



The BRIDE of CHRIST



here is no place in scripture where we are told of a wedding ever taking place in Heaven. In the eons of time and eternity past there has never been such an event in Heaven.

God the Father was called her (Israel) Husband

Isaiah 54:5 (NASB), "For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the LORD of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth.

But the Son of God is different. He (Jesus) came into this world and paid a heavy price for His bride. We can never understand the height or depth of His love, or what would cause Him to lay down His life for us.

This is true love put on display as our example, and the ultimate expression of this love is now at hand. The Son of God takes a bride, but first there is one last detail that needs His attention.



The Judgment Seat of Christ

The Judgment of the Believer
(The Bride)

The scriptures do not actually tell us of the timing of this event, however if we look closely we can see there are clues such as the 24 elders having crowns on their heads. At some point between the rapture of the church and the start of chapter 6, the bride of Christ will be called into her time of judgment.

A Look at the Bride



he time of tribulation upon the whole earth started in chapter six. However, there is one group that has been noticeably absent from the text, and that is the church, the Bride of Christ. While the earth has been going through its time of judgment, the bride has been going through a time of judgment herself in heaven. For the bride of Christ this is called “**The JUDGMENT SEAT of CHRIST**” or “**The BEMA SEAT JUDGMENT.**” This is the second of five judgments spoken about in scripture. It is the time when the Saints of God are rewarded for the lives they lived and the examples they were, a reward for their works whether good or bad. This is not a judgment for their sins for that was judged on the cross. That was God’s gift to all mankind in the work of His Son Jesus. This judgment of the saints is more of an **EVALUATION** of the way the saints have lived their lives and the decisions they made.

2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 “¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

There will be two types of works judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ, those considered **GOOD** and those considered **BAD.**” There are five crowns mentioned in Scripture as being a reward for our good works,



but what about the other work, that which is considered “bad?” The reward is **NO REWARD.** In fact, it will be the absence of reward that is the indication of how the believer lived his life, the fact that he never learned to put others first and to love his neighbor as himself.

A life focused on Christ and the keeping of His commandments will yield rewards in heaven that will cause great rejoicing. Jesus said, “*if you love Me keep My commandments*” (Jn. 14:15,23-24; 15:10). A life focused on self and a “me first” attitude will cause the greatest loss of rewards. If there is any sadness in heaven, it most assuredly will be here, to see what God had waiting for you and you did not receive it.

The righteous acts of the saints of God (bride) and her ultimate crowns of reward are true, but they focus on the bride. May I remind you that this is a wedding of the **SON of GOD**. The Son came into this world and He chose you, making you special and unique. The bride of Christ is then characterized by the **ACTS of the BRIDEGROOM** and they are:

- The Bridegroom saw her, who was an outcast race made so by disobedience and still He loved her.
- The Bridegroom left His home in Heaven and came to her sin-cursed home on earth where He was rejected by members of her family and subjected to a mock trial and then crucified.
- He voluntarily laid down His life for her, thus demonstrating His love for her and making a way to free her from the penalty of the law that held her in bondage.
- He then left her so that (according to Jewish custom) He could come back to His Father's house and prepare a place for her, that where He is there she may be also.
- During this time of betrothal He left her in the hands of her own family, and sent the "Holy Spirit" to teach and protect her and prepare her for the day of her marriage.
- He will descend from heaven and, in midair; there will be a call by the archangel. The trumpet will sound and the Bride, both asleep and living, will be caught up together to meet the Bridegroom in the air and be taken to the Bridal Halls of Heaven, the place that the Bridegroom has prepared for her. 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rev.21:9-10.

John 14:1-6 (NASB), ¹"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Many believe that the "Church" is composed of everyone from Adam to the time the church is raptured away. However, this cannot be the case since the church was not known in the Old testament, even unknown to the angels (i.e. Daniel 9).

The church of Jesus Christ began on the Day of Pentecost and includes those who accept Christ from that point forward until the rapture. Old Testament saints were taken to heaven at the time of Christ's resurrection when Jesus conquered death and set the captives free and the graves were opened and the saints of old were

seen walking around the city of Jerusalem (Mt.27:53) (Ref. Pilate's Letter to Caesar concerning Jesus Christ)¹

Before we accepted Christ, we were hopeless sinners (Ro. 3:10, 23), but now as the **BRIDE OF CHRIST**, your Bridegroom see you totally different. Below is listed how Jesus sees you now.

1. You are absolutely beautiful to Him, the most beautiful bride in all creation. Your perfect in every way: no spot, no wrinkles, no blemishes. There isn't a single flaw in you. He sees none.
2. You are His Bride. He is your Bridegroom. He loves you. He does all that He does for you. You receive His love and love Him in return.
3. He is here for you—completely and totally. Everything He does, He does for your good. He is perfect and counts that righteousness as yours. He is without sin and He takes your sins upon Himself.
4. He doesn't just love you with words. He loves you with actions. He takes the punishment you deserved before God. He is beaten for your faults. In the giving up of His life for you He proves His love for you. He died. You live forever.
5. He left His mother and Father to save you—completely and totally. He rescues you from all that you have ever done wrong. He washes you. He forgives you. He nourishes you: His Body was broken and His Blood was shed for the forgiveness of your sins.
6. In Him, you are a great wonder in heaven. Your wedding dress isn't just white, but it makes you shine with the brightness of His light.
7. The Bride wasn't always this way. You were not just unfaithful to Him, You were promiscuous. You tried out other bridegrooms. You adorned yourself for them instead of for Him. You listened to their whispers about how you could fix things yourself, believe in herself over Him, just stay positive and everything would be okay.
8. The more you ran from Him, the more scandalous you became. No amount of makeup or cream could cover your blemishes. Your outside began to match your insides: trampy and evil.
9. And yet He still saved you. He washed you. He forgave you. He fed you. He would be your Bridegroom, you would be His Bride. He would hear none of your objections.
10. You struggled. You fought. Satan chased you—he always chased you. You couldn't be free from his constant attempts to seduce you and drag you into the death of hell that God made for him, but not for you.
11. Your Bridegroom calls you holy. You look at yourself and see only your sin. He calls you His beloved. You see only your unfaithfulness. He calls you perfect. You see only your flaws, mistakes, and bad decisions.
12. On that Last Day, all that happens on your Wedding Day will be shown to have been true for you all along. You have been made holy and pure by the scars on His hands and side. And you will see Him, shining bright in all the glory and light of His Father. He is your Bridegroom Jesus.

¹ <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/fathers/view.cfm?recnum=1894>

13. Today...you struggle. On the Last Day you will not, ever again. On that Day, He will come for you. He will rescue you. He will save you from all your enemies, for you have overcome your enemies in the blood of the Lamb. In the Word it is written of all that your Bridegroom has done for you.
14. Jesus is that Bridegroom. The church is His Bride. You are not going to be holy only on the Last Day. You are holy today. You are not going to be spotless only in eternal life, but understand this, that you are spotless right now. The Last Day isn't when you become what you are going to be. You are already what He finished in you. We know that His love is greater than the sum of all our mistakes and yet He sees through the mistakes of our life, for they are covered in the love and forgiveness of the cross. The Last Day is when you see the full reality of all that He promised you.

The Wedding Garment



Revelation 19:8 “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.”

Every saint of God will be clothed in his or her wedding garment, “**CLEAN and BRIGHT.**” The Greek word for “clean” is “*katharos*” meaning “pure,” and when the word for “white” is “*lampros*” meaning “bright, shining brilliant, splendid and magnificent.” So then the robes that the bride will be given will be **PURE** (for we have been made pure) and **SHINING BRILLIANTLY** and magnificently as He, the Bridegroom is.

A short Commentary on v8² above.

“**And to her was granted**” - It is not said here by whom this was granted, but it is perhaps implied that this was conferred by the Savior himself on his bride.

That she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white - See the scripture below. White has, perhaps, in all countries been the usual color of the bridal dress - as an emblem of innocence.

² <https://www.studyLight.org/commentary/revelation/19-8.html>

Revelation 3:4-5 (NASB), ⁴ But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Revelation 3:18 (NASB), “I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and *that* the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.”

Revelation 7:13 (NASB), Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?”

For the fine linen is the righteousness of saints - Represents the righteousness of the saints; or is an emblem of it. It should be remarked, however, that it is implied here, as it is everywhere in the Scriptures, that this is **NOT THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS**, for it is said that this was “**GIVEN**” to the bride - to the saints. It is the gracious bestowment of their Lord; and the reference here must be to that righteousness which they obtain by faith - the righteousness which results from justification through the merits of the Redeemer. Of this Paul speaks, when he says Philemon 3:9, “And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but what is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.” Compare the notes on Romans 3:25-26.



It is a marvellous thing how the Spirit of God has enshrined in scriptures the bridal relationship of the church and her Lord. Now is the time that the Son of God will step out onto the center stage and He will take a bride for Himself.



he **BRIDE of CHRIST** will soon be called up to the **MARRIAGE SUPPER of the LAMB**. The shout of His call and the sounding of the trumpets will resound throughout the world, but only thoughts who know Him will hear that great trumpet call. The dead in Christ shall rise first and then those who are alive on the earth will be caught up to be with Him. Now the Bride of Christ is gathered and ready to be taken away from this place she has called home, to live forever with Him in a glorious place.

The Bride will have her time to walk with the Bridegroom and the two of them will talk, questions will get answers and all things promised will be realized. She will meet the friends of the Bridgroom, the archangels, the patriarchs, the prophets, the kings, the disciples, and most of all the Bridegroom will want to show you off to His Father.

For now the Bride of Christ must prepared herself for her time when she will be with Him! Hallelujah to the Lamb of God, who is our Lord and Who even now, readies Himself as her beloved Bridegroom!

The question to the Bride is ... are you prepared?

