The Lord God's Ekklesia

Part 8 – The Bride of Christ



Revelation 19:1-10

After this, I heard what sounded like a vast crowd in heaven shouting, "Praise the Lord! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.

His judgments are true and just. He has punished the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality. He has avenged the murder of his servants."

And again their voices rang out:
"Praise the Lord! The smoke from that city ascends forever and ever!"

Then the twenty-four elders and the four living beings fell down and worshiped God, who was sitting on the throne. They cried out, "Amen! Praise the Lord!"

And from the throne came a voice that said, "Praise our God, all his servants, all who fear him, from the least to the greatest."

Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: "Praise the Lord! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.

It was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."

Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus.

Worship only God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

The Bride of Christ EKELESIA THE CALLED OUT ONES

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband — Christ.

For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church.

As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church.

He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.

He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

O.T. "Husband" Scriptures

- Isaiah 54:5-6
- Isaiah 62:4-5
- Ezekiel 16:7-34
- Hosea 2

Ancient Jewish Betrothal

- The Marriage Covenant
- The Cup of Wine
- The Bride Price is Paid
- The Departure
- The Waiting
- The Return
- The Bridal Chamber
- The Wedding Feast

The Marriage Covenant



Jeremiah 31:31

"The day is coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah.

Jeremiah 31:32a

This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt.

Jeremiah 31:32b

They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:33a

"But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the Lord.

Jeremiah 31:33b

"I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jeremiah 31:34a

And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.'

Jeremiah 31:34b

For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

The Cup of Wine



Matthew 26:27

And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it,

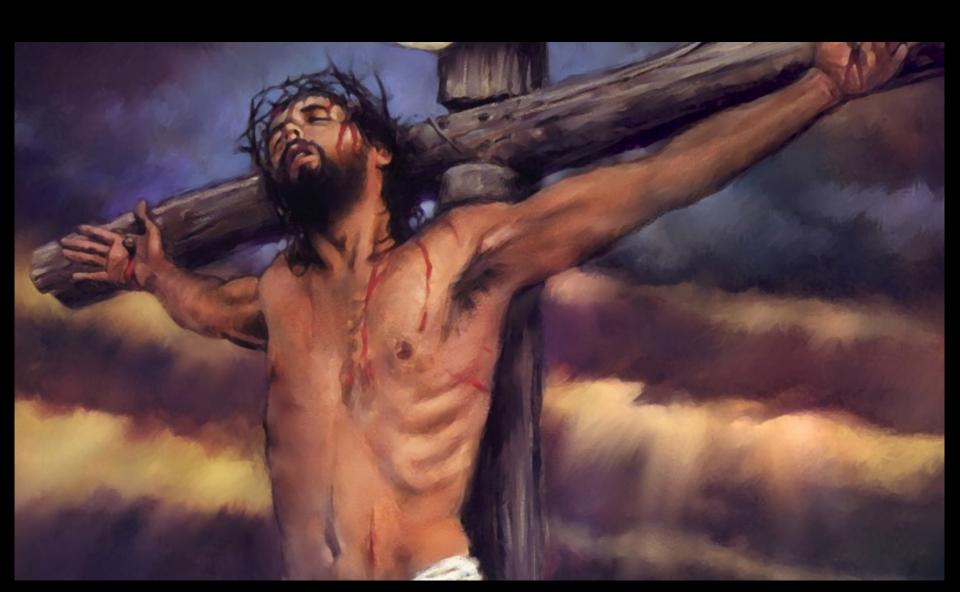
Matthew 26:28

for this is my blood, which confirms the new covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.

Matthew 26:29

Mark my words – I will not drink this wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom."

The Bride Price is Paid



1 Peter 1:18

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value.

1 Peter 1:19

It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

The Departure



"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for

When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

And you know the way to where I am going."

He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.

After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.

As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them.

"Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

The Waiting



of CHRIST

Preparing for His return

The Return



1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

The Bridal Chamber



Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw.

But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.

If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward.

But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

The Wedding Feast



Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared.

And the sea was also gone.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of

All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

"But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Then one of the seven angels who held the seven bowls containing the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come with me! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

So he took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

It shone with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious stone—like jasper as clear as crystal.

The city wall was broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates.

There were three gates on each side—east, north, south, and west.

The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall.

When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles.

Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick[d] (according to the human standard used by the angel).

The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass.

The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve precious stones: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald,

the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

I saw no temple in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light.

The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory.

Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there.

And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city.

Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him.

And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads.

And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

Then the angel said to me, "Everything you have heard and seen is trustworthy and true. The Lord God, who inspires his prophets, has sent his angel to tell his servants what will happen soon."

"Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the words of prophecy written in this book."

I, John, am the one who heard and saw all these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to

But he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this book. Worship only God!"

Then he instructed me, "Do not seal up the prophetic words in this book, for the time is near.

Let the one who is doing harm continue to do harm; let the one who is vile continue to be vile; let the one who is righteous continue to live righteously; let the one who is holy continue to be holy."

"Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.

Outside the city are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let anyone who hears this say, "Come." Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.

And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the words of prophecy written in this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book.

And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.

He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!"

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's holy people.

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