

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!



An open book with text overlaid on it. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds. The book is open, showing two pages of text. The text is in a serif font, and the book is slightly out of focus.

# **Here Come the Bride!**

***The will of the father***

**Scripture text: Genesis Ch 24:1-9**

Just as Abraham wanted a bride for his son, so God the Father elected to provide a bride for His beloved Son.

Why? Not because Jesus needed anything, for the eternal Son of God is self-existent and self-sufficient and needs nothing.

**The bride is the Father's love gift to His Son.**

We usually emphasize that the Son is the Father's love gift to the world (John 3:16) and **forget that the church is the Father's love gift to His Son (17:2, 6, 9, 11–12, 24).**

**John 3:16-18** "For God **so loved** the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but **in order that the world might be saved through him**. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

**Genesis 17:1-2** When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, **that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.**"

**Genesis 17:6** I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.

**Genesis 17:9-11** And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, **you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.**

This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and **it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.** He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. **Every male throughout your generations,** whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,

In the divine counsels of eternity, the **Father elected to save lost sinners** by His grace, the **Son agreed to die for the sins** of the world, and the **Holy Spirit agreed to apply that work** to the lives of all who would believe.

This is revealed in Ephesians 1:1–14, where you see the work of God the Father (1:3–6), God the Son (1:7–12), and God the Holy Spirit (1:13–14). Note especially that the reason for this great plan of salvation is ***the glory of God*** (Eph 1:6, 12, 14).

## **The work of God the Father:**

**Ephesians 1:3-6** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will**, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

**God the Son: Ephesians 1:7-12** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

# God the Holy Spirit:

**Ephesians 1:13-14** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**, who is the **guarantee** of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**Note** especially that the reason for this great plan of salvation is ***the glory of God:***

**Ephesians 1:6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

**Ephesians 1:12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be **to the praise of his glory.**

**Ephesians 1:14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory.**

Those who trusted Christ would be a special people, **His inheritance** (1:18) and **His bride** (5:22–33). His bride would bring glory to Christ on earth and throughout all eternity. **One day Jesus Christ would have the joy of presenting His bride in glory to the Father** (Heb. 12:2; Jude 24).

**Ephesians 1:18** having the **eyes of your hearts enlightened**, that you **may know** what is the hope to which he has called you, **what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints**,

**Hebrews 12:1-2** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith**, who for the **joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and **is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Jude 1:24** Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and **to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,**

**The next time you have the  
privilege of witnessing for  
Jesus Christ, remember that  
you are inviting people to  
come to the wedding!**

**Matthew 22:1-14**

**Genesis 24:6-8** Abraham said to him, "**See to it that you do not take my son back there.** The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; **only you must not take my son back there.**"

**Genesis 11:28-31** Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. Now Sarai was barren; she had no child. Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and **they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans** to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there.

**Genesis 12:1-4** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. **I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse,** and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So **Abram went, as the LORD had told him,** and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

**Jasher 7:39-41** And when **Nimrod** had joyfully returned from battle, after having conquered his enemies, all his brethren, together with those who knew him before, assembled to make him king over them, and they placed the regal crown upon his head. And he set over his subjects and people, princes, judges, and rulers, as is the custom amongst kings. And he placed **Terah the son of Nahor the prince of his host**, and he dignified him and elevated him above all his princes.

**Jasher 7:47-48** And he made gods of wood and stone, and he bowed down to them, and he rebelled against the Lord, and taught all his subjects and the people of the earth his wicked ways; and Mardon his son was more wicked than his father. **And every one that heard of the acts of Mardon the son of Nimrod would say, concerning him, *From the wicked goeth forth wickedness***; therefore it became a proverb in the whole earth, saying, From the wicked goeth forth wickedness, and it was current in the words of men from that time to this.

**Jasher 7:49-51** And Terah the son of Nahor, prince of Nimrod's host, was in those days very great in the sight of the king and his subjects, and **the king and princes loved him**, and they elevated him very high. And Terah took a wife and her name was Amthelo the daughter of Cornebo; and the wife of Terah conceived and bare him a son in those days. Terah was seventy years old when he begat him, and Terah called the name of his son that was born to him **Abram**, because the king had raised him in those days, and dignified him above all his princes that were with him.

**Jasher 8:1-3** And it was in the **night that Abram was born**, that all the servants of Terah, and all the wise men of Nimrod, and his conjurors came and ate and drank in the house of Terah, and they rejoiced with him on that night. And when all the wise men and conjurors went out from the house of Terah, they **lifted up their eyes toward heaven that night to look at the stars, and they saw, and behold one very large star came from the east and ran in the heavens, and he swallowed up the four stars from the four sides of the heavens.** And all the wise men of the king and his conjurors were astonished at the sight, and the sages understood this matter, and they knew its import.

**Jasher 8:6-8** And they spoke and said to each other, Behold the sight that we saw last night is hidden from the king, it has not been made known to him. And should this thing get known to the king in the latter days, he will say to us, Why have you concealed this matter from me, and then we shall all suffer death; therefore, now **let us go and tell the king the sight which we saw, and the interpretation thereof**, and we shall then remain clear. And they did so, and they all went to the king and bowed down to him to the ground, and they said, May the king live, may the king live.

**Jasher 8:10-11** And when thy servants went out from the house of Terah, to go to our respective homes to abide there for the night, we lifted up our eyes to heaven, and we saw a great star coming from the east, and the same star ran with great speed, and swallowed up four great stars, from the four sides of the heavens. And thy servants were astonished at the sight which we saw, and were greatly terrified, and we made our judgment upon the sight, and knew by our wisdom the proper interpretation thereof, **that this thing applies to the child that is born to Terah, who will grow up and multiply greatly, and become powerful, and kill all the kings of the earth, and inherit all their lands, he and his seed forever.**

**Jasher 8:13-16** If it seemeth good to the king to give his father **value for this child**, we will slay him before he shall grow up and increase in the land, and his evil increase against us, that we and our children perish through his evil. And the king heard their words and they seemed good in his sight, and he sent and called for Terah, and Terah came before the king. And the king said to Terah, I have been told that a son was yesternight born to thee, and after this manner was observed in the heavens at his birth. **And now therefore give me the child, that we may slay him before his evil springs up against us, and I will give thee for his value, thy house full of silver and gold.**

**Jasher 8:30-31** And Terah answered the king, saying, I beseech thee my lord and king to let thy servant speak a word before thee, and let the king hear the word of his servant, and Terah said, **Let my king give me three days' time till I consider this matter within myself, and consult with my family concerning the words of my king;** and he pressed the king greatly to agree to this. And the king hearkened to Terah, and he did so **and he gave him three days' time,** and Terah went out from the king's presence, and he came home to his family and spoke to them all the words of the king; and the people were greatly afraid.

**Jasher 8:32-33** And it was in the third day that the king sent to Terah, saying, Send me thy son for a price as I spoke to thee; and shouldst thou not do this, **I will send and slay all thou hast in thy house**, so that thou shalt not even have a dog remaining. And Terah hastened, (as the thing was urgent from the king), and **he took a child from one of his servants, which his handmaid had born to him that day**, and Terah brought the child to the king and received value for him.

**Jasher 8:34-36** And the Lord was with Terah in this matter, that Nimrod might not cause Abram's death, and the king took the child from Terah and with all his might dashed his head to the ground, **for he thought it had been Abram**; and this was concealed from him from that day, and it was forgotten by the king, **as it was the will of Providence not to suffer Abram's death**. And Terah took Abram his son secretly, **together with his mother and nurse, and he concealed them in a cave**, and he brought them their provisions monthly. And the Lord was with Abram in the cave and he grew up, and Abram was **in the cave ten years**, and the king and his princes, soothsayers and sages, **thought that the king had killed Abram**.

**Jasher 9:4-5** Haran was forty-two years old when he begat **Sarai**, which was **in the tenth year of the life of Abram**; and in those days Abram and his mother and nurse went out from the cave, as the king and his subjects had forgotten the affair of Abram. And when Abram came out from the cave, **he went to Noah and his son Shem**, and he remained with them **to learn the instruction of the Lord** and his ways, and **no man knew where Abram was**, and **Abram served Noah and Shem his son for a long time.**

**Jasher 9:6** And Abram was in Noah's house **thirty-nine years**, and Abram knew the Lord from three years old, and he went in the ways of the Lord until the day of his death, as **Noah and his son Shem had taught him**; and all the sons of the earth in those days greatly transgressed against the Lord, and **they rebelled against him and they served other gods**, and **they forgot the Lord** who had created them in the earth; and the inhabitants of the earth made unto themselves, at that time, every man his god; gods of wood and stone which could neither speak, hear, nor deliver, and the sons of men served them and they became their gods.

**Jasher 9:7-9** And the king and all his servants, and Terah with all his household were then **the first of those that served gods of wood and stone.** And Terah had twelve gods of large size, made of wood and stone, after the twelve months of the year, and he served each one monthly, and every month Terah would bring his meat offering and drink offering to his gods; thus did Terah all the days. **And all that generation were wicked in the sight of the Lord,** and they thus made every man his god, but **they forsook the Lord who had created them.**

**Jasher 9:10-12** And there was not a man found in those days in the whole earth, who knew the Lord (for they served each man his own God) **except Noah and his household, and all those who were under his counsel** knew the Lord in those days. And **Abram the son of Terah was waxing great in those days in the house of Noah, and no man knew it, and the Lord was with him.** And the Lord gave Abram an understanding heart, and **he knew all the works of that generation were vain,** and that all their gods were vain and were of no avail.

**Jasher 11:13-16** And in the **fiftieth year of the life of Abram** son of Terah, Abram came forth from the house of Noah, and went to his father's house. And **Abram knew the Lord, and he went in his ways and instructions, and the Lord his God was with him.** And Terah his father was in those days, **still captain of the host of king Nimrod,** and he still **followed strange gods.** And Abram came to his father's house and saw twelve gods standing there in their temples, and **the anger of Abram was kindled** when he saw these images in his father's house.

**Jasher 11:18-19** And Abram went from them, and **his anger burned within him**. And Abram hastened and went from the chamber to his father's outer court, and he found his father sitting in the court, and all his servants with him, and Abram came and sat before him. And Abram asked his father, saying, **Father, tell me where is God who created heaven and earth, and all the sons of men upon earth, and who created thee and me**. And Terah answered his son Abram and said, Behold those who created us are all with us in the house.

**Jasher 11:20-22** And Abram said to his father, My lord, **shew them to me I pray thee;** and Terah brought Abram into the chamber of the inner court, and Abram saw, and **behold the whole room was full of gods of wood and stone, twelve great images and others less than they without number.** And Terah said to his son, Behold these are they which made all thou seest upon earth, and which created me and thee, and all mankind. And Terah bowed down to his gods, and he then went away from them, and Abram, his son, went away with him.

**Jasher 11:23-25** And when Abram had gone from them he went to his mother and sat before her, and he said to his mother, Behold, **my father has shown me those who made heaven and earth**, and all the sons of men. Now, **therefore, hasten and fetch a kid from the flock, and make of it savory meat, that I may bring it to my father's gods as an offering** for them to eat; perhaps I may thereby become acceptable to them. And his mother did so, and she fetched a kid, and made savory meat thereof, and brought it to Abram, and Abram took the savory meat from his mother and brought it before his father's gods, and he drew nigh to them that they might eat; and Terah his father, **did not know of it.**

**Jasher 11:26-27** And Abram saw on the day when he was sitting amongst them, **that they had no voice, no hearing, no motion, and not one of them could stretch forth his hand to eat.** And Abram **mocked them**, and said, Surely the savory meat that I prepared has not pleased them, or perhaps it was too little for them, and for that reason they would not eat; therefore tomorrow I will prepare fresh savory meat, better and more plentiful than this, **in order that I may see the result.**

**Jasher 11:28-29** And it was on the next day that Abram directed his mother concerning the savory meat, and his mother rose and fetched **three fine kids from the flock**, and she made of them some excellent savory meat, such as her son was fond of, and she gave it to her son Abram; and Terah his father did not know of it. And Abram took the savory meat from his mother, **and brought it before his father's gods into the chamber**; and he came nigh unto them that they might eat, and he placed it before them, and Abram sat before them all day, thinking perhaps they might eat.

**Jasher 11:30-32** And Abram viewed them, and behold they had neither voice nor hearing, nor did one of them stretch forth his hand to the meat to eat. And in the evening of that day in that house **Abram was clothed with the spirit of God.** And he called out and said, **Wo unto my father and this wicked generation,** whose hearts are all inclined to vanity, who serve these idols of wood and stone which can neither eat, smell, hear nor speak, who have mouths without speech, eyes without sight, ears without hearing, hands without feeling, and legs which cannot move; like them are those that made them and that trust in them.

**Jasher 11:33-35** And when Abram saw all these things his **anger was kindled against his father**, and he hastened and **took a hatchet in his hand**, and came unto the chamber of the gods, and **he broke all his father's gods**. And when he had done breaking the images, **he placed the hatchet in the hand of the great god which was there before them, and he went out**; and Terah his father came home, for he had heard at the door the sound of the striking of the hatchet; so Terah came into the house to know what this was about. And Terah, having heard the noise of the hatchet in the room of images, ran to the room to the images, and **he met Abram going out**.

**Jasher 11:36-39** And Terah entered the room and found **all the idols fallen down and broken**, and the **hatchet in the hand of the largest**, which was not broken, and the savory meat which Abram his son had made was still before them. And when Terah saw this his anger was greatly kindled, and he hastened and went from the room to Abram. And he found Abram his son still sitting in the house; and he said to him, **What is this work thou hast done to my gods?** And Abram answered Terah his father and he said, **Not so my lord, for I brought savory meat before them, and when I came nigh to them with the meat that they might eat,** they all at once stretched forth their hands to eat before the great one had put forth his hand to eat.

**Jasher 11:40-41** And the large one saw their works that they did before him, and his anger was violently kindled against them, and he went and took the hatchet that was in the house and came to them and broke them all, and behold the hatchet is yet in his hand as thou seest. And Terah's anger was kindled against his son Abram, when he spoke this; and Terah said to Abram his son in his anger, **What is this tale that thou hast told? Thou speakest lies to me.**