

“...the things which God hath prepared for them that love him...”



By Sarah Jensen

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”

God has prepared “things” for those that love him. In the Old Covenant it was always man preparing things for God. The priests prepared sacrifices everyday, Noah prepared an ark to save his family, Solomon and David prepared a dwelling place for the living God. But in the New Covenant, Christ has prepared a place for us to live and move and have our being. The “things God has prepared” are not earthly that can be touched or created by human hands. He has prepared spiritual things that we receive freely and simply partake and enjoy!

Man's Preparations for God

Old Testament scriptures and examples of man’s preparations:

Exodus 19 the whole chapter describes how they were to prepare themselves to meet the Lord on Mt. Sinai.

Numbers 5:1-6 “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land of your habitations, which I give unto you, And will make an offering by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, or a sacrifice in performing a vow, or in a freewill offering, or in your solemn feasts, to make a sweet savour unto the LORD, of the herd or of the flock: Then shall he that offereth his offering unto the LORD bring a meat offering of a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of oil. And the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering shalt thou prepare with the burnt offering or sacrifice, for one lamb. Or for a ram, thou shalt prepare for a meat offering two tenth deals of flour mingled with the third part of an hin of oil. And for a drink offering thou shalt offer the third part of an hin of wine, for a sweet savour unto the LORD. And when thou preparest a bullock for a burnt offering, or for a sacrifice in performing a vow, or peace offerings unto the LORD...”

1 Chronicles 9:28-32 “And certain of them had the charge of the ministering vessels, that they should bring them in and out by tale. Some of them also were appointed to oversee the vessels, and all the instruments of the sanctuary, and the fine flour, and the wine, and the oil, and the frankincense, and the spices. And some of the sons of the priests made the ointment of the spices. And Mattithiah, one of the Levites, who was the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, had the set office over the things that were made in the pans. And other of their brethren, of the sons of the Kohathites, were over the shewbread, to prepare it every sabbath.”

Preparations God Made for Man

The whole Old Covenant was based on works, you must do, do, do, you must prepare yourself for the Lord. But God knew all along this would fail and that He needed to prove that to humanity so that when He sent His Son, man would not trust in Himself, but in Jesus Christ. God was ready for what He had prepared from the foundation of the world to be manifested:

*Matthew 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom **prepared** for you from the foundation of the world"*

Hebrews 10:5 "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me:"

Jesus said in John 14:2, "*In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*"

What is this place, this mansion, this city, this body? It is the living, breathing Bride of Christ, the New Jerusalem, the New Creation! This is what He prepared when He put Christ into death and pulled out one of His ribs, like Adam in order to make Him a Bride after His kind, a new humanity with the Lamb nature! This is where everything comes from. The "*things God has prepared for those that love Him*" have to do with everything that is in Christ. Not a mansion on a hill far away, or even a ticket into heaven, but right now in our Spirit Man a place to live, a nature to live by, a Father to commune with. He has provided us His righteousness, wisdom, sanctification and redemption!! Everything that is in Christ is freely give to us!

1 Corinthians 1:29-31 "That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

All That God Has Prepared For Us Is IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:3-9 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

Ephesians 2:4-9 4But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

This is where we have been raised up together! In Christ is the place prepared by the Father for us. He is the one who initialized this whole thing! It has nothing to with our personal preparations anymore, but His. Everything that has been prepared is firmly established "in Christ". Outside of Christ, there is only flesh trying to please God. There is only the Law, there is only an Old Covenant relationship, which means it is based on our own works. It doesn't matter if the Holy Spirit is there, that is not proof that you are relating to the Father by Christ. The Spirit led them through the wilderness with fire by night and a cloud by day, He has always been there to lead us even in the dispensation of the Old Covenant. But now He wants to renew our

minds to what has been accomplished through the cross so that we can partake freely of all that has been prepared for us through the cross which is the wedding feast of the Lamb!!!

Romans 8:1-2 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Are We Relating to the Father IN CHRIST?

One way to test if we are relating to God in Christ is if we are feeling condemned in our relationship to the Father. If we are feeling like we are not good enough, or are constant failures then we are not relating to God IN CHRIST because He has taken away our judgment. He did not just pardon it, but bore our curse, our judgment on the cross, he paid the penalty of death so that we could partake of His resurrection life. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ, NOTHING!!! It is so wonderful to relate to the Father in Christ so that we never have to be separated from Him ever again!

Romans 8:39 "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The Body Is Only One IN CHRIST

The reason why the body cannot function as one is because we are not relating to God IN CHRIST. That is where there is oneness and peace – only IN CHRIST. Outside of Christ we are all just individuals doing our best to get along. Outside of Christ there is no “unity of the spirit”, there is no “fellowship of the spirit”, there is no life of Christ knitting us together as one.

Romans 12:5 "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

Ephesians 2:13-16 "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 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; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Only IN CHRIST is there no Jew or Gentile, male or female, outside of Him there are many divisions.

Col. 3:10-11 "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all."

Triumph Is Only IN CHRIST

There is only triumph IN CHRIST if we are constantly failing, we should not focus on our own ability, but that we are striving in our own works, and need to get back into relating to the Father by Christ and His finished work, by faith instead of our own efforts, and we will surely have the victory!

2 Corinthians 2:14 "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

This the death of the cross – to relate to the Father IN CHRIST. The death to our self life which leads to His victory is when we stop trying to gain righteousness by our own works. To live IN CHRIST is to live by faith in His death which crucified the old man so that we no longer are governed by the carnal nature but by the divine nature: the nature of the Lamb. To live IN Christ is to not live or relate to the Father by our own works anymore. To truly believe in Christ and Him crucified is to know that we can do nothing apart from Him, having no confidence in the flesh. *Phillipians 3:10 “For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”*

He crucified the old sin nature and joined us to Himself and filled us with His nature. This is how we relate now, not just behavior modification, trying fruitlessly to control our flesh and triumph by trying harder, but relating as a branch to a vine, and letting His life flow through us. This is partaking of the wedding feast that He has prepared.

The Bride Prepared For Her Husband

Revelation 21:2 “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

If we pulled this scripture out of context, we may think that we are to *prepare ourselves* for His return. But then the whole gospel would be nullified and the New Covenant proven false. We would still be relating according to our own works, and preparing ourselves for God just like they were commanded in Exodus chapter 19. He brought the Bride forth out of His side, just like Eve was taken out of Adam's side during his death (“sleep”). She is a completely New Creation, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. He created her and He prepares her: Jesus Himself washes and cleanses her as a husband does His wife, in order to prepare her, in order to present her to himself, a pure and spotless Bride!!!

Ephesians 5:25-27 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

We have got it made in Jesus! Let’s get all wrapped up in Christ, let's get hidden with God in Christ and simply partake of what He has prepared since the foundation of the world for us!!!! God prepared a wedding feast and the wedding garments, we must simply put them on by faith. The issue was not if they were “good or bad”, but if they accepted His righteousness instead of their own. As long as we are trying to enter into that feast based on our own works, we never will be able to. We will only become discouraged. But when we freely are given His righteousness and put on His wedding garments by simply accepting the truth as it is in Christ, we are in the Feast!!

Matthew 22:4, 10-13 “Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage...So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Wedding Feast of the Lamb has Come

The Father prepared the wedding feast for His Son. And this is the way in which she prepared herself: to allow Him to clothe her with Himself: to become hidden with Christ in God, not having any righteousness of our own (*Phillipians 3:9 "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith..")*). Blessed are those called to this wedding feast!

Revelation 19:6-9 "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. 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. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) 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."

The Bride puts on the garments that He has bought for her by His own blood, that He prepared for her through His death, burial and resurrection. It is no longer us preparing ourselves for God, but receiving what He has prepared for us. She puts this wedding garment of His righteousness on by faith. And the only kind of faith that matters to the Bridegroom, is faith working by love. And the Bride has this faith working by love only because He first loved us.

Galatians 5:6 "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."

1 John 1:26 We love him, because he first loved us.

His Banqueting Table

One of my favorite descriptions about what He has prepared for us in Christ, is from Song of Solomon. He brought us to His banqueting table and it is a love feast, the wedding feast of the Lamb!! Even our faith to identify as this Bride of Christ is because of what He has done, and what He has prepared for us in Himself before the foundation of the world! Thank you Lord for all that you have prepared in Christ for those that love you and that it is based on your finished work and not on our own. What you have prepared is an intimate relationship between the Lamb and His Bride, and there is nothing that can compare to that! Hallelujah!

Song of Songs 2:1-6 "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples: for I am sick of love. His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me."