

Marriage of the Lamb

“Let us be glad and rejoice
and give Him glory, for the
marriage of the Lamb has
come, and His wife has made
herself ready” (Rv.19:7)



BRIDE INTRODUCTION

- ❖ **God is portrayed as the husband of His wife, Israel (Je.31:32, “I was a husband to them”; Ho.2:1-23)**
- ❖ **There are many references to the CHURCH as the body of Christ (Ro.12:5; 1Co.12:27)**
- ❖ **The Marriage Supper is the consummation of all the desires of the Father for His Son**

MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB HAS COME

⁶And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

REVELATION 19:6-9



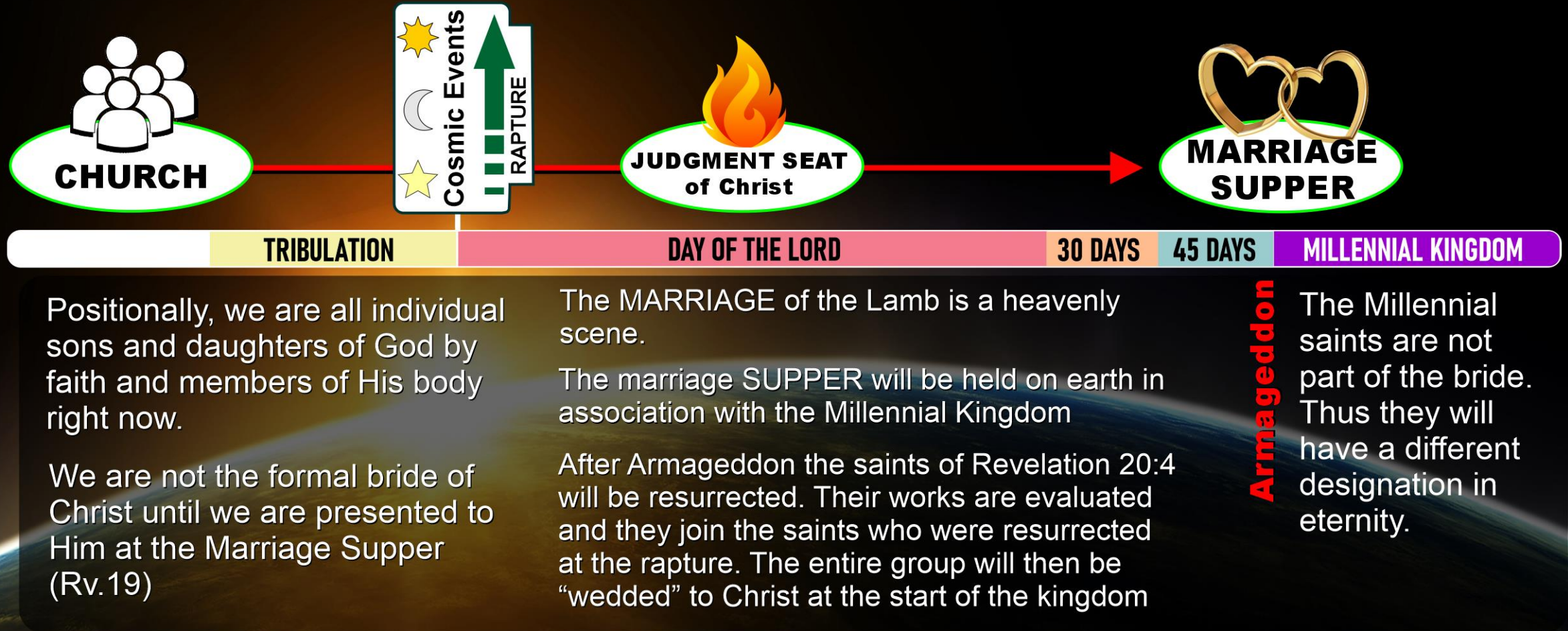
TIMING OF THE BRIDE

²⁶that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish (Ep.5:26-27)

**And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints
(Rv.19:8)**

From Ephesians 5:26-27 and Revelation 19:6-9 we see that the bride of Christ will not be fully realized until after the resurrection.

MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB EVENTS



THE CHALLENGE

- ❑ There is no explicit statement saying the **CHURCH** is the bride of Christ
- ❑ There are implicit descriptions of the **CHURCH** as the bride of Christ

IMPLICIT: CHURCH AS THE BRIDE

- 1 JESUS Referred to Himself as a Bridegroom (Mt.9:15; Mk.2:19; Lk.5:34)**
- 2 PAUL describes his relationship of the Corinthian church as being betrothed as a virgin to Christ (2Co.11:2)**
- 3 PAUL describes the believer's freedom from the law using an analogy of a woman whose first husband must die so she could be married to another (Ro.7:4)**
- 4 PAUL makes the analogy between a husband and wife & Christ and the church (Ep.5:24-25)**

IMPLICIT: CHURCH AS THE BRIDE

1 Jesus Referred to Himself as a Bridegroom (Mt.9:15; Mk.2:19; Lk.5:34)



And Jesus said to them, Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast (Mt.9:15)



And Jesus said to them, Can the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast (Mk.2:19)



And He said to them, Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? (Lk.5:34)

IMPLICIT: CHURCH AS THE BRIDE

2 Paul describes his relationship of the Corinthian church as being betrothed as a virgin to Christ (2Co.11:2)

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ (2Co.11:2)

- **Here, the church is portrayed as “engaged” to Christ through the fact of its salvation relationship with God**
- **We have been joined with one another into the household of faith and joined to Christ as chaste virgins**

IMPLICIT: CHURCH AS THE BRIDE

- 3 Paul describes the believer's freedom from the law using an analogy of a woman whose first husband must die so she could be married to another (Ro.7:4)**

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God (Ro.7:4)

- **If the first husband dies, she is released from that law (Ro.7:3)**
- **If the first husband dies, she would not be an adulteress though she marries a second husband (Ro.7:3)**
- **If she disassociates with her first husband (Adam) to be married with the second husband (Christ) she is not condemned**

IMPLICIT: CHURCH AS THE BRIDE

4 Paul makes the analogy between a husband and wife & Christ and the church (Ep.5:24-25)

²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her (Ep.5:24-25)

- The church corresponds with the wife in the analogy (Ep.5:22-32).
- In Verse 31 Paul quotes Ge.2:24 (“one flesh”) which gives symbolism that corresponds with Christ and the church.
- The church can be seen as the body of Christ as well as the bride.
- This teaches a FUNCTIONAL truth between Christ and the Church while on the earth. After the evaluation the entire body is ready to be wedded.

PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

MATTHEW 22:1-14

¹And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: ²"The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, ³and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. ⁴Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' ⁵But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. ⁶And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. ⁷But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. ...



PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

MATTHEW 22:1-14

⁹Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' ¹⁰So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. ¹²So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴"For many are called, but few are chosen."



PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

MATTHEW 22:1-14

- ❖ **Who are the GUESTS? Believers and/or Christians.**
- ❖ **God chooses to temporarily replace Israel because Israel rejected Jesus as the Messiah. That is the main point.**
- ❖ **Verses 3-8 illustrate the Jewish age and the fact that the Nation of Israel rejected Christ and failed as the evangelistic agent to take the gospel to the world.**
- ❖ **Verses 9-10 illustrate the ones chosen to REPLACE the old agent with a new agent. That replacement is THE CHURCH - comprised of people from “the main highways” - the rest of the world, thus Jew AND GENTILE.**

WIFE - ENGAGED - GUESTS

- ❖ **At Ephesians 5:22-33, the church is already the WIFE of Jesus.**
- ❖ **At 2 Corinthians 11:2, Paul says that he has “BETROTHED” us to one HUSBAND (Christ).**
- ❖ **In Mt.22:1-14, Christians are pictured as wedding GUESTS.**

Believers Are Seen as:

- (1) Actual Wife (Ep.5:22-23)**
- (2) Engaged (2Co.11:2)**
- (3) Wedding Guests (Mt.22:1-14)**

3 PHASES FOR A WEDDING

1 MARRIAGE CONTRACT OR BETROTHAL

2 MARRIAGE CEREMONY OR WEDDING PROCESSION

3 MARRIAGE SUPPER OR FEAST

3 PHASES FOR A WEDDING

1 MARRIAGE CONTRACT OR BETROTHAL

A This is initiated between the parents of the bride and a representative of the bridegroom

B This was confirmed by oaths and a gift (dowry) to the bride's family

C The prospective groom would travel from the father's house to the home of the prospective bride. He would pay the purchase price, and establish the marriage covenant

3 PHASES FOR A WEDDING

2 MARRIAGE CEREMONY OR WEDDING PROCESSION

A The groom returned to his father's house. The groom and the bride would be separated for 12 months. During this time the groom would prepare a living accommodation for his wife.

3 PHASES FOR A WEDDING

3 MARRIAGE SUPPER OR FEAST

A The groom would come for his bride at the appointed time. But she did not know exactly when.

3 PHASES FOR A WEDDING

Revelation 19

What John's vision in Revelation pictures is the wedding feast of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and His bride (the Church) in its third phase

1 The first phase was completed on earth when each individual believer placed his or her faith in Christ as Savior

- **The dowry paid to the bridegroom's parent (God the Father) would be the blood of Christ shed on the Bride's behalf.**
- **The Church on earth today, then, is "betrothed" to Christ, and, like the wise virgins in the parable, all believers should be watching and waiting for the appearance of the Bridegroom (the rapture).**

2 The second phase symbolizes the rapture of the Church, when Christ comes to claim His bride and take her to the Father's house (Jn.14:1-3)

3 The third phase is the marriage supper of the Lamb during the Millennial Kingdom

ISRAEL - CHURCH RELATIONSHIP

**God having provided something
better for us, that they should not
be made perfect apart from us
(He.11:40)**



ISRAEL - CHURCH RELATIONSHIP

HEBREWS 11:40

- ❖ **The “condition” of these Old Testament saints in heaven is not in resurrection body, just like believers today.**
- ❖ **That they were “made complete” in this context means their salvation is confirmed and revealed by their heavenly presence with the Father (Ep.2:18)**
- ❖ **The “something better” is Christ who brings the new covenant, the gospel. This is the realization of the promise made to Abraham.**
- ❖ **Christ’s resurrection is the hope to which all believers, OT and NT, look forward in faith. All OT saints looked forward to God’s new day.**
- ❖ **The NT saints join hands with OT saints. Our perfecting is the divine condition of their perfecting.**

NEW JERUSALEM

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband (Rv.21:2)

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." (Rv.21:9)



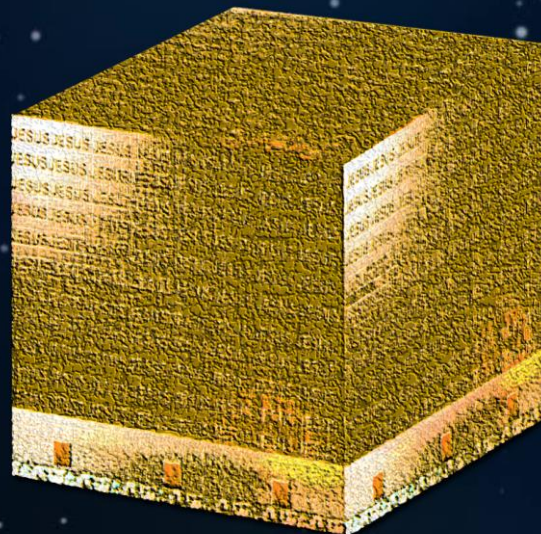
NEW JERUSALEM

- ❖ **The New Jerusalem is prepared by Jehovah as a bride adorned for her husband—the Lamb (Rv.21:2,9)**
- ❖ **The 12 gates (12 tribes of Israel) represent Old Testament saints (Rev. 21:12) and the 12 foundation stones (12 apostles) represent the New Testament saints (the church), Verse 21:14. Both of these are part of the bride.**
- ❖ **The city comes down - looking like a bride. WHY? It is because the city HOUSES the bride.**

THE



OR



NEW JERUSALEM

GALATIANS 4:25-26

HEBREWS 12:22-24

REVELATION 21:9—22:7

HEBREWS 11:9-10

HEBREWS 13:14

SUMMARY

- ❖ **The Marriage Supper is the consummation of all the desires of the Father for His Son**
- ❖ **The Church as the bride is an implicit, not explicit teaching of Scripture**
- ❖ **The Church is seen as the actual wife, engaged, and as guests of Christ**
- ❖ **The Church on earth today is “engaged” to Christ at the moment of faith, awaiting the arrival of the Bridegroom (rapture) and the marriage feast (kingdom)**
- ❖ **Christ’s resurrection is the hope to which all believers, OT and NT, look forward to by faith**

FURTHER THOUGHTS

- ❖ **The GROOM'S FRIENDS are resurrected OT and resurrected tribulation martyrs (Rv.20:4; D.12:1-13)**
- ❖ **The BRIDE'S FRIENDS are living tribulation believers who go alive into the kingdom (Mt.25:1-13; Rv.19:9)**