

# TO HER IT WAS GRANTED... 2

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**Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023**  
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Brother Justo called last night and he was telling me of different assemblies in his area. The pastors have either left or there have been issues in their assemblies. He said certain ones from those churches are contacting him. They want to have fellowship with him or to congregate with him. He said they can see there has been a consistency and a stand that he has taken over time, and this is drawing them to his assembly.

We know in the end there will be a reward for walking in the truth and standing for truth. Sometimes it's difficult for the flesh. We can say we should stand for the truth, and it's easy for everybody to say amen. When it comes down to it, maybe we go to a church that the rest of our family doesn't go to. But now it's a different level: the friends or brothers and sisters we've walked with and have been in fellowship with in times past, *to stand for truth* that can no longer be. Now it's not so easy to say amen.

There is a people on the earth, there are *few* to whom the divine Word of God, the revealed Word, *the truth* means more to them than even these human affections. This people will receive the highest reward.

We read about it last Sunday and we're going to speak on it again this morning. Let's go to the book of Revelation.

Revelation 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.*

Here we see the culmination. Now it doesn't say his bride, it says *his wife*. Praise the Lord. I don't want to miss this day for anything in the world. Praise the Lord. This is going to be such a beautiful day. That's why it could be said *the multitude in heaven, shouting, let us be glad and rejoice, praise the Lord, for his wife hath made herself ready.*

We know *the bride* is a group of people, but I want to say the *getting ready* is an *individual* responsibility. We've already ministered on this and we're going to look at it again maybe in a few weeks.

*We shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ.* [Romans 14:10] When we stand, we won't be able to say: let me run and get my brother or let me run and get my pastor, but we will stand as an *individual*. Praise the Lord. I just hope we can see the seriousness in our day.

Revelation 19:8

*And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen.*

Praise the Lord.

We're going to look today a little bit at what that fine linen is. I'll tell you one thing: it's not something we could find at Walmart or at Macy's or Dillard's. Those stores don't have a fine linen section. Maybe if we look at the prime ministers and the wealthiest people. Have you ever noticed? The really wealthy, they live on a totally different level.

I was talking with a brother a couple years ago and I asked him what he did for work. He said he worked on appliances, like stoves and refrigerators. I asked him what brand? He said Wolf. I thought: I've never heard of that. I know Maytag, Whirlpool, Frigidaire, Kenmore, LG, Samsung, right? He said these are for the wealthy, like a Wolf stove might cost thirty thousand dollars, or a refrigerator, thirty thousand dollars. Oh man! How could something cost so much? Then I went online and looked at them. Wow! That's pretty impressive!

The very wealthy, they may have their own tailor to make something out of fine linen, but it's not something we're going to find in a normal clothing store. This is the *highest quality* of clothing. It's not to put on to go to work. Now, there is linen that *isn't* fine that could be used for that. It still has wonderful characteristics, but the fine linen, that's for the highest level of dress. It's for ceremonies and things of that nature.

It says here:

Revelation 19:8

*she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.*

Praise the Lord.

I remember back in the late 90s, the Lord began to deal with Brother Jackson about the *difference* between fine linen and white robes. Since that time certain voices have come on the scene, working to muddy that picture. What do I mean by that? Their effort is that there is no need to distinguish between fine linen and white robes, but to think of it as basically the same thing.

I have to say: John did not write *white robes* in one place and *fine linen* in another just to make it sound a little more interesting. How many can understand what I'm saying?

I remember going to an English class and they talked about writing. They said: don't write *however*, then two sentences later *however*, and three sentences later *however*. They suggested: write *however*, then maybe use the word *nonetheless*, try to say the same thing but mix up the words a little bit.

John was not in my English class but it was the *Spirit of the Lord* that was *inspiring* him. Praise the Lord.

Let's go to Revelation 7. We read a lot of this last time so I'm just going to read a few verses.

Revelation 7:13

*And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

This is the *great multitude* that John saw in white robes. [Revelation 7:9]

Revelation 7:14

*And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said unto me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

Praise the Lord.

They are wearing white robes because of the blood of the Lamb. Praise the Lord. What does the blood of the Lamb do? The blood of the Lamb saves us from sin. Amen. Praise the Lord. We obtain salvation by the blood of the Lamb. Amen. So these, the white robes, are pointing to *salvation*. Praise the Lord.

Is the Bride saved as well? Of course she is. She also has a white robe but we see on top of that, the wedding garment. Praise the Lord. That is *fine linen*. Praise the Lord. It says here:

Revelation 19:8

*fine linen is the righteousness of the saints.*

We know we're not saved because of our own righteousness. The fine linen is not pointing to salvation, this has already taken place. But to this group of people, to them it was *granted that they should be arrayed in fine linen*. [Revelation 19:8]

As we said last time, what is the *righteousness of the saints*?

Our mind could naturally think: we're apart from the world. We don't drink, we don't steal, and we don't get messed up in perversion and things like that. There are actually many people who wear the Christian label today who can say the same thing, but they are in no wise the Bride of Christ.

We have to look at what God has done, even in our age: how He pulled us out of those denominational systems and got us back into His Word. Praise the Lord. It's the *revealed Word* that is going to *identify* the Bride, just as Jesus said *except your righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees*. [Matthew 5:20]

From the natural eye, the Pharisees, oh they lived a very holy and clean life, but Jesus said your righteousness has to *exceed* that. How did the Pharisees fail? They did not receive the Word *for their day*. Jesus said *I speak the Word that my Father gives me, and you are rejecting it*. [John 12:48-49] Praise the Lord.

As we look at what identifies the Bride, it is that she has *a desire* to receive the Divine Truth of the Word of God.

I would like to look at the type God uses by having John write about fine linen. We will look at *linen* this morning.

First of all, linen comes from the flax plant. It says here:

- The word *linen* is of the West
- Germanic origin and cognate to the Latin name for the flax plant *linum*, and the earlier Greek *linón*.
- This word history has given rise to a number of other terms in English, most notably line from the use of a linen (flax) thread to determine a straight line.

I remember times when different ones would speak on the ministry of an apostle, and even what we see written in the Word: how it says *the church continued in the apostles' doctrine*. [Acts 2:42] It doesn't say they continued in the evangelists' doctrine or in the pastors' doctrine, but they continued in the *apostles'* doctrine.

What does that show us? The apostles hold a line on the truth of the Word of God. Praise the Lord. As they uphold truth and clarify what is truth, we call that *holding a line*, and that word *line* comes from linen.

We know the church world today doesn't have that Apostolic Ministry. They don't. Every now and then they may call someone an apostle because they seem to have an outstanding ministry, but they really don't even know what an apostle is. It's not about just having a popular ministry. It has to do with the gift that God has given to uphold the truth and to bring the truth. Praise the Lord.

Now let's look at this second slide:

- Linen takes significantly longer to harvest than a material like cotton although both are natural fibres. It is also more difficult to weave than cotton.

When I see the term *white robe*, I think it would be like a cotton robe. As we see here, cotton is something that can be harvested relatively quickly and it can be woven relatively quickly. Praise the Lord.

Again, salvation is one thing and we thank God for it. We don't get to first base until we're saved. Praise the Lord. That's when we receive our white robe. As God looks at us through the blood of Jesus Christ, He sees us as white, as worthy. Praise the Lord. He fills us with the Holy Ghost and He gives us eternal life. Praise the Lord.

I want to say this morning, if someone is saved and a week later an accident happens and they are killed, their salvation is secure. Praise the Lord. The Lord doesn't take away their salvation just because they didn't have time to mature into what they could have been. How many can understand that? But we *don't* say: it was such a wonderful experience and the heavens were open, therefore they are a bride saint.

There has been a criticism that we are teaching that a time factor is needed for one to become a bride saint, but even when we look at the *type* it says that linen takes *significantly longer*. Praise the Lord.

The bride element, that Bride Church, she is a people who has had *time*. I can't put the time on it, that's in God's Hands, but I will say: as individuals, they have gone through trials and they have gone through tests. Praise the Lord. They have listened to the Word of God, and they have prayed about it. They have read the Word, and over time God has given them a revelation of His Word. Praise the Lord.

*Over time* God has worked by the Holy Ghost to bring about the *character* and *maturity*, in the Word *and* in conduct, so that an individual can be viewed as a *Bride Saint*. Praise the Lord.

It says here:

- Today linen is usually an expensive textile produced in relatively small quantities.

I have to say: what better *type* could the Lord have used?

We look at truth today, first of all: it's going to *cost* us something. You may say: Brother, my salvation didn't cost me anything. I know that. I'm not speaking about salvation. Remember in Proverbs 23:23 it says *buy the truth*. Do we know what *buy* means? It means we have to part with some money, but we see *value* in what we're going to get in return that is *more* than the money.

It says *buy the truth*. Amen. That shows it has value. *And sell it not*. Praise the Lord. I never thought I'd see the day when I would actually be speaking on *sell it not*.

I have seen people make sacrifices *for the truth* through the years as circumstances came along, but *today*, now it's not important to them. Today they say: oh let's not get into controversial things. I want to say: they can call it what they want to call it. They want to call it controversial? That's their decision. In the Eyes of God, it has never been controversial.

It's only a controversy for the devil. He's the one who doesn't want you to believe it, so he uses certain ones to speak against it. They say they don't want to get caught up in a controversy. They don't want anything that can divide.

Then they haven't read the words of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. He said *I didn't come to get everybody together but I came to send division*. [Matthew 10:14] I know I'm paraphrasing but you can see the point is the same. Praise the Lord.

To people who have walked in the light of truth and who have even sacrificed for it, I have to say: you came out of those other places for the sake of truth, so why don't you just go back now, if truth is no longer important? How many can understand?

Of course they'll make the statement: oh yes we stand for truth. But when anything doctrinal is brought, they say: well the Lord doesn't want us to get too involved in doctrine. *They have sold the truth*. It's not important to them.

Now their focus is: worshiping together, praying for one another, and let's all be brothers and sisters. They say: the Lord will work it out in His time. I want to say this morning: *His time is now!* With that kind of a spirit, they're going to find themselves in the 70th week of Daniel still saying He'll do it in His time. *It will be too late!* His time is *today!*

Again, those who don't wake up while there is still time will one day find themselves standing empty-handed before the Judgement seat of Christ. I don't want to be in that situation. Amen.

Linen is *expensive*, produced in *small quantities*. We don't find the truth everywhere today.

Again, if we go to Walmart, Macy's, or Dillard's, in any of those stores we're not going to find linen. There's a lot being sold, a lot of clothing is being sold, but we would have to look and we would have to *search* to find linen, especially *fine linen*. That would take a serious search on our part.

- It has a long staple (individual fibre length) relative to cotton and other natural fibres.

I think of that long staple. Whatever God brings, it has to fit *this* Word from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation. There are a lot of people who have ideas today. Oh they can take this scripture and that scripture, and it seems to fit. But a *true divine revelation* has to go from the beginning of Genesis all the way to the end of Revelation. If it contradicts the Word in any place, it is *not* a true Revelation. Praise the Lord.

So linen has a long staple. I will say: it goes from the beginning to the end.

- Thus linen is considerably more expensive to manufacture than cotton.

Amen.

This is another similar explanation:

- Manufacturing linen, however, is much more time and resource-intensive than making cotton,

We know that no man can manufacture truth. Amen. But we also know that we don't just pray a little prayer and then God sends an angel down and just opens it all up.

When we look at men like Peter, James and John, when we look at Brother Branham and Brother Jackson in our age, and the ones God is using today, I have to say: there is *studying* of the Word, there is *prayer*, and there is a *dedication* in their lives. As they labour for the Lord and as they get close to the Lord, studying the Word and studying what the Lord has already brought, they get their mind in a place that when He decides to bring something new, they are prepared to receive it.

And it's not just those men. They are the ones the Lord uses to bring things new to the church, but if our own spiritual life is not dedicated and consecrated, if we are not reading and studying the Word, if we are not close to the Lord in prayer or walking as He would want us to walk, yes we'll hear the words but they are not going to have the importance, they are not going to find a resting place in our heart.

The Lord wants His Word to find a place in our heart. For it to be a *revelation* to us, again, we are looking at believers with a certain level of maturity and dedication.

Another thing: the Lord doesn't bring it all out at once. He can bring more and more light to a certain subject *over time*. Again, this is how the Lord works in us *over time*.

What did Paul say? He said *we are his workmanship*. [Ephesians 2:10] Amen. He's working *on us*.

- Manufacturing linen, however, is much more time and resource-intensive than making cotton, which has led to a steady reduction in popularity of this fabric that began with the invention of the cotton gin.

This is saying that over time linen has lost its popularity. Have we not seen *truth* lose its popularity in the church world? It has for the last fifty years now. Again, in the churches they just want to preach salvation and love. I have to say: praise the Lord, yes that's a part of it, it's a beautiful part. But if we get to the point that we don't want anything beyond that and we reject what the Lord brings, even speaking against it, I have to say: that's a fearful place to be before the Lord.

- Nevertheless

Oh look, they used the word *however* and then *nevertheless*.

This is so beautiful to me as I read this:

- Nevertheless, the unique desirable attributes of linen have prevented the total cessation of global production of this textile.

What are they saying here? It would be completely lost. This reminds me of when Jesus said *when the son of man come will he find faith on the earth?* [Luke 18:8] By that we understand it's going to be very little.

Again, there is a people, *they are few* but *they love truth*. There are qualities of truth for which they say: I am willing to pay a price for this. It's important to me. This has properties that the other doesn't have. Praise the Lord. They want this.

For me personally, what I love about truth: it's something I can stand on. It is solid. It doesn't change over time. Amen. It's solid. Praise the Lord. Somebody can't come along and tear it down. The winds can come, the rains can come and all kinds of storms, and when others are realizing that they built their house on sinking sand, praise the Lord, I want to be standing on Truth. It's something that cannot be shaken. Praise the Lord.



There are a few that see the beauty of the linen and they are willing to pay. I can't see a better type of the Divine Truth of the Word of God.

This is kind of a rewording of the same. I probably won't say much about this.

- These days, linen is primarily a niche product that remains in production to manufacture a handful of textile products. Despite its rich history, linen is no longer in vogue due to the laborious and time-intensive processes used to make this fabric.

Look at that: *despite its rich history*. I just think back to the days of Brother Branham and Brother Jackson, even going all the way back to the early church when truth was the only thing being preached.

Now it says:

- This fabric remains finicky and expensive to produce.

We already talked about that.

- Before we proceed, it's important to clarify the difference between the phrases "linen" and "linens".

First of all I'm going to say: let's be real. Everyone who knows anything about the English or the Spanish language knows that when you put an S on the end of a word it doesn't change the meaning. It just means there's more than one: there is a plurality. So *linens* should mean many things that are made of linen.

But today when the word *linens* is used, what are we speaking of? It may be sheets, napkins, things like that, even certain garments. There are stores, there was one I knew like twenty years ago that had the word *linens* in the name, *Anne's Linens* or something like that. If we were to go there, we might not find anything made of linen. What is called *linens* today, ninety-eight percent of it *isn't* linen. In most stores we go to that say they sell linens we'll find cotton, polyester, maybe silk, that's a nice material, but it's not linen, right? It's very rare.

Yes we can go to churches today, they say: oh, this is where the truth is preached. Oh, we are the Bride of Christ, come and be a part. I have to say: look closely. They can claim that they are the bride, but are they really walking in the light of the Word of God for their day? That's a very important question. For most of them the answer is no.

They have a nice salvational message. They have a nice *let's all learn to love one another* message. You may say: Brother, don't you think we should? Of course we need to love one another. It would be ridiculous, I mean: we need salvation as well.

As I have said: we don't enter until we are saved, but the Lord doesn't save us just so we can have a ticket: well I'm never going to die. He saves us so that we can have communion with Him. But when He brings something new, many say they want nothing to do with that. Then the question really is: were they really saved to begin with?

I was listening to a minister a couple weeks ago and I heard it said something like: it's being taught that you have to believe the revealed Word of the day for you to be saved. That's *not* what's being taught. We are saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. But if we are saved, the Holy Ghost that God gives us, it gives us a *desire*: it's the Spirit of Truth. How can God give us the Spirit of Truth but then our actions are that we reject Truth? That doesn't line up. Can we see that?

A *manifestation* that we truly are saved is that we will walk in the light of Truth. And a *manifestation* that we haven't really had that experience yet with the Lord is that we reject it.

So no, we are not saved because we believe truth, we are saved because Jesus Christ was willing to go to the cross and suffer and die for your sins and my sins. But if we truly are saved, there is going to be a manifestation in our life. Praise the Lord.

I like what it says here:

- The phrase "linens" dates back to a time when almost all interior clothing, bed sheets, and towels were made from linen, but these days, this anachronistic phrase can sometimes be confusing.

There are a lot of confused people today because they are being taught things that supposedly are truth but they don't line up with this Word and it causes confusion.

The beautiful thing about Divine Truth: it does not bring confusion. In fact, if there is confusion, it clears it up and we can see clearly, understand clearly and say: praise the Lord, now I'm no longer confused.

- These days, linen is used for many of the same purposes that it was used historically,

Again, when we look at the truth, it has the same purpose it has always had.

- but this fibre makes up a drastically smaller percentage of the global textile market.

- Additionally, many of the original applications of linen, such as shirts and pants, have largely been replaced with cotton.

We have already been talking about that, so let's go ahead and move on.

- Historically, linen was one of the world's most popular textile products. From Ancient Egypt to Renaissance Ireland, many cultures used linen as their predominant source of apparel and homeware fibre.

We remember Pharaoh, when Joseph came in and revealed his dreams. Of course, it was God who gave him the revelation of the dreams that Pharaoh had. Then Pharaoh said: what do we do? And Joseph said: you have to find somebody really wise to administer over these fourteen years. What did Pharaoh do? He lifted up Joseph. He didn't just put him over the grains and all of that, but he lifted him all the way up. He said *only in the throne will I be greater than you*. [Genesis 41:40] Just imagine that.

I have to say: with the wisdom that God gave Joseph, Pharaoh had it really good. It was going great for Pharaoh because Joseph could make better decisions than him. Pharaoh could just leave it all in his hands.

Let's go to the book of Genesis.

Genesis 41:41

*And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.*

Genesis 41:42

*And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him vestures of fine linen.*

What does it say in Revelation? To the bride or to the wife, *it was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen*. [Revelation 19:8] We just read that linen was used from the time of Ancient Egypt. And now we see that Pharaoh dresses Joseph in the finest linen. I just think about how a leader who believed in many gods, when he had a dream and could see that the one true God was using Joseph, he could say: we want *that* God.

The leaders today they want nothing to do with that. They might go once a year to their Episcopalian Church or whatever it is, just so they can say they are a Christian, but if the Lord tries to talk to them, they want nothing to do with it. It's *their* efforts and *their* work, and that's why things are falling apart today.

There was a time even Nebuchadnezzar who also without any doubt served other gods, when he saw what God was doing with Daniel, he said now there's the God that we need to look to. [Daniel 2:47]

It says *even to Renaissance Ireland*. The word *renaissance* means *rebirth*. Now we know what has happened but the secular world, they don't want to recognize what God did.

For one thousand years, as the Catholic Church had a death grip on the kings, they kept people in ignorance. If someone came out with a scientific discovery, oh it was off with their head. Anything that the Catholic Church thought contradicted their theology, it was game over for anyone if they came out publicly with that, *for a thousand years*.

Then God spoke to Martin Luther's heart. He heard something that he had read before but the Lord had not until then shined the light on it. *Martin Luther, the just shall live by faith*. [Galatians 3:11] Praise the Lord.

That started a fire in Martin Luther's heart. Even then, what he thought was the true church, he just felt that it needed to be changed and reformed. So he went and nailed his *Ninety-Five Theses*, and oh! That started a wildfire! They kicked him out of the Catholic Church.

In time he realized: no, it's *not* the Catholic Church, but he still knew *the just shall live by faith*. That brought about a Reformation, even the secular world benefited from it. God gave a man named Gutenberg an understanding how to make a machine that could print the Bible. Praise the Lord. And again, here came the secular books as well. So it helped science, it helped engineering, and mathematics, and all of that.

When I went to school, and I thank God for this, they didn't call it *the Middle Ages* and then *Renaissance* like they do today. But I had history books that openly said *the Dark Ages* and then *the Enlightenment*. Praise the Lord. If you use that term, you have to recognize God is the One who did the work. Amen.

Again, what was it? It was Divine Truth. They mentioned *the Renaissance*, that's their name for it, they also mentioned *the Enlightenment*. What was that? It was God bringing Divine Truth once again, and it is still here today. It's still the way the Lord works.

Now we can't just stay with *the just shall live by faith*. It's still truth today but God is going to look at each one: do you believe what I have brought since then? We will not be judged on: do we believe *the just shall live by faith*. The Lutherans believe that. At the same time I will say: if we really believe *the just shall live by faith* and if we really understand what *faith* is, then when God shines the light on His Word *today*, we're going to believe it because *that is faith*, as we spoke last Sunday.

I thought I would get through all of this and have time left over but I'm really not finished. We'll go ahead and close this morning. Let's go ahead and pray.