth. We are to be weaned from the milk of the word and move on to eating solid food through “reason of use having our senses exercised to discern both good and evil”. We do not depend on a benefactor to discern for us. Eve fell for that one. We are to draw close to Christ the second Adam who has left us all the instructions we need in the bible. It is He who feeds us. At the beginning we need the assistance of other members of the body, of the family. That is where the virtuous bride comes in. Remember her resume. She works all hours to feed and cloth the household. She is not careless in carrying out these responsibilities and in no way shape or form turns the babes attention to herself and away from Christ. She is very cognizant of whose household she is caring for. She assists the growth process so others can in turn be able to do exactly the same. She teaches how to have a one on one relationship with Christ and the Father. Once this happens something special takes place. It is at this time in the process that the Son decides it is time to go beyond the milk of the word, to go beyond just being a guest. Heb 6:3 tells us they are granted to move beyond. They become aware of the awesome purpose they were called to, the true understanding that they are not just guests at the wedding but have the opportunity and privilege to actually be the bride and wife in the household of God. This is a critical moment in the life of the saints. It is a time of being chosen. Once this reaches this stage in the process there is no turning back. Hebrews 6:4-6 brings this to the forefront in very simple as well as very stark terms.

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the holy spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.”

Brethren these words do not apply to those who are yet babes in Christ but to those who have been enlightened to the fullness of their calling and who have accepted it. There comes a time in our relationship with Christ that we are chosen by Him to move forward in the qualifying process and the Father grants His Sons request. There is a tremendous amount of personal responsibility expected of us at that time and for the balance of our physical lives. It is then that we truly grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Husband, and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a one-time opportunity and by the grace of God we are called to it for whatever reason the Father has determined.

Once again, remember this is not about the gift of salvation but about the reward of being chosen to be the wife in the household of God. It will not happen unless we meet the requirements of the job description and responsibilities. They are laid out in the resume of the virtuous wife of Proverbs 31 as well as elsewhere throughout scripture. Remember Prov. 31 says she always does her husband good and not evil. She is completely trustworthy. She would never put her beloved husband to an open shame knowingly. This choosing by Christ is a very special event. The Greek word used for “chosen” in this sense is #1588 *eklektos*. Strong’s says of it; “from 1586; select, by implication favorite.”

Vine’s says of it; “an adjective akin to A, #1 (*eklego*) to pick out, select, means in the middle voice, to choose

for oneself, not necessarily implying the rejection of what is not chosen, but choosing with the subsidiary ideas of kindness or favor or love.”

Isn't that explanation found in Vine's incredible when we remember what God says about this choosing process in Proverbs 31, “many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.” **There is no put down in any part of the process.** It is all about qualifying to be chosen by Jesus Christ to be His wife for eternity. God tells us some daughters did well but not well enough. Being called at this time in the plan of salvation is the greatest honor which could be bestowed on any man or woman. Just think, it is God the Father making that call, He makes the determination. If I read the scriptures correctly as to this time frame during the second covenant, it has nothing to do with us having been more righteous than any other. In fact we are told in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 what was in the Father's mind in relation to calling us to his Son. From the Interlinear Bible.

“For you see your calling brothers, that there are not many wise according to the flesh, nor many powerful, not many wellborn. [that parallels the timeline of Matt 22] But God chose the foolish things of the world that the wise might be put to shame, and God chose the weak things of the world so that He might put to shame the strong things. And God chose the lowborn of the world, and the things having been despised, and the things that are not, so that He might bring to nothing the things that are; so that no flesh might glory in His presence. But of Him, you are in Christ Jesus, who was made to us wisdom from God, both righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that even as it has been written, he that glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

Brethren, it is absolutely apparent that there is no vanity in our calling. Here the Father makes it abundantly clear we were nothing to crow about. But that is to change if we follow through to the end of the process. We will actually be used as an example of His righteousness and a reason for God to be praised. This kind of reminds me of the child's story about the ugly duckling. When I read these scriptures I think to myself we just might be dumb enough to believe that we will be happy obeying the Father's household rules and respecting His son to the point of others seeing what was accomplished in us and glorifying both the Father and the Son for it. We are never to become big in our own eyes. Faithfulness and vanity cannot exist together. One wars against the other. Satan is vain and deceitful while Christ is faithful and true and we are to be of our husband's body. We are to be one with Him.

The Greek word used in this instance of describing the faithfulness of the bride is #4103, *pistos*. Strong's says “it is from 3982; objectively trustworthy; subjectively trustful.”

Vine's says of it; “a verbal adjective akin to *peitho* is used in two senses. A) passive; faithful, to be trusted, reliable. B) active, signifying believing, trusting, and relying.”

We are to be both. We are to be actively believing, trusting, and relying on our husband for He will never leave nor forsake us. We must always be considered by Him to be reliable and trustworthy in our responsibilities to Him and His household. This process of being called, chosen, and faithful is life long. We will be allowed to be tested to see if we hold fast. In Rev. 2:10 we are told to be faithful unto death. It is a lot to think about, a lot to dwell on, and a lot to understand.

We must never turn our backs, or as Hebrews 6:6 calls it “fall away”, from our faithfulness to Christ once we have been granted the privilege and ability to go beyond in the qualifying process. There is a physical example of this spiritual event found in the pages of the first covenant scriptures.

For those of us who understand and believe that the scriptural pattern tells us the wedding supper will convene at Pentecost we have a very sobering example to show us it isn't enough to be called and chosen to attend the wedding supper, but that we must be forever faithful.

In Exodus 24 and in verses 9-11 we read where 74 individuals out of all the millions of Israel were invited to the

sea of glass to partake of the wedding supper of the first covenant. Many were called to Sinai but only a few chosen. Two of these chosen there were Nadab and Abihu. Did they remain faithful?

Lev. 10:1-2, "Then Nadab and Abihu the sons of Aaron, each took his censor and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord."

This is the same Nadab and Abihu who were chosen to eat before God on the sea of glass. So why did they die? Because they became careless and reckless as the result of being drunk and not recognizing right from wrong, clean from unclean, holy from unholy, and then setting a terrible example for all to see.

Verse 8-11, "Then the Lord spoke to Aaron saying: Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them by the hand of Moses."

The bride of Christ, the wife in the family of God, will have the responsibility of teaching the children of the household all that her husband tells her. It is one of her many functions. If she gets careless and reckless in that, if any of those whom comprise the number of the bride become unfaithful to their husband in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, they will be terminated. There will not be given instance to the rise of another Satan the devil. Once he has fulfilled his role of adversary and used in the perfecting of those enrolled in the plan of salvation he will be permanently terminated as scripture tells us. There was a time when he was trusted of God but became wise in his own eyes and very vain. He then deceived many angels into disobeying the rules of the household of God. We have read of these events often in the past with Isa. 14 and Ezek 28 being just a few of the scriptures forming this understanding.

That will not be permitted ever again! God allows Satan to exist at this point in the timeline of the plan of salvation to be used as a tool in our being perfected. We are to overcome him just as our Savior Jesus Christ did while in the flesh. The bride will be tested and proven as to her faithfulness just as the first Eve was but failed. We must let no one come between Christ and ourselves as the first Eve did to the first Adam. It is a difficult task, but with the assistance of our husband we too can do it just as He did with the assistance from the Father.

How do we know this?

1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it."

Yes, both the Father and the Son are working with us to help us to be chosen and to remain faithful.

Brethren when the walls seem to be closing in on us and darkness seems to be surrounding us, remember Romans 8:28.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to purpose."

And what a purpose that is!

Do we see our calling brethren? We at this time are not called to just the free gift of salvation. That is and will be available to all who are obedient to God in its own time. We are called by the Father at this time to qualify to be married to His Son. That is an awesome calling. We need to be enlightened to it and also attempt to enlighten others to it. We must not take our calling lightly. We have been called for an incredible purpose. As we approach Trumpets these are just some of the things we should be calling to mind on the day God calls the feast of blowing of trumpets. It is appropriately called so because it is the only feast day, which encompasses three specific purposes for blowing the silver trumpets: new moon, joyous occasion, and war. The bride of Christ will be returning to the earth with Him on this day in the future having been resurrected at Pentecost, to join Him in the air on the sea of glass, the throne room of God. So much to be thankful for, so much to be responsible for.

It is my belief that 7,000 will be chosen and remain faithful at this the end of the age. It is an age dominated by the attitude of the Laodicean. It isn't hard to understand why when we look around and witness what are our present societal norms. Everywhere we turn there is temptation and occasion to sin. We must not become complacent in our calling. We must hold fast to our Savior. We must overcome the pulls of the flesh as well as Satan the devil. It is one thing to stumble, we can recover from that. But it is a different thing to fall away.

I can't remember any year in which so many trials have befallen those who are on the path to the wedding supper since my calling. Many are enduring personal suffering and challenges. Do not be deceived into thinking these are just by time and chance. Satan is being allowed to touch our lives in very specific ways by God for our own testing, just as he was with Job. This is part of the process of being perfected. Be of good courage and overcome and during these trials do not withdraw within yourself and enroll in the self-pity party brigade. Look to your responsibilities and serve others, whether it is inwardly in prayer or outwardly in some sort of physical assistance. That is how we resist the Devil and then he will flee from us. Our Father and Brother are very trustworthy and reliable, so take up Their offer of continual assistance so that we can look to the future glory that awaits us.

Romans 8:16-17 should always spring to mind when Satan is allowed to test us.

“The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs of God [the Father] and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with**, that we may also be glorified together.

Brethren rejoice to the fullest during the appointed times of meeting with God.

Our peace we give to you.