




The Church, His Bride

A black and white photograph of a bride holding a large bouquet of white roses and baby's breath flowers. The bride is wearing a white wedding dress and is looking down at the bouquet. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.


the Church as the Bride of Christ

Genesis 2

Ephesians 5

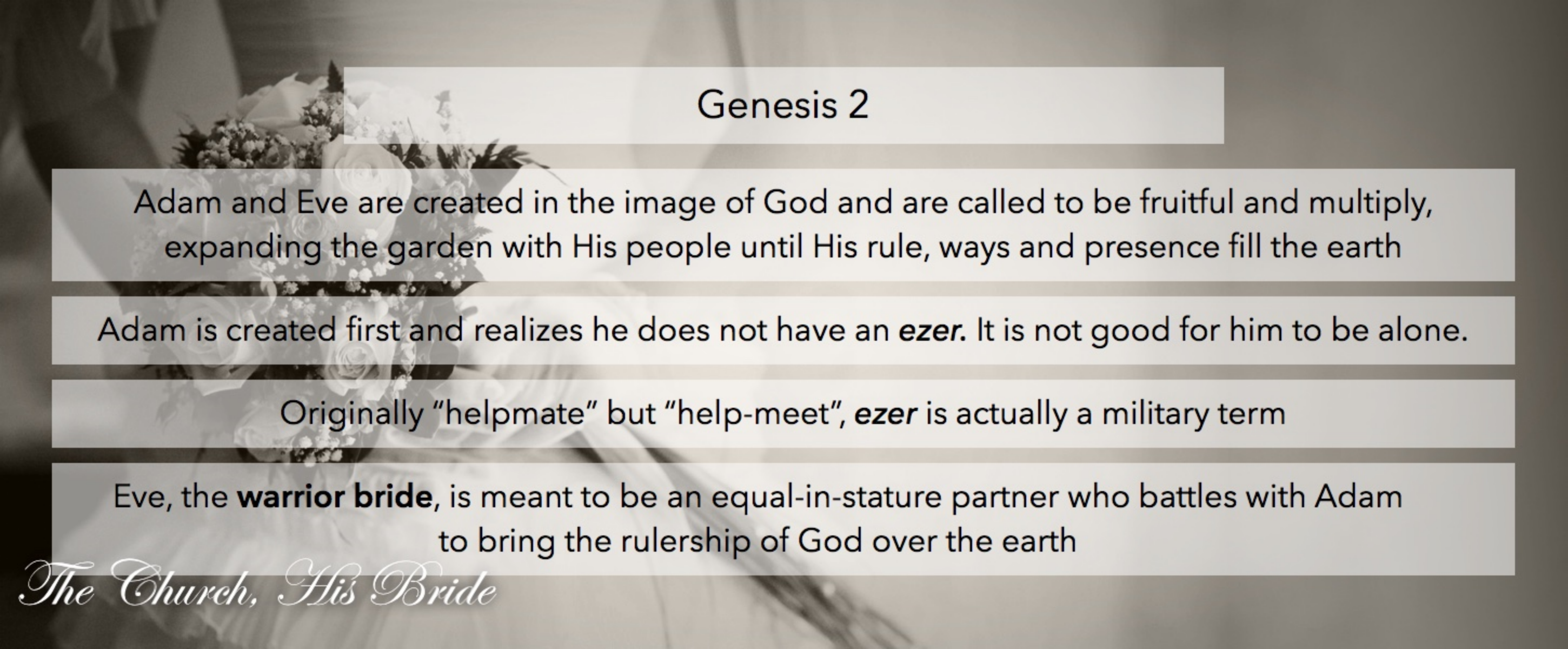
Proverbs 31

The Church, His Bride



the most frequent picture of God's
relationship with His people is marriage

The Church, His Bride

A bride in a white dress is holding a large bouquet of white roses. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. The text is overlaid on semi-transparent white boxes.

Genesis 2

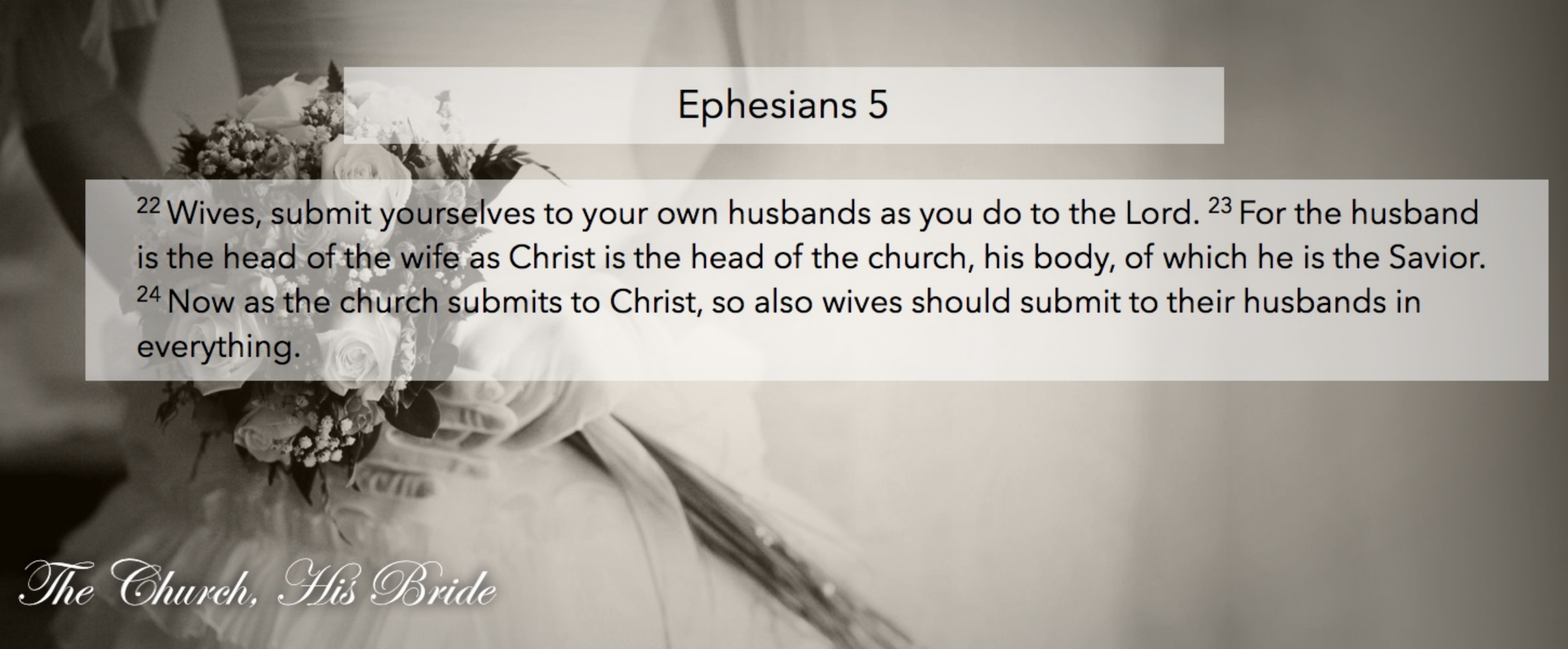
Adam and Eve are created in the image of God and are called to be fruitful and multiply, expanding the garden with His people until His rule, ways and presence fill the earth

Adam is created first and realizes he does not have an **ezer**. It is not good for him to be alone.

Originally "helpmate" but "help-meet", **ezer** is actually a military term

Eve, the **warrior bride**, is meant to be an equal-in-stature partner who battles with Adam to bring the rulership of God over the earth

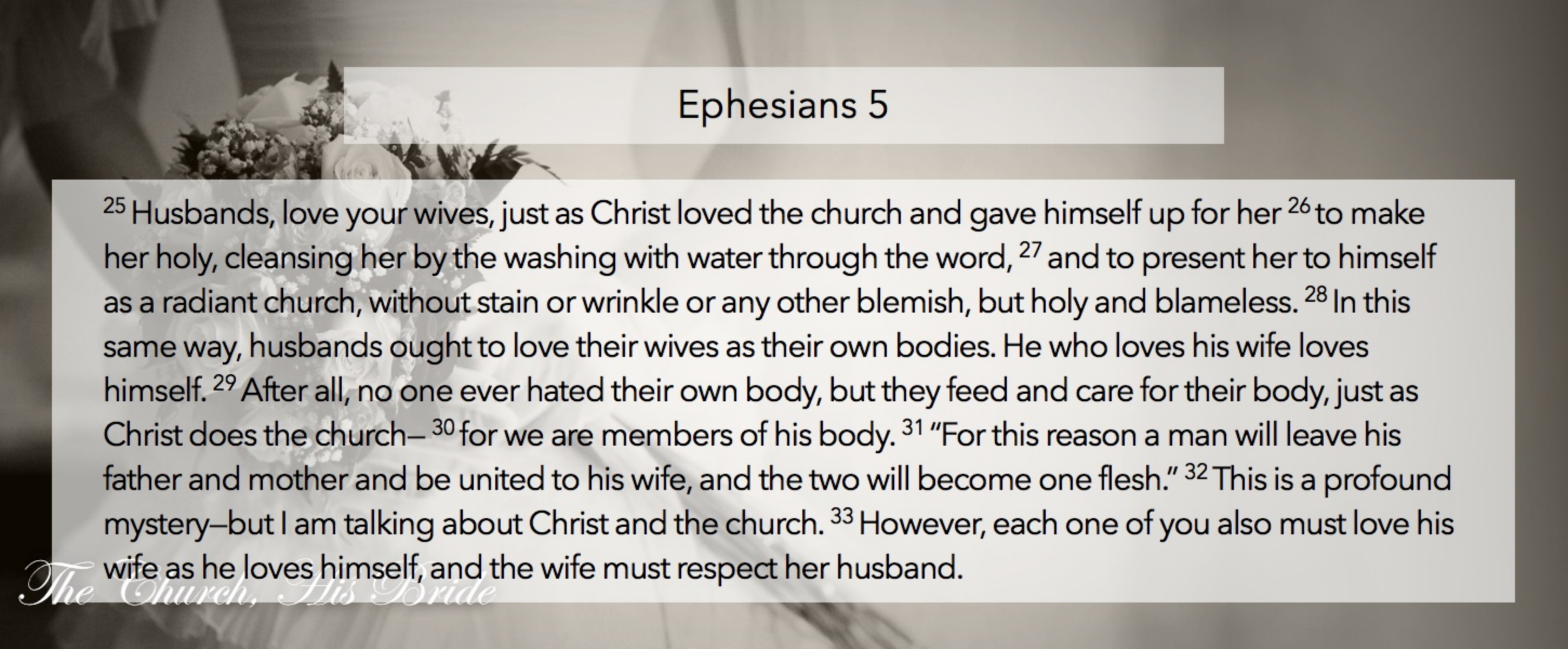
The Church, His Bride

A bride in a white gown is holding a large bouquet of white roses and baby's breath flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Ephesians 5

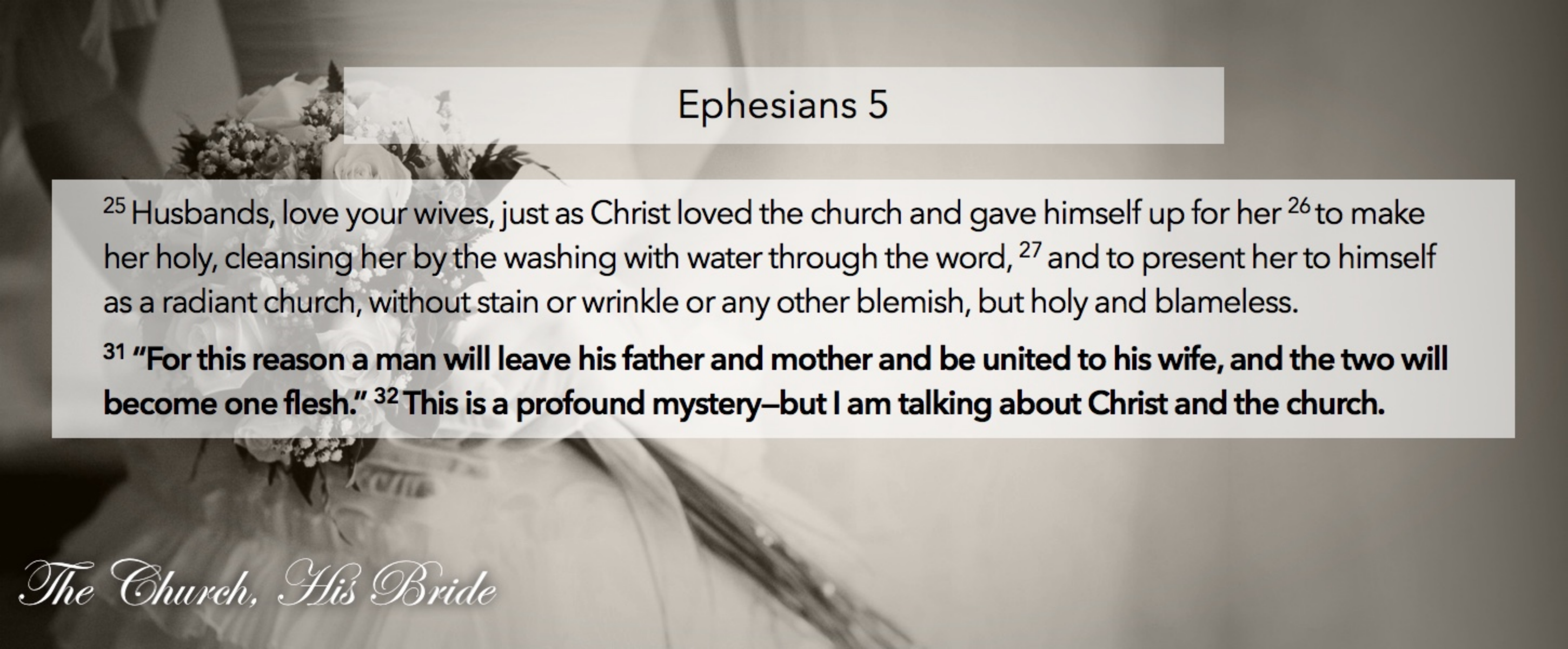
²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

The Church, His Bride

A bride in a white dress is holding a large bouquet of white roses. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey. A white rectangular box is centered at the top, containing the text 'Ephesians 5'. Below it, a larger white rectangular box contains the main text of the passage. At the bottom left, the title 'The Church, His Bride' is written in a cursive font.

Ephesians 5

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

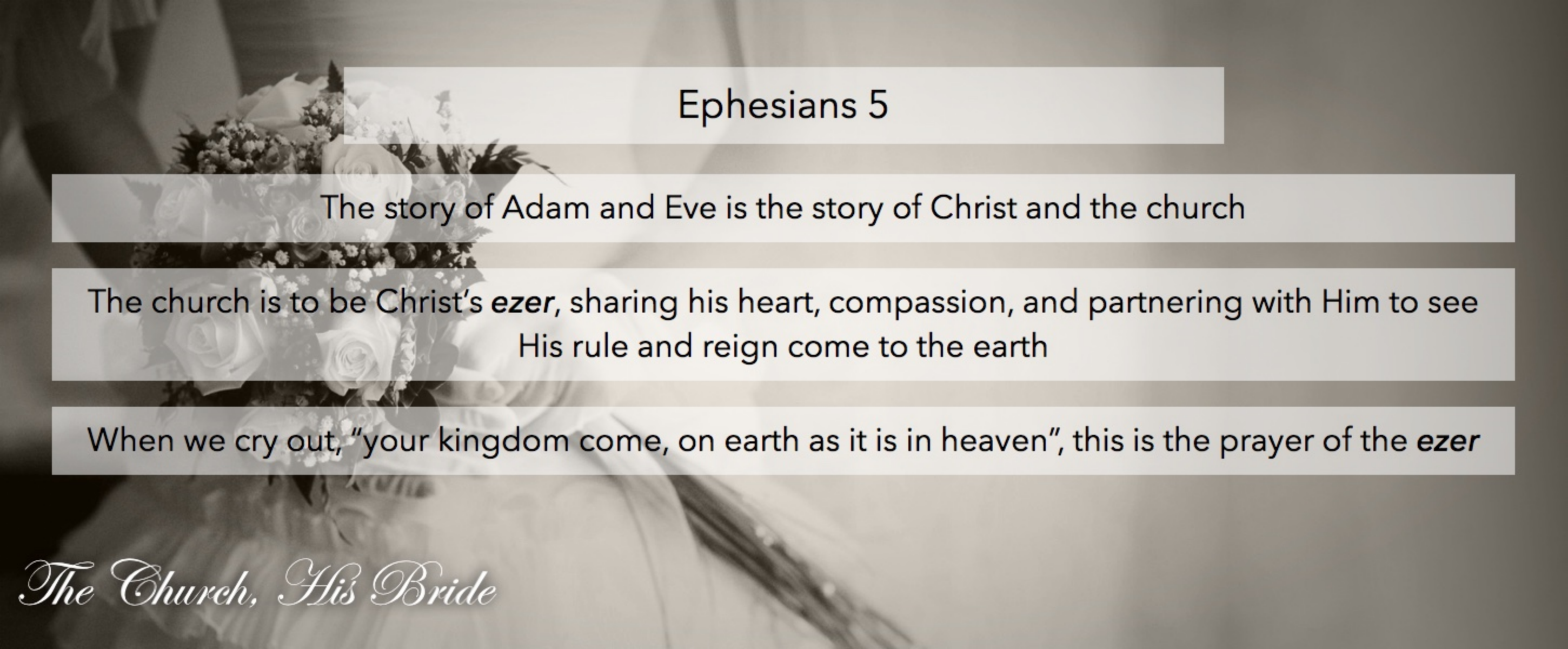


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³¹ **“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”** ³² **This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.**

The Church, His Bride

A black and white photograph of a bride holding a large bouquet of white roses. The bride is wearing a white wedding dress and veil. The background is softly blurred, showing the groom's arm and shoulder. The text is overlaid on semi-transparent white boxes.

Ephesians 5

The story of Adam and Eve is the story of Christ and the church

The church is to be Christ's **ezer**, sharing his heart, compassion, and partnering with Him to see His rule and reign come to the earth

When we cry out, "your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven", this is the prayer of the **ezer**

The Church, His Bride

Intimacy, Worship and Lingering

Intimacy

Lingering

Worship

Pursuit

create space for intimacy

fill your space with worship

arrive at 9:50 for Sunday worship

come at 9 for intercession service

understand His heart by
understanding His Word

develop your worship life

The Church, His Bride

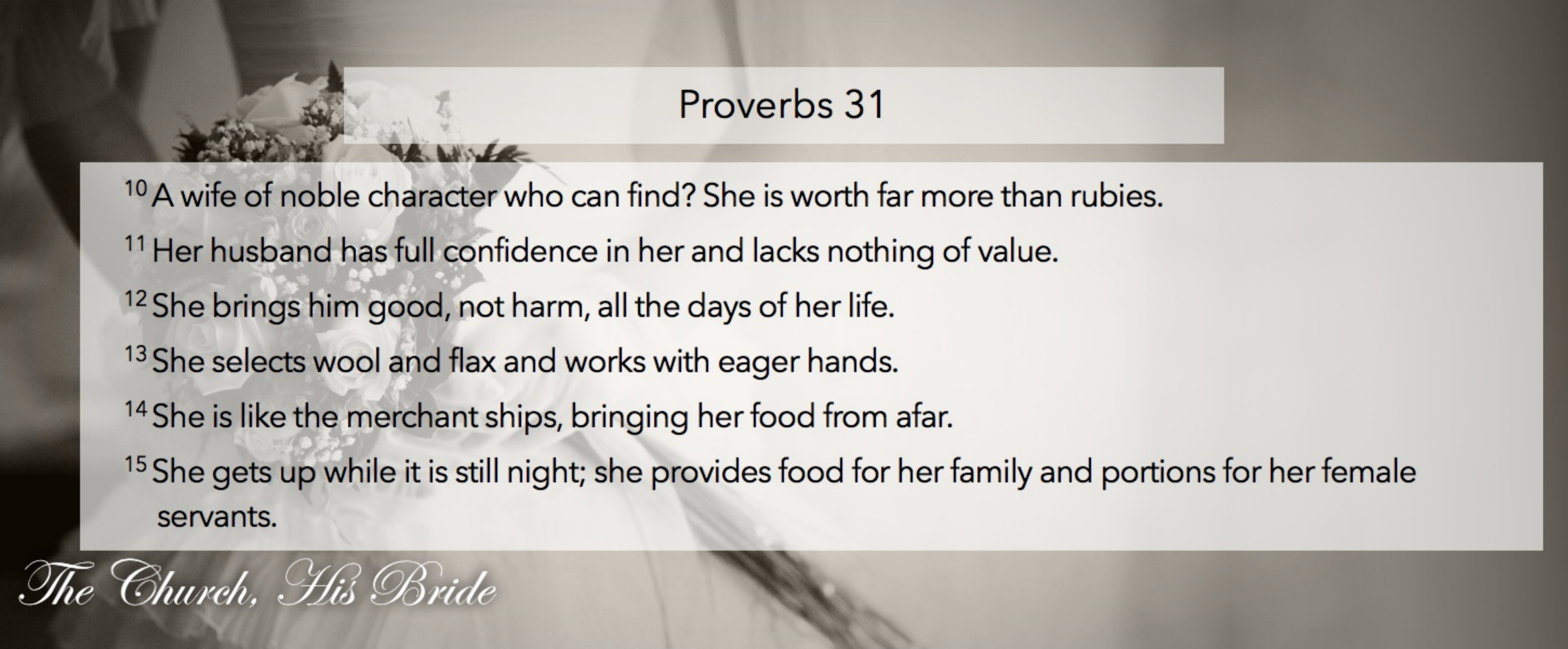
Proverbs 31

¹⁰ A wife of **noble** character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

The *chayil* is of great value.

While *chayil* is translated as “noble” or “virtuous” here and in describing Ruth, elsewhere it is mostly a military term (Joshua 8.3, 2 Sam 22.40, 2 Sam 23.20)

The *chayil* is the *ezer* wife.

A bride in a white dress holding a bouquet of white roses. The background is a soft-focus photograph of the bride and her bouquet.

Proverbs 31

¹⁰ A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

¹¹ Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

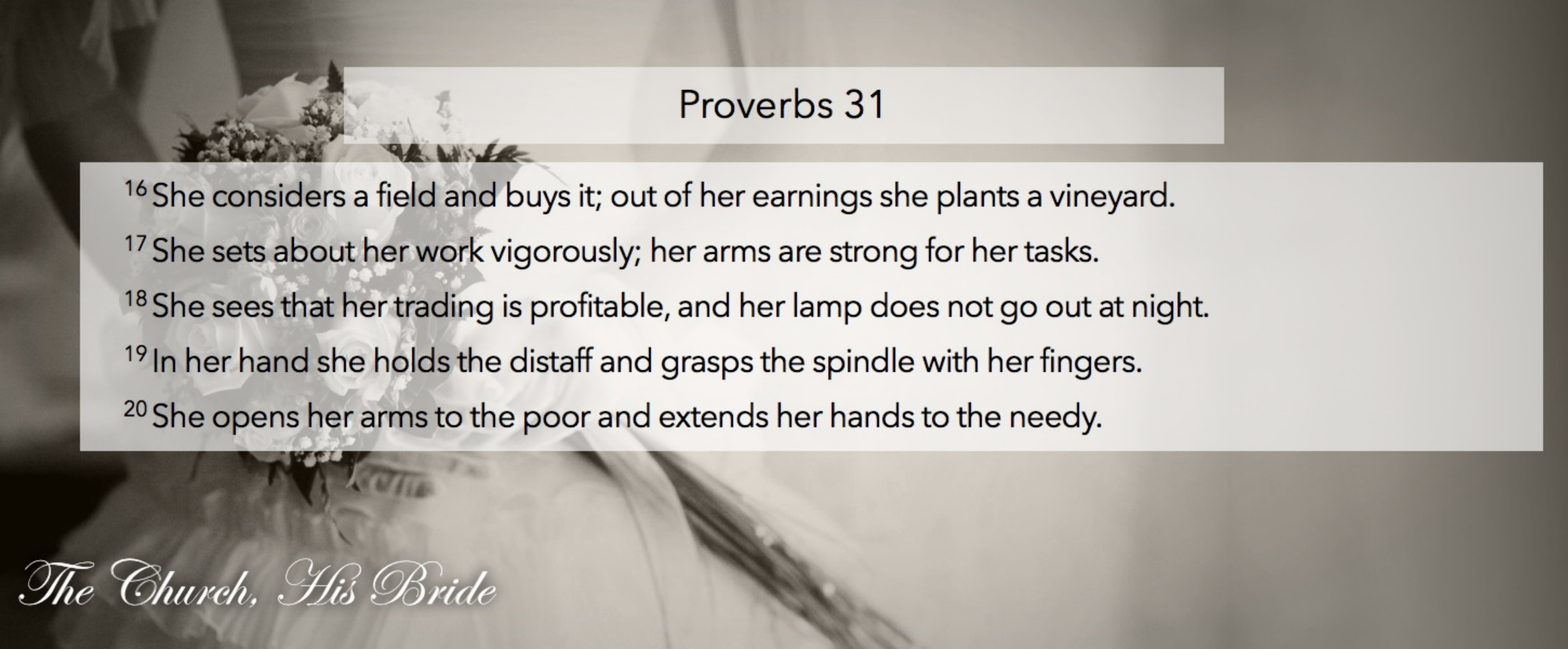
¹² She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

¹³ She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.

¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.

¹⁵ She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants.

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Proverbs 31

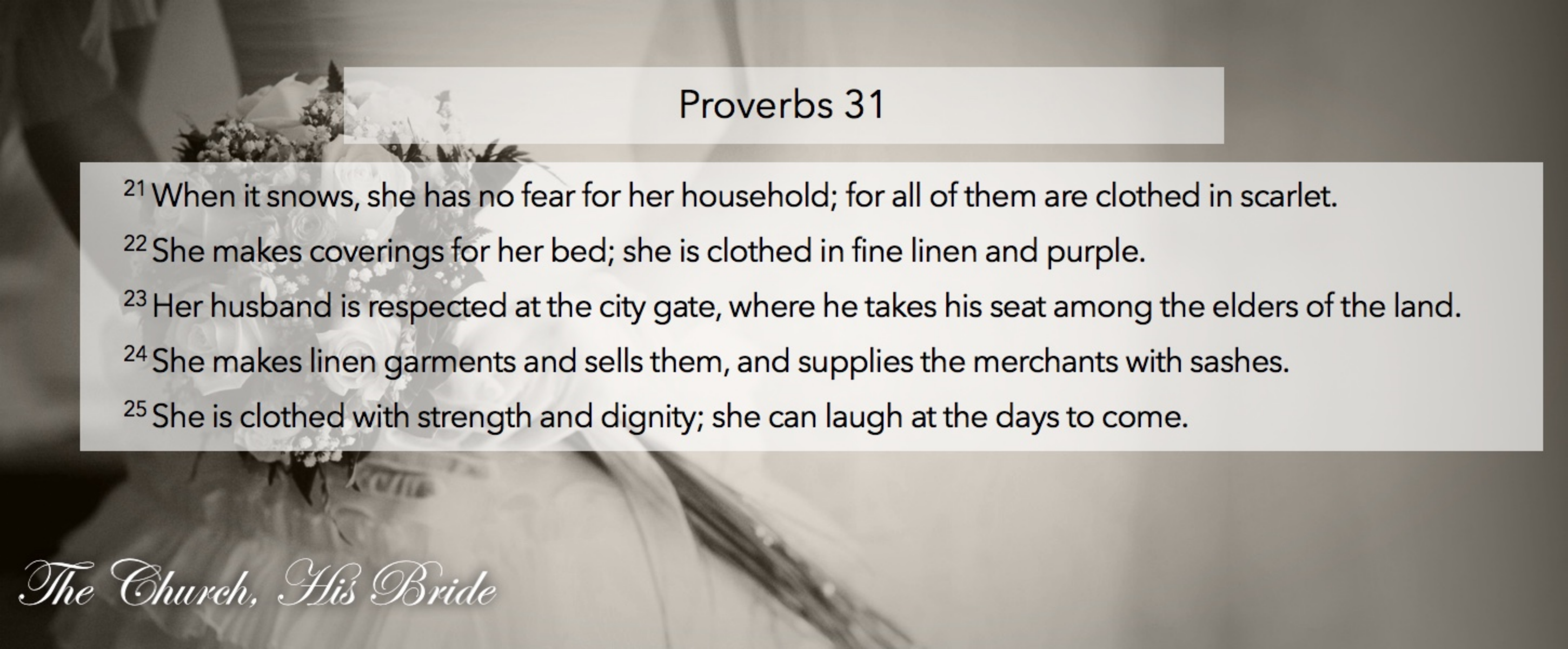
¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷ She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.

¹⁸ She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night.

¹⁹ In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

²⁰ She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.



Proverbs 31

²¹ When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

²² She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

²³ Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes.

²⁵ She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

The Church, His Bride

Proverbs 31

²⁶ She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.


²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

²⁹ "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

³¹ Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

A bride in a white wedding dress is holding a large bouquet of white and purple roses. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. Overlaid on the image are several semi-transparent purple circles and a white rectangular box containing text.

Proverbs 31

Carries her
husband's heart and
interests in hers

Active and assertive

Responsive

Prays for the
kingdom to come
and works to see it
happen

The Church, His Bride

Response

Be intentional
about being an
intimate worshipper
and knower of
God

personally

corporately

Getting healing for
things which cause
you mistrust

The Church, His Bride

Response

Be intentional
about being an
intimate worshipper
and knower of
God

personally

corporately

Getting healing for
things which cause
you mistrust

Model and teach
this to your family

Live out
responsiveness

Put the Groom's
interests first, in
your life

Pray for the
kingdom to come
and work to see it
happen

The Church, His Bride