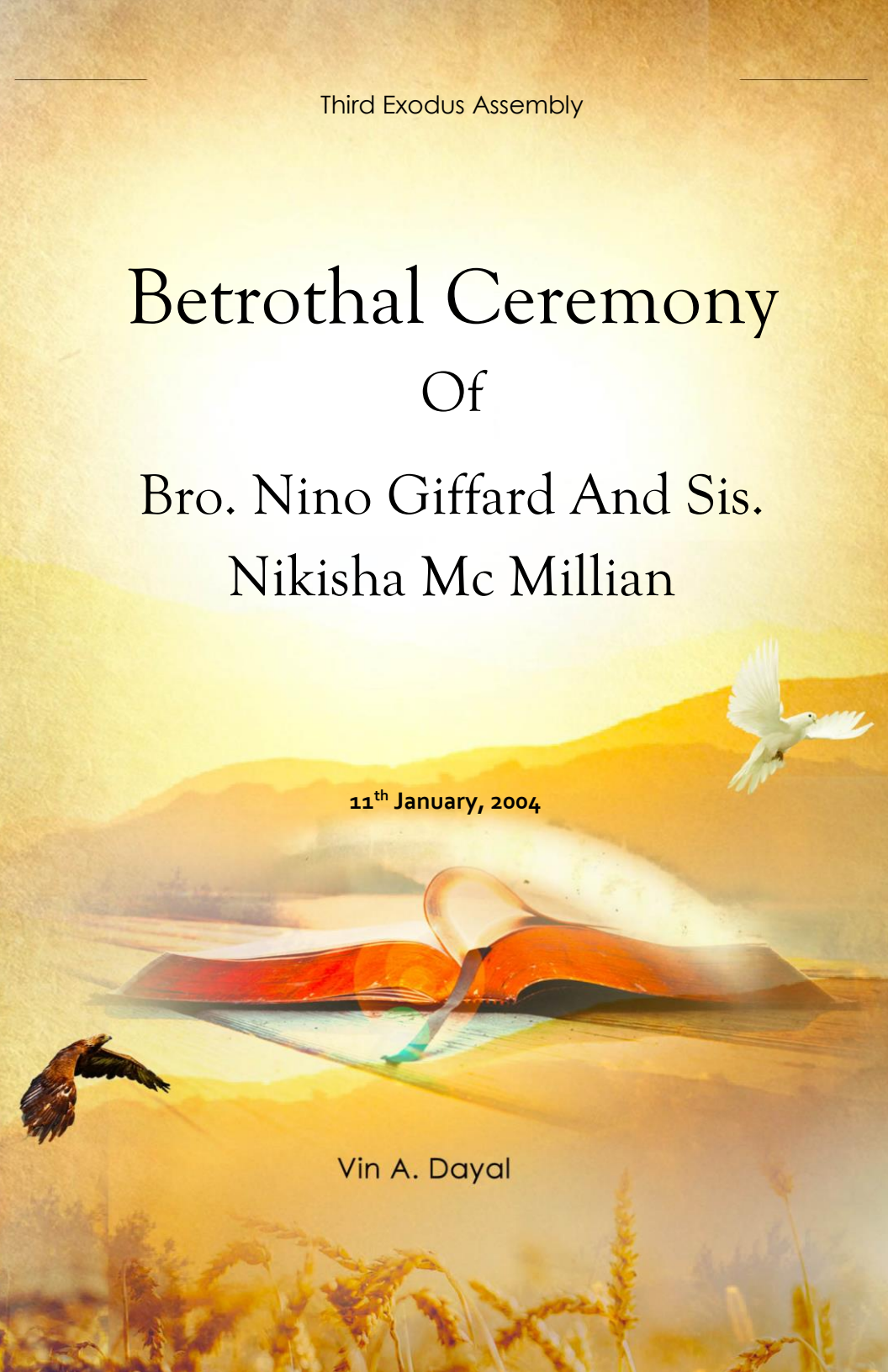

Third Exodus Assembly

Betrothal Ceremony Of

Bro. Nino Giffard And Sis.
Nikisha Mc Millian

11th January, 2004

Vin A. Dayal



**Betrothal Ceremony
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TRINIDAD

Excerpt:

And today, it's such a blessing that God has shown light in the Scriptures. And we can see that marriage is honorable. It's a beautiful thing. It's a Mystery of Christ and the Church. Even as Paul had told that Church, he said, "I espoused you as a chaste virgin unto Christ. Take care lest you be beguiled like Eve—as the Serpent beguiled Eve." And he was admonishing this Church, who was espoused to Christ, telling us that when we see a betrothal, you have made a promise to Christ.

You came and you were baptized in water – you've made a promise to Christ to marry. Then Christ comes down with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and He comes into real union with you. But while He sees you, He is drawing you; He is wooing you. Because "betroth" means "to woo a virgin". The word "betroth" means Scripturally, "to woo a virgin".

And that's God speaking to your heart, drawing you. Why? Because He wants to make you Lady Jesus Christ. He wants to put the Word and pregnate you with the Word. He wants to marry you. He wants to see you come with a veil of submission before Him and say, "Lord, (you know) in sickness or in health, in riches or in poverty, for better or for worse; till death do us part. You take the whole world and give me Jesus. Father, I surrender all to You. I come to You without reservation, Lord." See? Because you love Him so much; because His Love has been shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has taken the Word and opened It to you and then He begins to give you revelation – "Look what I'm preparing for you." ***[Pages 35 & 36]***

**Betrothal Ceremony Of Bro. Nino Giffard And Sis Nikisha Mc
Millan**

11th January, 2004

FOREWORD

This is a sermon preached by Bro. Vin A. Dayal and is published through the freewill offerings of the members of the Third Exodus Assembly.

It is intended to edify the reader and make clear the Bride-Promises of God, which were revealed through the ministry of God's Prophet-Messenger, Bro William Marrion Branham, for the Elect in this Day. It is not meant to promote any special doctrine or person, save, the Lord Jesus Christ and His Divine Word.

The original video and audio recording can be accessed through our website www.thirdexodus.org

We pray the blessing of God upon each reader and may illumination by the Spirit of God be each one's special portion.



BETROTHAL CEREMONY OF BRO. NINO GIFFARD AND SIS. NIKISHA MC MILLIAN

SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY, 2004
TRINIDAD

BRO. VIN A. DAYAL

[Song #99 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

*Jesus, Jesus how I trust Him!
How I proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

Let's sing the last verse. "I'm so glad I've learned to trust Him."

*... I've learned to trust Him
Oh, precious Jesus... sing it to Him, this
morning.
... Saviour, Friend;
"And I know..."
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end.*

Amen. All around the building, lift your hands to Him.
Amen.

*Jesus, Jesus ...
... how I trust Him!
How I proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus,
Oh, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!*

Amen. One more time, "Jesus, Jesus."

Jesus, Jesus how I trust Him!

*How I proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace...
... grace to trust Him more!*

Amen. Blessed be His wonderful Name. It's so sweet to trust in Him, to know that He is reliable and He's dependable. Amen. He is able and more than able to accomplish the things that concern us today. We could cast our cares upon Him. We could tie our souls to His Word (amen), knowing the only thing that God cannot do is to fail. Blessed be His wonderful Name.

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus and just to take Him at His Word, that it might become the rock upon which you are set that you shall not be moved. It might become the anchor of your soul, a hope steadfast and sure, because Heaven and earth will pass away and that Word will never ever pass away. Blessed be His wonderful Name!

Aren't you glad to be born of that Word? [Congregation says, "Amen!" –Ed.] Amen. And those who are not born by that Word, and you are redeemable, you are His seed, just lay in His Presence, just get under the atmosphere of the Holy Spirit. It takes an atmosphere to bring a birth. When God could come and create an atmosphere through His people and the Presence of God can come down, then people are getting ready to be born again; (amen) people are getting ready to be delivered.

It's all around you. It's just to move into it, by the grace of God, to sense what is here, to perceive, to have that perception, to recognize, surely, the Presence of the Lord is in this place. This is none other than the gate to Heaven. Amen! Blessed be His wonderful Name! He saw angels ascending and descending in that Place. Hallelujah. I'm so glad I have learned to trust Him.

Down through these years, He's never failed me. Oh, surely, things get dark. The road gets very narrow sometimes. Sometimes, you have things before you so

high, you can't seem to get over it; so low, you can't get under it; so wide, you can't get around it. But somehow, He makes a way where there seems to be no way; (amen!) the same One Who opened the way for the children of Israel because He was so determined to take them to the promise. His promises never fail. It's so good to know what God has promised you. Amen? Hallelujah. Just to rest upon His promise; just to know it's THUS SAITH THE LORD! Not thus saith the prime minister, not thus saith some preacher, not thus saith some church; THUS SAITH THE LORD, (amen!) Who is able to bring that Word to pass. Blessed be His wonderful Name.

I want to greet you this morning in the lovely, lovely Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Trust that He is blessing you and that He is doing something good for you. Amen. He is so wonderful. He is so good to us. It's such a privilege to serve Him in this Day, to know that He has visited this generation, fulfilling His Word with signs and wonders, vindicating His Promise and making It sure, leaving us without any shadow of a doubt that He is a covenant-keeping God. Amen. Blessed be His Name.

We had some news this morning that, sometimes in the flesh, we don't like to receive. A little after four, just around that time, I got a call at home: Bro. Russell Fortune... I don't know, some of you will know him; some of you may not, but he has been here with us for quite some time – a very quiet brother, always sitting about the third row from the back, right there.

And I was sitting there in the back of service on Friday, and he came in a little late with Bro. O'Garro. He slipped in and he went right to his seat, right there, and not knowing, that was going to be the last time I was going to see him.

I remember, I think it's last week, sometime, I was preaching and he was sitting right there and I was watching him. I was out in the islands (you know) for a

couple of weeks, came back; and while I was preaching, under the preaching, I'm thinking in my mind, I said, "This brother seems to be looking weary and worn and he just seems like he was fading away." You know, and I kind of noticed it. He just looked so aged; not his normal self. And I said, "Maybe he is going through a rough time or something."

And just saw him there Friday night, slipped in and, you know, he just kind of come in with a little spring in his step and took his place in the back – I guess, came in a little late. And only to realize, I believe, going to the wee hours of Saturday morning, after leaving service, he had some severe pains. They rushed him to the hospital and I was told yesterday, no, yesterday evening—last night.

We had a little thanksgiving service at the Gobin's family and I had to pass back in here. I passed back in here and Bro. Joe told me. He said, "Bro. Russell Fortune's sister had called and he was in the hospital, and he was suffering with some severe pains, and we will be kept informed as to his condition." And then she called this morning about four and she could hardly even speak, and she was getting ready for the hospital. And then, Bro. O'Garro called just a few minutes after, within five minutes, I think, and he was gone.

Our precious brother, his earthly journey came to an end. He went suddenly. That's what you call going suddenly. I guess, you know, nobody... He wasn't hospitalized before or anything. He wasn't, like sick and maybe had a condition, at least. If the family knew, well, we didn't know here. But I don't think [so], because he was in service all the time. And just like that, quickly.

You know, sometimes, when people, you know, they are sick, they are ailing, you can visit them, you can talk with them, you can gather around them and pray with them. And then sometimes, they go suddenly like that. It just shows how we need to be prepared all the time.

But he was a brother, walking in the Word since he made that step. [He] saw the Message, came and was very faithful, and he was here always, supporting the work with his presence, everything, involved in the work; behind it one hundred percent. And it saddens us to know we will have to do without him until the Lord puts in His Appearance. But until that time, we want to keep pressing the battle. We're pressing with one short, this morning. May God raise up another one to take his place. May God—maybe somebody laying down here who hasn't made a decision yet. Amen.

But let's just bow our hearts before the Lord and give thanks for our precious brother who has sojourned with us and was part of the local assembly here. And we so appreciated his fellowship and his presence among us.

Lord Jesus, You Who know all things, and You Who have ordained all things before the foundation of the world when You had completed all Your works. For it is written, "Your Word is forever settled in Heaven and Your works were finished before the foundation of the world."

Sometimes, dear God, You reveal things to us and we can expect what is fixing to happen because You have forewarned us and foreshown to us that such a thing would take place. With our Bro. Russell, it was not so. Lord, You took him swiftly, quickly, suddenly. We were not expecting it, his family was not expecting it. How it shook them up, oh God; even his wife and his children, Lord, and leaving his other family members.

But Father, we stand here today, knowing that all things work together for good to them that love You, to them who are the called according to Your purpose. Even though You work in mysterious ways, Your wonders to perform, God, we know, Father, that You, the all-wise, all-knowing God, knows how best to do these things, for Lord, surely, there is a lesson in this for us. Even as he walked amongst us and You chose to take him in the manner, even as it is written in the

Bible, "Enoch walked with God and was not," Lord Jesus, so even the going of the Bride one day, without seeing death, would be sudden – the secret, sudden catching away Your Prophet spoke of. And how we want to live in that preparation, Father.

We thank You, dear God, for his fellowship. We thank You, dear God, for when You sent him in among us and he walked with us, walked uprightly, stood for the Truth as it was revealed to him. A man of the world, a business man, but Lord Jesus, You put that hunger into his soul. He craved and he sought for the things of God with all his heart, and then You were found of him, dear God. You drew him by Your Holy Spirit and You brought him to the knowledge of this great Truth that You have sent.

The time that he spent with us, surely, dear God, we can only speak well of him, with the way he carried himself, dear God, the way he came in and the way he went out; the burden that he had, dear God, for his family, though they did not walk in the Truth. But, dear God, we pray that even the footprints that he has left behind and the testimony, that his works will follow him, and even that, Lord, will have influence upon them, that even the things that he believed on his heart and prayed, Lord God, believing that You would have an appointed time to bring these things to pass.

Until then, dear God, knowing that we look forward to seeing him again in the great gathering time, when the last Trumpet sounds and the roll is called up yonder. Lord Jesus, we pray that You will continue to undertake for his family, his sister who called and who was so broken and so moved. Lord Jesus, knowing that even in the funeral plans and preparations and that which is to follow, dear God, Your Spirit will continue to move. Your Spirit that moved upon him, Your Spirit that moved in him will continue to move, dear God, in their midst, even giving witness to the things he believed, the things which he stood for and changed his

life, that which they have not yet grasped or understood. We pray that it will have such a profound effect upon them.

We know his gallant soul is resting under the altar, gathered, Lord, with the little group that awaits us: those who sojourned with us down through the years, those that have been faithful. Knowing, oh God, that we will be gathered to our people, and then, dear God, that they being part of the great throng, the ransomed of the Lord, dear God, knowing that the Bride of this Age and then of all the Ages are awaiting that final Trumpet, Lord.

Until then, it's our duty to keep pressing this battle, and we pray for strength. We pray for the Leadership of the Holy Spirit, knowing, oh God, that we see this year, as it breaks forth, things are escalating, things are moving swiftly. Lord Jesus, we want to buckle the armor a little tighter, oh God. May we be sensitive, Lord, [that] the Spirit can deal with us.

Bless all that is gathered here today in the House of God to worship You, those You have drawn by Your Holy Spirit. Lord, may You just minister Your Word to us, knowing that we have betrothal this morning, again. The family and friends of the betrothed couple, Lord, coming in; strangers and visitors gathered in our midst.

Oh, gracious God, speak expressly by Your Holy Spirit. Speak to each and every heart. May not only that, but may You be seen. May Your Presence be felt. May hearts and lives be touched, dear God. Almighty God, let the real value and purpose that could be received from this, our gathering, which our opportunities to gather are swiftly passing away, God, remembering, oh God, that it is high time – the Coming of the Lord is at hand and we awake out of sleep.

Let us not be like them of the night. Let us be like them of the day, Father. May we be determined in our hearts to press this battle. We pray, oh God, even out in the islands where it rages and it's even stronger in

many ways because there is not a watchman standing there in their midst, and God, by Your grace, You've kept them so far, and what the enemy has tried to do, You have been able to contain it. We pray, Lord, that You would bring such an inoculation in the hearts of Your children that would give them the immunity, oh God. Not only that, Father, but You will raise up those that can take care of them. As the Day advances, we see such a great need for that. And how we ask, dear God, that truly, they will become established in the present Truth.

Now, have Your blessed way in our midst. Lead and direct us today. May You get honor and glory. Take into consideration every need. No doubt in a group like this, standing here and we have the privilege to come with boldness before Your Throne of grace, make our request known with joy, Lord Jesus, knowing that through confession and faith, we are subject to all the powers of God that are in Heaven; to know in an atmosphere like this, lives can be changed, people can come in dead and go back out alive; people can come in lost and go back out found; people can come in sick and go back out healed; people can come in without understanding and go back out enlightened.

Father, we pray that the Holy Spirit would minister to each and every need, oh God, as the people believe and confess in their hearts, sensitive to Your Presence, knowing there is no secret to what God can do. What You have done for others, which we've read about in the Bible, You can do for each and every one of us.

Grant it, dear God, we pray. We ask all these mercies today in the Almighty and precious Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God richly bless you. I would just like to read a little portion of Scripture before I get you in your seats. Maybe I'll read a little place and a few little verses: one in Matthew 5:32 and one in Luke 16:18, and get ready for the betrothal.

I will just try to concentrate the service around this today and see how the Holy Spirit will lead us, that we all could be edified and blessed; knowing all of God's Word is inspired and all of His Word reveals Jesus Christ, all of His Word was designed to give us faith and for us to live by.

Matthew 5, verse 31:

³¹ It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

"It hath been said." You know, that's the saying of man. That was even the opinion of religious people. But now, the Word Himself is speaking.

³² But I say unto you,

"It hath been said,"

But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, except for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery:

But I say unto you, [He says] That whosoever shall put away his wife except for the cause of fornication,

Except for that cause.

...causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

And Luke chapter 16, verse 18:

¹⁸ Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another,

A little different here.

... committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.

"Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another," well, that has to be a man, to put away a wife. I don't think the Lord is talking about two lesbians, like they have today.

Whosoever putteth away his wife, [his], and marrieth another, committeth adultery:

*and whosoever marrieth her that is put away
from her husband committeth adultery.*

And Matthew 5:32, [as] we read just now, tells you the only cause – *for this cause*. May the Lord bless the reading of His Word. You may have your seats.

These things are always touchy things, you know. You would read some of these things, it gets very touchy because it is so, a little different today. And we are gathered here for service, and we have a betrothal and when we have betrothals, we... (that's engagement or espousal), of our precious Bro. Nino Giffard and Sis. Nikisha Mc Millian, both of them are here. And could they just stand there for me? Just stand where you are. Amen. God bless them. Amen. [The congregation applauds them. –Ed.] Don't come up yet; just have your seats. Amen.

So, I'm just going to relax a little bit. This is going to be the service right here, so, you don't get, you know, thinking that I'm going long in this. So, I will speak a little bit and then when we feel good in our hearts to have the little ceremony of betrothal, we would ask them to come forward, by the grace of God.

But as we just read here, you know, these Words are the Words of the Lord Jesus and, you know, He spoke so expressly, concerning these things in the Bible that sometimes, we fail to see the emphasis in which He emphasized some of these things to us.

And today, they would be here to be betrothed. And *betrothal* really means '*a promise to marry at an appointed time; a commitment to marry at an appointed time*'. And so, that has been made with a vow; a young man making a vow to a young woman. And then they did that privately, I guess, within the company of both parents, seeing both parents serve the Lord and are part of this, and are involved in this. And that's the way we are very happy that it could be done when all the family is serving the Lord.

So, you know sometimes you get conflict of interest, you get conflict of faiths and beliefs and different understandings. And sometimes, people love more tradition than they love Truth and you get all types of things that it makes it difficult sometimes. But in this case, both father and mother on each side are believers. They believe the Bible. They believe the Message that God has sent in the last days to bring us back to the original Apostolic Faith and to see the Truth of the Scripture, what these things really mean. And this is what has changed their lives and, you know, caused them to live and walk as they do and raise their children in the way that they have.

And now that they come to witness the engagement, and two families being joined because of the two family members, you know, it's something, even right here in our midst, as an example for us that we can look and see what God has done and is doing and that it can—because these things give us the privilege to apply the Word.

Sometimes, it's difficult to apply the Word because you have somebody coming from a broken home; you have some, they don't live with their parents, they live with somebody, and they grow up this way and they haven't been taught the Word. Then there are families that don't have a Christian background, so they don't take the Scriptures as the absolute, and it is difficult to apply what the Word says because to those people, that is out of their lives. Not that, maybe, they won't believe It one day if they see It, but they don't live by these principles. And so, if they go to approach something like marrying one of their children, they may take a different route. They may just go the traditional way that, maybe, the normal people go. They may not think that you have to follow the Bible in such a specific way. Because today, you know, Truth has been brought to such of none effect because of the traditions of men. When Jesus was here on the earth, He said, "You have

made the Word of God of no effect because of your tradition.” [Mark 7:13 –Ed.]

What month are we in? We are in January. Today is the 11th. Less than about two weeks ago, two and a half weeks, we had Christmas. That was so clear – Christmas is about Santa Claus. Well, there is nothing about Santa Claus in the Bible. You’re celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and you have Santa Claus mixed in it, and you have other things mixed in it and, you know, people buy liquor, and they have parties, and they do things, and they get drunk, and they have this way. So it just shows that’s not a celebration of the birth of Christ.

So when you look and you see these things, you realize, not only His birth but His Word, the things He taught. And that’s really the trick of the enemy. That’s really the trick of the enemy, because Satan, if he can break the effect of the Word and he can paralyze people’s faith in It, then he can hold them in ignorance. [If] you out the light, you’ll keep the people in darkness.

Well, the Word is a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your pathway. The entrance of His Word gives light. It brings illumination. You get enlightened. You say, “Oh, that’s why this is so! Oh, that’s why this is so!” And you begin to understand these things.

Sometimes, you know, somebody reads the Scripture like that: “If a man puts away his wife and marries another, he commits adultery.” A man may feel, “Man, God is too hard. This woman I married, man, she is not a good woman at all. Man, look what she did me, man. I can’t take that.” And then they think now, “Do you think me, as a young man like this, I should live my life like this? No, no. I can’t take this anymore. I can’t handle this anymore. I am going to put this woman away and get another woman.”

And everybody says, “That’s the thing to do. You have your life to live. Your whole life is before you. What people expect you to do?” And right there, people,

they find the fault with the Word and they sympathize with the person. They find the fault with the Word and they sympathize with the person. And sometimes, they try to keep a middle – They don't want to say God is wrong and they don't want to say they are wrong, so they blame the person, since God is not talking from the sky and God has a man saying It, they blame the person for misinterpreting what God said, or for trying to put pressure on somebody so they can't enjoy 'life' anymore. And, you know, the world has become in such a mess today because of these things.

And then you get men of the cloth. That's a term they use: "men of the cloth". You know, they are supposed to be clergymen. Well, today, they're marrying a man with a man, and they are marrying a woman with a woman.

Then you have the great minds of the Age who lay down statutes and ordinances to govern us; the lawmakers. They sit down in parliament and they debate. They are the representatives of the people. They are the people's voice. And they stand there and they say, "We will pass this law, because you can't be prejudiced against people's sexual preferences, so we need to be more open minded because we're in a different type of society." And then they pass a law like that.

And then these are the great learned people that went to university. These are the people that were voted into power. These are the people that they put there in the Senate and, you know, they sit down there in the Parliament and they do these things. And then, if you try to stand on the Truth, after a hile, you begin to look like a heretic. You begin to look like some old, boogie man, old fashioned in your ideas, trying to live by the Bible when we are in a modern Age, and the Bible is just something to put under our pillows if we are going through trouble, and hope we get a spiritual dream or ask God to come into our lives in a crisis. Well, the Bible

that was given to us was to live by. It reveals Jesus Christ to us.

The world is in this condition today because the Word of God was broken. Death came as a penalty for breaking the Word of God. Jesus died and rose because He lived by every Word. He refused to give preeminence to human desire. He refused—He said, “Father, not *My* will, but Thy will be done. What shall I say? Father, save Me from this Hour? For this cause, came I unto this Hour.” That was because it was written in the Word and He so wanted to please the Father, He obeyed that Word and took death, because He knew there was not another way to deliver a people who had broken the Word and fallen into sickness and death and chaos. There was no way to take them out of that by breaking the Word. He had to come and live by every Word to deliver a people who got into that condition by breaking the Word.

That’s why in the middle of the Bible He says, “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Is that right? [Congregation says, “Amen.” –Ed.] Out of the mouth of God. Because, in... God said, “The day you eat, you shall surely die.” That was the first Word in the Garden. The Serpent told the woman, “You shall *not* surely die,” one word added. And that one word caused death to come.

So, He came in the middle of the Bible and said, “Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word.” At the end of the Bible, He says, “If a man adds to that Word, all the plagues in the Book shall be added to him.” Well, that’s a part of the Word people don’t believe today. So that’s why people don’t see the need to do over things.

Like I was speaking with the minister that time and when he saw the Truth on water baptism, he said, “You mean to say I have to go and baptize over all those eight hundred people?”

I said, “If you baptized them wrong, what do you expect to do? You misled them with mixed up theology.

Don't you love them enough to show them the Truth? And if you now start to baptize new ones in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, then you're going to leave the old ones now, in ignorance and these in error. So then, you become a mixed tree – you have the knowledge of good and evil. You have some in darkness and you have some in Light with what is coming out of your mouth; so sweet and bitter water are coming out of the same spring." It doesn't work.

Sometimes, you see, the Word of God doesn't meet you casually where you sit down, you can relax, no pressure and you can just say, "I feel really good about this, and this is the thing to do."

And everybody is saying, "Go for it. Go for it!"

The Word of God doesn't meet you like that. The Word of God, most times, meets you in places where you have to give up this to walk in It. You have to deny this. [Bro. Vin indicates the flesh –Ed.] You have to bear the reproach of people. You are going to be confronted and challenged, because God wants to see if It is really in your heart. God wants to see if you put a value on Him above man and earthly things, to see what you're going to do with It.

That's why He told Abraham, "Get thee out of your country and out of your kindred and these things, and separate and follow Me and I will take you unto a land and show you." [Genesis 12:1 –Ed.] He calls His people to separation.

The apostles said, "Lord, we have forsaken everything to follow You." That's the place a believer comes to. When you do that, you make Him Lord of your life. Now, a lot of people want to make Him Saviour but not Lord. Lord means *rulership*. They like to negotiate with God.

You know, sometimes, parents like their children to obey them: "No negotiation! What I say, you have to do. Don't tell me. I gave birth to you, I mind you, I support you, I raise you and these things, and you have to listen to me. I'm your parent. I'm expecting submission and

obedience from you.” And then, they don’t want to listen to God. They want that from their children but they don’t want to do that for God.

Right there, they see themselves worthy of having authority but God’s not worthy of having the same authority. Yet, He is God. Yet, He’s going to judge us at the End. Yet, He is the One, without which we cannot live. The water we drink, the air we breathe, whatever we do, it comes from Him. He gives us life. He puts us here to see how we’re going to live.

And that’s why, when it comes to our salvation, the best thing that God could have given a man—The first thing that God gave Adam: He made him in His image and likeness. He was a son of God. He gave him Eternal Life. He had fellowship with God. Then, He said, “It’s not good that the man should be alone,” and now God gives him a wife. [Genesis 2:18 –Ed.]

So when we go back in the very beginning and we see the Thoughts of God being expressed, unfolding in relation to man and the purpose God brought him into existence for, and the things that God provided him with in order that he might fulfill that purpose, then we are seeing what are the things we should have focus before us, what is God’s plan for us. Is that right? [Congregation says, “Amen.” –Ed.] Because what God started with the first man, is what He’ll likely do with every man. What God required of the first woman, is what He requires of every woman. That’s right. Because God doesn’t change. Because all of us were in the first man. Is that right? [Congregation says, “Amen.” –Ed.]

The Bible says, “We were all in Adam.” Before we come in Christ, we had to be in Adam. You were in Adam there — your body and everything else. Your soul was in Christ before the foundation of the world. Then when Adam fell, sin passed from one man unto all men. And the reason we’re all born in sin is because we were in that one man. We inherited that by our birth.

Now, God has a way to get us out of things we get ourselves into. We can get into something by a million ways, but God doesn't have a million ways to take you out. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end is death."

This man sees that right in his eyes; that is death for him. This man sees that right in his eyes; that is death for him. This woman sees this is right in her eyes; that is death for her. This woman sees that is right in her eyes; that is death for this one. But for them to come back out and come back to Life, there is only one way. He says, "I am *the* Way, *the* Truth and *the* Life." Is that right? [Congregation says, "Amen." –Ed.] There is only one way provided by God for everything. And as we think on those things, then here we are this morning—if we have to walk and get the blessing.

Now, there is one thing to do, traditionally; something in a traditional way that is accepted by everybody. And say, "Okay. I don't find any fault with it. That is okay. What do you think?"

He said, "Well, I think that is as good as any."

With the things of God, man's opinion doesn't count, because He said, "Let every man's word be a lie and let God's Word be the Truth." He said, "My Thoughts are higher than your thoughts and My ways are higher than your ways."

So, sometimes, that's where we make our mistakes. We say, "But this one doesn't find anything wrong, or that one doesn't find anything wrong," or you can say, "Well, this man..." All men have to fall to God's standard. No man's word could even come close to compare, because no man could even keep his own word. And then, no man instituted the things of God. Take for instance, marriage, where does it come from? It wasn't invented by man. God was the first One [Who] performed the first marriage, so who gives man the authority to change what God put.

You find out in nature, anything you tamper with, that God made, it backfires; it brings death. You have to leave the things of God in its original way.

Man takes all their toxic wastes and throws it in the sea. Years after, they find out they are killing all the fishes and they've polluted the ocean. Man spewed out all their toxic wastes into the atmosphere. Now they've found out that destroyed the ozone layer and we are going to get burnt up with solar radiation, and meteorites are going to hit the earth and we are in danger. They start to find out that now, so they talk about cleaner air, and let's try to do this, and pass these laws. It's too far gone. You don't tamper with the things of God. God created it first and fixed it.

Then when He designed the man, He designed the man in harmony with what He made, because man was just a continuation of the creation at that stage. Then that creation was completed in man when he stood there in God's image and likeness. But when God started creating, He started with botany life. Then He came to marine life, which is fish life. Then He came to bird life. Then He came to animal life. Then He came into a man in His own image and likeness, who had God's Life. So, it was just a chain of life, evolving [evolving]. But then the time came, the man and his wife fell. The man and his wife fell.

That's why the Bible, It begins with marriage. In the middle of the Bible Jesus found the world in such a messed up condition; in Matthew 19, He had to go back and say, "It was not so from the beginning," to show them the reason that the social condition was in such a mess, was because of the marriage and divorce and what was happening. And the nation was in a mess because that's people multiplying and bringing forth children with different women and, you know, women bringing forth children for different men that's not their husband, and it's chaos.

And this comes from people doing things their own way, and when it starts to go wrong, they ask God to bless it and fix it. But they work in another law, and the only way for God to fix something... there are some things, you have to come out of that way and go back to the right way, because God doesn't have two thoughts. Unless circumstances caused you to live there, then you can't be blessed in the permissive will the same as being blessed in the original will. Otherwise, what is the difference of the permissive will and the original will if you are getting the same blessing? Then it makes your choice more important than God's purpose. Is that right? Are you here with me still? [Congregation says, "Amen" -Ed.]

To have faith, you have to know you are in the will of God. To have faith, you have to have confidence that what you are doing, God will back it up. To have faith, you have to know, "I am doing this God's way because God revealed this way for me to do this." That's why to everything....

Many people do not know what the Bible is really, but this Bible is the Book of Life. It records life in here. You might read a story in the Bible [let's say] about Abraham, or you read a story about Moses, or you read a story about Jesus, and you read a story about the apostles, well, that's life recorded. And every story will show you whether God blessed it or whether God dishonored it; whether the person chose their way above God's way and they paid the penalty for it, and the kinds of problems it caused, and how God had to deal with it.

You will read that in the Bible from the very beginning. It tells you what the woman did. It tells you the penalty that came. It tells you God cast them out. It tells you if they have to come back in, what it was going to take to come back in if God had to fix that thing. And you go like that from Genesis to Revelation, it's a record of life.

God records young people life. He records baby life. He records life coming under different circumstances. He records all kinds of sins. He records everything. He records man's ambition, man's desire. He records things in the political realm, about coups and who's trying to destabilize the government and take over the country. He tells about how man pollutes the church and how they bring in things and they change up the order in the church. He tells you about family life, what happens inside of there; like even with Abraham and his own house with Sarah and Hagar and them and the problems it caused. It records life. It records business life. It records life in every form. It's a Book of Life. So there is nothing that goes on under the sun that is not inside of here. It's all in there. It's all inside of here.

That's why when somebody knows they are coming sanely, intelligently and right in the Word, when they know they are coming God's provided way, they can expect what God promised. They could expect that. They could stand and say, "Father, didn't you say that in Your Word?" And you can go before God and open the Bible like this and say, "Lord, just one moment, please. I would like to read this for You." And you read that and you say, "But Lord, here, I'm seeing this here. I did this. And over here, You said if I did that, this is supposed to follow me. And You know when I did that I didn't do that through convenience; I did it with faith. I prayed and I opened the Scriptures and I searched to make sure that what I was doing would be accepted."

Then you read It over and you say, "Lord, but You said You keep Your Word and it's impossible for You to lie," and you read that for Him too. How many believe God could read? [Congregation says, "Amen" -Ed.] That is His Word. How many believe God hears? [Congregation says, "Amen" -Ed.] He said His ear is not deaf.

But you know something, we are trained so religiously, we'll never go and do that to God. But do you know that is how God is expecting you to live your

life? God is expecting you. He said, "Prove Me. Try Me and prove Me. See if I'm a God Who is slack concerning My promise! I keep My Word! Heaven and earth will pass away but My Word could never fail! And if you abide in Me and My Word abides in you, you can ask what you will!" That's how He is. That's how He is. That's how He is.

If we do that, we get close to God. Do you know why? Because you have to get sincere when you start to do that to God. But many times, because people are afraid of something, because they might be exposed in some certain place, they're afraid to approach things in that manner lest they are called to stand the same kind of scrutiny. That's human nature: "I don't want to get down on this man and tell him about that thing, because if that happens to me tomorrow, I don't want him to get down on me."

So, you think you could live life evading responsibility and that is just—let me tell you, that's being deceived in religion. That's being deceived in religion. Because you're not really living by the Word but you are kind of thinking like, "No, I don't want anybody to do me that, if that happens, you know...." God has you to be a witness, too. You are here to also be a witness. Because when you speak that, now you're bound by your own word that you told somebody. And because you're bound by your own word, now you have to live and walk a certain way because it's demanded of you what you demanded of someone else. "Judge not lest you be judged. By what measure you judge, so you shall be judged." [Matthew 7:1, 2 -Ed.]

But that's where people now want to live halfway and hope they could go through being blessed. That's religion; that's not the Word. A son and daughter of God is called to become the Word. And if you are to go in the Bride, the Bride at the end will have to become the Word just like Him. So, you can't become the Word by not wanting to walk in the Word. Because the only

way to become that Word, you see It there in the page, you have to start to act upon It. You have to start to live It. You have to start to exercise in It. And God has circumstances all the time to make you carry out the Word.

But what man does, like Jonah, they try to run: “I don’t want to do that. Let the pastor handle that; not me. Let the deacon handle that; not me.” No, no, but it’s God passing you there. Your course and your race are going there. But every time, that’s where you drop out of the race but God has a purpose for that. So, all these things are by the Word.

I would like to read something in Numbers chapter 30, where we’re getting closer down now to the betrothal here. And before I drop over into Numbers 30, maybe I would get Deuteronomy 22, first because we are going to kind of see what Jesus was speaking about in that Law of saying, “Except it be for the cause of fornication,” and why it is such a blessed thing to know that you can come to God according to His Word. You can come, you know, with faith. And, you know, if you can’t come that way, then through confession, you can come. Did you get that? Through confession, you can come. You say, “Well, I’m found wanting, right here.” Say, “But Father, I’m sorry for my condition. That was keeping me out but there is Blood there. So now I can come on the merits of His Blood, still.” Amen? Praise His wonderful Name.

Deuteronomy 22, verse 13. Now, I want you to follow this Scripture, whether you are a believer, a visitor; whatever it is, let’s follow a little bit and I’m sure it’s going to be very edifying to us – the facts of life and the things of life. And we could learn this at ninety years old; it will make no difference. Once we are in this body, we don’t stop learning.

Deuteronomy 22, verse 13:

¹³ If [a] man take a wife, and go in unto her,

See? ‘Take a wife’ that’s make a marriage vow. You can’t take a wife, you know—The Bible way to take a wife is through marriage.

... and go in unto her,

Notice the order: take the wife and then go in unto her. Not, she becomes a wife and then you go and marry. Not you go in unto her and then go and marry. Take a wife and then go in unto her. That’s order, because sex belongs in marriage. Do you get that there? See? Look how simple that is written right there.

...and hate her,

¹⁴ And give occasions of speech against her, and bring up an evil name upon her,

Now, what kind of man is this? This is a rascal. He takes a wife, he goes in unto her; next thing he hates the girl. Maybe not because of, he didn’t enjoy having pleasure with her, but maybe because he just wanted another conquest and then he sees somebody else, so he is trying to find a way to loose himself from the obligation of marriage. Remember Jesus said, “Except it be for the cause of fornication, a man can’t put away his wife.” This is what this teaches here. That statement was based on this here. This is the Law.

...and say, I took this woman, and when

I came to her, I found her not a maid:

In other words, “I didn’t find her a virgin.”

¹⁵ Then shall the father of the damsel, and her mother,

That’s the parents.

...take and bring forth the tokens of the damsel’s virginity ...

They have evidence, in other words. They have signs and evidence. They have proof that the girl was a virgin when she got married. So they take and they bring forth the tokens, the signs. A token is a sign, an evidence.

...of the damsel’s virginity unto the elders of the city ...

See, in those days, the way God had the thing set up, the elders were the judges.

...in the gate:

¹⁶ And the damsel's father ... say unto the elders, I gave my daughter unto this man to wife, and he hateth her;

Now, here is the girl's father. He has in his hand the evidence that this girl was a virgin and now he is telling the elders that this man is putting away his daughter: "But I gave my daughter unto this man to wife and he hateth her."

¹⁷ And, lo, he hath given occasions of speech against her, saying, I found not thy daughter a maid; and yet these are the tokens of my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city.

They still do that today in certain tribes in Africa, where young maidens, before they are married, must take a virginity test, because it's a way too, that they keep the moral standards in the purity and the code by which they are governed by and lived by, in those tribes. Because of inheritance, because of different things, it is fixed that way, just like it was in Bible days. And the reason it is back there, is not because people say they are uncivilized, it's because they didn't get modern. Because they had the wisdom of the Ancients. They still had the original way.

Because in the cities today that got modernized, there're all kinds of abortions and all kinds of different things, and home for battered women, and home for unwanted women, and you know; women who have children out of wedlock. There are all kinds of homes.

In those tribes, there is not one such home. Do you know that? In those tribes, there isn't one such home. Over here, we are hearing how much AIDS there is.

The Prophet said, "When I was there in South Africa, in the meeting, under discernment," he said, "when the

people kept coming through,” he said, “I didn’t even find not one case of venereal disease.” He said, “But here in the city, in Chicago and New York and these, when he was in those cities, under discernment, there were so many.” He said, “Even ministers I’ve found with it.” He said, “And you call them uncivilized?” See? So watch, friends. True. See, time changes but not God. God said, “I’m God; I change not.” [Malachi 3:6 –Ed.]

15 Then shall the father of the damsel, and her mother, take and bring forth the tokens of the damsel’s virginity unto the elders of the city in the gate:

16 And the damsel’s father shall say unto the elders, I gave my daughter unto this man to wife, and he hateth her;

17 And, lo, he hath given occasions of speech against her, saying, I found not thy daughter a maid; and yet these are the tokens of my daughter’s virginity. And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city.

18 And the elders of that city shall take that man and chastise him;

19 And they shall amerce [fine or charge him a fine] him in an hundred shekels of silver, and give them unto the father of the damsel, because he hath brought up and evil name upon a virgin [in] Israel:

And get this now.

... and she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days.

“He may not put her away all his days. She shall be his wife; He may not put her away all his days.”

When you read the Law and you don’t understand what happened in the beginning, the Law seems hard and harsh. When you understand what happened in the beginning, you see how this opens to us the importance of choosing a wife, the importance of

bringing children into the world. Do you hear what I'm saying?

Because life is a sacred thing. And when people come and marry, and marry under a marriage covenant where there is a promise to multiply and replenish—a commission given—and blessed is the fruit of the womb; when God can come and say, “And your wife shall be like a fruitful vine by the side of thy house and your children like olive plants around thy table,” and gives such a blessing to a marriage couple, and blesses their home, and a man's name will not be extinct in the earth, and he who is made in the image and likeness of God, even though he is in a fallen condition, but now, by a New Birth is coming back in that image, can have that blessing in his home like it was in the very beginning. God wants to give that. God set up His Word to give that. That man cannot put away that woman.

Now, a court will give that man permission to do that because the court is not going to go by that Word. And the court will make the man feel free and help him live in a lie. And on the Day of Judgment, when he comes, he will stand before God as an adulterer. And he can't say, “But the court told me, or my lawyer told me!”

God would say, “I didn't send you to live by the court and by the lawyer. You failed to hear the preacher. Because by the foolishness of preaching you were to be saved, not by the court and the lawyer; by the foolishness of the... How shall he preach, except he be sent.”

And Noah, a preacher of righteousness, the world was condemned under his preaching. There were courts—there were lawyers in the land. Because, “*As it was in the days of Noah, so it shall be...*” Did you get that?

Now, these things might not mean anything to anybody today, but you know, one day, one day these things will mean something. Because when a man speaks a word, it doesn't die. And if I'm speaking this Word here today, then everybody who is sitting here and

hearing this Word, on that Day, this Word would be playing back right before people. And you would be in the service, and the color of the clothes you're wearing and everything. Because, why? Television proves that. Television proves that the thing is recorded somewhere.

And to prove the thing is recorded somewhere, when Nebuchadnezzar dreamt a dream and forgot the dream, Daniel saw over the dream, and could have told the man what he dreamt, because it was recorded somewhere.

And when the Prophet—people stood on the platform, under the Anointing of the Angel, and the Prophet seeing visions; he was telling them things. He said, "You were there in that car with that woman."

Like when Banks Wood came, he said, "Yes. And the man was coming down the hotel corridor with his shotgun to shoot you and you jumped through the window." He said, "He knows Banks couldn't tell me that then." Why? It was recorded somewhere.

So that's why when we sit here, we realize.... Now, these things are not supposed to drive fear into your heart. You have to check yourself and say, "Do I love God enough? You know, I'm coming to realize now that I would wrestle with that. Something in me wants to wrestle with that. And the Word is God and I want to wrestle against God. Then is God my Saviour? Am I looking to go to live with Him in Heaven? And this nature that's wrestling with Him, is that His own Nature?"

Then you have to say, "Lord, put more love in my heart for Your Word. Lord, lift me up above where I'm living at present. Lord, break this thing in me that wants to rebel against Your Truth." That is the attitude that will take a person into that place where God can really bless them, because sometimes, God lets you look at yourself and examine yourself through the light of the Word, because no real examination of your life can take place unless you examine yourself through the eyes of the Word.

When you judge yourself by the Word, you're judging yourself by God's standard. When you judge yourself by somebody's opinion of you or your opinion of yourself, you're judging yourself by a false standard. Is that right? [Congregation says, "Amen" –Ed.] Praise the Lord.

We want to mature into these things. We want to mature into these things. We want to make these things the principle by which we live. We want these things to be the building blocks of our lives. We want these things to be the foundation that establishes our homes. We want these things to be the things that filter our thinking and the way we think about a woman, the way we think about a wife, the way we think about a daughter, the way we think about family, the way we think about the home. Why? We are seeing God's way and God's pattern and how it ought to be established, and what kind of revelation it will take to really establish it.

Because remember, the house is not the curtains; it's not the nice chair you see in Courts. [A furniture store –Ed.] Remember, it's not the carpet you see in Carpet City. [A carpet store –Ed.] Remember, it's not the nice appliances you see in Standard. [A furniture and appliances store –Ed.] Remember, the home is the lives of the people that are governed by the Word. Is that right? Because a house and a home are two different things. 'House' is galvanize and wood and stone and glass and these things. 'Home', brother, to bring that, the one that God is talking about, it will take God. It would have to be built upon God's Word. Amen? Watch the next part of it, now.

Verse 20:

²⁰ But if this thing be true...

If the man really went in and found this girl not a virgin.

Now, remember Jesus said, "Except it be for the cause of fornication." But watch where that comes. That comes before; not after.

In other words, the fornication that he is putting her away for is the one where he found out that she is not a virgin. So, she was not a virgin because somebody else went into the bedding ground, broke the veil of virginity and she didn't confess it, and she didn't confess it. And that's why he is putting her away. That's where he can put her away. See? Not if he marries and—Today, do you know what they do? They marry the person; [then] they say, "Man, I married her but look what she went and did. I don't want her anymore. I am going to get somebody else."

What? The vow, the vow. What we are going to come to next here is about the vow. And you're going to see now, it's the vow that marries you. That's why you don't play with people's lives. You don't play with people's lives.

You don't think, "I want this girl right now and I want her so badly, I would lie to her and I will set a fire under her. And she starts to blaze and she is holding to what I'm saying, and I'm moving my way into her life, into her heart. I'm controlling her emotions, I'm influencing her will and then all of a sudden, I decide to walk away and start to light another fire under somebody else." And you didn't even stay to put out the fire that you started. Do you get what I'm saying?

I don't want to speak it more harshly than I'm speaking it. Even though I don't get in that tone for, maybe, not taking the service down another line and trying to keep the service in a certain atmosphere, please don't misunderstand the seriousness of that. Please don't misunderstand the seriousness of that. Because I will show you where God judges a man from.

When Jesus came and man was trying to judge them for committing adultery; they said, "The man committed adultery." Jesus came and He didn't judge them there, you know; [Bro Vin indicates the mind -Ed.] He judged them here. [Bro Vin indicates the heart -Ed.] "You lusted in your heart." He judged them here.

He said, “If man judges them here, they kill the man. If he judges them here: ‘You hated him in your heart.’” So watch where He judges from.

Saying, “I didn’t do it,” does not eliminate yourself from it, if you are calling ‘do it’ the other part. Because, many times, a person will say, “Well, nobody knows what’s in my heart and I could always put up a strong denial.” You’re going into lying now, and that is worse. You’re damning your soul now, because to believe the lie, you have to reject the Truth. And now, you actually ... [Audio is muffled. -Ed.] And the next step now, you start to reject Truth.

Because, what caused the fall in Heaven? The lie. What caused the fall in the Garden of Eden? The lie. What deceived the world in the last days and gave them a strong delusion to believe the lie, and be damned by it? The lie. The lie can’t come from God. It’s impossible for God to lie. It’s impossible for God to lie. Oh, my!

*²⁰ But if this thing be true, and the tokens
of [the] virginity be not found for the damsel:*

So, when the man said—goes back to the father with respect, he said, “Sir, you know when I was courting your daughter and I came to your home and we sat and we talked such and such and such.” He said, “I had two minds [undecided -Ed.], maybe, to let this thing pass, but I realized, before I go any further,” He said, “Since that time, that one day, I stayed away from her because I didn’t want to advantage her situation because I knew what I must do. Because if I continued to live with her after I came to that knowledge of the truth, and used her up more, and then decided I will come out of it now because I have that...”

Then, when you come before the elders—I’m talking about real elders who have the Word in them—real elders start to break that down and show you what you did by staying six months, when you knew that the first night. And real elders will start to show you now, look how you continue to feed, and use, and manipulate and

enjoy, because you knew you were fixing to discard. Do you get what I'm saying? Then it doesn't become the same thing. Because the thing is, you have a right that can take you out of that situation and you can start over again. Why? Because you were deceived.

Now, the thing here is—What you have to see here is, he couldn't take a wife without making a vow. But in making the vow, he had to go in and find out the condition was such, because he wasn't told that before he made the vow. Do you get what I'm saying? That's why, before people go making vows and running to make vows, you need to know when and on what basis a vow is made. And you need to know how binding a vow is in the sight of God. Because the Scripture says,

⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

⁵ Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

⁶ Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

That's Ecclesiastes 5, verses 4 to 6. Also, Deuteronomy 23:23 says,

²³ That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.

See? Proverbs 20:25 says,

²⁵ It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make enquiry.

In other words, a man making a vow and then is going now and trying to make enquiry, which is now trying to debate, or trying to come out of the vow after he has

made it. You've realized what you've implicated yourself in and you're trying to come out. Jesus said that by a man's word, he is justified and by a man's word, he is condemned. Let your "yes" be yes and let your "no" be no.

Why? Because a man is a son of God, and the real Church of God, the Bride of Christ, is of the same nature. She is bone of His bone, flesh of His flesh, Life of His Life, Spirit of His Spirit. And it's impossible for God to lie. And what God says cannot return unto Him void. It has to accomplish the purpose unto which It was sent. And so what God gives to us as an example, He makes us and gives us His very own Life that we can live in the very same standard and be a reflection of Him on earth, which is the purpose He gives us His Life for, that we might reflect Him on the earth. Is that right?

So, the vow there is the thing that the man realizes now, from verses 20 to 21, that if the thing be true and the tokens of the virginity can't be found, that even shows something on the father's part. The father let the boy come into a marriage because... or maybe, pressure.

Do you know that was in Bible times? Judah was under pressure to marry his sons. Laban was under pressure to get husbands for his two daughters. When the time came, he said, "Look, I can't... The girl is getting old on my hand, here." And the boy liked the younger girl. Do you know what he did? He switched the girls. And then he made him work extra now, to get the other one.

In the Book of Judges, Samson's father-in-law, after he gave Samson's wife to somebody else —under pressure— because Samson, you know, the Bible said the Lord had a hand in it. But when the man plowed with his 'heifer' and Samson walked away....

Then, even Saul with his daughter. He said, "Well, who beats this Goliath will get this girl." Then afterwards, he took the same girl and gave her to

somebody else. Then David came back and said, “But you are my wife. I married you and I am the first one that knew you. How could your father do this thing?”

And you have many, many examples in the Bible with these things, showing many times, a father in a home, because he has girl children; when the time comes... even men—Abraham knew it was time to get a bride for this boy. He told Eliezer to go and find a wife for this young man.

God Himself said, “It’s not good that this man should be alone,” and God went to find a wife for Adam. And when there was not one found, the Bible says, then God took a part from the man and made a bride.

So, it is a parent’s duty not to see their children stay there under pressure and getting frustrated and can’t ... [No audio sound. –Ed.] ... She told Ruth, “Shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?” Which meant: *coming into the married state.*

So many times, when people fail to look at the Word, they let traditions cloud their minds. They do things without the Light and knowledge of the Scripture. And in this situation, we see how serious it was. In verse 21, It says, [Deuteronomy 22:21 –Ed.]

21 Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father’s house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die...

In other words, they have to keep on stoning until she dies.

...[because] she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father’s house:

Did you hear how He say that? ‘*To play the whore in her father’s house.*’ In other words, while she is in her father’s house, she ought to know that she need to be in submission to her father. That is very serious. That is naturally and spiritually. Because, spiritually here, this is your Father’s House and this House is governed

by certain principles of the Word. And for people to do folly in Israel, and to go and do things outside the provided way....

Do you remember when Zimri and Cozbi—Zimri went and got Cozbi, and they walked into the tent like this; plagues in the place because of all the mixed marriages and all the different things, and he came in smiling? Maybe he played music or he sang or preached, or whatever he did. He was a prince, the Bible said, from Judah.

And when Phinehas saw that thing and he realized, “Wait a minute, so many people died already, people mourning and you are coming with this thing, do you want this thing to continue and go on? Are you coming in so selfishly and unconscious of how much the people of God who were called out under a prophet are suffering?” He said, “No, no.” Phinehas went for a javelin; killed him, the girl and the baby. And God gave the man an everlasting priesthood. And the plague was stayed.

My, I think I should stop there, but it’s a bad place to stop. Do you see how nice I was this morning? I stood up here and took my time and tried to speak softly, softly, softly; took my time, just making a nice talk and then—Because I know it’s a betrothal, and I just wanted to speak some of these things and, you know, just to bring it to a place to show you.

That’s why when Joseph was going with Mary and they were espoused, and she was found with Child of the Holy Ghost, and Joseph didn’t know that this Child was of the Holy Ghost, but he loved this girl; he was going to put her away privately. And God came down and said, “No, no, Joseph. That is not what you think it is.” Joseph even tried to avoid her being stoned by putting her away privately, because he knew if he took this to the elders, it was trouble. And God came down there and said, “No, no, no. This is of the Holy Ghost.” And so, Joseph now, God made him [to] become her

shield, because she had to bear a reproach of an evil name. But he stood at her side, even taking the evil name because he knew that this was the will of God. My!

And that's why friends, right there, when God said, "Take Mary thy wife," and the Angel came unto him and called him *her husband*, it came from this here, to show that God considers a couple when they're betrothed as husband and wife; only not to go and live yet, because this is in the process of 'taking the wife'. This is, "I've seen the person and I've made a promise to them to be married at an appointed time." And then the ceremony will take place and it will complete the 'taking of the wife'. And after he takes the wife, then he goes to the honeymoon, where he can go in unto the wife.

And that's why they have come through these processes. And now, they are going to come here this morning to be blessed of the Lord, that they've walked in the integrity of their hearts and lived an unblemished life here amongst us – Two godly young people, two nice young people that when you get to know them, you'll love them. And I'm sure they have many friends in the assembly because of the nice atmosphere around them.

The Prophet said that there are people you like to be around. They have a certain spirit; they have a certain way about them. And to know that it's two families that are very, very much involved in the work and the Word, and they stand for It. And they're here and they walk in these things.

And today, it's such a blessing that God has shown light in the Scriptures. And we can see that marriage is honorable. It's a beautiful thing. It's a Mystery of Christ and the Church. Even as Paul had told that Church, he said, "I espoused you as a chaste virgin unto Christ. Take care lest you be beguiled like Eve—as the Serpent beguiled Eve." And he was admonishing this Church, who was espoused to Christ, telling us that when we see a betrothal, you have made a promise to Christ.

You came and you were baptized in water – you’ve made a promise to Christ to marry. Then Christ comes down with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and He comes into real union with you. But while He sees you, He is drawing you; He is wooing you. Because “betroth” means “to woo a virgin”. The word “betroth” means Scripturally, “to woo a virgin”.

And that’s God speaking to your heart, drawing you. Why? Because He wants to make you Lady Jesus Christ. He wants to put the Word and pregnate you with the Word. He wants to marry you. He wants to see you come with a veil of submission before Him and say, “Lord, (you know) in sickness or in health, in riches or in poverty, for better or for worse; till death do us part. You take the whole world and give me Jesus. Father, I surrender all to You. I come to You without reservation, Lord.” See? Because you love Him so much; because His Love has been shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has taken the Word and opened It to you and then He begins to give you revelation – “Look what I’m preparing for you.” Like our precious Bro. Nino who is building his house, right now.

And, you know, you can imagine that soon the wedding is going to take place in a few months and then they’re going to go, maybe, into that house, all furnished and fixed and nice. Why? Because, as a young man growing up, he caught that vision. He wants to be married. He wants to have a family. And then the time came he had to hunt a bride. And then he found that bride. And when he saw that bride, he laid eyes upon her. He watched her coming in and he watched her going out. He watched the family. He watched the stock that she comes from. He watched the way that she was raised up. Amen.

Then he knows, I must approach her daddy. Amen. I must go and talk to him. I have to be a man because he is not expecting some little boy in short pants, you

know, [who] can't even make a real stand there. He is expecting a man to walk up through his gate and walk up to his door and tell him, "I would like to talk to your daughter. I feel drawn to her and the Holy Spirit has been dealing with me." And the father can look at him and see if this is a boy and he wants to come into his family.

And vice versa, the parents on the other side say, "Nino, are you sure of that girl?" And then here today, the two parents are so happy. We at times, we sat down together, all with the family and with the two young people and had a nice time and talked together and see what they had.

Even I had it... It was so settled in my mind, I thought the betrothal had taken place some months ago, since they were talking to me about it. I went out on the field, came back and then I was talking and saying, "Oh yes, you know, and after betrothal now, what is the plan; tell me what's going on." And then the father and mother on both sides listened to me, with the couple.

Then one of them, I think it was Bro. Errol here, Giffard, he said, "I listened to you talking like if the betrothal had taken place, but the betrothal hasn't taken place yet."

I said... So then I asked the couple, "Hasn't the betrothal taken place yet?"

They said, "No."

I said, "Well, I had the opinion the betrothal had taken place." Then I looked right there at the same time and I saw no ring on the girl's finger. I said, "My, forgive me. I'm so sorry because, you know, I always say, 'When I come back, I am supposed to do it on the 21st, and I ended up in Tobago on the 21st.'" But they were such a forgiving and kind couple, and you know, the family didn't mind. I guess, they know all things work together for good and I trust that they are all happy here today, you know – the Giffard family and the Mc Millian family. And to see this lovely young man; Bro. Nino is

a real fine gentleman, what you'd call a gentleman. Everybody knows Nino. He is so soft and nice. He just has a way about him – polite and friendly and respectful. You don't see... He is very constructive. Just by the fact, you know, the house is already completed, you could tell what is happening. This is a young man with vision.

And I think, sometimes, God put among you here, young men who know how to do things. And you see that; that's an example. Maybe it might not be your kind of example you want, but the thing is, the same thing you're trying to aspire to, watch one go for it. Watch the Holy Spirit comes behind and put the blessing. Watch the Holy Spirit comes behind and can speak freely and says, "Here it goes. Here it is." That's so wonderful.

And our precious Sis. Nikisha. I tell you, you know, he... I was lying down on my bed, about last night. I came back from the thanksgiving and I lay down there and I was thinking. I said, "Betrothal tomorrow." I said, "Think of this. This son of Giffard went into the garden of Mc Millian and pluck this beautiful rose, and made it his." And Bro. Mc Millian stood there and saw this boy coming into the yard, knowing he was coming for that rose, and then he can feel in his heart, "Okay, I'll let you have her. You are a good young man. I think that you'll make her happy and I think that you'll be a good son-in-law. You will fit in the family circle."

And I think that's great when—Because these men are men that are serving God. These are not men today [with] one foot in the church, one foot out here and their minds messed up. These are men that live by the Word. So they know—They have discernment. These are not men that, you know, some little... I should keep my language. I have on my jacket today, you know. I have to try and be a little more polite in my language here. [Congregation laughs –Ed.]

See, these are men that, you know, they know. They are men with experience. He could look at a young man, just watch the way he moves and know, "Forget it, boy. I think you're knocking on the wrong door." But when you see they opened up the door, you know they see character; on both sides.

Nice young girl... I myself, I don't know what my role is here, but maybe as just a witness. We just want a witness to sort of... When you have two, maybe I'm just like a third witness to kind of say, "Yes." And I think that's on behalf of the Lord; that's good there, too. So, I think it's good. Don't you think it's good? You. [Bro. Vin directs the question to the brother of the bride to be. -Ed.] That's her brother, you know. Fine young man as well. And you know, they think that's good. I think it's good. And having sat and talked with them; very, very nice couple. And I am glad when I see God move in a way to join hearts, because that's part of the Word.

The same way when I see people get saved, and I know they got saved right, I know they came in by the Word, they came by the water and the Blood and the Spirit; then I see somebody coming and I know that relationship is developing right, they're being married right; I feel good.

You start right, you go right. You see, you start crooked, you get yourself messed up and then, give you a chance, you could mess up a preacher too, trying to fix that thing because you want him to compromise here, you want him to go away from the Word to accept that and then, what kind of church are we going to have in the end? What kind of church are we going to have at the end? But we are happy for them, by the grace of God.

Maybe at this time they could come forward. This is a good time. [Congregation applauds. -Ed.]

Oh, brother! Somehow, I just like to see these things happen in church. You see, when it happens in church, I think that's... We are in the home, we're in our church

home. And in our church home, it makes us feel nice, because when our children are happy, we are happy; especially when they are happy from things that God ordained and gave to them to make them happy.

Did I say that good, Hannah? I think—I just felt I said that good right there. And I'm very happy for that because this is how it must be done.

And to you, the young people, let me just say this to you—the unmarried, I should say. We have some kind of little maturing and married here, so I want to just take it broadly. Let's do this, this way. Let's do this, this way. Take these things into your hearts as godly principles. Take these things into your hearts as the way we want to live our lives for the Lord Jesus.

I'm sure none of us feel embarrassed or ashamed here, today. We feel happy. Do you know why? It could be done this way. And every one of you... Think of it, last year to this year, many of you who are in the stage of mate selection, you're going through the phase of mate selection, trying to find that right mate. And sometimes, God is holding you a little bit, working on your patience, sometimes, but can't you realize that as you have sat there and you see others find theirs and coming, and God blessed it and it looked so nice and it can be honoured in the House of God; wouldn't that be the way you would want yours to come, too?

Don't go and get into any accidents. Don't go and make any mistakes that you shouldn't make. Am I not talking to you nicely today? Am I not talking to you, you know, with deep sincerity? Am I not trying to cultivate within you the right standard that in the end you will be happy? I mean, you don't have to invite me to your home after, you know. I'm not going to be, you know, imposing on you. But if you invite me, I will come.

But the thing is, I desire to see all of you come to the settled state of life, because God made you to desire that. Never let anybody put in your mind, "Bro. Vin

preaches the Word hard. Boy, I tell you, in this church..." No, no. You see this happening here over and over and over, and I would be taking service after service after service with it. Because, why am I doing that? To say, this is for you. This is for you, but come into it the right way and wait your turn.

Don't you, when you go to pay your light bill, you stand in line? [When] you are going to pay your electric bill, don't you stand in line? You go to the buffet, don't you stand in line and you wait your turn? And you see enough there for everybody. You didn't get frightened, thinking, "I wouldn't get. I checked four pieces of chicken; there are eight persons." And you are going through all that in your mind, and you want to break the line and, you know. You don't want to do that, do you? [Bro. Vin and Congregation laugh. -Ed.]

Dave is laughing. Look at Dave. [Bro. Dave Weston -Ed.] Just don't fall off the chair.

You want to just take your time, by God's grace. Are you happy? Do you feel happy, today? [Bro. Vin asks couple -Ed.] Special day. Amen. Praise God. I just love this little couple here.

They have a little song here, at this time. Maybe they could just come and sing it and just create this little atmosphere for the next few moments.

Where's Oba? We're going to have this betrothal.

The Bible says, "*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing.*" [Proverbs 18:22 -Ed.] "Houses and lands are the inheritance of fathers: but a prudent wife is from the LORD." [Proverbs 19:14 - Ed.]

You labor and you get reward from your job, you save it and you build a house; that is the fruit of your labor. But this here, is the gift of God. This here, is the gift of God. [Congregation gives God a hand of praise -Ed.] You could never think of the house more than her. The house, you want to give it to her and say, "I built this for you that you can be happy. Like two doves, this is the nest. You lay your eggs right in here. You hatch them out right in

here, by the grace of God. And we will be a dove family and we'll mate for life. Because doves mate for life." I tell you. And in a little while, you will coo to each other. When you slip the ring on that finger, just coo a little bit, by the grace of God. Amen. Praise His wonderful Name.

He has all his boys here. You see, all of them are his friends, here. They stand to sing for him on this momentous occasion.

[Bro. David Dayal and brothers sing, "I'm Gonna Love You" -Ed.]

*Love I can say is a very real thing
For the joy and the happiness it brings
And for this covenant you shared with me
I'm gonna spend my life with you eternally
That's why*

Chorus

*I'm gonna love you today}
I'm gonna love you always}
I'm gonna love you} (x2)*

*When I look into your eyes
What I see has made me realize
I don't ever want to be alone
Together, we are gonna share our future
home*

*I'm gonna love you today}
I'm gonna love you always}
I'm gonna love you} (x2)*

*For your love is stronger than wine
Thy loving kindness is better than life
I love you from your head down to your feet
You loving me, yes, has made my life
complete*

I'm gonna love you today}
I'm gonna love you always}
I'm gonna love you} (x5)

Amen. He's little more romantic than I thought. Amen. This is a special moment for them. Amen?

You know, in some places they criticize me and call this the worldly church, because normally, maybe in another church the boy won't hold the girl's hand; they'd stand up at the side and the minister would say whatever prayer, and in that prayer, it will be very strong that they better don't go and commit sin, you know. But I guess people can relate to things differently.

I think it's nice. It's nice in my eyes. Do you know why it's nice in my eyes? This is the wife God gave him. You didn't give him her. I didn't give him her. God gave her to him. And he took her the right way. He went to the father and the father gave consent. And she is not doing this in a car in a road, somewhere in the back. They are right here before their father and their mother, and his daddy could say, "Nino really loves that girl." And her mom could say, "Nikisha really loves that boy." Then they are happy for them. And if we're not too religious, but religious when we get the Holy Ghost, we can say, "Isn't that lovely that you have fine example in the House of God?" [Congregation gives God a hand of praise – Ed.] Amen.

Do you remember when David was dancing before the Lord? Michal sat down there and she was kind of a little... that didn't go down too well with her. He said, "Do you think that is something? Wait until you see tomorrow." He said, "Wait until you see tomorrow." And, so it is.

If you want to hear something from the Word:

[Bro. Vin reads from Songs of Solomon 2:1-6 –Ed.]

¹ I Am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. [This is the Bride speaking.]

I Am rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

[Jesus in Bride form.]

² As the lily among the thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

³ As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons.

She is saying, as the lily, rather, he is saying, as the lily among the thorns, so is my love among the daughters. I read that last week and it was so sweet; now, I want to read it again this week for them.

As the apple tree among the trees of the wood,

Right now, all of you out there, as nice as you think you are and how well you are dressed, you are like just trees in the woods, when he looks across this audience. But when he looks at her, brother, she is the lily among the thorns. And every young man sitting down there is just trees among the woods, and she sees him as an apple tree, standing there, full and nice, sweet apples.

I think even if some of our older ones learn a little bit of this language, we will have some joy in our marriages and we will have some sweetness in our homes. I think this is balm and this is tonic. You know, when you want to get a little stress and pressure and say, "Me and you; not me and you." Say, "How is my apple tree today?" Amen! "How's my precious lily?"

He says, "Man, it's so good to come home. Out in the work, there are so many thorns out there, but I come home to my lily."

I think it is going to make life sweet. Do you know why? You would be speaking His Word, what He speaks to His Bride. And with these kinds of Words, you can tell He is no bashful Bridegroom. He knows how to speak to the one He loves. He knows what language to use to define His love. He knows how to express that love. And I think that a lot of us can surely draw from

that and sweeten our spirits a little bit. It would really help us, by the grace of God.

...I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

You know, there are some people you just can't hear. You just can't be around long. From the time they start to talk, "Turn it down. Anyhow, you'll see me later. Sorry, I have to go." Something, because you just can't handle that. And then, there are some people you just like to be around and you don't want to give them a chance to stop. "Go on, yes. Go on, yes. Tell me more, yes. Tell me more, yes." It's sweet. It's pleasant. His fruit was sweet in my mouth.

⁴ He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

⁵ Sustain me with the cakes of raisins, comfort me with apples; for I am sick of love.

Can love make somebody sick? I guess, in a way that— "right now, I can't think of anything else. I have things to think about, but this love has me here. All these things are left undone. I can't seem to do my work. Like when I am sick, I will leave my work undone and right now, I can't do my work. Not because, physically, I am sick; I am just lovesick. I am just lovesick."

⁶ His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.

We just don't want to go too further than that, right now. Amen? So, right now, they could hold hands. There is not too much of mixing chemistry with holding hands. The Prophet said that. No, holding hands, that doesn't mix chemistry. That could arouse people, but saliva, kissing, that is after that veil is lifted off, when they are pronounced man and wife. Right now, they could talk. She carries that ring on her finger and knows that she is a betrothed young lady.

And I want to pray with them and ask God's richest blessing. I know he has a little ring there, the engagement ring.

You know, sometimes I kind of think through these things in my mind, because many times I come here, I open these boxes and some of the most beautiful rings stare back at me, and I kind of figure, how on earth did they find that? Where did they find that? It takes a lot of searching, sometimes, to find something like that. And I try to put myself there because I didn't have that experience.

I mean, when I was being married, you know, I was never engaged. I have betrothal because I see it in the Bible, but I, myself, was never really engaged; not any fault of mine. I guess I did not have a minister around me to instruct me at the time. There were so many different interpretations and ideas in the Message; no wonder God had to make me a little revolutionary to break out of that and change things around [to] the way I see it in the Word than [to] go under the hangovers that people brought over with them from organization.

So that is why I don't care too much for the organization. Once I can read out of the Bible and do what I am doing here, let every man hold his peace. It matters not, I do what I see God put in the Bible, you know. That's why I like to see them happy and lovely. This is getting them...

And I always say, when you are doing this, do it with meaning before the Lord; taking it consciously. Like I tell people when they are going to get baptized: they are coming into the water, forget whether the water is cold or what. Keep your eyes on the Cross because you are coming to have your sins remitted, and without the shedding of Blood, there is no remission of sin.

You don't want what you do to be a tradition. You want it to be with meaning and purpose, consciously doing what you are doing; why you are doing it. So, that's why many times I do a little coaching here. If I

see the brother just slip the ring on, I say, “Say something. Say, you know: I do betrothed thee or something. With all my heart, I love... I commit...” Say something. Don’t just put the ring on the finger. Because, why? This is being recorded in Heaven. It is being recorded in Heaven.

We read in the Bible about Isaac and Rebekah, and Abraham and Sarah, and Joseph and Mary. Well, let... The saints will hear the testimonies of these two, and those whom God let to see it will look over here and see that they are—If there was a Bible to be written today, It would say, “And Nino and Nikisha... And they loved each other dearly, even as Isaac had loved Rebekah and Boaz did Ruth.” Because they are saints and even greater saints, positionally, than those saints, standing here today.

Then wouldn’t their love be that deep? If they are in the Bride and those other people weren’t in the Bride, wouldn’t this love be that much deeper? Great thing. I think that is very, very lovely. I wish I can show it to you, but she is going to walk out, you know, and kind of wave a little bit and you’re going to get a chance to see that, by God’s grace.

[Bro. Nino Giffard places the ring on the finger of Sis. Nikisha Mc Millian -Ed.]

For her ears only. You know, sometimes, they’re always moving like the paparazzi, there.

Nino, you are happy, right? Amen. I want the mom and the dad to see this, you know, and with all the family to see this moment that they....

Our gracious Heavenly Father, how we love Bro. Nino and Sis. Nikisha, a young couple. A young man and a young woman whom You would have caused to be attracted together, You dropped love down into their hearts to bring that admiration, to caused them to draw closer to each other, to begin to desire conversation with each other, conversation that they found sweet; to begin, Lord, to see that desire grow within them until,

Lord, they could not turn loose from it. It drove them into prayer to seek Your face and You gave back witness and confirmation that this was not of the flesh but this was from You.

God, they made the next step and made known to their parents and Your servant what they were experiencing, and even there, dear God, You gave further witness and confirmation to them, strengthening their faith, giving them confidence that this thing proceedeth forth from the Lord.

And, dear God, in the days that passed by, as they would meet and they would talk and they would be with their parents, and the parents would meet and get together and spend time together, they began to realize, from both homes and both families, that not only for Nino and Nikisha were You doing something, but Bro. Jerome and Bro. Errol began to come close together, with their wives. They began to have respect, a deeper respect, as they got to know each other better and realized, dear God, that truly, Your hand is in this.

Today, it is exhibited in the assembly, and Lord, taking our time and trying to speak a little around the Word and keep presenting this, seeing we have so many young ones coming up, Lord, that they would not be influenced by misinterpretation, or be driven in self-will, or become frustrated sitting here, or be misled in some way into the wrong relationships, but they would be influenced, they would be motivated, they would be inspired when they see these things.

We pray that Bro. Nino's and Sis. Nikisha's lives would truly leave footprints, and leave such a godly influence and testimony for all these, Father. They would look, Lord, and they would rise up with courage, knowing that what You have done for this couple, You can do for them.

Bless Bro. Nino and Sis. Nikisha, dear God. You have kept them faithful while they have walked in this Truth, since You have called them. You have ministered Your

grace to them and caused them to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. They have become little servants of God, involved in the work and in the things of God, together with their parents.

Dear God, as they have made this commitment to each other, this promise and this vow which they took, dear God, before You and their parents, and this which they witnessed before witnesses today, sealing it publicly, Lord, with this engagement ring, I pray, dear God, that You will continue to lead them that this which You have started, this which You are the Author of, this which You are bringing to pass in their lives, You will take it to its completion, You will order their every step, and You will bless them in every endeavor and You will give them the wisdom and the strength and the grace to deal with every situation.

And Lord, when they would come to the place of the marriage ceremony, Lord, they will stand here, still undefiled [and] still unblemished; oh God, fill with joy and anticipation to see the marriage be consummated.

Dear God, until that time, may Your Holy Spirit, Lord, open up this great Mystery of Christ in such a way and in the experiences that they would have in this interval before marriage, dear God, they would mature in Your Presence; they will be ready to go forth and establish their home when that time comes.

While they would make their preparations, may You bless them in all things, Father, and cause them to prosper, we pray. All these things we ask, praying and committing them into Your mighty hands today, that You will keep them in Your Presence with godly respect, as the love grows deeper and deeper for each other, and as this great realization of Your will and plan for their lives, and how You intend for them to share this together to fulfill Your Word and reflect this Mystery, be a blessing and an influence to many.

May You unfold it to them. May You engrave it in their hearts. May they discover it in their fellowship.

May it cause them to grow one in spirit, Father, until that appointed time when they will be one in flesh. Grant it we ask; may You bless them. In the Name of Jesus Christ. We betrothed them this day for Your honor and Your glory, according to Your sacred and holy Word. Amen.

Let's give them a little hand. Amen. [Congregation applauds the betrothed couple -Ed.]

May we stand to our feet. We are certainly happy for that.

*"All hail King Jesus, all hail Immanuel!
King of kings, Lord of lords,
Bright Morning Star,
And throughout eternity,
I'm going to praise Him,
And forevermore, I will reign with Him."*

[Song #718 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

Let's just worship Him. Let's just sing to this great lovely One in our midst. All these things are little reflections of Him Who has wooed a virgin Bride in this Hour; Who has betrothed Her to Himself; Who has come down and married them on an individual level that in the appointed Time, there is going to be a great Wedding; a great Marriage Supper, in completeness, when all the Bride, all the members of Seven Church Ages will be assembled together. And He will go forth with His lovely Bride into the Honeymoon. What we are seeing happening in our very own lives gives testimony and witness. How we can worship Him with thankful hearts, with joyful hearts today; because we love Him because He first loved us.

[Bro. Vin and congregation sing All Hail King Jesus, #718 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

... I will reign with Him.

All hail King Jesus; [hallelujah]

*All hail Immanuel!
King of kings ...
Bright Morning Star, [hallelujah]
[And throughout Eternity.]
...Eternity,
I'm going to praise Him
... forevermore, I will reign...*

What a hope! What a blessed hope. Oh, we could confess that in our song again. Lift your hands and praise Him as you lift your voices. He Who has blessed us so bountifully and given us such good things. He Who wants to do for each and every one of us as we would let Him and open up our hearts and be in submission to His will that He can lead you into all His blessed will and His blessed promises.

*And throughout Eternity,
I'm going to praise Him,
And forevermore, I will reign with Him.*

As we bow our hearts in His Presence, I would like to invite one of our deacons here, Bro. Ronald Stewart, to come and pray and ask God's blessings and dismissal.

Every head bowed, every eye closed. If you have a special request today, or something: during the course of the service, God has dealt with you in some way, you would like to walk with Him, you would like to serve this great God, you want Him to confirm His Word and make It real in your life. You sat here today, and maybe It has been a little strange to you, but something moved and touched your heart and said, "That is the Scripture. This was so lovely. It just spoke to my heart. I would like to serve a God like that. I would like to walk in this Truth." You just hold that in your heart.

And many of you young ones [who're] looking for a mate, knowing that God knows how to lead you into these things, friends; don't just try playing Lotto and just going from place to place. [Lotto - a game of chance -

Ed.] You find these things by the leadership of Almighty God. Through prayer and the leadership of the Angel, Eliezer found that bride for Isaac. That's God's way of finding it.

God, Himself, had to find that bride for Adam and He found it. He put him to sleep and He took part of his own self, something that he could recognize came from him and blended it back into his life.

And so, don't be frustrated. Don't be influenced to go aside and apart from the Word. But as you stand here today, why don't you in your heart... You don't have to feel embarrassed. You don't have to feel ashamed. You don't have to try to make an impression. You say, "Lord, I love You and I serve You. I have no desire to go in the world. You chose me; I know that. But if God, there is something missing in my life; that fellowship, that companionship, that relationship, dear God, but I need Your leadership. I see different ones, but God, I don't have the confidence. I want a witness from You. I want Your direction because every time I hear the Word, I know it is so important. Would You lead me, Jesus?"

You hold that in your heart, you young ones who are at that place. The same God that led you to salvation, the same God that drew you to the Cross, the same God can draw you to the right person. You trust Him and believe Him. You ask for a bread and He will not give you a stone, as you stand here. That if He tells you wait, you can wait. If He tells you [to] put these things in place first, you will be obedient to put these things in place first. You will go at His direction and His Leadership. You will let Him govern your life that He might bring everything that you have need of, all that He promised, and fulfill it in your life.

Let us just bow our heads and close our eyes, around the building. You hold that request in your heart and while our brother prays. May the God of all grace, Who comforts; the God of all peace, settle these things for you. Amen.

[Bro. Ronald Stewart prays –Ed.]

Why don't you turn around and greet the person next to you. Tell them, God bless them. Greet the strangers, the visitors; make them feel loved and accepted being amongst us. Amen.

Jesus, Name above all names. What a lovely Name. They're betrothed in that Name, today. There is no greater Name, friends. The family in Heaven and earth that is named after the Lord Jesus Christ.

[Congregation sings, Jesus Name. Song #550 - Songs that live – Ed.]



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