

“Goin’ to Our Weddin’”

Ephesians 5:22-32; Revelation 19:6-9

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

November 21, 2021

Introduction

- Crazy moments at weddings
- Need of the bridal party to be at the wedding for the ceremony to take place.
- Review of the **reasons for the pre-tribulation return** of Jesus Christ for His Church
 - **The Imminent return of Jesus Christ**—can come at “any moment”, like “a thief in the night”
 - **God’s promise to deliver us from the “hour” of trial** coming to earth-dwellers
 - **The structure of the book of Revelation**
 - Not mentioned in the section (Revelation 4-18) which covers the tribulation period.
 - Recurring phrase in chapters 1-3, “*He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches*”. But in Revelation 13:9 it says, “*If anyone has ears, let him hear.*” NO mention of the church.
 - Revelation 13:9-10-- “*If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity should go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*”
 - The “door of heaven” opens before the beginning of the tribulation (Revelation 4:1) when John is caught up to heaven and at the end of the tribulation (Revelation 19:11-14) when Jesus Christ returns with His own at the end of the tribulation.
 - Revelation 4:1-2a-- “*And behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me,, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this. Immediately I was in the Spirit.’*”
 - Revelation 19:11-14-- “*Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like flames of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.*”
- **Removal of the Restrainer before the tribulation period begins**

“Goin’ to Our Wedding”

A. Various metaphors describing the relationship between Christ and the Church

1. The **BODY** with Christ as the Head
 - 1 Corinthians 12:27-- “*Now, you are the body of Christ and members individually*”
2. The **FLOCK** with Christ as the Good Shepherd
 - John 10:14-16-- “*I am the good shepherd; and I know my sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down my life for My sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.*”
 - John 10:27-28-- “*My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*”
3. The **BRANCHES** with Christ as the True Vine
 - John 15:5 -- “*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*”

4. The **BUILDING** with Christ as the Cornerstone
 - Ephesians 2:20-22 -- *“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”*
5. The **KINGDOM OF PRIESTS** with Christ as the High Priest
 - 1 Peter 2:5-- *“you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ.”*

B. The Church as the “BRIDE of CHRIST”-- Ephesians 5:22-32

- Ephesians 5:22-32-- *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the savior of the body. Therefore just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that 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. So husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”*
1. **The “Mystery” of the Church as the bride of Christ.**
 - Ephesians 5:32-- *“This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”*
 2. **The Hebrew “Road to Marital Bliss” or the Jewish custom of Betrothal and Marriage**
 3. **Examination of where the Bride of Christ is in this process of marriage**
 - a. **The marriage has already been arranged.**
 - 1) **We have been chosen by the Father for His Son**
 - Ephesians 1:4 -- *“Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”*
 - 2) **Jesus Christ has paid the “bride’s price” with His own blood**
 - 1 Corinthians 6:20 -- *“you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God’s”*
 - 3) **We are now “betrothed” to Christ.**
 - 2 Corinthians 11:2 -- *“For I am jealous of you with godly jealousy. For I betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”*
 - b. **Jesus Christ has returned to His Father’s house to prepare a place for His bride.**
 - John 14:2-3-- *“In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if 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.”*
 - c. **We are preparing for and looking for our bridegroom’s return.**
 - d. **The wedding will take place at the “Father’s house”**
 - Revelation 19:6-9 -- *“And 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! 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.' 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."

- 1) **The wedding will take place in heaven.**
 - Revelation 19:1 -- *"After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying 'Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God."*
 - 2) **The Bride has made herself ready.**
 - Revelation 19:7 -- *"His wife has made herself ready."*
 - 3) **Jesus Christ has done everything to present to Himself a "glorious bride without spot or wrinkle"**
 - Revelation 19:8-- *"to her it was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linens, clean and bright."*
- e. **After the wedding we will enjoy the week-long wedding feast with Christ in heaven.**
- f. **At the end of the week of seclusion, Jesus Christ will present His bride to the world where they will celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb here on earth.**
4. **Reasonable deduction: Jesus comes for His bride prior to the beginning of the tribulation period.**