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“From the Pastor’s Desk”

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A ROYAL WEDDING

This past month the world’s attention has been focused on the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s wedding. In case someone did not take notice, their wedding took place on May 19, 2018, in St George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle. They became the 16th royal couple to celebrate their marriage at Windsor Castle since 1863.

One week Queen of England Consent which was grant her grandson American young area, where she The wedding, like with moments of fun has stated reflect and groom.



prior to the ceremony, the signed the Instrument of the official document which permission to marry an lady from Los Angeles attended USC University. most weddings was filled and joy, which someone the characters of the bride

I was rather intrigued by the 14 minute message given at the ceremony, as to his style of delivery (which almost made me feel that my sermon style of delivery may not be as out of date as some people think.) I am sure that the royal reception was rather stung, amused, and shocked, but personally I feel that maybe at least what he had to say perhaps got more attention than if it had been said by someone who was more ordinary to the custom of Great Britain.

While many things which took place according to tradition, yet this couple seemed to not be afraid to challenge the status quo and do things that best fit their own tastes and accomplished what they thought best for themselves. One of the traditions which was broken was the fact that the wedding took place on a Saturday instead of the usual weekday. For instance, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge got married on a Friday and the Queen and Prince Phillip got married on a Thursday.

The Queen has conferred the title of Dukedom on Prince Henry of Wales, just in case any of you meet him on the street someday. Also his titles will be Duke of Sussex, Earl of Dumbarton and Barron Kilkeel. That is a lot of titles for a young man. I hope he can remember them all. Oh yes, don’t forget to address him His Royal Highness and Markle, in case you have the opportunity of meeting her when she visits her homeland, will from henceforth be called Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Sussex.

Now, you probably think I was speaking in jest or disrespect in the above paragraph, but really I am not, I myself had the opportunity to meet some people who were related to royalty and had the opportunity of ministering the Gospel to them as well as being invited into their home for a lunch. I never dreamed that such an experience would happen to me.....an Michigan-Oklahoma boy....but it did. You just never know where the Lord will lead you.

Another thing that intrigued me about this wedding was the music which I personally truly enjoyed, - Ben E King’s soul classic "Stand By Me" was performed by Karen Gibson and The Kingdom Choir, and a gospel choir performed Etta James’s version of "Amen/This Little Light of Mine" as the newlyweds left the chapel. Hymns included the Welsh rugby anthem "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer", otherwise known as "Bread of Heaven".

It was most unfortunate that Meghan’s father was unable to walk her down the aisle due to his recent heart attack and the need to remain home to recover from surgery as a result. I am sure he, as well as Meghan, was disappointed.

In a statement made days before the wedding Meghan said that she always cared for her father and hoped he could be given the space he needed to focus on his own well-being. Subsequently, Prince Charles gave his future daughter-in-law away in her father absence.

ANOTHER ROYAL WEDDING

“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” Rev.19:9

Now why have I spent so much time on this newsletter talking about this recent royal wedding? Well there is another wedding which will be taking place, I believe, pretty soon. The announcements have already been made. Expectation is high for many people who have adored the Bride-groom and I am convinced that once it takes place there will be a lot of happy faces and rejoicing.

If you have not read the invitation, I urge you to do so because you have been invited. You may not have been invited to the royal wedding in Great Britain, but that is alright; you have been invited to this one. The Holy Scriptures are filled with information about the marriage of the bride and bridegroom. It would be ashamed to miss it. The planning has already taken place over the past two thousand years because Jesus said, that He has gone to make preparation for that day. He will come again and receive us to Himself.

I remember when I married Ginny, over fifty-eight years ago. This was the greatest day of my life. It was the most important event that had ever taken place for me since my physical birth as well as new birth. I was not disappointed when my bride walked down that aisle. She was, and is still, beautiful even after all those years. I definitely, as someone told me, did “*marry up.*”

Now some people may be asking: Who is the bride? Please observe the passage in Revelation nine declares that “*the bride hath made herself ready.*” And it tells us that it was granted to her “that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; or the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.” So who is the bride? The bride is made up of those who have received Christ as their Lord and Savior. No wonder John wrote: Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.” (Rev. 19:9)

The marriage day of Christ and His Church is the day of His second advent. John also wrote about it in Revelation 21 when he said,

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

I am sure that the Meghan Markle’s name was not only changed when she married Prince Harry, but her entire life is going to be changed. She will dress differently we have been told. She will take on an entire new life style. Such things happen when you marry into royalty. On earth it may be a challenge for her to alter her life from the way it has been up until now. She may not like all the changes. But for the bride of Christ when they entered the palace of heaven, the changes will be welcome. Tears will be wiped away. All things will become new. No death, no sorrow, nor weeping.

The question we must ask ourselves is: What are we doing now to adjust to those changes which are to take place once the marriage takes place? People who say they want to go to heaven must remember it is like going to church. Songs will be spiritual not like the ones the world sings. Worship will be normal, bowing at His feet often, not just on Sunday. Every day will be a religious holiday. Yes, we are going to a Royal Wedding. It will be held in the throne room of God. No sleeping there. I dare say that even the manner in which the services will be conducted will much of a shock as it was for the royal wedding when the bride’s pastor stood to minister. I dare say that it will be most refreshing. What a day that will be because most of all we will see Jesus in all His glory. Please do not ignore the invitation to which you have been invited. I pray that you will make preparation. Join us on Sunday at Church; that is a good way of getting ready.

Amen.