

“THE FATHER’S PROMISE!”

by Mary Mayko 2006

Ep.6:1-3 LB “Children, obey your parents; this is the right thing to do because God has placed them in authority over you. Honor your father and mother. This is the first of God’s Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. And this is the promise: that if you honor your father and mother, yours will be a long life, full of blessing.”

Think about this! If children honor their parents, God says they will be blessed with a long life! Now we know that people of all ages die, including babies and small children, but we believe these little ones are ushered into the presence of God the Father!

But think about honoring father and mother! That Command seems to have fallen out of favor in our society today! In many homes it is the children that seem to control almost everything at home! Where this is true, chaos reigns!

Prov.29:17 KJV “Correct thy son and he shall give delight unto thy soul.”

When children are obedient and honor their parents, there is a sense of safety and peace. The children do so much better where rules are clearly defined. Even for adults, when we know what is expected of us, it gives us a sense

of direction and accomplishment! Isn’t it wonderful that when we follow God the Father’s instructions, our lives are so much more fulfilling!

Jesus is the perfect example of an obedient Son! Although He was God in the flesh and had the power to do otherwise, he fully submitted to the Father! He knew what pleased His Father, and it was His pleasure to obey!

John 8:29 KJV. “And He that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

If we tell our children what we want them do, and show our love to them, as a rule, most kids will want to please their parents! It is natural to look for approval from our parents. If they are confused about what to expect, and uncertain if they are pleasing their parents, they sometimes rebel! When they feel they are not accepted at home, they will look elsewhere for it, often in dangerous places!

A healthy home has a sense of balance! When there are clear instructions about their behavior and open display of loving father and mother it helps bring a peaceful atmosphere. When a child knows he has violated

known rules, he should be corrected and receive it willingly without dishonoring his parents by sassing them or fighting them over it!

We can be forgiving without condoning wrong doing just as God the Father does with His Children! When our Father forgives us, He does not keep harassing us over them! We must not nag our children by constantly bring up past mistakes to them!

Isa.43:25 KJV “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”

Isa.44:22 LB “I’ve blotted out your sins; they are gone like morning mist at noon! Oh return to me, for I have paid the price to set you free!”

Eph.1:6-8 LB “Now all praise to God for His wonderful kindness to us and His favor that He has poured out upon us, because we belong to His dearly Beloved Son. So overflowing in His kindness to us He took away all our sins through the Blood of His Son by whom we are saved and He has showered down upon us the richness of His grace- for how well He understands us and knows what is best for us at all times.”

How thankful we should be that God the Father has accepted us because of what Christ did on the cross for us!

As parents, we are supposed to know what is best for our children. If we are showing them grace and love as we teach the right ways to live, our children should then honor their parents, thereby not only pleasing their parents, but God the Father as well!

Prov.20:7 KJV “The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.”

Mary Mayko 2006



THE BRIDE

~ By Mary Mayko

Traditionally, June has been known as the month for weddings, but of course, people marry anytime and anyplace! Weddings are exciting events! Most of us have attended Wedding Celebrations and enjoyed the beauty of the Bride, the lovely garments, the flowers, music and elegant tables of food that follows! We often marvel at the artistic creations of the baker who prepared the Wedding cake!

When we attend a wedding as guests, we can relax and enjoy the celebration! Our greatest concerns have been what to wear and what gift we should bring! But for the Bride and Groom and their families, it has

not been so easy! Many plans have been made and many details attended to! Sometimes they had to make changes more than once before they are satisfied with the work involved with this wedding.

As guests, we examine the intricate designs of fine work and love that has gone into preparing the Bridal Gown! This treasured garment! We look in awe at the beautiful jewels that adorn the Bride. She holds a lovely bouquet of flowers in her hands as she gracefully walks down the aisle. Every eye is on the Bride! This is her day! She has made herself ready for her Groom and that thrilling moment has arrived! He awaits her at the altar, his heart beating a little faster than normal! He has waited so long, and now this Beloved is finally really his! She has belonged to him from the moment they pledged their love to each other. It seems her entire life has been spent in preparation for her wedding day! Today, then, is the new beginning they have both longed for! Their time has come for them to be joined together until death will part them!

As I think of Brides, I am reminded of a famous one in the Old Testament named Esther! This lovely young virgin was selected as one of the young ladies to be presented to King Ahasuerus as a possibility of becoming his Queen! Before she could enter his bedchamber, she must go through a year of purifications according to the customs of that time. She would spend six months bathing in fine oils of myrrh and six months of exquisite and expensive perfumed spices. She would be given special garments and selected jewels to wear! She could not go into the king until all the details had been taken care of. The bible says Esther found favor in the eyes of all

who looked upon her! The king loved her above all others and she received kindness and grace from him! He placed a royal crown upon her head!

In the New Testament, Jesus honored weddings and marriage! Not only did he attend weddings, but used both weddings and marriages as examples in some of His Parables! He spoke of the need for proper garments and the right preparations. In Eph.5, He refers to marriage as symbolic of the Church, as His Bride! In the Gospels He calls Himself the groom! Rev.19:7-8 KJV “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him; for the Marriage of the Lamb is come and His Wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.”

The Bride has made herself ready! She is dressed in a spotless garment, white and clean and without wrinkles! Just as all brides prepare for that grand and glorious wedding day, so must the Church today prepare for the Day when our marriage to Christ will join us with Him in a Union that will never be separated by death! We will live with Him forever and ever!

Let us check our Wedding Garments! See if there are any spots or wrinkles, which are bad attitudes and habits, along with being idle! Eph. 5:25-27 KJV “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Let us allow Him to work on our garments until it is acceptable in His eyes. If Esther spent six months with the oils, how much more we need to be bathed in the Holy Spirit! Since she spent six months with the perfumed spices, let us allow the Fruit of the Spirit to grow within us that we might be able to obtain the lovely jewels for the Crown He will present to us! We need to be ready at all times, to have all things placed in proper order, for we do not know our Wedding date with Him! Let us be like the Wise Virgins. Waiting and our lamps full of Oil, even at the Midnight Hour!* We do not want to miss this Greatest Marriage Event, the Wedding of the Lamb!

*** Matt.25:1-13**

Mary Mayko 1984

“THE GOD OF MY SALVATION”

By Rev.J Kehl Golding

“That’s enough of that!” Off goes the Evening News! *What is this world coming to?* LORD! What’s the matter with people? They are so evil anymore, always killing each other!

Does all that sound familiar? Would you believe about 2600 years ago a man posed the following questions?

“How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “violence!” but you do not save. Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me: There is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.” Hab 1:1-4 NIV

Habakkuk lived in the time between the fall of Nineveh (the Capitol of Assyria) in 612 B.C. and the Babylonian invasion of Judah in 586 B.C., a time of violence, killings and warfare.

His Book is a dialogue with God concerning the many questions he had, and that *we have* about corruption and the sinful behavior of man. Most of all, *why wicked men seem to get away with it.* When circumstances around us become unbearable, we wonder, “Where is God!”

The Lord knows our hearts, minds and thoughts concerning Him: look at what He tells Habakkuk in 1:5 NIV “Look at the nations and watch- and be utterly amazed for I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told!”

Then God lays out His plan to use those heathen people, the Babylonians, to bring about His desired purposes. Habakkuk was appalled to think of God using these evil people to correct his Chosen Ones! But He says, “I will stand at my watch, and station myself on the ramparts. I will look to see what he will say to me.” Hab.1:8 NIV

Here is a very important lesson for us, Habakkuk is going to wait and see what God will do. An attitude of expectation, because the One who is in control will do something! As a watchman, he is in the best possible place to receive God’s response. His “Waiting on the Lord” is paying off! The light is breaking through! Hab 2:12-14 NIV “Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by crime! Has not the Lord Almighty determined that the people’s labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

At last Habakkuk understands idolatry is more than bowing down to a statue, saying prayers to an image that neither hears nor sees. It is putting our trust into something we have made, that *we have created*, the product of our own power, *our own little empire!*

This revelation causes him to utter what I believe is the greatest statement of faith recorded in the Word!

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crops fail and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior!” Hab.3:17-18 NIV

Judah may self destruct due to her appetite for sin, no grapes for eating or drinking, not even olives for oil, or symbolically the Holy Spirit, a visitation from God, no food growing in the fields, so starvation is part of my life, yet I will rejoice in Him!

Even more, no animals for meat, none for offering sacrifices in the Temple to free me from my burden of sin, to feel His joy in my soul, yet I will rejoice in the Lord God Almighty! *What about you?* If you lose job security, church fellowship, friends, family, the telephone, even your Bible, do you have a personal relationship with Him that would carry you though? Knowing He is in control of every detail of your life? It is then we can *joy in the God of our Salvation!*

From: “Echoes for Today’s Listening” by Author Rev. J. Kehl Golding