The Bride in the Old Testament

Ezekiel 16

- 8. Then I passed by you and watched you, noticing that you had reached the age for love. I spread my cloak over you and covered your nakedness. I swore a solemn oath to you and entered into a marriage covenant with you, declares the sovereign LORD, and you became mine.
- 9. Then I bathed you in water, washed the blood off you, and anointed you with fragrant oil.
- 10. I dressed you in embroidered clothing and put fine leather sandals on your feet. I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk.
- 11. I adorned you with jewelry. I put bracelets on your hands and a necklace around your neck.
- 12. I put a ring in your nose, earrings on your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head.
- 13. You were adorned with gold and silver, while your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidery. You ate the finest flour, honey, and olive oil. You became extremely beautiful and attained the position of royalty.
- 14. Your fame spread among the nations because of your beauty; your beauty was perfect because of the splendor which I bestowed on you, declares the sovereign LORD.
- 15. But you trusted in your beauty and capitalized on your fame by becoming a prostitute. You offered your sexual favors to every man who passed by so that your beauty became his.
- 16. You took some of your clothing and made for yourself decorated high places; you engaged in prostitution on them. You went to him to become his.

Psalm 45 (addressed to Jesus, and his bride)

- 2. You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.
- 6. Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
- 7. you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
- 8. your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
- 9. ...at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
- 10. Hear, O daughter, and consider ... the king will desire your beauty.

Song of Solomon 2

- 1. I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.
- 2. As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women.
- 3. As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his Luke 22 shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.
- 4. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.
- 5. Sustain me with raisins; refresh me with apples, for I am sick with love.
- 6. His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!

Jeremiah 2

2. "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, "I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.

Jeremiah 3

14. "Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your husband"

Isaiah 54

- 5. For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.
- 6. For the LORD has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.

Isaiah 62

- 4. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.
- 5. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you [the land], and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

The Bride in the Life of Jesus

John 3

- 28. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.'
- 29. The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.

John 14

- 1. "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.
- 2. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?
- 3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

John 15

- 9. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.
- 15. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

15. Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

Hebrews 12

2. [Jesus] ... who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame...

Ephesians 5:25–32

- 25. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
- 26. that **he** might make her holy, cleansing her by the washing of water through the word,
- 27. that **he** might present **to himself** the church, in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
- 29. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as **Christ** does the church,
- 30. because we are members of **his body**.
- 31. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."
- 32. This mystery is profound, and I speak with reference to **Christ** and the church.

The Future Wedding

2 Corinthians 11

- 1. I wish you would bear with me in a little foolishness. Do bear with me!
- 2. For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.
- 3. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.
- 4. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

Revelation 19

- 6. Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
- 7. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;
- 8. it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
- 9. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Revelation 21

- 2. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.
- 4. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
- 9. Then came one of the seven angels... came and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."
- 10. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,
- 11. having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Quotations taken from the ESV