

THE DIVINE ROMANCE

PASSAGE: **ISAIAH 54:10**

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **What a wonderful, unexplainable kind of LOVE is the LOVE OF GOD!!! . . .**
- ◇ That **He—The Creator** who formed us from the clay would take on *our* form.
 - ◇ That **He—The Self-Existent/Timeless/Eternal One** would step into *our* space and time.
 - ◇ That **He—The Judge** of the living & the dead who knows our guilt, would take *our* judgment.
- ♥ **This LOVE stands above > because this love is a DIVINE LOVE!**
- ◆ God Himself is the foundation and source of this love—1 John 4:8 “for God is love”
- ♥ **This LOVE stands apart > because this love is a PERFECT LOVE!**
- ◆ **Unconditional—Uncompromised—Unflawed**
- B. **Of all that can be said of this Divine & Perfect Love, the best is this > He loves you PERSONALLY!**
- ↳ In a way **no one else could** . . . in a way **no one else has**.
 - ☒ If He had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it—If He carried a wallet, your picture would be in it!
 - ♥ At a time of year when our society celebrates human love, I am here to tell you that . . .
 - ↳ **you are loved more than you know!!!**

✠ THE STRONG LOVE OF GOD FOR YOU AND ME IS PERFECT IN FOUR VERY PERSONAL WAYS.

I. HIS LOVE IS AN INTIMATE LOVE!

📖 **Isaiah 54:5**—“For your Maker is your husband, the Lord Almighty is His name [...]”

- A. **Of all the word pictures the Bible uses to describe God’s love for us, the greatest is MARRIAGE.**
- 📖 **This intimate love is revealed in the words God chooses to describe our relationship with Him.**
- ◇ We are His “**Bride**” and Jesus is our “**Bridegroom.**”
 - ◆ Isaiah 62:5—“as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.”
- 📖 **This intimate love is revealed in its resemblance to the ancient Jewish marriage custom.**
1. **The marriage was arranged at the initiation of the Father of the Groom:**
 - ◆ John 6:44—“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”
 2. **A bride price/the ketubah was determined and paid > commencing their betrothal.**
 - ◆ This very word, “**betrothal,**” is used by Paul in **2 Corinthians 11:2.**
 3. **For one year the Groom dedicated himself to preparing a place at his father’s home.**
 - ◆ “In my Father’s house are many rooms. . . I am going there to prepare a place for you.”
 - ☐ For the Bride, this year was a time of purification and anticipation.
 4. **At the end of the betrothal, the groom returned for his bride with a shout & blast of the shofar and brought her in a great procession to his own home—1 Thess. 4:17**
- B. **As a young child, my parents took me often to a sitter, a dear elderly lady.**
- Every visit > pineapple juice and graham crackers . . . and one favorite song:
 - ♪ *In the Garden*—she & Jesus loved each other that much!

C. Do you know Him that way?—personally, intimately?

∞ You know Him as your Savior & Healer & Provider—your Teacher & your Friend.

↳ But, do you know Him as your “FIRST LOVE”?

∞ He—Jesus—loves you most & loves you best!

✧ He drew you to Himself—He wooed you by His Spirit.

✧ He alone has never & will never leave you, forsake you or fail you.

✧ In fact, your God sings over you—he will rejoice over you with singing.” (Zeph. 3:17)

II. HIS LOVE IS A SACRIFICIAL LOVE!

📖 Isaiah 63:9—“In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel [messenger] of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.”

A. Once the terms of the “Bride Price” was established, the groom sealed his proposal with a cup of wine.

◆ The Groom poured out that wine for His Bride—if she accepted, she received and drank.

◆ Luke 22:20—“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you ...”

◆ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20—“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, [...] you are not your own; you were bought at a price.”

B. No one saw the price Jesus paid for you and me more completely than Isaiah.

📖 50:6—“I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard”

📖 52:14—“his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred”

📖 Isaiah 53:3-5—and as God’s sacrifice, He became our substitute—vv. 6-9

C. You will never find another like Jesus who gave His all to place His claim upon you!

III. HIS LOVE IS AN UNSHAKEABLE LOVE!

📖 Isaiah 54:10—““Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.”

A. A girl was admitted to a hospital with severe burns from nitric acid; she had declared her love for boyfriend with a tattoo, “Jimmy loves me”—her boyfriend walked out and she wanted no memory.

B. LOVE HURTS!—Little in human experience hurts more than broken love!!

∞ God made us “in his image” with the ability to feel & the capacity to love is a gift from God,

↳ **but REJECTED LOVE hurts!!**

C. No one knows that better than Jesus—No one has hurt more than Jesus!

📖 To His very own > “YOU HAVE FORSAKEN YOUR FIRST LOVE!”

♥ “First love,” love = that deep love for Jesus you had when He first came into your life.

♥ “First love,” love = that fiery passion in your heart that ignited a new reason to live.

♥ “First love,” love = that excitement in telling others what you had experienced.

❖ **Yet, even if we loose our “First Love,” Jesus will not loose His for you!!**

📖 Isaiah 49:15—“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.”

- D. There is no love like the love of God for His Bride—unshakeable, unstoppable, undying, unrelenting.
- ♥ **His love is a COVENANT LOVE—far from the CONTRACTS couples make today.**
 - ☞ His love is a life-long, ever-lasting, unbreakable love—He will never “get over it!”
 - ☞ His love is sealed with the VOW of His Word... and the OATH of His blood!
 - ◆ Isaiah 55:3—“Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.”
- E. **Jack Benny; sent a rose to the girl he loved; every day through life; even after death!**
- ♥ The life he lived for you—the death he sacrificed for you—his power over the grave!
 - ♥ This love says, from now through all of eternity... His “roses” will never stop!

IV. HIS LOVE IS A JOYFUL LOVE!

- 📖 Isaiah 62:5b—“as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.”
- A. **As the Groom came near the home of His Bride, Bridesmaids went out to meet them.**
- ❑ The entire wedding party processed with lamps & songs back to the Groom’s home.
 - ❑ **Bride & Groom were elaborately clothed, even treated as royalty with crowns to wear.**
 - ◆ Isaiah 61:10—“For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”
 - ❑ **Together they entered the chuppah, the bridal chamber—representing the Groom’s authority and protection—and there the marriage was consummated.**
 - ◆ Joel 2:16—“Let the bridegroom go forth from his chamber and the bride out of her pavilion [chuppah]”
 - ❑ **With the announcement, the Marriage Feast began—7 days of singing & dancing.**
 - ◆ “as a bridegroom rejoices [“to display joy”; “to leap, to spring, to spin”] over his bride”
- B. I hear the clattering of silverware—the table is being set—angels are putting out the finest china!
- 📖 Rev. 19:7-9—“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come”

CONCLUSION:

- ♥ Many things on this earth give me joy ... many things that I deeply love!
- ☞ **but there’s a place deep inside ONLY JESUS CAN FILL!!!**
- ♥ **Is He my God?—yes; Is He my Friend?—yes—but, He is also the Lover of My Soul!!**
 - And though I don’t always understand Him nor fully comprehend Him.
 - Though I know him now only by faith and I see Him now only with my heart.
 - There’s coming a day very soon when I WILL LOOK UPON THE ONE WHO LOVES ME BEST!