

The Bride

The bride is a very exciting study.. God has a very special place already built and ready for His bride, where He'll live and reign together with His bride for eternity.

Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

One question that comes to mind when studying the bride, is who will be in it? There have been people since Adam and will be others born and who will live until the end of the millennial reign. So who will or can be in this bride? I am a gentile of the church age which is approximately years 4,000-6,000 since Adam was created. If Christ returns to set up His kingdom during the millennial reign in the near future there will be somewhere near a total of 7,000 years in which billions have been born and died or will be born before the end of God's allotted time when man is given a choice to believe or not believe in Him.

Man's choice to believe in Christ was first given to Adam and Eve when God made the sacrifice and clothed them after they sinned in the garden

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

Romans 5:17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Everyone from Adam to the last one born during the millennial reign will face the decision to either accept or reject Christ.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God

Many choose to believe only part of what Jesus tells us here in John. They believe that God is loving and will not allow anyone to go to a devils hell because he loves us all and even go as far as claiming that God doesn't care how we serve Him as long as we are good he will be happy with us. But if they would only read on from vs 16-18

they will find something very different in that we are already condemned and must accept the gift that Christ gives in order to escape condemnation.

That said everyone from the creation of Adam to the last man born will have to make a decision for Christ. Does this decision also give them the opportunity to be in this Bride?

I guess that we must first figure out what is the bride, before we can decide who makes up the bride? Can anyone who is born again of God through Christ gift on the cross be in the bride? Revelations 21st and 22nd chapters tell us of the new city which is the dwelling place of the bride, its where God dwells with the bride. It also talks about nations of saved that dwell outside of the city. These are saved that are not in the bride, because the bride is in the city. So how does one become a part of the bride? If the bride dwells in the city (new Jerusalem) and there are also nations of saved outside of this city, how do we get to be one that dwells in the city with God? Because being in the city with God sounds better to me than dwelling outside of the city, with the nations of the saved?

Of course being considered a bride, assumes a bridegroom. We can easily assume that God or Christ is the groom

John 3: 29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom:but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice:this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

Matthew 9:14 Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not? 15 And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

John the Baptist reveals to us who the bridegroom is. They came to John asking him who Christ was.

Revelations 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee:

for thy merchants were the great men of the earth;
for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

When the destruction of Babylon takes place the bride and the bridegrooms voice is proclaimed to no longer be there. Which also means that they were there before the destruction. So both John 3 and Rev. 18 indicate that Christ is the bridegroom and that he has the bride.

Matthew 25 tells us about the parable of the ten virgins. It talks about the bridegroom, and the 10 virgins that wait to be espoused to the groom. In the end only 5 of them go with the groom, and the others are left. My understanding of this would be that these are all saved individuals that are waiting for Christ return and all would be able to go with the groom when he came if they were ready to go. Only 5 made themselves ready, no time was given to the others to make themselves ready. This would indicate that all who are saved must make themselves ready if they want to be in the bride. This would require us to go into much more detail to find out what we need to do to make ourselves ready.

First I think that its easy to see that we must be saved in order to have any chance of being in the bride.

If Christ is the groom then what would be the requirements to be ready?

Baptism, church membership, faithful service? I would say yes, yes, yes!

But this also goes back to an earlier question of who is in the bride? Is it only these faithful church members since the beginning of the church? What about Adam? What about all the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11?

Hebrews 11: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly:wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God:for he hath prepared for them a city.

This takes me back to Revelations 21st chapter which describes the city or the bride which has 12 foundations. It also describes the city having twelve gates and the name of each tribe of Israel is on each gate. Many of us tend to put our names above the doors of the homes that we live in, or on our gates, mail boxes etc... that lets others know that this is where we live. I think that the names on these gates must mean something.

If the city is where the bride dwells and if it's only the church who makes up the bride than we may have a problem?

Of course there are those that teach that there is more than one bride?

The Bride of Christ, which is the Church. And the Bride of God, which is Israel.

This leaves all of those before Israel's birth through Abraham, and those who come during the millennial reign, and if the Church is raptured before the tribulation period it leaves those saved during the tribulation.

Since Jesus said if you've seen me you've seen the father and also saying that He and

the Father are one.

Would it be two different brides?

Or would they be the same bride which lived under many different covenants?

There may be more scriptures in the Old testament referring to God and a bridal relationship with Israel than there are of the Church and the bride of Christ found in the New testament

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my soul shall be joyful in my God;
for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments,
and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,
and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth;
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth
before all the nations.

Isaiah 62nd chapter

Isaiah 54: 1 Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear;
break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child:
for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith
the Lord.

2 Enlarge the place of thy tent,
and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations:
spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;

3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left;
and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles,
and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

4 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed:
neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame:
for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth,
and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

5 For thy Maker is thine husband;
the Lord of hosts is his name;
and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be
called.

6 For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit,
and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.

7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee;
but with great mercies will I gather thee.

8 In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment;
but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee,
saith the Lord thy Redeemer.

Notice the reference to them inheriting the Gentiles in vs 3, and in verse 5 thy Maker is thine husband and thy Redeemer. According to Colossians the 1st Chapter and other places our Maker and our Redeemer is Christ. If this is one of the places that tells the faithful Israel about their opportunity for a bridal relationship than they would also be the bride of Christ. This would seem to nullify the notion of there being two different brides, which as stated before doesn't really make sense if there is only One God.

Does this verse go along with vs 3?

Matthew 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Jeremiah 7:34 Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride:for the land shall be desolate.

Jeremiah 16:9 For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.

Jeremiah 25:10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

Jeremiah 33:11 The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the Lord of hosts:for the Lord is good; for his mercy endureth for ever:and of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the Lord.

I'm not one of these guys that believe that all the saved are in the bride, and although I'm leaning toward the Bride of Christ to include all the faithful of all ages. I also believe that in order to be faithful, one must obey the commandments of the covenant relationship that God has put us in. This would put me in the Church age, and therefore in order for me to be found faithful I must be a part of that true New Testament Church that was established during Christ personal ministry. And I don't believe that church membership alone gets one there but that it is one of the prerequisites required for us in this age.

I guess that because I have grown up in the Church age and have heard many state that only the Church will be in the Bride, and that Israel and the other ages will be living on the outside of the City of God with the nations of the saved, that I have studied this and believe that the scriptures may lead us to an answer that is slightly different. I do not believe that this takes away from the Church bridal relationship at all but only enhances it! Reading the Old Testament scriptures of the bridal

relationship with the Old Testament saints and God, it is hard to deny their being in the New Jerusalem.

In the end, we must recognize that it is God that decides who will be in His Bride. Just as the Ten Virgins, only 5 of the ten were ready and went with the groom. So we can reason from this that he will judge each of us, and if found ready we will be going with Him into the new city 😊