

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, May 1, 2011
The Wedding of the Lamb

Multiple millions of viewers worldwide watched what commentators were calling the wedding of the century as the Royal Family added a new member to their number. Prince William and Kate Middleton were married in a ceremony that brought a sense of wonder. Some estimates had the cost at \$60,000,000. It was truly magnificent. I was amazed at a number of things: The Westminster Abbey Choir with their rich harmonies and the angelic high voices of those young boys; The multitudes in the street cheering and celebrating this momentous occasion as the wedding party drove to the church; and the stately nature of the Royal Family that elicited the awe of the multitudes. The onlookers witnessed royalty. It made me stop and imagine the Wedding of All Eternity.

Marriage was God's idea. When he said it was not good for man to dwell alone and created the woman out of the man, he was making us in his image. We are to be just like him, i.e. a love relationship. Over and over in Holy Writ God speaks of his betrothal to his people. **Isaiah 54:5** *For your Maker is your husband-- the LORD Almighty is his name-- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.* **Jeremiah 2:2** *"Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: 'I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown.' "* The Apostle Paul writes in **2 Corinthians 11:2** *"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him."* Then in **Ephesians 5:21-33** as he is giving instruction on how to have a proper marriage he equates it to how Christ loved the church. Then at the end of this he says,³¹ *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."*³² ***This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church.***³³ *However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband."* The revelation Paul had was that our union to Christ was the grand end of this design.

Revelation 19:5-9 ⁵ *Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"*⁶ *Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns."*⁷ *Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! **For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.***⁸ *Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)*⁹ *Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."* Talk about regal! The King of Kings and Lord of Lords is taking his bride and his Word tells us that we are the Bride of Christ. Praise the Lord! If people stood in awe of the Royal Wedding, what will they think of this one? What do we think of this one?!!! A real angelic choir is going to sing. The ultimate royalty will elicit awe. His bride will be clothed in fine linen. Our lives are to demonstrate our love and devotion. Christ in us wants to manifest himself through us to bring him glory which in turn will go to our Heavenly Father.

Imagine the splendor of this wedding. Just stop to look at his handiwork in creation: The magnitude of the universe is mind blowing. Our solar system is merely one of many in our own galaxy, The Milky Way which is 100,000 light years wide by 1000 light years thick. Our nearest neighboring galaxy is Andromeda and is 2,000,000 light years away from us and there are more beyond that. God created all of this to demonstrate his nature as Romans 1 tells us. Heaven is not going to be any less magnificent, rather, *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"* So let's open our hearts wide and walk in great anticipation and expectation for the glorious things he has for us, both now and forever! It should motivate us to holy Christ-centered living that sets us apart from everyone else. Not in boastful pride, but rather in humility and awe that the God of all creation loved us so much that he would send his only son to die in our place and give us the privilege of being his children and heirs of his kingdom.