

The background of the cover is a photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with soft, warm colors of orange, pink, and purple. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the colors of the sky. In the distance, there are dark, silhouetted mountains or hills. The overall mood is peaceful and romantic.

Soulmates in the Bible

Johann Melchizedek Peter

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Johann Ministries
GPO Box 330
Canberra
ACT 2601, Australia.

Website: www.johannministries.com
Email: elshaddai1@bigpond.com

Introduction

The concept of soulmate is in most of the writings and philosophies of the world. In Christian theology, some believe in it but others do not. There is also very little Christian study done on this subject while such materials are plentiful in the non-Christian world. The understanding that marriage is only applicable to life on the physical earth from the interpretation of Scriptures on the resurrection prevails in Christianity. This book relooks at all relevant Scriptures in order to establish as to whether there is such a concept as soulmate in the Bible, and if there is, what is the guidance on such matters.

Besides the lack of teaching on this subject, three major factors led to the writing of this book. The first is in counselling hundreds of marriages, there is a great prevalence of disparity in the areas of spirit, soul or body. The worst case scenarios have conflicts in all three areas in their relationship. Others have no conflict in spiritual areas but are constantly fighting with each other due to soul differences which in turn affect their physical relationship. Some have no conflict in either spirit or soul areas and outwardly seem to be happy but they no longer share a physical relationship. Others have ceased communicating at the spirit and soul level but yet managed to have regular physical relationship. Rarely do we find couples who have harmony of spirit, soul and body.

The second factor that led to the writing of this book is in the extra-biblical revelation and visions received. The visions of the creation of Adam and the creation of Eve stirred a confirmation of some of the things that I had also seen in the Spiritual World revelations. I saw spirits who had progressed in God and retained their masculine and feminine forms in some sort of eternal harmony; where they have the abilities to fuse together to function as one being. Not all spirits have such harmonious counterparts and demonstrate such abilities. This extra

biblical revelation will be described more in this book but suffice to know that it does not contradict with Scriptures. Extra biblical revelation that conflicts with the Bible is definitely not acceptable but where it fills in the blanks of Scriptural revelation, it is acceptable but doctrine must not be built around it. Doctrine must only be built upon the Word of God and this will be done in this book.

The third factor that led to the writing of this book is a question that was asked of me by a bright young second generation person. The question was whether one would ruin one's potential eternity with God's appointed soulmate if one ends up marrying someone other than one's predestined soulmate. It stirred the realization that there is not much Christian teaching and guidance provided in this area. As we have about fifty more years to go before the Rapture, and the church will grow to 10,000 churches of millions of young people around the world, guidance is necessary for the millions who will be looking for soulmates to become their life partners in marriage. This book aims to biblically answer the questions that all the second and third generation have in these areas.

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Chapter One

Defining a Soulmate

What or who is a soulmate? Secular writings define a soulmate in various ways. Wikipedia has the following interesting extracts on Plato and Jewish beliefs in soulmates:

Plato's mythology

In his dialogue The Symposium, Plato has Aristophanes present a story about soul mates. Aristophanes states that humans originally had four arms, four legs, and a single head made of two faces. He continues that there were three genders: man, woman and the "Androgynous". Each with two sets of genitalia; with the Androgynous having both male and female genitalia. The men were children of the sun, the women were children of the earth and the Androgynous were children of the moon, which was born of the sun and earth. It is said that humans had great strength at the time and threatened to conquer the gods. The gods were then faced with the prospect of destroying the humans with lightning as they had done with the Titans but then they would lose the tributes given to the gods by humans. Zeus developed a creative solution by splitting humans in half as punishment for humanity's pride and doubling the number of humans who would give tribute to the gods. These split humans were in utter misery to the point where they would not eat and would perish so Apollo had sewn them up and reconstituted their bodies with the navel being the only remnant harkening back to their original form. Each human would then only have one set of genitalia and would forever long for his/her other half; the other half of his/her soul. It is said that when the two find each other, there is an unspoken understanding of one another, that they feel unified and would lay with each other in unity and would know no greater joy than that.

Bashert: Jewish view of soulmates

Bashert, (Yiddish: באַשערט), is a Yiddish word that means "destiny". It is often used in the context of one's divinely foreordained spouse or soulmate, who is called "basherte" (female) or "basherter" (male). It can also be used to express the seeming fate or destiny of an auspicious or important event, friendship, or happening.

The idea of basherte(r) comes from statements found in classical rabbinic literature. A proverb that "marriages are made in heaven" is illustrated by a story in a midrash collection:

A Roman matron, on being told by Rabbi Jose ben Halafta that God arranges all marriages, said that this was an easy matter, and boasted that she could do as much herself. Thereupon she assembled her male and female slaves and paired them off in couples; but on the morrow they all went to her with complaints. Then she admitted that divine intervention is necessary to suitable marriages. (Genesis Rabba lxxviii. 3-4).

Even God Himself finds it as difficult an undertaking as the dividing of the Red Sea. Forty days before a child is born its mate is determined upon (Genesis Rabba lxxviii. 3-4; also Babylonian Talmud, tractates Soṭah 2a; Sanhedrin 22a; comp. M. K. 18b; "Sefer Hasidim," § 1128).

In modern usage, Jewish singles will say that they are looking for their bashert, meaning they are looking for that person who will complement them perfectly, and whom they will complement perfectly. Since it's considered to have been foreordained by God whom one will marry, one's spouse is considered to be one's bashert by definition, independent of whether the couple's marital life works out well or not.

The following dictionaries define soulmate in various ways:

Urban Dictionary (urbandictionary.com) -

A person with whom you have an immediate connection the moment you meet - a connection so strong that you are drawn to them in a way you have never experienced before. As this connection develops over time, you experience a love so deep, strong and complex, that you begin to doubt that you have ever truly loved anyone prior. Your soulmate understands and connects with you in every way and on every level, which brings a sense of peace, calmness and happiness when you are around them. And when you are not around them, you are all that much more aware of the harshness of life, and how bonding with another person in this way is the most significant and satisfying thing you will experience in your lifetime. You are also all that much aware of the beauty in life, because you have been given a great gift and will always be thankful.

Miriam-Webster dictionary (first known use in 1822) -

- 1. a person who is perfectly suited to another in temperament.*
- 2. a person who strongly resembles another in attitudes or beliefs – ideological soul mates.*

Oxford dictionary -

a person ideally suited to another as a close friend or romantic partner.

American Heritage dictionary -

One of two persons compatible with each other in disposition, point of view, or sensitivity.

Collins English dictionary -

a person for whom one has a deep affinity, esp. a lover, wife, husband, etc.

Random House Kernerman Webster's College dictionary -

a person with whom one has a strong affinity.

The Thesaurus gives the synonym or related word for 'soulmate' as 'lover' -

Soulmate -someone for whom you have a deep affinity

Lover - a person who loves someone or is loved by someone

Though most of the above definitions of soulmate give some level of understanding which is helpful, there are also other areas besides the intellect and emotional areas of the soul. In defining and understanding what soulmate is, consideration must also be given to aspects of the spiritual and the physical dimension of the relationship; which is taken for granted to work out if the soul affinity is found. Before we go further, we need to also examine current research in psychology on people who believe in soulmates versus those who don't.

Research on Soulmates and Belief in Romantic Destiny

Research by Knee (1998)¹ evaluated the impact of a belief in "romantic destiny" (i.e. soulmates) on the quality of actual relationships. More particularly, he compared relationships of people who believed in soulmates (e.g. a belief that people are meant for each other or not), with those of people who believed in "relationship growth" (e.g. a belief that relationships are developed with work over time). Results of his evaluation indicated that:

People who believe in romantic destiny (soulmates) primarily look for positive emotional reactions and initial compatibility with a partner. They believe people either "click" and are meant to be, or they don't and should move on. As a result, those beliefs tend to drive soulmate searchers to be intensely passionate and satisfied with partners at first, particularly while things are compatible. However, when problems inevitably arise, believers in soulmates often don't cope well and leave the relationship instead. In other words, a belief that soulmates should be ideally compatible motivates individuals to just give up when a relationship isn't perfect. They simply look elsewhere for their "true"

¹ Knee, C. R. (1998). Implicit theories of relationships: Assessment and prediction of romantic relationship initiation, coping, and longevity. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 74, 360–370.

match. As a result, their relationships tend to be intense but short, often with a higher number of quick romances and one-night stands.

People who believe in romantic growth (cultivation) primarily look for someone who will work and grow with them, resolving conflicts as they arise. They believe that relationships can evolve with hard work and compromise, even in difficult situations. As a result, they tend to be less passionate and satisfied with partners at first. A romantic growth individual doesn't have the same intense, euphoric response to partner connections. However, when problems arise, they are motivated to solve them and stay committed to their partner. As a result, their relationships tend to be longer and more satisfying over time. Rather than rejecting a partner for minor disagreements, they work together, evolve, and grow a satisfying relationship.

Subsequent research supports these differences. Particularly, those who believe in soulmates tend to be less committed to a partner, especially when there are relationship difficulties (Knee, Patrick, Vietor, & Neighbors, 2004).² Also, soulmate believers are often more anxious in relationships and less likely to forgive romantic partners (Finkel, Burnette, & Scissors, 2007).³ Overall, when the going gets tough with a partner, or requires work, soul mates tend to quit and look for the next "perfect" match.

As a result of this research, Dr Jeremy Nicholson, the Attraction Doctor in psychologytoday.com, recommends that people should not believe in a soulmate arguing as follows:⁴

² Knee, C. R., Patrick, H., Vietor, N. A., & Neighbors, C. (2004). Implicit theories of relationships: Moderators of the link between conflict and commitment. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 30, 617-628.

³ Finkel, E. J., Burnette, J. L., & Scissors, L. E. (2007). Vengefully ever after: Destiny beliefs, state attachment anxiety, and forgiveness. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 92, 871-886.

⁴ The pros and cons of believing in romantic destiny (psychologytoday.com)

Published on July 9, 2012 by Jeremy Nicholson, M.S.W., Ph.D. in The Attraction Doctor

Given the research, if an individual wants intensely-passionate, short-term flings, then belief in soulmates will serve them well. In all relationships, however, disagreement, conflict, and incompatibility will arise. Ultimately, no one is perfect - or a perfect fit for a partner. It takes work, growth, and change to keep a relationship going and satisfying over time. When that happens, soulmate believers often become upset, disillusioned, and uncommitted.

Therefore, if an individual finds they are repeatedly falling in love with the "perfect" partner, only to be disappointed and dumping them soon after, their belief in soulmates may be to blame. It may cause them to give up when things are not perfect (but may be still good or great). It may motivate them to not compromise, work, or change, when others don't love them completely for being exactly as they are. A belief in soulmates may prevent individuals from finding the very relationships they think they are destined to have.

Overall, looking for perfect compatibility and a soulmate kills motivation to work at successful relationships with good partners. In the long run, adopting a belief in romantic growth and cultivation is much more rewarding, especially for those interested in long-term relationships. However, compared to soulmates, a belief in growth does take more work, effort, and a desire to change. So, to truly have a satisfying relationship, an individual must not only give up the search for a "perfect" partner, but also be willing to admit they are not always "perfect just as they are" as well. Only then can two people work together, grow, evolve, and meet each other's needs in the long run.

In contrast to Dr Jeremy's recommendation not to believe in soulmates, the internet is filled with hundreds of sites that claim to teach people or guide people how to find their soulmate and to recognize it when they find their soulmates. In a January 2011 Marist poll, 73% of Americans believe that they are destined to find their one, true, soulmate. The percentage is a bit higher for men (74%) than women (71%). The notion is also higher among younger individuals, with 79% of those under 45

believing in soul mates (as opposed to 69% of those over 45).⁵ Clearly, the majority of people believe in a soulmate.

Having seen the above secular definitions of soulmate and having considered the pros and cons of psychology research into the belief system of a soulmate, we define from the Bible some of the better understanding of what soulmate is:

1. Christians believe in predestination and that God has a specific and perfect plan for each individual (Ephesians 1:4, 5). This plan includes details that are recorded in a book for each of us (Psalms 139:13-16). Believe in a detailed predestination plan for each of us individually would automatically include any plans that God has for us in marriage to a specific life partner. There are, of course, plans for those who are chosen to a life of celibacy (1 Corinthians 7:7; Revelation 14:1-4).
2. Although God has a specific predestination plan for each person, it does not remove free will and free choice. It is possible to choose outside of the perfect will of God and end up in the permissive will (Romans 12:2). It was not God's perfect Will that Abraham had a child through Hagar for Abraham was always predestined to have a child through Sarah (Genesis chapters 16 & 17).
3. Finding one's soulmate does not mean that there is no more room for growth or cultivation of the relationship. The secular belief of a soulmate, as per psychology research data above, is superficial and built upon laziness in learning to work on a relationship. People think that when they find their soulmate that there is no more room for improvement or cultivation and growth in each person's character. The Bible speaks of the ability of love glorying in

⁵ Marist Poll. (2011). Retrieved from <http://maristpoll.marist.edu/210-its-destiny-most-americans-believe-in-soul-mates/>

tribulation producing perseverance, character, hope and then more love again (Romans 5:2-5). It is the dynamics of the soulmates being together that strengthens them to love each other through storms, tests and trials. Finding one's soulmate does not make life or things easier, rather it strengthens their resolve to be with one another, and to stay together, despite all odds and to choose to love one another above all else.

4. The dictionary definition of a soulmate only includes qualities at the soul level. In Christianity, the spirit man is as important, if not more important, than the soul (Proverbs 18:14; 20:27; Romans 8:5, 16; 1 Corinthians 2:11; 6:20; James 2:26). If we were to come up with a Christian term it would be spirit-soul mate but that is too much of a mouthful so we retain the word 'soulmate' but we re-define it as compatibility, complementary affinity and attraction to one another in all three areas: spiritual, soul (includes intellect, emotions and will) and physical. A true soulmate would be one who completely harmonizes with the other in all three areas:

- a. Union of spirits in the love of God.

They would have the same passion and first love for God in their spirits. Unequal love for God (where one partner puts God first and another puts God second or third) has been a source of spiritual conflict in many marriages. Where God has predestined two spirit-souls to be together, they would both be able to put God first and love God with equal passion. It is possible that at first one might love God more than the other but being soulmates, the same love for God easily infuses one to the other and they stir each other towards a passionate first love for God. It is imperative that God has our first love (Revelation 2:4). True unity in the spirit is a threefold chord (Ecclesiastes 4:12). It is the two spirits of the soulmates with God in the centre, forming a threefold chord. It is God who gives spirit life and our spirits are alive only because of God's Spirit (Genesis 2:7; Romans 8:10-13). He who is joined with the Lord is one

spirit with the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:17). This oneness of two spirits can only be experienced when both the spirits of the soulmates are joined with Lord as one spirit, and through the Lord are joined with each other's spirits.

b. Union of souls through the Word of God

It is possible for a whole church to be one heart and one soul together in the Lord (Acts 4:32). Paul urged the Philippian church to be one in their comfort of love for one another, one affection, having the same love, one accord and one mind together (Philippians 2:1-2). If such is possible in a church environment that has numerous and diverse individuals, how much more greater the union of heart, soul and mind will be when two soulmates find each other? The soul consists of the will, the emotion and the intellect; qualities that need to be refined and developed. It is through souls purified by the truth of God's Word that true love can flourish and cause a joining of hearts (1 Peter 1:22; John 17:17). This area of one soul between individuals will be explored more in the next chapter.

c. Union of physical affections and attraction in three dimensions.

Physical attraction is a part of soulmate relationship but such mutual attraction may not always be the first spark that ignites two soulmates. The mutual attraction might at first be sparked from the spiritual and then lead to the soul then physical. Or it might be the soul attraction that takes place, then leading to the spiritual and physical. Or it can also be a physical attraction that leads to confirmation of being soulmates through affinity of spiritual and soul qualities discovered later in the relationship. In the end, there is always a three dimension attraction that takes place – the spiritual, the soul and the physical. Attraction in just one area does not constitute true soulmates. David and Jonathan were attracted to each other in the soul but they were like friends that sticker closer than a brother and not married spouses (1 Samuel 18:1, 3; Proverbs 18:24). Shechem was attracted in his soul and body to Dinah, the daughter of Leah

and Jacob, but there was no attraction in the spiritual dimension (Genesis 34:3, 8). Neither was God first place in his life, for Shechem broke the commandments of God in violating Dinah. True predestined soulmates will always have attraction in all three dimensions, although one or two of these dimensions may develop first before the other. In the end when the relationship of two soulmates are in full bloom, all three dimensions are fully attracted to each other and their spirits, souls and bodies function as one.

5. Soulmates are essentially spirit beings who have been a part of one spiritual substance in God but whose two halves when combined together become one spirit, one soul and one body. Adam existed as one spirit, soul and body before God took Eve out of him and Adam found his perfect counterpart and soulmate in Eve (Genesis 2:7-8, 18-24).

The declaration of Adam, upon waking up (after being split into two beings from one being) and seeing Eve with him, are the words of one who has found his complementary soulmate who completes his being in spirit, soul and body when he declared:

“This is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman for she was taken out from Man.” Thereafter, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall be one flesh.” (Genesis 2:23-24).

We understand this one flesh to also include the spiritual and soul dimension (Ephesians 5:23-33). This is the Christian understanding of soulmate – one who is the other complementary completion of one’s spirit, soul and body.

Chapter 2

Soulmates in the Bible

The Bible has many stories of various relationships some of which expresses soulmates finding each other, while others show the story of unsuccessful attempts at finding soulmates. They also express the difficulties that soulmates experience even after they find each other. At other times, they show forth varying degrees of soulmate attraction but it is disqualified as true soulmate relationship because there is none of the three dimensional relationship we are looking for. We have defined true soulmates as two halves who find each other and forms a three dimensional relationship of oneness in spirit, soul and body. We can learn many principles from the soulmates in the Bible and how they progress towards perfect oneness.

Adam and Eve – the Original Soulmates

There is no doubt that Adam and Eve were soulmates. The following is an extract of an extra-biblical vision of Adam and Eve:

Before sin, there was no time. It looked like about three thousand years (like three days) and Adam did not bother to go back to the garden where the trees were especially the tree of knowledge. His main work was naming the animals that the angels were bringing to him. The moment he say the name, the animals became male and female in this manner. The angels brought them away and after some sort of a sleep became male and female. Each of the animals was like a male feature like Adam before they became male and female. The animals were very clean, no smell, no dirt. They don't seem even to need to eat and exist by the energy of God. Different areas have different types of animals, some taller, some bigger and huge, etc.

When the angel said to go to another place, Adam would see a vision given by the angel and be transported there. It was like the angel show him a frame of the place to go, and when he saw it, he was there.

Adam was about ten feet tall and very lean and perfect. His lips were like Jesus' lips (medium thin lips). He was almost pure white, whiter than Noah. He had long arms. He had the same kind of glory that Jesus had in the highway vision. It looks like he had no body hair, like very smooth. Melchizedek, the cherubim who was his guardian angel, was as tall. Melchizedek was something like that also. They were almost alike. After the naming of the animals, Adam felt lonely. God appeared like a light to Adam. Whenever God spoke everything was quiet and respectfully giving honour to God. The atmosphere was also casual like an everyday thing where God was talking to Adam. Moses saw this light and when Moses came down from the mount, his body also became a transparent type of body.

Adam spoke to his guardian angel, the cherubim Melchizedek of his loneliness. That was the first time that Adam slept when Melchizedek said to rest and touched Adam. During the sleep, the heart rate slowed down and it was like two cells dividing (same with the animals). Except that it was the female who came out from him and was slightly smaller than him (same with the animals). For Adam, it was like his spirit and soul divided and his body followed. Adam looked smaller and shorter after this. Adam was about 7 feet and Eve was about 6 ft. The bodies of both of them were bright and hairless. They had sexual organs then but were still perfect with shining light. Adam and Eve's hair were like whitish golden colour. There were no racial features that were distinguishable before or after the fall.

The tree of knowledge was like a huge bush. The fruit look oblong like a date or huge grape. It was about 8-10cm long and diameter about 4-5cm. It was reddish, dark blood red in colour. The serpent was like a scaly humanoid creature; greenish, brownish in colour and it was actually a creation of Satan (using DNA from fallen worlds, since Satan fundamentally cannot create). This

creature was always targeting and eyeing Eve. Adam showed Eve all the places in the garden, and Melchizedek was still their guardian angel. When Eve discovered about the garden, she started looking at the tree and started making enquiries of the tree, as to why they can't eat of the tree (although at that time, eating was not necessary). In her mind was formed the idea that if she eat, this was the tree that she would eat. This thought was planted into her by the devil that by now possessed the humanoid serpent. The jaw of the serpent was pointed out and the head was flat in the front. Its eyes were slit and sharp; the nose was like the lizard just two holes, there were no teeth and the tongue was very dark. It was a creature made by the devil in his own image.

By this time, Melchizedek was alerted and on guard against the enemy. After Eve, Adam communicated less with Melchizedek. Adam was always with Eve and when Adam was doing work (naming other animals) Eve was alone sometimes and she wandered to the garden. The humanoid serpent, which was always observing her, followed her. Whatever the serpent said to her, she repeated to Adam when she brought Adam to the tree. She plucked the fruit and ate first and gave it to Adam who also ate. It was like biting into blood as the juice was also red colour. Melchizedek was like stunned at the action and he could not restrain them. The moment they ate, there was an energy that was taken out and they knew immediately that it was wrong. It was like all the time perfect and suddenly they could feel their weight. Before that everything was light and filled with light. Suddenly, their bodies change and they could feel cold, heat, weight as they became pure physical consciousness. Now power was taken away and where before Melchizedek could have shown them a frame and they were transported, now they could not. Melchizedek's reaction was like Shammah when David signed the death warrant of Uriah the Hittite. Before the sin, they could feel that everything was a part of them but now they realized that they were vulnerable and physically disconnected from all things surrounding them.

Adam did not finish naming the animals and when the sin occurred, all the animals that were not named dissipated as the unnamed animals were not

physical yet but a type of spirit form; waiting for Adam to finish naming them. Adam lost the power to name them. When God stepped in, it was Melchizedek representing God who put them out of the garden. Melchizedek appeared clothed in spiritual garments and Adam and Eve were taken out of the garden by Melchizedek who brandished a flaming sword. After they came out, it was like a frame was taken so that the garden became inaccessible. Melchizedek was the one who taught them how to sacrifice. It was a spotted animal that was sacrifice.

The above extra-biblical account relates in details the creation of Adam and Eve described in Genesis 2:18-25. We note very clearly that Adam was like the angels, ten feet tall and without any sexual organs or sexual differentiation. After he slept and Eve was taken out from him, as per the biblical account, Adam was about seven feet tall and Eve was about six feet tall. What was visible but in its glorified state were the presence of sexual organs. They were blessed and told to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth (Genesis 1:28). This would imply that they would have sexual relationship in a glorified state. We do not have an opportunity to see or know what it is like but it would definitely surpass by millions of times all that we know of sexual relationship in the present physical body. In the millennium, those restored to a glorified body would have an opportunity to fulfil the unfinished work of Adam and Eve with their soulmates.

Adam and Eve became two halves of each other, and yet each could independently function without the other. They were like two spirits, souls and bodies but their union together would recreate the oneness of spirit, soul and body – the experience of the state of oneness in substance, shape and form that they both originally came from. They were the original and most perfect soulmates that God had created for each other. Many lessons can be learned from the soulmate relationship that Adam and Eve had:

1. It is God who brought the soulmates together and not so much their own efforts. Many people try too hard to seek out their soulmates and waste a lot of time and energy. If they depend on God and just put God first, and ask God to provide or lead them to their soulmates, God would be delighted to do so. It was God who brought Eve to Adam (Genesis 2:22). Note also that before that, God was the one who brought the animals to Adam to see what he would call them (Genesis 2:19). God knew that there was none comparable to him, none could be his soulmate (Genesis 2:20). Although some people find delight in animals and pets and some even live their entire adult lives with an animal as their closest companion, these are imperfect and can never take the place of a true soulmate.

In the end, God decided to make him a soulmate (Genesis 2:18). Soulmates are made by God for us; they are not products of accidents or chance. We must put our entire trust in God, just like Adam did, and allow God to be the one to bring our soulmates to us. If we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all our mundane needs are met, surely the provision of the most important need in our present lives and eternity – our soulmates – would be abundantly provided by God our loving Father (Matthew 6:33). Get into a deep first love relationship with God, and God will be the one who brings your soulmate to you. God will lead our soulmates across our paths as He led Eve to Adam (Genesis 2:22).

2. Even though Eve was the perfect soulmate for Adam, they still had to learn to harmonise with each other. Soulmates have to grow together in their relationship with the Lord. As soulmates, they failed in spending appropriate time together to do things together. Adam did show Eve around the garden but Eve was left to herself

when Adam was continuing the work of naming the animals. Adam did not involve Eve in his work nor did Eve seek to be a part of Adam continually. It was their dis-connection that the serpent took advantage of. Eve was alone and separated from Adam. Adam, even after being split into half – with his other half now walking alone by herself – still tried to continue the same work as if he was the same person before the split.

If they had realized that they are no longer complete in themselves, that they needed to find time to cultivate this sense of union and oneness (so that even though they are physically apart, they would still feel and experienced this union in spirit and soul – which is a powerful possibility in the environment before the fall), it would have given them their first oneness victory together against the enemy.

Perhaps the first thing that Adam and Eve should have done is not just to tour the garden, they should have joined with each other in spirit, soul and body and cultivate the sense of that bond of oneness experience in three dimensions for an extended time. Their first work as soulmates is to learn to cultivate oneness in three dimensions and not just return to work as per normal. Soulmates may be created in God but it takes time, communion and bonding to forge a union of spirits, souls and body. Perfect bonding and perfect love takes time and both must take time to love and to bond.

3. Although God is the one who provides the perfect soulmate, there is an inherent ability within each soulmate to recognize each other. Adam immediately recognized Eve as his other complementary counterpart when God brought her to him (Genesis 2:23). Because soulmates are the exact twin, replica and complementary part of

the other in spirit, soul and body, there is a spark that initiates when the two parts come together. This spark of recognition can at first be just in one dimension but as the soulmates grow, it takes place in all three dimensions of spirit, soul and body. In the present imperfect world, this spark of recognition might take time to be kindled and only when the two soulmates relate together and communicate.

Enoch, Noah, Shem and Giddel

Between the patriarchs and the story of Abraham, we have several potential soulmates: Enoch and his wife, Noah and his wife, and Shem and Giddel, his wife. Enoch walked with God and was not, for God took him. (Genesis 5:24). Enoch was a prophet and his wife must have been very understanding to allow him to spend so much time with God (Jude 1:14). In the book of Jasher, we find that towards the end of his time on earth, Enoch spent 11 months a year with God and then one month counselling and leading those who look up to him for guidance. After some time he spent 51 weeks a year with God and only spent one week a year with humans. Later it became just one day a year with humans and then he totally disappeared into the spiritual world. In his many manifestations and appearances to men of God, his wife is not with him in spirit. Enoch had a wife who was with him for 65 years when they had their first child (Genesis 5:21).

After his first child, Enoch spent most of his time with God and he would have spent occasional time with his wife for the Bible records that he had sons and daughters (Genesis 5:22). In his various extra-biblical appearances to Elijah in Bible times, and to those of us who have met him, Enoch is spiritually alone and his only spiritual soulmate and his companion seem to be Elijah. Enoch and Elijah will serve again together in the Tribulation (Revelation 11:3-12). Enoch had a good wife who was a good earthly companion and they brought up a strong and good

family in the Lord but we cannot tell if she was Enoch's eternal soulmate. Elijah was Enoch's spirit and soul complementary. Enoch never found a counterpart complementary female spirit, soul and body, perhaps because his calling and assignments were different.

Noah had a good wife who played a fantastic role during the building of the ark, according to extra-biblical revelation. She was the one who rebuked the children when they were young and when they were not following in the ways of the Lord and Noah. She was an essential part of his earthly life of about nine hundred years (Genesis 9:28, 29). They had each other for three hundred and fifty years after the flood. One would have thought that their relationship would be tremendously close after hundreds of years but apparently although she was a good wife and companion, Noah and his wife were not fully united as soulmates. If they had united properly as soulmates, Noah would have found comfort in her arms and embrace and seek union with her spirit, soul and body when he needed comfort rather than turn to drinking and wine (Genesis 9:20, 21). She would have been the wine that he drink each time he needed comfort, enjoyment and pleasure (Song 1:2).

True soulmates enjoy the love they have for each other more than wine (Song 1:2). They would have been intoxicated with the kisses and love of their beloved soulmate and carried away into a heavenly place of perfumes and spices each time they make love (Song 4:10). Instead of looking for the pleasures of this life and all that it offers, soulmates would find the greatest and deepest pleasures of this life, and of the life to come, in union with each other's spirit, soul and body. They would explore each other as a garden that never ends, tasting and drinking of each other's love as honeycomb with honey, be drunk with love for one another as with wine and milk, and drink deeply of the pleasure of spirit, soul and body they are enabled to give each other (Song 5:1; 7:9; 8:2). Soulmates recharge and rejuvenate through bonding their spirits, souls and bodies together when they need energizing. They do not turn

to other things or people when they need to be comforted and encouraged; from now to eternity, besides God, they would turn only to each other.

We conclude that Enoch and Noah had good wives and companions while on earth but somehow the example of perfect union of soulmates was not present. Perhaps they could be but if so, there was no equal spiritual and soul progression as soulmates would have; unless, possibly and mysteriously, the progression is upon the completion of all the work of Christ and in the new heaven and new earth. In extra-biblical revelation, Shem and his wife, Giddel, were like twin spirits. Even in modern appearances in our endtime dispensation, they appear constantly together. Not much is recorded in the Bible but they would have been an ideal example of soulmates who met on earth and continue their eternal progress in God together.

Abraham and Sarah

Abraham was seventy-five years when he left Ur for the land of Canaan (Genesis 12:4). When Abraham was a hundred years old, Sarah was ninety, which means that Sarah was younger than Abraham by ten years (Genesis 17:17). It is very likely that Abraham and Sarah were soulmates. Abraham said that they both shared the same father but not the same mother, which means that they were step-brother and step-sister (Genesis 20:12). Besides sharing similar physical DNA, they most likely grew up together and had known each other since they were small. Abraham, being older by ten years, might have even been the one who carried her when she was a baby; perhaps knowing that one day, he would be married to her. Their age differences did not prevent them from being soulmates. They even were able to pass on the fact that they were brother and sister at each place that they go, especially where Abraham's life was in danger of being terminated and Sarah taken away from him (Genesis 12:11-20; 20:1-12). Sarah's willingness to comply with

such deception shows forth her love and affection for Abraham and she endangered her own life to save his life.

Though they love each other so much that they were willing to die for one another, there was also sometimes disagreements that they needed to iron out. Sarah had the same love for God that Abraham had but when she saw that time had passed after the promise of God for a child, she was willing to sacrifice her marriage rights and allow Abraham to have physical relationship with her maid in order to have a child (Genesis 16:1-6). In the Bible, it looks like it was her suggestion that Abraham heeded to but in extra-biblical revelation, it was more out of her love and affection for Abraham that she did it. She cared for him and saw how despondent he was at times as they had been childless right up to their seventies and eighties. It looked naturally right (which was the custom of those days) but it was not God's perfect will.

Though they were soulmates, they had issues with Hagar and Ishmael, until both of these were put out of the house (Genesis 21:9-14). In the end, their issues were dealt with through obedience to God's voice and God's word. Abraham felt grieved because of his love for his son, Ishmael, but he was willing to obey God's word above all else (Genesis 21:11-12). It was obedience to God's Word that brought peace to these two soulmates who love each other and live together until Sarah died at the age of 127 (Genesis 23:1). Sometime after Sarah's death, Abraham, who was about 137 to 140 years old, married Keturah and he lived on until he died at the age of 175 years (Genesis 25:1-7). This meant that he had Keturah as wife for at least about 35 years, which is a lifetime for many modern families. There is not much record of Keturah or of her spiritual or soul qualities. We can safely assume that in Abraham's second marriage to Keturah, she was a good wife and companion with whom he produced many other sons and daughters but she was not his soulmate like Sarah was.

Isaac and Rebekah

Isaac was the only child of Abraham and Sarah. He was a product of God's covenant promise and well-loved by his father and mother, who were 100 years old and ninety years old respectively. He was the centre of his whole household, the object of love and affection. He had so much love that he did not feel the need of human companionship or a soulmate until his mother died (Genesis 24:67). Abraham must have seen the pining of his soul for comfort and instructed his top servant to seek out a wife for his son (Genesis 24:1-9). By that time, Isaac had also passed the test of first love to God, being willing to be sacrificed in obedience to God's test of love for Abraham (Genesis 22). He was approximately about 40 years old when he felt the need of a soulmate after his mother's death. As with Adam, when Isaac put God first in his life, God was the one who provided him with a soulmate through Abraham, his servant and the angels working on their behalf.

On Rebekah's side, she must have already been prepared by God and she went to the well at the exact right time, and had a serving heart (Genesis 24:15-22). Her heart and love for people was so kind and pure that she herself initiated the offer to draw water for the camels. When she followed Abraham's servant to a faraway land that she has never been before, her faith and trust in God was tested. Isaac immediately was comforted when they met and the Bible declares that he loved her (Genesis 24:67). They were soulmates in spirit, soul and body. Isaac was about 40 years old when he married Rebekah and Rebekah according to Jewish traditions would be about twenty years old.⁶ Their age

⁶ The Rabbis agree that Rebekah died at the age of 133 years (Sifre, Deut. 357; Midr. Tadshe, in Epstein. "Mi-Ḳadmoniyyot ha-Yehudim," p. xxii.; "Sefer ha-Yashar," section "Wayishlah," p. 56b). Her death occurred while Jacob was on his way back to his parents' home; and it was coincident with that of Deborah (comp. Gen. 35:8). Her decease is not mentioned because Jacob, not having yet arrived, Esau was the only son present to attend to her burial. Moreover, the ceremony was performed at night out of shame that her coffin should be followed by a son like Esau (Pesik. l.c.; Midr. Agadah on Gen. l.c.). According to the Book of Jubilees (31:8-11, 48), Jacob, when he arrived home, found his mother alive; and she afterward accompanied him to Beth-el to accomplish his vow (comp. Gen. 28:19-20). She died at the age of 155, five years before Isaac's death (Jubilees 35:1, 41), this determining that her age when she married was twenty years.

differences did not affect the two soulmates' love for each other. Isaac would be around 75 to 80 years old when he went down to Philistine during the famine after Abraham died (Genesis 25:7-10; 26:1-6). Abraham would have been around 140 years old when Isaac got married and Abraham lived to be 175 years old. So about thirty-five to forty years after their marriage and after Abraham's death, Isaac and Rebekah were seen by King Abimelech to be fondling, affectionate and endearing to one another (Genesis 26:8). As soulmates, they continue to derive the greatest pleasure from each other spirit, soul and body when they were young; and when they were old, about eighty years old and sixty years old respectively, age did not diminish their love and unison pleasures.

It was when they had fraternal twins and their unequal love for opposite twins causes some friction between Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 25:28). There was no visible or outward conflict between Isaac and Rebekah but it was in full display in their children. Since the conflict between Jacob and Esau was from the womb, it could be that it was the children that brought their conflict to their parents. It is always a test for all soulmates to relate to others within their circle of love, especially when such relationships seek to tear them apart. Free choice is still there and for Isaac and Rebekah, they allowed the strife of their children to create strife between themselves.

Esau married two unbelieving wives and they were a constant grief to Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 26:34-35). Rebekah seems to be the more spiritually sensitive while Isaac favoured Esau primarily because of natural food (Genesis 25:28). It was Rebekah who voiced out her grief about Esau's ungodly wives when she requested sending Jacob away from home to protect him from Esau (Genesis 27:46). Isaac should have allowed the spiritual sensitivity of Rebekah to become a part of his life and he would have avoided a lot of grieve in his old age. It was when his love was drawn away by the comfort foods of Esau that grief began.

He should have always obtained all his comfort from Rebekah and not from his children. All children are a great joy of love to both parents but soulmates must remember that children are not a replacement for the precious relationship that they have had even before children comes into the picture.

Jacob and Rachel

Jacob was a lonely soul when he left home and headed for his uncle, Laban's place. He must have been well-loved and one who obtained much affection and comfort from his mother, Rebekah, who loved him dearly. By the time he had travelled many days and reached his uncle's city, his soul was well-drawn out and he was pining for a soulmate. Upon seeing Rachel, everything in him sparked up and he immediately kissed her, lifted up his voice and wept (Genesis 29:9-13). He had found his soulmate. He was prepared to work seven years without salary just for her (Genesis 29:18). And seven years seemed like just days for him for he had a deep and great affectionate love and affinity for Rachel (Genesis 29:20). She was his love, his life, his energy and his inspiration day and night; and they probably spent whatever free time they had together.

However, circumstances beyond the control of either of them sought to tear their relationship apart. Laban cunningly plotted to marry Leah to Jacob instead of giving him Rachel. His love and excitement for Rachel must have been so great that during the wedding night, Jacob did not discover that it was Leah until the next morning (Genesis 29:23-25). Leah was not his soulmate and he ended up being married to her. Despite the deception by Laban, Jacob's love was so great that he was still willing to work another seven years without salary just to have Rachel for his wife (Genesis 29:27-28). Jacob was about 84 years old when he married Leah and Rachel (both of whom are twenty-two year old twins) based on the following calculations:

Jacob died when he was 147 years old.

He had lived in Egypt 17 years (Genesis 47:28).

Thus, Jacob was 130 when he went to Egypt to be with Joseph.

His arrival was the second year of the famine (Genesis 45:6).

Joseph was then 39 years old (compare Genesis 41:46 and add the 7 years of plenty and the 2 years of famine).

This means that Jacob was 91 when Rachel gave birth to Joseph.

But Leah already had six children before Joseph was born (Genesis 30:20-24). Reuben (Leah's firstborn by Jacob) was conceived at least 7 years before the birth of Joseph.

This means that Jacob was about 84 years old when he first married Leah and Rachel.

According to the Jewish traditions, including the book of Jasher, Leah and Rachel were twins and they married Jacob around the age of twenty-two.⁷ Their physical age difference of sixty-two years did not prevent Jacob and Rachel from enjoying the relationship of soulmates.

Although Rachel was Jacob's soulmate, Leah was now also his wife and it was his responsibility to treat her with love, honour and respect. Leah was not in a good position as in accordance to the customs of those days, women do not have much say about themselves or their lives, and she ended up being in a marriage that she did not ask for. When God saw that she was being neglected and unloved, and the full rights of a wife not given to her, God bless her with many children (Genesis 29:31-35). She desired to be loved and hoped that through more children her now legal husband, who did not want her in the first place, would love her more (Genesis 29:32). She suffered emotionally and through three births yearned to be loved, just like any person would yearn to find a soulmate who loved them and cherished them. With the firstborn, she said, "Now my husband will love me" (Genesis 29:32). With the second, she realized that the Lord saw that she was unloved, and the Lord

⁷ Seder Olam Rabbah 2

blessed her with a child (Genesis 29:33). With the third son, she was still yearning that her husband would be attached to her, having given him three sons (Genesis 29:34).

Poor Leah, she had physical relationship with her husband but there was no union of her soul with her husband for her husband's soul was united to her sister Rachel. Like everyone without a soulmate, there is a yearning for a soul fusion with one's predestined soulmate which physical relationships alone could not give. Finally, she learn to give praise to God for all her afflictions and sufferings and her imperfect situation in life, which she can't escape from nor can she do anything about, when she gave birth to her fourth son. She learned that first love to God is still the most important and finally dedicates her life to the praise of God (Genesis 29:35).

The rivalry between the twin sisters Leah and Rachel continue as they vie for the love of Jacob. In those days, a woman who gave birth to lots of children was greatly valued and praise and both of them kept contending with one another for love via having children, through their own bodies and through their maidservants (Genesis 30:1-24). The tension between the soulmates Jacob and Rachel reached a high when she told Jacob that she would rather die than live if she does not have children (Genesis 30:1-2). Out of love for her, Jacob was persuaded by her to have children for her via her maid, which Leah quickly follow suit and did the same. In the end, as Rachel learned to put God first and prayed to God, her womb was opened she gave Jacob, who was by then aged 91, her first born son.

Jacob's prioritizing of his love continued towards Rachel, despite the fact that he now technically had two official wives and two concubines. This love was spread more towards Rachel's children and the other innocent children were greatly neglected. The other children did not ask

to be part of this rivalry family and should have been loved equally. And the lot of the two maidservants who culturally were more like slaves and had to do their master's or mistress's bidding was not a happy path either. Nevertheless, it is required of all, no matter how imperfect a situation, to first find happiness with God by loving God first, and then letting God provide and bless us with happiness in whatever manner of relationships that already exists legally. Both Leah, and the two maidservants, together with Rachel, the one who is greatly loved by Jacob, all became the female patriarchs of the famous twelve tribes of Israel. In the end, the destiny of God was fulfilled.

There was probably no natural way that Rachel alone could have provided Jacob with twelve tribes. God used all imperfect situations to create perfect destinies. All things do and will work out for good to those who love God (Romans 8:28). The main purpose for this life is first to accomplish God's perfect Will on earth and that His kingdom will be established on earth. If while fulfilling God's Will, one manages to find one's soulmate, blessed is that person; but if fulfilling God's perfect Will does not lead to or result in the finding of one's soulmate, one should still be able to find happiness and joy in the Lord Jesus Christ; and with whoever one is having a relationship with as perfect love gives one the ability to love everyone equally with the love of God.

Jacob did not succeed in bringing his soulmate Rachel into spiritual harmony with him in the worship of Yahweh God. Perhaps this is because his own relationship with God was not deep enough for when he first met God at Bethel, all he was interested in was food, clothing and shelter (Genesis 28:22). Soulmates cannot grow spiritually deeper than the highest level of whichever one of them is at. The higher can always help the lower but in Jacob's case, his whole life had revolved around food, clothing and shelter. Rachel had a background of idol worship and although she had belief in Yahweh God, she still stole the

idols of Laban when they left to go to Canaan (Genesis 31:34). Not knowing that his soulmate Rachel had stolen the idols, Jacob declared death upon whoever stole the idols (Genesis 31:32). As they were soulmates and inter-twined and connected together, his pronouncement of death resulted in the death of Rachel in child labour (Genesis 35:16-20). It must have been the saddest day of his life when his soulmate died. Though his family continued, Jacob held fast to his love for Rachel by outpouring that love towards Joseph, who became a representation of the living memories of Rachel, his true love.

Joseph and Asenath

Joseph grew up well loved, abundantly and greatly favoured by his father, but experienced one of the most traumatic incidents in his life when he was thrown into the pit by his brothers and then sold as a slave (Genesis 37:24-28). Joseph was handsome in form and appearance (Genesis 39:6). Potiphar's wife wanted him but he chose to ignore all her daily advances and ended up in jail, falsely accused of trying to rape her (Genesis 39:6-20). When he was thirty years old, he was promoted to be the Prime Minister over the whole of Egypt and Pharaoh gave him Asenath the daughter of Potipherah, priest of On (Genesis 41:45). Joseph did not have much choice here but it was God who had arranged everything and God made the choice for him through circumstances beyond his control.

The Bible does not give the age of Asenath but several legends and myths have grown around her. In one Jewish legend, it speaks about how when she was eighteen, she rejected all suitors including Pharaoh's son and in the end was convicted by Joseph to give up idols and married him (by then probably around 20 years old). In another Jewish legend, she was supposedly a daughter of the rape of Shechem upon Dinah and was sent away to Egypt, and ended being adopted by Potipherah. All these legends try to point to the fact that she was a wonderful soulmate

and wife to Joseph and the mother of two of the Jewish tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. Joseph must have taken great comfort in her companionship for he named his sons, Manasseh (causing to forget) and Ephraim (double fruitfulness). He declared that God had help him forget all his toil and his father's house and that God has caused him to be fruitful in the land of his affliction (Genesis 41:51-52). Although neither of them had much decision choice in their lives, both were planned by God to be soulmates that fulfilled their destinies.

Moses and Zipporah

Moses was adopted into Egyptian royalty and grew up with much provision and training. At the age of forty, after killing the Egyptian, Moses fled to Midian and there he met Zipporah and married her (Exodus 2:12-21). They had two sons and the first was Gershom (refugee), for Moses declared that he had refuge in a foreign land (Exodus 2:22). They were soulmates well suited to one another and their recorded quarrel was over Jewish circumcision of which Zipporah disagreed to but reluctantly performed when Moses almost lost his life for disobeying the Jewish covenant of circumcision given to Abraham (Genesis 17:9-14; Exodus 4:24-26). Apparently, Zipporah returned to her father and was later brought back to Moses when Moses came back into the land of Midian after the Exodus exploits in Egypt (Exodus 18:1-2). Later against the murmuring of Moses's sister and brother against Zipporah (they called her an Ethiopian because of her dark skin), God stepped in and protected Moses and Zipporah (Numbers 12:1-16).

Their story tells us that soulmates need to grow in faith together, even though they might be well suited for each other. It also shows forth that soulmates do have to negotiate through quarrels and disagreements. It is not all a bed of roses without thorns. It must have been difficult for Zipporah to accept the Jewish laws and customs but she crossed the cultural barriers to be part of the Jewish people. The Bible did not give

Zipporah's age when she got married but following the customs of the times, she would most likely be in her twenties.

Boaz and Ruth

Ruth was a Moabite woman who experienced much sadness and sorrow. She came into the Jewish family of Elimech and Naomi through marriage with one of their sons, Mahlon (Hebrew - *weak* or *sickly*), after the death of Elimelech. It is possible that Mahlon was a sick and unhealthy person which could explain his early death. In the end both Mahlon and Chilion (Hebrew - *pinning* or *wasting away*) his brother died leaving the widows Naomi, Ruth and Orpah (Ruth 1:1-5). If Ruth had married into a sickly family, it does show her sense of sacrificial love and selflessness. After much weeping, heart wrenching tears, following Naomi in her journey back to Israel, Orpah was persuaded to turn back to Moab but Ruth insisted on following Naomi to love her and take care of her. Ruth was not looking for a soulmate, she married Mahlon to care for him and with Naomi, she was willing to further sacrifice her entire future and freedom, just taking to care for her. She was willing to:

1. Leave her homeland and birth place permanently
2. Forsake all possible future happiness with husband, family home and kids
3. Go to an unknown foreign land
4. Cross cultural barriers
5. Cross religious barriers
6. Be converted to worship Yahweh God
7. Live where Naomi live no matter what the condition
8. Devote the rest of her life to Naomi unto death (Ruth 1:16-17)

Upon arrival in Israel, Ruth faithfully took care of the daily needs and sustenance of Naomi and herself through the corn, barley and wheat harvest (Ruth 2:2, 23). Ruth had completely no thoughts of looking for a soulmate but it was Naomi who decided to look after her interest and

needs (Ruth 3:1). She taught Ruth how to offer herself for marriage to Boaz (Ruth 3:2-4). Ruth obediently followed Naomi's suggestions and Boaz was caught by shock and surprise when he found her at his feet at midnight (Ruth 3:5-8).

Although Boaz had been her benefactor and protector during her time in his field, there was no emotional relationship between them. It was purely following the Jewish custom of providing an heir for Elimelech's family line. Another family relative was closer to Elimelech's family and had first right to marry Ruth and produce children (Ruth 3:13). If they had some level of love for one another, they were willing to withhold taking it further into marriage because by right, another person had first rights to marry Ruth. This is their level of love for God, performance of His righteousness first above all else, even self-desires. When God plans for two soulmates to be together, it will always take place no matter what the barriers or circumstances may be. Both just have to wait upon God and allow God to move in His ways.

Boaz was the kinsman of Elimelech and the son of Salmon and Rahab (Ruth 2:1; 4:21; Matthew 1:5) and much older than Naomi. Salmon, Boaz's father was born during the 40 year wilderness period of Moses, and was one of the two spies that went to Jericho and was protected by Rahab (Joshua 2:1-6). Salmon must have fell in love with Rahab and later married her. This places the story of Ruth occurring early in the time of judges most likely during the Moabite oppression of eighteen years (Judges 3:14). Boaz would be older than Elimelech, and if we take Mahlon's age into account plus the ten years of sojourn in Moab, Boaz could be in his seventies when he married Ruth. The Bible does not say how old Ruth and Boaz were, but implies that Boaz is somewhat older than Ruth. However, according to Jewish tradition Boaz was then eighty years of age, and Ruth forty.

Boaz and Ruth were perfect soulmates for each other. Their story is a testimony of how God was in perfect control of all circumstances

beyond their control, in bringing two perfect soulmates together. For them, God did work out all things for good to those who love Him (Romans 8:28). They were both godly, did not seek their own needs or desires, and totally consecrated to God. They allowed God to control circumstances; even to the last righteous act with the closer relative that could have nullified any potential relationship they could have had. It is truly God who brings soulmates together and not their own efforts.

Aquila and Priscilla

The New Testament does not have many stories as the story of Jesus dominates and surpasses all others but we do have the story of one couple who is prominent in the book of Acts. They are first mentioned when the apostle Paul went to Corinth (Acts 18:2). The special and unique thing about them was that they were always mentioned as a couple and never individually throughout the six times that their names occurred in the New Testament (Acts 18:2-3; 18, 26; Romans 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19). They were dealers in tents and tentmakers as was the apostle Paul (Acts 18:3). When the Roman emperor Claudius issued an edict expelling all Jews from Rome, Aquila and Priscilla moved to Corinth.

Of the six times that their names were mentioned, Priscilla's name was mentioned first three times (Acts 18:18; Romans 16:3-4; 2 Timothy 4:19). To be constantly mentioned as a couple and to have her name sometimes mentioned first is very unusual in the male dominated society of Bible times. It implies that she is a prominent member of the pair and an important contributor to the relationship. Priscilla had strong Jewish heritage and was a Christian convert in Rome; her name is a Roman diminutive of Prisca. She was an equal partner in their relationship, in the ministry and also in their business.

Aquila was originally from Pontus and also a Jewish convert (Acts 18:2). He was possibly an early convert to Christianity by some of the

Jews from Pontus who were present during the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:9). He immigrated to Rome and it was there that he met Priscilla and married her. They both lived in Rome for about nine years and became prominent members of the church in Rome before their departure to Corinth where they met the apostle Paul. Their chronology is presented below:⁸

Year (AD)	Location	Events	Scripture
Birth ~40	Pontus	Aquila, a Jew, born and raised in Pontus. Immigrated to Rome.	Acts 18:2
Unknown	Possibly Rome	Priscilla (Prisca), Jewish heritage, born a high Roman girl.	
~40-49	Rome	Aquila practiced his trade in leather. Priscilla and Aquila meet and marry. They both became prominent members of the church in Rome. Expelled from Rome by edict of Claudius against the Jews, they went to Corinth.	Acts 18:3
49-52	Corinth	Showed Paul hospitality and plied their trade together.	Acts 18:3
52-55	Ephesus	Sailed from Corinth to Ephesus with Paul. Carried on Paul's ministry when Paul left for Syria. Ephesian church met in their home. Instructed Apollos in Christian doctrine. Late 52 AD, Paul returned to Ephesus, and may have lived with Priscilla and Aquila during this fruitful 3 year ministry.	Acts 18:18-19 Acts 18:18 1 Cor. 16:19 Acts 18:26
55-60	Rome	Priscilla and Aquila return to Rome. As in Ephesus, the church in Rome meets in their home.	Romans 16:3-5
60-64	Ephesus	Supported Timothy in his work in the Ephesian church.	2 Tim. 1:7, 16; 4:19

From the above chronology, we can see that Aquila and Priscilla gave their lives wholeheartedly to the Lord. Wherever they migrated to, the church was the centre of their lives and even met in their home. They both gave their lives as martyrs for the Lord Jesus for the day 8th July is set apart to them in Roman Catholic martyrology. They were two soulmates who had met in this lifetime and served together in ministry and in business. Their whole lives revolved around the ministry and in fulfilling the work and will of God on earth. The apostle Paul was their

⁸ Ramstad, M. International Journal of Frontier Missions, 19 (1) Spring 2002, pp. 28-31

co-worker, fellow missionary, friend and teacher to them. In life and in death, they were together, twin spirits and souls who have found each other in this life.

Conclusion

In this chapter we learn that not all Bible characters found their soulmates in marriage in this life. And those who do still have a lot of growth and development in their relationship. Yet it is required of all who enter into a marriage relationship, whether it is with their soulmates or not, that they remain faithful to their marriage and they can still live a happy and fruitful life. The Bible stories show that it is possible to have a good marriage without meeting one's soulmate. It also shows that many soulmates cross boundaries of culture, time, age, social status, and many varied difficulties before they find each other.

It should be apparent to all who follow the above Bible stories that the fulfilment of God's Will on earth and the establishment of His kingdom on earth take first priority above finding one's soulmate on earth. Moreover in an imperfect fallen world environment, many people are struggling with basic problems of food, clothing and shelter. Thankfully, in our modern world, slavery has been abolished but in many parts of the world, not every human being is in a situation where they have free choice. Illegal slavery still occurs and many people find themselves without the freedom of spirit, soul and body to exercise free choice in all three dimensions. Thus the first task of God and His angels is to free this whole world from evil and imperfection. This would cost the lives of many martyrs and demand the sacrifice of time, talents and all who are willing to pay the price that others may be free.

For this reason, people like Paul and the 144,000 sacrificed their basic rights to have a complementary soulmate in this life in order that others may benefit from their sacrifices. To those of us who benefit from the

sacrifices of such, and are given the opportunity, privilege and honour of fulfilling the fullness of the existence of the human race's creation of male and female genders we must live out our lives on earth and in eternity grateful that we are the rewards and the accomplishment of these people. It blesses them to see that their sacrifices for the human race have brought the fullest and highest expression and existence of the human race as before the fall and entering into a new dimension in Christ into the new heaven and new earth.

Each person must live to fullness the perfect call and destiny of our Lord Jesus Christ. The performance of the perfect Will of God on earth is and will always remain priority number one. While performing the perfect Will of God on earth, through prayers and through faith, those who believe in God our Father answering prayers, God will surely provide for each person the perfect soulmate. For this was His perfect plan for Adam and Eve and it is for this plan that Jesus paid the price of atonement for. Rejoice greatly in the abundance of God's grace in Christ Jesus to restore mankind to its original plan and to reveal a greater destiny for the human race. The human race was split into two genders to enjoy co-creation with God through the attributes being male and female. Not all is revealed yet of the glory of being male and female, which will be revealed in the glory which is to come.

Chapter 3

The Dynamics of Soulmates

There are dynamics of soul attachments in the Bible that show that some soul attachments can be wrong while others are beneficial. It is obvious that there has to be some measure of soul bonding and attachment whenever people become close or seek to be working in harmony and fellowship. We are tripartite creatures with spirits, souls and bodies (1 Thessalonians 5:23). When any two or three people work together or fellowship or bond together, there will be intellectual, emotional or volition bonding that flows along with spiritual bonding to do the Will of God on earth. Any dimension of intellectual, emotional or free will bonding together constitutes a measure of soul bonding that is necessarily for the carrying out of God's Will.

The early church was so united together that the Bible said that the church had become one heart and one soul (Acts 4:32). The apostle Paul advocates that the church should strive together with one soul (Philippians 1:27 word *mind* translated from Greek *psuche* which means soul). He further exhorts that the church continue in the comfort of love, the fellowship of the Spirit, in affections and mercies, to be like minded, having the same love with one accord with one mind (Philippians 2:1-2). Every time affections and mind is mentioned it involves the dynamics of the soul. There is obviously a positive dynamic of soul bonding that is biblical and powerful. The one accord and one soul church brought forth the full resurrection power of the Lord into manifestation and the church reached its greatest demonstration of the grace of God upon them (Acts 4:32-33). Where any two individuals agree as touching anything on earth, it is so powerful that whatever they ask is done for them by the heavenly Father (Matthew 18:19). No two individuals can

bond together in agreement (Greek *symphoneo* literally meaning *in symphony*) without the union of soul and spirit. The promise of the manifested presence of Christ in the midst of two or three who gathered in His name is in the context of oneness of soul and spirit (Matthew 18:20).

Friendships and Union of Souls

Just as there are union of souls that are positive, there can be attachments of souls that are negative. In one interesting vision, one married middle aged person was seen with a string attached, and the string went all the way back to the person's past. It represents a soul attachment to the person's past that was still influencing the person. Isaac's soul was tied to Esau because of the natural foods which Esau brought to him (Genesis 25:28; 27:4). Shechem the Canaanite's soul cleaved to Dinah after he raped her (Genesis 34:1-3). After losing his soulmate, Rachel, and losing Joseph, Jacob's soul was deeply attached and bound to the soul of Benjamin (Genesis 44:30 the word *life* comes from *nephesh* meaning soul). The brothers of Joseph were afraid that losing Benjamin would mean the end of Jacob's will and desire to live since his soul was bound to Benjamin's soul.

There are positive friendships and soul attachments that can strengthen the fellowship of two individuals. David and Jonathan shared a soul and friendship bonding that lasted beyond their lives. The soul of Jonathan was knitted together with the soul of David and they loved each other as their own souls (1 Samuel 18:1). This Scripture shows that it is possible to share a deep and lasting friendship that lasts for a lifetime and beyond, without the element of physical sexual relationship that belong to a marriage relationship. The Bible advocates that in order to have many friends, one must show oneself friendly first, and in the same verse, speaks of a friendship that is so deep that it transcends even family relationships; it is as one who sticks closer than a

brother (Proverbs 18:24). The word *stick* comes from the Hebrew word *dabeq* which means to adhere, cleave, or be joined together. The friendship of Jonathan and David was further strengthened by spiritual ties and covenants which they made with each other and they continue to declare their love for one another through difficult and testing times (1 Samuel 18:3; 20:17).

If it is possible for two individuals of the same gender to share a deep and lasting friendship and relationship, without the physical sexual dimension, is it possible for two individuals of opposite gender to share a deep friendship and relationship without it resulting in a sexual relationship? From the Bible, it is obvious that Jesus shared a deep relationship and friendship with both his disciples and his followers including those of the female gender. The relationship of Jesus with Mary Magdalene remained pure. Together with Joanna and Susanna, Mary Magdalene followed Jesus and ministered to Him (Luke 8:1-3).

The reason why some people believe wrongly that Jesus did not die on the cross but ended up marrying Mary Magdalene was due to Apocrypha accounts that seem to show the closeness that Jesus had with her.⁹ In looking through the exact same accounts, all I find are just a close friendship and fellowship that Jesus had with Mary Magdalene without having any sexual connotations. With Jesus, there are neither male nor female for all are equal in His sight (Galatians 3:28). After Jesus ascended, the disciples continue to have a close friendship and working relationship with Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene and many other women (Acts 1:14).

⁹ In the Gospel of Mary, the apostles acknowledged the close relationship of Jesus and Mary. In the Gospel of Philip, it acknowledges that Jesus loved Mary Magdalene as much as the disciples, was His companion (*koinonos*) and had kissed her often. Modern scholars who allude to a sexual relationship that Jesus had with Mary Magdalene forget that *koinonos* is the standard word for Christian fellowship and has been also used of James, John and Peter in their fishing partnership (Luke 5:10). It was also a custom of early Christians to share a holy kiss (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14).

After the brook of Cherith dried up, Elijah was told by God to stay with a single woman, a widow who had a son, for the rest of the three years and three months that the land of Israel was without rain (1 Kings 17: 7-16; 18:1; James 5:17). A friendship and good relationship would have developed through the years without having any physical relationship between Elijah, the widow and her son.

A notable woman prepared a room for Elisha so that whenever he came to her town, he would stay in her house (2 Kings 4:9-11). Elisha was well taken care by her and blessed her and her husband with a child.

If Ruth had not proposed to Boaz to marry her, Boaz would have remained her protector and friend without crossing the line of a physical relationship. For even when Ruth was alone with him and lying at his feet, he did not become intimate with her nor had physical relationship with her (Ruth 3:7-15). Ruth had actually offered herself physically to him and he had eaten and had drunk and was merry (Ruth 3:7). When he discovered her at his feet at midnight, and after conversing with her, he asked her to lie down until morning (Ruth 3:8, 13-14). They continue to lie in bed from midnight to morning, physically close together, with her at his feet under the same blanket but he did not have physical relationship with her.

With Jesus as our example and all the various accounts above, it is definitely possible for different genders to have good lasting spiritual and soul friendships without it crossing the line into a physical relationship. Obviously, this must be so, otherwise the apostle Paul's exhortation that the church be one heart, one affection, one mind and one soul cannot be carried out for the church would invariably consists of people of both genders.

Timing and Readiness for Soulmates

The human race came about through the splitting of the original entity of Adam who was once a single entity of spirit, soul and body into the two halves of male and female genders. This inherent differentiation has caused the eternal desire and pining for one's complementary counterpart.

Human history and bible history are filled with love stories of various levels: of lovers, of parents and children, of brethren, and of friends. Sometimes, the relationships lasted a lifetime and beyond and at other times they lasted only until they reached barriers which both sides could not overcome but they all express the same goal and motivation – the desire for love, friendships and soulmate built into our DNA.

David moved in his calling and anointing very early in his life, probably a teenager as he was only about thirty years old when he was anointed king over Judah (2 Samuel 5:4, 5). As a teenager, he had the opportunity to slay Goliath and officially entered into the army of Israel, though he was still too small size to fit into the armour of Saul (1 Samuel 17:38, 39; 18:13, 14).

Before that he had served as the king's musician (1 Samuel 16:17-23). With David, it is more difficult to determine who was his real soulmate as he had a fan club of women who sang songs of him and he had several wives who had helped him during his life (1 Samuel 18:6-7). The following are the main women who had impacted his life:

1. Michal – she fell in love with David when she saw him and protected him from her jealous father, even helping David to escape (1 Samuel 18:20; 19:11-17). The bible does not give their ages but a good estimate would be that David would be around

twenty-seven years old and Michal, around twenty when they got married.¹⁰

2. Abigail – before she married David, she was married to Nabal, and she helped counsel David not to blot his record by slaying people wrongly because of her husband’s foolishness (1 Samuel 25:18-42). David would be about twenty nine years old (around 1005 BC). Abigail’s age is not given in the Bible but if we assume that she was in an arranged marriage with Nabal, it would mean that she might have wedded in her late teens, plus the number of years she was with him before he died, would bring her into her twenties since the length of the marriage might have been short, given that no children were recorded.
3. Bathsheba – she was Uriah’s wife with whom David committed adultery, and became David’s wife when Uriah was killed under David’s instruction (2 Samuel 11:2-27). After God forgive David but took their first child away, her second child, Solomon, became the chosen successor of David (Psalms 51; 2 Samuel 12:24-25; 1 Chronicles 28:5). Bathsheba also prevented a coup by Adonijah and Joab when she warned David of what they were plotting (1 Kings 1:11-40). David was about 55 years old when he had sexual relationship with Bathsheba and married her the same year (around 980 BC). Bathsheba was the granddaughter of one of David’s key advisors, Ahithophel (2 Samuel 11:3; 23:34). Eliam the father of Bathsheba, was one of the thirty mighty men before David ascended to the throne, implying he was a full grown man and warrior (2 Samuel 23:34). David ascended to the throne at age

¹⁰ 1020 BC: David defeats Goliath probably at 15-17 years of age (1 Sam. 17)
1020 BC: Jonathan, who is much older than David, becomes one in spirit with him (1 Sam. 18:1).
1015 BC: Because of his reputation he was appointed armour-bearer to Saul (1 Sam. 16:21) ...ctd..
1010 BC: Saul banishes David from his court, yet he makes him commander of a thousand (1 Sam. 18:13). Maybe he hopes David will die in battle. David is perhaps 25 years old.
1008 BC: His success as a warrior has made Saul offer him the hand of his daughter Michal “as a snare” (1 Sam. 18:21). Michal marries him, and she loves him (1 Sam. 18:27-28).

30, and Solomon, who was conceived the next year after marriage to Bathsheba, was considered as quite young when he inherited the throne (1 Kings 3:7; 1 Chronicles 22:5; 29:1).

The approximate time, taking all things into account including Ahithophel's age and the rebellion of Absalom shortly after, would put the time of the David and Bathsheba incident around the middle of David's forty year reign, giving a calculation that Solomon would be around twenty when he ascended to the throne. That would put Bathsheba's age at the time she married David to be around twenty-one to twenty-three years old.

Michal was a potential soulmate as she was David's first love and first wife but Saul had given her to another husband after David fled from him (1 Samuel 25:44). David still had love for her and valued her above a kingdom for when he was offered the ten tribes by Abner, his condition was that he must have his first love and wife back (2 Samuel 3:12-14). Sadly, Michal could not get pass all the hurts and abandonment that she must have felt, including her estrangement from her recent husband, Paltiel. Her soul, once united and in love with David, was now filled with anger and spite and she could not spiritually unite with David in celebration of the Lord's ark coming into Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:20-23).

In vision the Lord showed that one of the evil spirits, a lying spirit, was formerly with her father, Saul, and was whispering things into her ears, and she believed them. She might have been pretty and lovely physically, but her soul and spirit were now corrupted with unforgiveness and anger. She could not be one with David in the soul and in the spirit, so she disqualified herself from being David's soulmate. If all things had gone well and Saul had not turned evil, she and David could have lived happily ever after; for after Saul dies and Jonathan receives the throne, he would then give it to David and by

automatic succession, David fulfilled God's prophecy to be a king without all the drama created by Saul's rebellion.

Abigail was both beautiful and intelligent, and a godly woman (1 Samuel 25:3). She was good for David and potentially was his soulmate. She was also one of the two wives captured at Ziklag but rescued by David (1 Samuel 30:5, 18). No other Bible records are given of her except for the birth of one child, Daniel, in her relationship with David (1 Chronicles 3:1). On top of her intelligence and beauty, she was a godly woman and would have made an excellent soulmate to the right person.

Unfortunately for her, David's soul was divided several ways and was never wholly given to one person. David still had affinity for Michal from the fact that she was first on his mind when offered the northern kingdom, and in the fact that David considered the love and companionship of Jonathan better than marriage to women (2 Samuel 1:26 – *Your love to me was wonderful, surpassing the love of women*). With such divided attention for his soul, it is doubtful whether David could be satisfied with the love of his soulmate if he had found her in his lifetime.

Bathsheba would have grown up as a child in the palace of David as Eliam her father and her grandfather Ahithophel would be frequent visitors to David. She must have been in awe of David, the famous warrior who slayed Goliath and God's anointed leader and king over all of Israel, with whom her father and grandfather served. Thus, even though she was married to Uriah, when David summoned for her, she came (2 Samuel 11:4). When David's sin was exposed by Nathan the prophet, David repented and after losing the child who was conceived, David and her found comfort in each other and they had another son, Solomon (2 Samuel 12:1-24). Apparently, Bathsheba became David's main wife and comfort for they had several more children after that (1 Chronicles 3:5). She was a godly woman and her instructions are

recorded in Proverbs 31, which credits King Lemuel's¹¹ mother for the wise instructions (Proverbs 31:1).

Bathsheba was united completely with David's vision and although their circumstantial coming together was imperfect, their relationship blossom to cover all three areas of union in spirit, soul and body. She was the perfect soulmate for David for the rest of his life. Abigail might have been the perfect one but at that time, David was still not over his love for Michal and Jonathan, and while running away from Saul, he was still pining for them. Bathsheba came at the right time in David's life when he was humbled by his arrogant pride and sin into repentance. Sometimes the initiation of a relationship with the right soulmate must not be too early or too late but it must be just at the right time. After all, for the union of souls and spirit, the soul and spirit must be at the right place and ready to be united with another.

The story of Solomon is similar in some ways but different from David. He was young and around twenty when he ascended to the throne. Seven hundred wives, princesses and three hundred concubines could not all satisfy him (1 Kings 11:3). Many of his marriages had a political element involved and although his heart clung in love to many foreign women, none could be his soulmate (1 Kings 11:1-2).

Only one woman could satisfy Solomon, it was the Shulamite woman in the Song of Solomon (Song 1:1; 6:13). Only one woman truly loved him (Song 8:4-7). The sadness in Solomon's life is that he should have waited for the one true love and not spread his soul among the multiple wives and concubines. By the time he met her he has 60 wives and 80 concubines (Song 6:8). This also gives us the timing of the writing of the Song of Solomon, it would have to be when he was still a young adult and in the early stages of his reign since he accumulated 1000 wives and concubines during his reign of forty years. The problem here is that

¹¹ Lemuel is a biblical king and derived from the word 'Lael' which means 'man consecrated to God'. This reference applies to King Solomon and might be a name of endearment given to him by his mother Bathsheba.

Solomon was not looking for one soulmate, his first initial marriages to various foreign wives show us that his view of marriage is not partnership in spirit, soul and body but it includes political and carnal things of this life.

Although he had the Old Testament to read, it did not strike him that God only made one Adam for one Eve. His story reminds us that God did not make more than one soulmate to be the exact and perfect complementary. We can have many spiritual and Christian brothers and sisters with whom we can share oneness in heart, mind and soul in biblical fellowship and ministry as advocated in the Bible in the book of Acts and the epistles (Acts 4:32; Philippians 1:27; 2:1-2; Matthew 18:19, 20). But there can be only one soulmate for each opposite gender who complements the other in all three dimensions of spirit, soul and body.

The possible understanding and positions that we can take on the concept of soulmate are as follows:

1. Belief that there is no such thing as soulmates.

This frees a person from looking and seeking for one but it leaves unanswered questions as to why in the history of mankind, stories of love abound, and why there is a universal desire to have a complementary opposite gender as a companion. This belief is shattered if one believes in the story of God's creation of Adam and Eve in the Bible; that there is only one complementary person for each person. Without a belief system, it leaves open other belief systems that justify polygamy, polyandry, homosexual and lesbian relations.

2. Belief that there is only one perfect soulmate for each person in this life.

This belief is Scriptural but it puts pressure on a person to seek out that one and only person on earth with whom they can live a life

time with. This is possible if the earth is a perfect world without sin and if the task of seeking for a soulmate is the most important work on planet earth. Unfortunately, in a world that is dying in sin and death, there are many other urgent tasks more important than spending the rest of our lives looking for a soulmate. The Bible stories show that it is possible to meet one's soulmate in this life but many of the Bible people have made sacrifices, some to vows of celibacy, to surrender their personal longings and desires to Christ and trust that God will take care of their needs including their need of a soulmate.

Where they need some level of companionship, God has provided friends or helpers to encourage them in the continuance of their function; like God telling Elijah to call Elisha as a prophet trainee in his place when Elijah expressed loneliness and a desire to die (1 Kings 19:4, 10, 19). It is possible to live joyfully on earth doing God's Will with the provision by God of companions who provide spiritual and soul kinship without the physical relationship. Our Lord Jesus took His disciples of both genders to be His friends and had close spiritual and soul-philio relationships with both genders.

3. Belief that there is only one perfect soulmate that God has provided for us when He created us and we have both this life and an eternity to eventually meet them.

This seems to be the best position to take and it is based on the fact that we should let God be the one who bring our soulmate to us in this life, if that is His perfect plan for us now. It acknowledges that none of us in our own strength, with our own abilities, even if we have 120 years of life, would be able to find our own soulmate. It was God who created and brought Eve to Adam; and it will still be God who had created our soulmates and will bring our soulmates

to us. Dependence on God is the key here. In a sense, Adam and Eve did not have a choice; there was only one perfect person for each of them and that was each other. As mankind multiplied, and the earth is filled with billions of them now, plus counting those who have lived throughout history, and adding those that will continue to be born in the next fifty years, how do we meander through and interview every single person now, in the past and in the future to discover the exact person who will be the complementary soulmate? It is a task too great for us in such a short life.

The guidance then is to be led by the Holy Spirit and God's Word, and make good friends of both genders with whom we have a kinship of spirit and soul. Kinship of spirit and soul must always come first before the physical attraction dynamics. Then amongst our friends with whom we have a kinship of spirit and soul, if there is a leading to bring the relationship further amongst those of the opposite gender into the physical dimension, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with God's confirmation and permission, the relationship is taken into holy matrimony with the view that it will enhance the performance of God's Will in each life while on earth and together as a couple.

This should be done without losing other friends with whom we are doing God's Will together. Every relationship, including those whom we are in holy matrimony with, should be taken to be a learning curve and an experience of perfecting God's love in us in various ways. In the end, even with or without soulmates, our destiny is to personify God's perfect love in all its glory. We should not be discouraged if in our earthly walk and relationships we find disparity with our partners in either spirit or soul or body. We should commit ourselves to God and understand that in His

perfect eternal plan for us, we will in the end have completeness of complementary in our spirits, souls and bodies.

God's Predestined Soulmate

While it is possible to have varying levels of spiritual and soul relationships with all other individuals of both genders, it is obvious that God would have only designed one Adam for one Eve and no more. When God created Adam and Eve, He created them from one spiritual entity, one soul and one body. Adam was ten feet tall and had a spirit, soul and body but without any sexual characteristics. It is out of this one tripartite being that God formed the male Adam and the female Eve, seven feet tall and six feet tall, respectively. It was only after this creation of male and female that the two of them had sexual characteristics visible in their glorified bodies, with sexual organs that show their maleness and femaleness. Even before the fall, they were told to be fruitful and multiply thus sanctioning the union of spirit, soul and body as a sacred act of two spirit-soul mates expressing in one union of body (Genesis 1:27-28; Hebrews 13:4).

Based on the story of Adam and Eve, there can be only one perfect spirit-soul mate for each human being. We can have many friends in this life and in the next life but only one true soulmate that can complement us in three dimensions of spirit, soul and body. From the creation of Adam and Eve through Noah and the continued propagation of human kind, if all the humans from all of time and geography were gathered in one place, it is possible that God could link all those who are one hundred per cent complementary in spirit, soul and body together as soulmates like Adam and Eve was. Only He would have the perfect knowledge of all persons created and know each person's special characteristics in their spirits, souls and glorified bodies for He is the Creator and Father of us all. The question is whether such relationships continue to exist after earthly life.

The Bible seems to perpetuate that marriages only last until death (Romans 7:3; 1 Corinthians 7:39). There are complications if marriages last into eternity as expressed in the Sadducees' question to Jesus about the man who married seven times (Mark 12:18-25). Jesus said that once they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like the angels in heaven (Mark 12:25). This can be taken to imply that the resurrected body is sexless, with neither male nor female characteristics (Galatians 3:28) or that the male and female genders are present but there is no more necessity for such unions in heaven. Upon death and resurrection, the glorified body will no longer have some of the organs like the physical organs like stomachs, etc. (1 Corinthians 6:13). It implies that sexual organs, too, will be done away. This raises several questions, if restoration is to the Garden of Eden and Adam's state before the fall, shouldn't there be an element of sexual characteristics as present with Adam and Eve before the fall? Secondly, does this apply only to those who died and are resurrected but does not apply to those who do not experience death like those in the Rapture? And who continues to propagate the glorified human race during the Millennium?

We do not have the answers to some of these questions. At the moment we can only surmise that marriage in its human form and human level covenants are only part of this earth system. That does not exclude the possibility that there will be eternal spiritual partnerships and friendships of the spiritual kind in eternity – some sort of eternal soul mateship, for lack of a better word. Logic dictates that if human beings have been made into halves with male and female entities, then the two halves must come together to become one; and that there can only be one perfect complementary part for each half.

There is also the unknown reality of what it would be like if Adam and Eve had not fallen. When their two halves become one in spirit, soul and body in its glorified state, what manner of experience and what manner

of supernatural power would be released? It definitely would not be like the fallen physical dimension which was under a curse from the fall of mankind (Genesis 3:7-21). Under blessedness and glory, the union of two such spirits, souls and bodies might be a powerful demonstration of the union of the Godhead that has never been witnessed before by the Universe (Ephesians 5:30-32). There is the possibility that God has reserved the last of the human race present up to Jesus Second Coming, who do not see death, to enter into this unique calling that was incomplete in Adam and Eve but now completed and re-launched in Christ Jesus the last Adam and the second man (1 Corinthians 15:45-48).

In conclusion we can point to the fact that there is a perfect Adam to every Eve and vice versa. There is a perfect counterpart spirit, soul and body to every human person that would constitute their spirit-soulmate. This seems reasonable and logical in looking at the creation of the human race and in the universal deeply felt desire of each human being to seek companionship with the other complementary half. It is a spiritual reality that the race of mankind consisting of male and female genders has resulted from the split of one genderless entity. The shortness of time in the earthly dispensation might not be sufficient to find a true spirit-soulmate. But in eternity, there could exist a complementary spirit-soulmate although all are complete in Christ.

The eternal journey of the human race is but in its infancy. We do not see all nor understand all while in this earthly life. There exist many other mysteries of the Universe around us and of the mysteries within us to be explored for all eternity. Perhaps this is the greatest journey in eternity for which all who are in Christ have an eternity for. The journey to discover a union of existence which would reflect the union of the Godhead: of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The ultimate knowledge of the Universe is to know God in all His fullness. And this knowledge is found in Christ who came in human likeness and called us to a mysterious union with Him which is based on the union of the male

and female species of our race (Ephesians 5:32). We are to be one with God and one with Christ, He in us and we in Him in perfect love and union (John 17:22-24). This union is expressed in human relationships of male and female, and would be eternally expressed through the oneness of humans in eternity who are one perfectly with one another (Song 2:16; 6:3; Ephesians 5:31-32; John 17:23).

Chapter 4

Understanding Soulmate Harmony

From our understanding of the previous chapter, as there is only one Adam and only one Eve, implying that there can only be one full and true soulmate for each person, there is a need to understand that it takes more than just finding a soulmate that makes a soulmate a true soulmate. What is the phenomena then of five or so people being potential soulmates, and only one becomes one's true soulmate? Let us examine some bible characters.

Abraham and Sarah Harmonization

Abraham and Sarah are soulmates but along their journey of life, Abraham had encounters with three different women: Sarah, Hagar and Keturah. Abraham began his married life with just Sarah but their childless situation resulted in Sarah introducing her handmaid, Hagar, into Abraham's life (Genesis 16:1-4). When Ishmael was born, Sarah became despised and Abraham became emotionally attached to Hagar and his son Ishmael such that when God spoke to him of having his own son, he thought at first that it was Ishmael (Genesis 17:18). He was also reluctant to let Hagar go even when there was strife in his family and it was God who had to persuade him to do so (Genesis 21:11-12). Later on after Sarah's death, Abraham remarried Keturah and produced five sons (Genesis 25:1-2). Which of the three women were Abraham's soulmate? Obviously, the answer is Sarah for she continued to be used in New Testament stories in a positive light.

Sarah was viewed as the prophetic symbol of the New Covenant of grace whilst Hagar represented the law (Galatians 4:21-3). And Sarah was viewed as having been together with Abraham in receiving the blessings of the covenant of God in having been strengthened in God to conceive (Romans 4:19-22). By faith Sarah received strength to conceive seed (Hebrews 11:11). She was also the example of the ideal wife (1 Peter 3:6). In the story of Abraham and Sarah, we see how soulmates were not just physical and soul and spirit compatibilities with each other, they also become the manifestation of the attributes that God want to manifest through the story of their lives. Thus in every soulmate story, there will be a perfect compatibility but there will also be the story of which and what attributes of God that they both manifest through their lives on earth.

Solomon and Shulamite Harmonization

Another story is of Solomon and the Shulamite in the Song of Songs. The book of the Song of Songs becomes the prophetic book today of spiritual allegories hidden in physical descriptions of their relationship with one another, pointing to the ultimate relationship of Christ and His bride, the church. At the time when Solomon met the Shulamite, he already had sixty queens and eighty concubines but he finally met his perfect one (Song of Songs 6:8-9). Altogether Solomon had one thousand wives and concubines (1 Kings 11:3). Imagine, he had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines and only one was his soulmate! The Shulamite.

The reason she was his soulmate was because their relationship extends beyond this physical world of marriage but it extends into the manifestation of their relationship as the relationship of Christ and the church. The prophetic and spiritual significance of their relationship was what made them the perfect soulmate through which God could bring

forth the revelation of His attributes, particularly of Christ and His Bride.

The first principle of eternal soulmate is that true soulmates become a prophetic type, a personification to reveal God's attributes through their lives and through their relationship. It extends beyond this physical world into the eternal spiritual world where we continue to become living stones that reveal that special aspect and attribute of God in which we have lived and experienced together with our soulmates.

Thus, there may potentially be many similar and compatible soulmates in this life (and in the next life for those who do not meet their soulmate on earth) but there can only be one in whom the harmonization and dynamics become the revelation of a specific and particular revelation of an attribute or attributes of God. The divine calling of the church, and we as individual members of the church, is to reveal the manifold wisdom of God, which entails the manifold attributes of God (Ephesians 3:10). We are all living stones of which Christ is the Chief Cornerstone, to become the temple of God, each one a living stone, a part of the Bride, the city of New Jerusalem (1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 2:17; 21:9-21).

Growing in Harmonization

In order for this to take place, out of many potential and compatible soulmates, there must be a certain percentage of sealing of true soulmate via the process of marriage and union of spirit, soul and body. For example, there may be five potential soulmates, where some may be 50% compatible and some 50-90 percent. I saw in the spirit that unless one is at least 50% or more compatible, one does not become a potential soulmate. Some however, have a higher percentage by virtue of spiritual and natural DNA and of experience in life and in God. However, no matter how high the compatibility, it takes only an actual marriage and union for true soulmates to become 100% compatible and then they begin to walk together as true soulmates. Sometimes, people have

married others who were only 50% compatible and have some problems in becoming one as true soulmate. Others marry at 70% or 90% and have less harmonization to go through after marriage. That is why, even if a person is a potential soulmate, one still needs to assess the percentage of compatibility in spirit, soul and body plus there is a need of a time period of courtship to allow the percentage to grow higher before taking the step of marriage. At the same time, it is an encouragement to many people to know that whatever their choice of potential soulmates, there is room to grow and become 100% compatible and harmonized with each other.

In the story of Abraham and Sarah, we saw that they did not always get it right and it took time for them to harmonize with each other through several potential tragedies: the tragedy of telling half truths about their relationship, the tragedy of Ishmael-Hagar versus Isaac-Sarah, etc. Another question is if Sarah was truly Abraham's soulmate, wouldn't it be quite normal for them to depart this earth roughly close in time together, so that Abraham did not have to marry Keturah? The answer is that even when one finds one's true potential soulmate and marries them, like Solomon and the Shulamite, one must learn the lessons of harmonization in order to become 100% compatible and satisfied with each other such that they do not need any other male-female relationship with any other. The failure of the Solomon-Shulamite relationship is because of the lack of following the written Word by Solomon.

He disobeyed the written word that says a king must not have too many wives and must not be too rich (Deuteronomy 17:17). He should have become fully satisfied with the Shulamite and ceased all his philandering. His disobedience to God's written word and commandments caused the beauty of a true soulmate relationship which he could have had permanently for the rest of his life, to be only a temporary thing. Such that when he was old, he cried that all is vanity

and life is vanity (Ecclesiastes 1:1-2). Solomon could have lived an abundant satisfying spiritual and natural life with the Shulamite and died a blessed and happy person. But he only had a taste of the most beautiful life he could have lived, which inspired the words of the Song of Songs. The lesson to all soulmates is that even when you meet your soulmate, there is a lot of harmonization to go through to become 100 percent merged and in union with one another.

Christ the Centre of Soulmate Harmonization

It should be obvious to all soulmates that unless both are yielded to the Lordship of Christ, obey the written and the spoken word, and truly love one another with Christ's unconditional love, a true soulmate relationship might not eventuate even when one marries one's soulmate. Rachel was Jacob's first love and true soulmate but she died early because of her stealing her father's idols and Jacob's curse of death upon whomever it was found on (Genesis 31:32-34; 35:2, 19).

The second major principle is that even when one has met and married one's soulmate, it is Jesus who must be in the centre of the relationship to bring about the complete merging and harmonizing of two soulmates to become one spirit, one soul and one flesh. Without Jesus, without obedience to the word, without unconditional love, the prophetic significance and the personification of attributes of God through the relationship cannot manifest and come through.

The blessing of soulmates becoming one is that there is a unique and special manifestation of God given to each couple and this leads to the various scenarios of manifestation of Christ that will be revealed in the Millennium. Soulmates would go beyond the basic union of marriage of holy matrimony and flow deeply into the powers of the age to come, especially that of the Millennium which is reserved for those in this end time. Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor enter into the heart of man, the things which God has in store for those who love Him (1 Corinthians

2:9). There is an aspect of the width, length, depth and height of the love of Christ which can only be revealed and received through soulmate union, for all soulmate union will have an aspect of the revealing of the great mystery of Christ (Ephesians 3:18-19; 5:31-32).

This implies that each soulmate relationship is unique and special and so no two soulmate couple can be compared with the other. Just like the relationship of Adam and Eve is unique, that of Abraham and Sarah, Solomon and the Shulamite, Aquila and Priscilla and many others are all different and special to each couple. Each will reveal aspects of God that the other relationships do not.

The third major principle of soulmate relationship is that there is a particular growth that begins in this life, flows to the Millennium and into the placing of the living stones in New Jerusalem that is different for each soulmate relationship. And the discovery will not be found unless soulmates merged to become one spirit, one soul and one body, which is just the beginning of discovering the great mystery of Christ.

The finale and end of this great mystery of Christ is found in New Jerusalem and in the powers of the age to come. So let each unique soulmate relationship centre on Christ and grow into the fullness of God's indwelling in their loves to reveal the special and unique qualities that God has reserved since the beginning of time for the greatest completion of all time in the glory of the Lamb of God and His Bride, New Jerusalem.

Amen.