

PASSION
for JESUS



MIKE BRUMBACK

Passion for Jesus: Discovering Jesus Passion for You!

By Mike Brumback

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CONTENTS

Introduction	i
1. Discovering the Bridegroom God	1
2. The Beauty of the Bride	21
3. The Glory of Loving God	33
4. The Seven Longings of the Bridal Paradigm	41
5. The Embrace of Sonship	57
6. The Throne of God	71
7. The Beauty of God	87
8. The Bridal Seal of Fire	97
9. The Worthy Lamb of God	107
Other Products by Mike Brumback	125

CHAPTER 1

Discovering the Bridegroom God

You're probably familiar with hearing about Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, your King, Master, and Holy God. But have you ever heard or known Jesus as your Bridegroom? He is the Bridegroom God!

John the Baptist was the greatest man born on earth. That's how Jesus described him. But what is fascinating to know is how John found his greatest satisfaction and joy in his bridal relationship with Jesus; being a friend of the Bridegroom.



He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

John 3:29

John was the first person to declare the beautiful Bridegroom God in the New Testament. He didn't see himself as a slave of God but as a friend. That was very personal to him. Do you see yourself as a friend of God? Do you have the confidence to come before His throne as a friend of the Bridegroom?

We know the Bible tells us in 1 John 4 that God is love, but do we know that God is a lover? That's the paradigm of knowing and encountering Jesus as a Bridegroom. Until we discover and start feeling on the inside "why" Jesus died on the cross for us, we will just be content to know that God is love. The Bible describes His love as a relentless burning fire. When it hits us that we were the ones that Jesus wanted even when we didn't want Him, and we were the ones He pursued even when we didn't pursue Him then our hearts will become empowered to love and serve Him with joy and vibrancy. Jesus is a lover who passionately sought after us while we never sought after Him, that's the power of the message of the Bridegroom God.



And they shall call them the Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord; And you shall be called Sought Out, a City not Forsaken.

Isaiah 62:12

Characteristics of the Bridegroom God

1. **Beauty** - Song of Solomon 5:10-16
2. **Desire** - Song of Solomon 7:10
3. **Joy** - Isaiah 62:5
4. **Zeal** - Zechariah 8:2
5. **Passion** – Song of Solomon 8:6-7
6. **Tenderness** – Psalm 145:8
7. **Romance** – Hosea 2:19-20
8. **Jealousy** – Deuteronomy 4:24

Understanding the Message of the Bridegroom

The revelation and message of the Bridegroom God will cover the earth in the last days. He is not only a Bridegroom but a “ravished Bridegroom.”



*You have ravished my (Jesus) heart, My sister, my spouse;
You have ravished my heart with one look of your eyes, with
one link of your necklace.*

Song of Solomon 4:9

The Hebrew word for “ravished” is *labab*. It literally means to be emotionally overcome with joy and delight and to be filled with strong emotion. The God of all power, wealth, and authority has emotions that are deeply moved as we set our gaze upon Him. Just “one look” focused on Him ravishes His heart. It doesn’t take very much to move and impact God’s heart like we think it does.

The ravished heart of God has a raging river of affections surging within His being. He is relentless in His pursuit of us. Not even the angels or seraphim before the throne have the capacity to ravish God’s heart, but we do! Doesn’t that amaze you? Do you understand who you really are in His eyes? Let me tell you who you are before the Bridegroom God. You are His rose, and you are awesome. Make sure you say it over and over. You’re just speaking back what God says about you in the scriptures.



I am the rose of Sharon, And the lily of the valleys.

Song of Solomon 2:1

*O my love, you are as beautiful as Tirzah, Lovely as
Jerusalem, Awesome as an army with banners!*

Song of Solomon 6:4

*Who is she who looks forth as the morning, Fair as the moon,
Clear as the sun, Awesome as an army with banners?*

Song of Solomon 6:10

Do you notice the word “awesome” in both passages? I’m sure it’s easy for you to say that God is awesome, but can you say that you are awesome? You’re awesome because the awesome God lives and abides in you. When you believe you are awesome, you will start feeling confident and powerful in God’s heart.

When we talk about Jesus as our Bridegroom God, we need to think of 5 aspects of who He is and what His intentions are for us. Take some time and ponder over them to awaken your heart to passion for Jesus.

1. The Bridegroom God Desires a Bride to be with Him Forever

I love the word “desire.” It unveils the heart and motivation of why Jesus came to the earth and passionately died on the cross for the human race. To be desired by God means to be wanted. Do you feel wanted by God or do you feel rejected by Him? Something makes us come alive again when we feel desired and cherished by the beautiful God who reigns upon His throne. It absolutely changes our life. It takes us from the pit of hopelessness and despair to the mountain of glory. We are the ones God likes. He really likes us. He really, really likes us. Before you continue reading, take a little time to speak out loud over, and over saying; “Jesus, here I am, your favorite one, the one that you like, it’s me again.”

Many believers define their lives by their struggle with sin and failure, and not by the burning desire of the One who loves them unconditionally. We are not the sum total of our most recent struggle. We are loved by God and our lovers of God. It’s who we are, and it’s what we do.

The God of desire is not tolerating you but desires you for who you are, and not what you can do for Him. You never have or never will be a burden to Jesus, the Bridegroom God. Not only does He desire you even in your personal struggles and issues, but will always desire you throughout eternity. He simply wants to be with you and reveal His deep secrets to you. He desires that you behold His glory. He has many things, many secrets He wants to share with you.



Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:24

The question we must ask ourselves is: does the God we worship and serve have deep feelings inside Him? If so, are those feelings positive or negative towards us in our relationship with Him? It seems like we so easily buy into the lies of the enemy about who we are in God's eyes. We wrestle to embrace the truth that He desires us and really likes us for who we are. The enemy continually tells us how dark and sinful we are, yet the Bridegroom God is shouting like a trumpet how special and unique we are as His bride. When we see Jesus as a Bridegroom God, it will enable us to see ourselves as His cherished bride.

Did you know that Jesus boasts and talks about our hidden beauty being formed in us before the Host of Angels? He has so many good things to say about us because that's the heart and desire of the Bridegroom God. The most important question we must ask the Lord is this: "what are you thinking, what are you feeling towards me, I have to know?" Give much time and thought to allow Him to answer you. I believe you will be so surprised and stunned at what He has to say to you. Because your His friend why wouldn't He answer you?

The Bridegroom of Desire

What would our Christian life be like without worshiping a God who has deep feelings and affections? Imagine coming before Him and expressing your love and devotion to Him and never feel His affections back. It would be absolutely miserable. It would be like the earth having no color in it. It would be like singing music without feeling the rhythm of it. It would be like pouring out your love to your spouse and never receiving love back. It would be one-sided.

Do you believe that God is for you and not against you? Do you believe His passion for you is much stronger than your passion for Him? There's no one more concerned about your personal life, career and ministry than Jesus, the Bridegroom. There is no one more intimately acquainted with everything going on in your life than Him (see Psalm 139:1-4). He wants you to be strongly convinced deep within.

If God could desire and accept us in our absolute darkness before we were saved, why wouldn't He desire and accept us now that we belong to Him? He desires us in the lowest pit, and He desires us in the highest glory of our lives. He is the Bridegroom of desire. Hallelujah!



I am my beloved's, And His desire is toward me.

Song of Solomon 7:10

Hosea the prophet is a picture of the Bridegroom God in the book of Hosea. God told Hosea to go and marry a prostitute (Gomer), so He could feel the unending love for the nation of Israel. Gomer spent her entire life in harlotry. She never knew what true love was. She only knew that she had no value or significance in life and was used and abused at the hands of men. She could not have been at a lower place in her life. Just when probably everyone had given up on

Gomer, we see the God of burning desire, the One who has the capacity to be ravished who steps on to the scene. He was not embarrassed to stoop low in her dark pit and cloth her in white garments and give her a whole new life.

Nobody wanted Gomer, but God did. He saw something in her that no one else saw. He didn't see where she was as a prostitute but saw where she would be in the future as a bride. The Bridegroom God invited His friend Hosea to share with Him in His sufferings by asking him to take a "wife of harlotry" (see Hosea 1:2). Here is a question that always puzzles my mind. How could a Holy God ask a holy prophet to marry a filthy prostitute? Therein lies the mystery of the Bridegroom God.

Listen to what Isaiah the prophet boldly declared in his generation. It is more than words on paper, but its life-changing revelation from the burning desire of the Bridegroom God. The message proclaimed is the new special name that will be given to you - "Hephzibah." It means God's delight is in her.



You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; For the LORD delights in you, And your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, So shall your sons marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.

Isaiah 62:4-5

The Bridegroom God is pictured rejoicing over His people, the nation of Israel. He's not pictured rejoicing over what they had accomplished for Him; He's simply rejoicing over the ones that are married to Him for life. This prophetic word is not only for God's chosen people in Isaiah's day but is a direct word to you as His cherished

bride. Don't ever forget your new name spoken by the Bridegroom "Hephzibah." I will get more into the revelation of God's delight and gladness later in this chapter.

2. The Bridegroom God has Invited Us to a Wedding

The second aspect of discovering Jesus as a Bridegroom is being convinced that we have been invited to a royal wedding. It was John the Apostle who had this revelation from the throne room of heaven.



Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Revelation 19:7-8

Look at the bride's response on her wedding day. She is pictured rejoicing and fully prepared to meet her Beloved face to face. It's a great day for her, and it's a really great day for the Bridegroom. He has been patiently anticipating this glorious day from the beginning of time.

The Bible has one grand theme running through the pages; a wedding! Jesus' public ministry began at a wedding, and His public return will end with a wedding. The marriage of the Lamb is the highest calling of God's heart. Everything we have ever gone through and endured for Him has led to this grand day. It will be a unique day as Jesus finished the good work in His bride, to reign in partnership with Him. The marriage of the Lamb is called the day of the gladness of Jesus' heart in the book of Song of Solomon.

PASSION FOR JESUS



Go forth, O daughters of Zion, And see King Solomon (Jesus) with the crown with which his mother (church) crowned him On the day of his wedding, The day of the gladness of his heart.

Song of Solomon 3:11

Do you ever think about where you are headed in your future? Have you spent any time in your spiritual journey pondering at the big picture of your life, and where this whole thing about life is taking you? Beloved, you are going to a wedding! It's not just any ordinary wedding because it's not been prepared by man. This wedding is the future joy that was set before Jesus as He endured the cross (see Hebrews 12:2). It is the wedding of all ages, and you will be the center of attention before the heavenly hosts of angels. You will be clothed in white garments, presented faultless in His holy presence. You are no longer married to anyone but the Bridegroom, and He will never divorce you!

How does it make you feel that out of the whole world you have been personally invited and chosen by God Himself to a noble wedding with Him? History began with a bride and Bridegroom in the garden, and history will end with a bride and Bridegroom in the eternal city. That's your story because you're caught up in His story. Forever you will serve and reign with the Lamb of God, as you behold His glorious face.



And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Revelation 22:3-5

3. The Bridegroom God Possesses Infinite Beauty

The third aspect of discovering Jesus as a Bridegroom is knowing He possesses infinite beauty. I absolutely love the revelation of the Beauty of God. For many years in my Christian walk, I never thought that God is beautiful. Has it ever crossed your mind that God is absolutely beautiful? The scriptures are packed with many passages that unveil His beauty.

The beauty of God was the secret to King David's life. It was his passion and longing to be caught up in marveling, as he gazed upon the beauty of the Lord. Beholding is all about encounter!



One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

Psalm 27:4

John the Apostle gives a description of the beauty of the Bridegroom (Son of Man) in Revelation 1. He received it when he was ninety years old. You're never too old, or it's never too late to have Jesus reveal his surpassing beauty to you.



Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

PASSION FOR JESUS

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Revelation 1:12-18

The Shulamite who becomes the bride gives a poetic description of Jesus, the Bridegroom God to the Daughters of Jerusalem in Song of Solomon 5. What stands out in this portion of scripture for us to understand is the Bridegroom God is altogether lovely, and the bride encounters Jesus as her Beloved, and her friend. This is what we so desperately need in our daily lives.



My beloved is white (radiant) and ruddy (dazzling), Chief among ten thousand. His head is like the finest gold; His locks are wavy, And black as a raven. His eyes are like doves By the rivers of waters, Washed with milk, And fitly set. His cheeks are like a bed of spices, Banks of scented herbs. His lips are lilies, Dripping liquid myrrh. His hands are rods of gold Set with beryl. His body is carved ivory Inlaid with sapphires. His legs are pillars of marble Set on bases of fine gold. His countenance is like Lebanon, Excellent as the cedars. His mouth is most sweet, Yes, He is altogether lovely. This is my Beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Song of Solomon 5:10-16

The beauty of God is a huge and vast subject to search out. There are so many different aspects to discover, but at the foundation is the revelation of His heart and character. That's what makes Him beautiful. It was Nehemiah the prophet who received this powerful truth and revelation. I call it the five pillars of God's heart. In chapter seven

of my book, I will further develop the theme of the beauty of God. This is just a glimpse of His shining glory and beauty. Here are the 5 pillars of God's heart. Maybe some of you will write an article or a book on these permanent and unmoveable pillars.

1. Forgiving
2. Gracious
3. Compassionate
4. Slow to Anger
5. Abounding in Loving Kindness



...But You are a God of forgiveness, Gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness; And You did not forsake them.

Nehemiah 9:17 (NASB)

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