

## The Church

# The Bride of Christ - Part II

We will continue our study of the Church as the Bride of Christ building off the foundation from our previous lesson.

### I. Review

- A. There are eight verses or passages that we base this doctrine on
  1. John 3:29, Romans 7:4, II Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:25-33, Revelation 19:6-9, Revelation 21:2, Revelation 21:9, Revelation 22:17
  2. I think Ephesians 5:25-33 is clearest.
- B. I will contend that the Bride is comprised of all the assembled saints from Christ's Resurrection to the Rapture
  1. Please note that I slightly changed this based on further study and thought.
    - a) Changing the beginning point from Cavalry to the Resurrection I think better defines the period. Christ's blood paid for our sins, but the Resurrection gave us victory over death. The Empty Tomb ushered in the Christian era.
  2. This is not a "universal church", as some would call it today. Verses such as I Corinthians 12:13 clearly point to a larger collection of believers beyond the local church.

### II. The Jewish Wedding

- A. To further highlight the truths of the doctrine of the Bride of Christ, we will take a look at how Jewish weddings would have been performed in ancient times.
- B. A basic outline:
  1. The father of the groom arranges for a bride to be selected - Genesis 24:1-4
  2. A "marriage contract" is arranged
    - a) The groom pledges to support his wife to be - Genesis 24:52-53
    - b) The bride's dowry is set
  3. A payment is made to the bride's family, which ultimately is the bride's. This payment set her free from her father's house - Genesis 24:53, Genesis 29:20,27
  4. The "betrothal" period
    - a) A ceremony is held under a canopy sealing the betrothal vows
    - b) Legally the couple is married
    - c) However, they do not live together for a year.
    - d) The groom leaves the bride with a parting gift to show his love and his sure return.
    - e) Preparations:
      - (1) The bride prepares herself and her wedding garments
      - (2) The groom prepares their new home (usually at his father's home)
        - (a) The new place had to be deemed better than the brides current home
        - (b) The groom's father decided when the preparation was complete.
  5. The Wedding

- a) The bride waits ready for her groom to arrive - Matthew 25:1-13
- b) A shout and a horn blast announce the coming of the groom
- c) The couple return to the groom's family home
- d) The marriage celebration lasts for seven days (while the couple "honeymoon") - John 2:1-11
- e) After seven days the couple joins in a final marriage party.
- f) The couple then go to their own home

### III. The Wedding of the Bride of Christ

#### A. Let's follow the same outline as above:

1. The Father has arranged the Bride for His Son - Ephesians 1:4
2. The New Covenant is arranged - Hebrews 12:24
  - a) Christ gives His life for the Bride - Ephesians 5:25
  - b) The Church presents itself - I Corinthians 6:20
3. The Bride is purchased by Christ - I Corinthians 6:19-20, I Peter 1:18-19
4. The separation or betrothal period is the the Church Age
  - a) Ceremony: how about the Lord's Supper? - Matthew 26:27-29
  - b) The Bride is already wedded to Christ - SECURITY!
  - c) The Bride and Christ are not together - John 14:3
  - d) Gift? How about the Holy Spirit? - Ephesians 1:13-14
  - e) Preparations
    - (1) The church is preparing herself - Ephesians 5:25-27
    - (2) Christ is preparing a place for us - John 14:2-3
      - (a) Heaven is WONDERFUL! - I Corinthians 2:9
      - (b) Only the Father knows when Christ will return - Matthew 24:36
5. The Wedding at the Second Coming of Christ
  - a) The church awaits the Rapture - Titus 2:13-14
  - b) A trumpet and a shout announce the Rapture - I Thessalonians 4:16-18
  - c) The raptured saints got o be with Christ in his Father's House: Heaven - John 14:2-3
  - d) Seven days? Seven years of Tribulation! The church is raptured out of the earth and in Heaven - Daniel 9:27
  - e) The Tribulation culminates in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb - Revelation 19:6-10
  - f) The Bride returns with Christ to be on earth for the Millennial Kingdom - Revelation 19:11-14

#### B. Think these similarities are a coincidence? I think not!