

THE FINE LINEN OF THE BRIDE

Rev 19:7 *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

Rev 19:8 *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

Every wedding since the beginning of the world pointed to the ultimate marriage ceremony of the Lamb. The apostle John reveals to us that the bride of Christ wears a garment made of fine line, clean and white, which represents the righteousness of the saints. I feel the best way to understand the meaning of marriage is to consider the mystery of the linen granted to the bride of Christ for that wonderful day which is coming. The best gift the Lord Jesus Christ could give to his wife, the church, is a garment made of linen to show his love for her. We need to unlock the mystery of the linen garment in order to better appreciate the meaning of marriage, including this marriage between Bro. Abel and Sis. Abineth.

Exodus 26:31 *And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:*

Lev 16:4 *He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on.*

Lev 16:23 *And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there:*

The Scriptures above show that linen played a significant role in the plan of the Tabernacle given to Moses. The veil in the Tabernacle was made of linen and the priests were given garments made of linen. What does the veil of the Tabernacle represent? The answer is the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ. ***Note again that Aaron and the priests had to remove their garments when they entered the Tabernacle, wash their bodies, and only then put on the holy linen garments. Once they finished their service, they were to put off the linen garments and leave them in the Tabernacle.*** Is this not a beautiful symbol pointing to baptism in Jesus name where we put off the body of Adam and put on the body of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Gal 3:27 *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

Col 3:10 *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

God commanded Israel not to mix linen with other material. ‘Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woollen and linen together’ (Deut 22:11). It is for this reason that the apostolic church does not believe that Jesus’ body was of human or mixed origin. His flesh was from heaven, from the Holy Spirit. Sis. Abinet (ask her to stand up), your white bridal gown represents the linen garment granted to the church of Jesus Christ. It represents the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. By wearing it today, you are giving testimony to that great day when the entire church – all of us – will collectively be granted this honor in heaven. ***Whenever you feel unworthy, inadequate or the enemy comes to question your integrity (and there will be many times he will) remember the linen garments of the bride that represents the holy, heavenly body of Jesus Christ. You know that Satan must have tried many times to remind Aaron of the golden calf that he built, but Aaron knew that when he entered the Holy of Holies, he was not ministering in his own righteousness, but what the holy linen garments represented – the body and righteousness of the great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Remember what your wedding garment represents!***

2Sa 6:14 And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.

1Ch 15:27 And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him an ephod of linen.

Notice the Scriptures above keep repeating that David was ‘girded with a linen ephod’. Earlier, when he tried to bring the ark to the city of David, he was not successful; in fact, one man died. With all his authority, wisdom and talents, David failed to impress God. Husband and wife, bride and bridegroom, if you will exert yourselves to achieve your goals in life and for the kingdom of Jesus by your efforts and talents, you will fail. ***David decided to do something which was not done before; he borrowed a linen garment which was only for the priests of the house of Levi.*** David was of the tribe of Judah. Now he no longer represented King David of the tribe of Judah; he was clothed with the righteousness of Christ – the body of God himself which the linen garment represented. Now his plan was successful. ***Only if you put on the righteousness of Jesus, will his glory come down.***

Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Of all material, only linen truly represents the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Silk is from the silkworm and wool grows on sheep; but linen comes from reeds (plants) that grow in the shallow water, such as the banks of the Nile. ‘For he shall grow up before him as a tender

plant' (Isaiah 53:2). Next, the reeds are tied together and dried and beaten for many days. The body of our Lord was also beaten viciously, left to bleed and dry in the sun. Therefore, it is appropriate that Joseph of Arimathea wrapped the dead body of our Lord in linen garments.

John 19:40 *Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.*

John 20:5 *And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.*

John 20:6 *Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,*

Again, the linen garments plays a major role and is given supreme honor in covering the body of Lord in the grave. ***It was the linen clothes that was the final witness of the resurrection of Jesus. Peter was convinced when he saw them lying empty without the body of Jesus.*** The garments that your wedding dress symbolizes, Sis. Abinet, is also a witness that the church will be resurrected one of these days to meet Jesus Christ in the air. This is what we all should think of also when we attend an apostolic wedding and admire the wedding dress of the bride. When the born-again Christian is baptized in Jesus name, he or she has the evidence of the body of Jesus Christ as a token of their resurrection one day.

Isaiah 26:19 *Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.*

Peter could pick up the linen garment in the sepulcher and rejoice. This is the token of our resurrection soon. This is why we believe in revival – if the bride of Jesus, the church, dies, is not the Lord able to revive and raise up his own wife? So, the clothes of the bride also give us hope about the church's revival by the power of the husband of the church, Jesus Christ.

So, in conclusion, we understand there is a great message in the wedding dress of the bride made of linen and granted to her by the Lord Jesus Christ. Once we put on the body of Jesus Christ through repentance and baptism in Jesus name, our identities change forever and we are divinely empowered. Like Aaron, we become priests of our God, serving him in all holy things. Like David, we will be empowered to worship and dance before him – no one was able to condemn him; not even Michal. Finally, the linen, which was wrapped around Jesus' body and was the witness of his resurrection, reminds the church of our own resurrection one of these days.