

WEDDING of the Lamb, part 3 –WHEN?

WHEN the first resurrection and wedding will be



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *This completes the 3-part series on The Wedding. You've been called to be a first-hand witness to the grandest Wedding the universe will ever see. You may be called even to be part of the Bride. But WHEN does all this take place? The Bible gives pretty strong hints on WHEN the Son of God's wedding will be – and it's not in the Fall. We explore all that today. I suggest using the video AND the notes, as each adds to the other.*

There's a lot of craziness going on in the world and in our country right now. It's so easy to get sidetracked from thinking of things above. And it's easy to believe we're a nobody to the world and maybe even in God's eyes. But don't think that way.

In fact, God Most High has called you and the rest of us who are considered the nobodies of the world (1 Corinthians 1:26-29) – to be in his first resurrection and to be at the glorious wedding he's putting on for his Son. Your time is coming, when you'll be inaugurated as the Help Meet for the King of kings. Indeed, you have an exceedingly high calling. In all the craziness going on in the world, it's good for you and me to focus on such an important high calling you've been called to be a part of.

Can you imagine what a wedding organized and put on by God himself will be like? No, we can't imagine it. Satan is trying to distract us by all the unbelievable events going on right now (in June 2020). But Apostle Paul reminds us:

1 Corinthians 2:9

“EYE HAS NOT SEEN nor the ear heard, nor entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for those who love him.” –

But v 10—BUT GOD HAS revealed them to us by his spirit...”

You know what? You're to play a vital role in the future of the King of kings. Yes, you. And God is putting together something so exciting we can't even comprehend it yet, except for a glimpse.

If you're a part of the Bride – the Son of God calls you his “Beloved”; Yes, I mean YOU! Even as we also call our Lord and Master OUR “Beloved”. God's Son *knows* you, he's watching you with anticipation and wants you to be at his wedding or maybe even as a part of the team called the Bride, to help set up the new kingdom of God on earth and stop the

chaos, violence and craziness we see going on. Have you been thinking on these things lately?

Hello everyone. Welcome to all of you from around the world. I'm glad you're here at our free website. We never charge you to learn all about having a closer relationship with our God and Savior and one another. I'm Philip Shields, your host and founder of Light on the Rock.org.

Revelation speaks of seven trumpets, so the 7th trump is likely “the last trumpet” when Paul tells us our bodies will be changed or resurrected to glorious spirit bodies that are immortal, glorious and in Christ's image (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:45-53). I went through all this in detail in parts 1 and 2 of this series. Please be sure you watch and study parts 1-2 first.

- Part 1 of this series – WHERE is the Wedding (in Heaven);
- Part 2 – WHO all will be in the wedding (bride and guests, etc.) and how many?
- And now part 3 – WHEN will the Wedding take place.

One thing I strongly suggest: when it comes to prophecy topics, let's all “rise loose in the saddle” and not be so dogmatic, especially on dates and specific details, unless the Bible itself is specific. Where the Bible is not dogmatic, I tend to hold back as well. There will be some speculating in this 3-part series, as I don't think any of us can even come close to thinking in the detail and awesomeness of God's thinking.

OVERVIEW, the Better Resurrection

I believe the first resurrection includes all those called “firstfruits”, the Bride, the guests at the wedding, and all those redeemed from the earth. I believe it includes the Great Multitude beyond number in Revelation 7 and the 144,000. ALL of those I have just mentioned are described as being before the throne and having purified their clothes in the blood of the Lamb or being without fault – and all first resurrection people will be shining brightly (though 1 Cor. 15 says there will be various degrees of brightness).

But not everyone in the first resurrection is the Bride. Only part of the first resurrection group will be the Bride. Every wedding I've attended, the Bride and Groom are in the distinct minority! So the guests are also in the first resurrection – those invited to the wedding as Rev. 19:9 says – “Blessed are those invited to the Wedding...”. And they're all in heaven as I pointed out in part 1. But being in the first resurrection is super special.

Revelation 20:6

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the FIRST RESURRECTION. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

Scripture also calls this first resurrection of the saints – “the BETTER resurrection”. Better than what? Well, this shows there are other resurrections to follow that aren't quite as spectacular.

Hebrews 11:35

“Women received their dead raised to life again.
Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance,
that they might obtain a BETTER RESURRECTION.”

Hebrews 11:39-40

“And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, **did not receive the promise,**

40 God having provided something better for us, **that they should not be made perfect apart from us.**”

WHY is the first resurrection better? Those in that resurrection are changed to immortal spirit bodies (1 Cor. 15:52), plus Hebrews 11:40 and Hebrews 12:23 say that's when we're made perfect, for real. Plus those in the first resurrection will be the rulers and teachers, called “the royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9).

And that's also exactly what Paul teaches in 1 Thess 4:16-17, that the dead in Christ are raised first, that's the first group – and then we which remain and are alive are caught up with them into the clouds to meet Christ in the air. The 2 groups picture the 2 leavened loaves presented on Pentecost – raised up towards heaven and then brought down again.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, BEFORE and AFTER the FIRST RESURRECTION?

Then what?

Remember there are these sequences in the book of Revelation:

- **7 SEALS** that are opened after the 144,000 are first sealed in Rev. 7, but remember WE are already sealed with God's spirit. The 144,000 are also promised protection. But the dead in Christ no longer need protection. I discussed all this in part 2. So the 7 seals are opened (Revelation 8-9) – after already opening Seal #5, the Great Tribulation, #6 heavenly signs, Rev. 6.
- The 7th Seal is composed of **7 TRUMPETS plagues** and events (Revelation 8-9)
- Then **the 7th Trumpet, the Last Trumpet, is composed of 7 LAST Bowl PLAGUES** (Rev. 11:15-19; Revelation 15-16)

Just before Christ returns to collect his Bride, something else is going on: The Great Tribulation, a time of terrible trouble for God's people, many of whom will be martyred and beheaded.

The Two Witnesses preach before the first resurrection

During much of that same period of time, **there are TWO WITNESSES** who are preaching and also causing great plagues and miracles. But at the end of their 3-1/2 year work, God allows them to also be martyred and left for dead for 3-1/2 days. We'll post Rev. 11:3-13, and I'll read the most important parts, but you read it on screen in the meantime. We'll leave it up on screen so you can follow.

Don't be fooled. Nobody knows yet who the two witnesses will be. I personally totally reject the notion they are literally Moses and Elijah, or Elijah and Enoch, or the Old and New Testaments, or anyone who already claims to be the two witnesses. You know something? I've personally met several people over the years who claim to be the two witnesses. One time it was three men! You will know who the two witnesses are soon enough.

Revelation 11:3-13

“And I **will give power to my TWO WITNESSES**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” [3-1/2 years, 42 months]

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 **And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies.** And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

6 These have power to shut heaven, so **that no rain** falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power **over waters to turn them to blood**, and to strike the earth with all **plagues**, as often as they desire.

7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, *where also our Lord was crucified.* [CLEARLY Jerusalem]

9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations **will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days**, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

11 **Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.**

12 **And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.**

Notice they are killed but then also resurrected and rise to meet Christ in the air BEFORE we're told the 7th Trumpet sounds, in verse 15, perhaps as a token of honor to them probably, to be the first.

Revelation 11:15, 19

“THEN the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

[You can read what the 24 elders say in v. 16-18]

19 **“Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”**

WHY is the temple opened? Scripture doesn't say why, so we “ride loose in the saddle” again. *I believe it's because God is opening the door for his Bride and the Guests of the*

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Wedding to come into his presence. After all, **Matthew 22:1-2** clearly says the Great King put on a wedding for his Son (Christ), and so we're in the King's presence in heaven. In the parable of the ten virgins of **Matthew 25:10-13**, it's interesting there too how the door to the wedding is opened – and then shut to the unprepared virgins, to whom Christ even says, "I don't know you". Oops. We all want to be sure our Beloved knows us, as we seek him diligently (read Hebrews 11:6).

WHEN DOES all this happen? Remember the Bride and guests who are in heaven in front of the throne, are all first fruits, redeemed from the earth. They're all in the first resurrection and are either part of the Bride, or part of the guests, or attendants to the Bride and Groom or friend of the Groom (as John the Baptist called himself).

WHEN – what HOLY DAY – PICTURES FIRST FRUITS? PENTECOST! Feast of Weeks, Feast of Firstfruits! When are the 2 leavened wave loaves raised up towards heaven? ON Pentecost!

God always so far has had what the holyday pictured actually occur on the very day.

- **Passover** – when Christ – whom the lambs pictured, was crucified. It's also when we took our Master's cup and drank of it, indicating we accept whatever is in store for us. And we shared of him, and drank of him... and were inducted into the New Covenant of his blood.
- **Wavesheaf Day** – when our Master, who was the First of the firstfruits wavesheaf, ascended to Heaven to be accepted in behalf of the rest of the harvest, as we've pointed out before. What a glorious reunion of Father and Son that must have been – with billions of angels cheering, praising, and worshipping.
- **Pentecost** – when Israel married YHVH at Mt Sinai, which was all ablaze with the glory of God. It's also when the Holy Spirit was given in Acts 2. And, I feel, it's also when the "real" Wedding will take place in heaven. It was also on Pentecost when the two leavened wave loaves were raised up and then lowered again, picturing the Church (the Bride) ascending to heaven for the wedding and then returning back to earth to co-rule with Christ on the earth after the Wedding. More on that in a minute.

SO YES, in a coming year, on Pentecost, I believe the wedding will take place in heaven. Nobody on earth knows the year yet. And therefore neither do I know the day yet or the hour.

Whether God comes for us earlier than Pentecost – is possible – but I'm greatly confident the WEDDING itself is on Pentecost. But the two leavened loaves on Pentecost makes it look more likely the resurrection itself is on Pentecost, and the wedding also, or soon after.

Pentecost is all about the FIRSTFRUITS OF WHEAT – those being called now. WE are definitely called FIRST FRUITS – James 1:18. The 144,000 are also called firstfruits (Rev. 14:1-2, 4).

James 1:18

"Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that ***WE might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.***"

Romans 8:23

“Not only that, but **WE also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, ...”**

Then the FALL holydays are all about God setting his hand to save the rest of humanity. The focus of the fall holydays is on the rest of mankind, not on the firstfruits.

So does it make any sense to expect the first resurrection in the Fall? No. All the evidence, to me at least, points to Pentecost, when the focus will be on Christ and God's First fruits of the wheat harvest – us!

Rev. 12, 13, are inset chapters and it continues in Revelation 14 with the 144,000 standing on the Sea of Glass IN HEAVEN, who follow the Lamb wherever he goes, and they too are called Firstfruits. They are clearly remarkably close to Christ, but nowhere are the 144,000 actually called “the Bride”. Many assume they are the Bride because they're called “first fruits” and follow the Lamb wherever he goes. *SO if they're the Bride, so be it. But I see them as special attendants to Christ. We'll have to see. (I discussed the 144,000 much more in Part 2).*

I believe the Proverbs 31 Wife describes the Bride of Christ. IN Proverbs 31:11-31, we don't see that highly praised wife of valor always following right behind her husband, but instead, he trusts his capable Bride to get things done, even on her own.

The word “virtuous wife” in Proverbs 31 is the same word used for strong brave men, so she's the wife of VALOR! Go back and read **the Prov 31:11-20**. She's out there looking over land and acreage to buy, and buying fields (V16) and planting vineyards, making clothing, getting the home ready – she's BUSY! She's strong, she works into the night, she's helping the poor, she's raising a wonderful family, she's wise, highly regarded and known for her works!

Some will say the 144,000 is the number of the Bride. I don't think so myself. I think they are special attendants to the Son of God. We'll see. But the total in the first resurrection must surely include the Great Multitude that can't be numbered in Revelation 7. They're shown as having been washed and cleansed in the blood and serving Christ day and night. So the first resurrection in my view will likely be well over a million or two million or whatever number God himself decides it will be.

So, so far, we have the 7 seals being opened, ***the 144,000 have been protected, the great Multitude of Rev 7 are given salvation,*** the Great Tribulation is past, the 2 witnesses have been preaching, were killed and then resurrected, then the 7th trump is sounded after they rise up to Christ (**Rev 11:15**), the dead in Christ are resurrected and we're changed to spirit. *Again, I believe this most likely takes place on Pentecost, not in the Fall.*

So Christ comes AFTER the Great Tribulation – not before – to have his holy angels collect his Bride, in 2 big groups – those who have died in Christ and are now being resurrected at his return, who had God's Holy Spirit, PLUS then those saints who still remain alive at his coming. 2 groups. These 2 groups are depicted by the 2 leavened loaves of Pentecost. And remember *those* leavened loaves are also called “FIRST FRUITS”, which is the same term used for those of us being called now and being converted now with God's spirit.

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The 7th Seal has 7 trumpets, and so the last trumpet appears to be the 7th one – and the one when the first resurrection takes place, AFTER the Great Tribulation. Friends, there is no “rapture” before the tribulation. Look at what Jesus himself tells us:

Matthew 24:29-31

"Immediately ***AFTER the tribulation of those days*** [seal #5 of Rev 6] the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken [seal #6 of Rev 6].

30 ***Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven***, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will **see the Son of Man coming on the CLOUDS of heaven** with power and great glory.

31 And He will send His angels **with a great sound of a trumpet [the LAST trump, the 7th trumpet]**, and they will gather together ***His elect*** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

“The Elect” comes from Greek word “*eklektos*” – meaning “chosen, picked out” [by God]. So remember we’re told that we’re resurrected or changed to spirit “at the last trumpet of God” (1 Cor. 15:52). Will we HEAR those 7 trumpets? I think we will! Israel certainly heard the shofar of God at Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19-20.

So NOW what? What happens next? AGAIN, WE GO TO HEAVEN TO BE MARRIED. BUT what happens after that?

After the 7th trumpet sounds (Rev 11:15-19), there are still 7 bowl plagues that are poured out on the earth (Revelation 15-16) So we’re in heaven, not on earth. We’re in heaven getting married while the final plagues are unleashed on earth. THAT ALL TAKES TIME!

WHEN do we rise and go to heaven to meet our Father and be MARRIED to God the SON?

This is something that should get our minds off the craziness going on in the world all around us – to this high calling. Let’s get excited about it. We cannot let up on our closeness to God and to our Beloved Messiah at this stage in the game. Many in God’s church are barely excited about our high, high calling. Now is NOT the time to get lax on sin or anything displeasing to our Father and Savior Now is the time to be more zealous than ever! Pray more than ever! “God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6. Spend MUCH more time in prayer and study and working God’s works.

Let’s ask WHEN the wedding of Christ will be this way: What SEASON do we find the spiritual “FIRSTFRUITS”, who are the ones he will marry? Fall, or spring-summer? I want you to really get this, so let’s read it again!

Leviticus 23:15-17

'And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. 16 **Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath**; then you shall offer a new grain offering to YHVH.

17 You shall bring from your dwellings **TWO wave loaves** of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; **they shall be baked WITH LEAVEN [yeast].** **THEY ARE FIRSTFRUITS TO YHVH (the LORD).**”

So what did you just read? TWO LEAVENED LOAVES of wheat are raised up to heaven by the priest – then lowered back down, on Pentecost. That’s picturing US being taken to heaven to get married and then to return.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

People have often in the past assumed the coming of our Lord will be at the Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah, Rosh Hashanah). And think the 7th trump must point to that holyday. But think of these key points:

** **The TRUMPETS are blown on ALL the holydays.** Numbers 10:1-2 Moses tells them to make 2 silver trumpets to sound the assemblies, the movement of the camps, war warnings, etc. But notice verse 10:

Numbers 10:10

“Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets....”

So the trumpets are sounded even on the day of Pentecost. Even at Mt. Sinai, which was **on Pentecost, the SHOFAR trumpet was sounded loud and long! (Exodus 19:19; 20:14)** Again, that was on Pentecost, then God married Israel. Am I driving home when the shofar ram’s horn sounded loud and clear – and when the wedding with God happened? On Pentecost. Because it was about the first fruits.

Will people hear the 7 trumpets? I believe so. They did at Mt. Sinai.

** **AFTER the resurrection, there are still 7 last plagues. Those 7 plagues use up and need time.** So while we’re in heaven getting married, and getting introduced to our city above, and to our team mates as royal priests of God, and more – the plagues are rolling out on earth, a time of God’s wrath and to help people hopefully repent.

** **The 7 last plagues, if you read them in Rev. 15-16, could easily take 3 months of earth time.** Our time in heaven could seem like an eternity, as God and heaven are outside of time and space.

Revelation 16:12-16 6th bowl plague

Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, **which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

16 **And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.**

Can you imagine how long it would take to move hundreds of thousands or even millions of soldiers? Yes, you're right. A long time. At least months. So all that's happening while we're celebrating the wedding in heaven.

**** The first time Christ comes, is to collect his bride. The world sees him returning on clouds for his Bride. Then he takes her to his father's house in heaven, just like Rebekah was taken to Isaac who was with his father Abraham's place.** Then the marriage takes place in heaven – plus other exciting things while there, I'm sure.

** Then **after** the Wedding, this time Christ and his armies (including his Bride, the saints) return on **spirit white chargers (probably angels) to face the world's armies** gathered to fight him. Revelation 17:14 clearly says those with Christ to meet the armies are his "called, chosen and faithful". That's hopefully you and me, but clearly, it's those in the first resurrection. Plus of course his myriads of holy angels (Matthew 25:31) – HE is after all, Lord of Hosts.

Revelation 17:14

"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; **and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.**"

**** That SECOND RETURN to earth by Christ – this time with his Bride, to fight and then land on the Mount of Olives, I believe could very well happen on the Feast of Trumpets – about 3 months after Pentecost and the first resurrection. And – that also gives times for the 7 Last Plagues to be poured out.**

What the AUTUMN holydays are about

The fall holydays are not about the firstfruits – but about the VAST great harvest of souls after Christ comes, that the great big autumn harvest pictures.

To try to have the first resurrection of the saints – who are called firstfruits -- and the wedding in the FALL, misses the whole point of TIMING everything to their season; to having the various harvests happening when their time is due! *If Christ marries those being called NOW- the firstfruits – shouldn't the wedding be in the spring-summer – at feast of Firstfruits, on Pentecost, and not in the Fall? And again, that's when God married Israel at Mt. Sinai – on Pentecost. So pattern holds.*

So for years now I have not been in agreement with those who believe the first Resurrection and wedding of the Lamb happens on the Feast of Trumpets. The timing, the precedent, and the prior symbolism and sequencing just doesn't work out properly for it all to happen on one day in the Fall. The 7 Last Plagues takes at least several months.

Heavenly Jerusalem – the City of the Bride

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The wedding of the Lamb is put on by God our Father. WHERE is our Father based?

Matthew 22:1-3

And Yeshua (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...."**

Who's the king? Who's the Son? Obvious, right?

Notice the KING IS THERE at the wedding v.11 -- The King came in to see the guests. Now notice where God lives. We even pray —“our Father, who art **in heaven...**” Matt. 6:9. So if our Father is present at the wedding, that's another indication it's in heaven while the 7 last plagues after the 7th trumpet is blown, are being poured out.

Hebrews 12:22-24

“But you have come to **Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the HEAVENLY Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of angels, **23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven**, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, **24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.**”

Now remember also Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for YOU.” What is OUR city? Remember what I said about ownership in an earlier sermon? Heavenly Jerusalem is not just the city of God; it is *our* city, bestowed upon us who are registered in heaven.

Hebrews 13:14: “Here we have no continuing city, **but seek the one to come.”**

OUR city is the one above. Abraham knew that, all the fathers of faith knew that:

Hebrews 11:9-10

“By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; **10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**”

Hebrews 11:16

“But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called **their God, for He has prepared a city for them.**”

(Sounds like “I go prepare a place for you.” – John 14:1-3)

There's more. Far more, to show that we are going to heaven to get married and that the entire heavenly Jerusalem is the Bride's city! There will be lots of other cities, but the Bride will live in heavenly Jerusalem.

Note the Redeemed even have the name of the city emblazoned on their forehead somehow. Perhaps symbolically. Perhaps even on a crown or some other means? Or perhaps it is literally emblazoned on their foreheads.

Revelation 3:12

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him **the name of My God and the name of the**

city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.”

This is also why Paul says we are already ambassadors of that city and **citizens** of that city! Because that’s “our country”, “our city”! (**Philippians 3:20**). Jesus said he would go prepare a place ... FOR US! “I go prepare a place for YOU” – **John 14:1-2**.

When Isaac took Rebekah into his deceased mother’s tent, that was picturing Christ taking us as his bride in heavenly Jerusalem, AS I’ve pointed out in Part 1 and 2 – **Genesis 24:67**.

If this depicts the wedding of the church and Messiah, what does Sarah represent?

Galatians 4:23-27

But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman [Sarah] through promise, 24 which things are symbolic. **For these are the two covenants:** the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is **Hagar** — 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children — 26 **but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.** [in context, referring to **Sarah**, who was the “freewoman”]

Jerusalem above is the mother of us all. We are considered born in heavenly Jerusalem.

Psalms 87:4-6

"I will make mention of Rahab and Babylon to those who know Me;
Behold, O Philistia and Tyre, with Ethiopia:
"This one was born there."

5 And of Zion it will be said,

"This one and that one were born in her;

And the Most High Himself shall establish her."

6 Yehovah (the LORD) will record,

When He **registers** the peoples: [note **Heb. 12:23**- firstborn registered in heaven] **"This one was born there."**

That is how you are a natural-born citizen of any country – by being born there. We are born and registered for City of our God, the Heavenly Jerusalem. THERE COULD BE NO FINER WEDDING VENUE THAN HEAVENLY JERUSALEM!

For a great depiction of heavenly Jerusalem, it’s majesty, it’s size, it’s brightness, and how it’s probably all made of spirit items – hear Jeff Niccum’s sermon “The Big picture”.

I’ve reposted on this website. <http://www.lightontherock.org/message/the-big-picture?highlight=WyJiaWciLCJwaWN0dXJlIiwYmlnIHBPY3R1cmUiXQ==>

When we organized our first-ever college reunion, the smiles and laughter and sheer joy was beyond description. That won’t hold a candle to what we’re talking about here! Not even begin to! We can’t **imagine a city 1500 miles high and 1500 miles across!** Our highest mountains are only 7 or 7.5 miles high. Can we imagine a city – a spirit city – where the spirit streets are spirit gold, with gates made of solid pearl, with powerful angelic beings

coming and going.... Can we imagine it? That’s your city! Don’t give this up for any bowl of lentil soup like Esau did his birthright!

That wedding feast is going to be something we’ll talk about for forever and ever. You won’t want to miss it! And it will be a genuinely new order. Our King himself will help serve us all. **Luke 12:37.** We’ll experience true Servant Leadership – even at the wedding.

And I also think we’ll be given the ability to **immediately know and recognize at least the great forefathers and leading women** of the Bible, just as Peter, James and John recognized Moses and Elijah at the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1 -4, 9) How exciting!!!

So YES, we’ll be in heaven and **Rev. 19:7** – “Let us be glad and rejoice and give HIM glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come [and YOU’RE THERE], and His wife has made herself ready!”. And in verse 9, “Blessed are those INVITED to the wedding”.

AFTER THE WEDDING... THEN WHAT?

While in heaven, I believe **we’ll be shown our new homes.** John 14:1-5, God’s Son went to prepare our place where there are many abodes. You will be awe-struck by your home. Since God knows us even better than we know ourselves, the home will be perfect for each of us.

I believe we will also **meet the teams and groups** we’ll be assigned to, and who will be working together when we return to earth to take over the reins of servant leadership. I’m sure there will be strategy sessions on what the agenda will be once we land on the Mt of Olives with our husband Yeshua, the King of kings.

When the Wedding is completed, what happens next? Rev. 19:11 says **heaven is once again opened. Why? The Bride and Groom must return to earth and take over control.** So we come back down to earth with our Husband, whom we’ve just married. Let’s read it.

Revelation 19:11-14

11 **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.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and **His name is called The Word of God.** (“Word of God” clearly points to Jesus Christ – John 1:1-3, 14)

14 **And the armies in heaven**, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.”

Again, remember Christ also returns with his faithful elect (Revelation 17:14) to face the rebel armies gathered to battle him.

Anyway, we defeat the armies gathered against us – as Zechariah 14 explains, and we set up a new reality here on earth, and we reign with him for 1000 years and rebuild with him a world-wide garden of Eden eventually with beautiful cities too.... I can’t wait!!!!

Some future year from now, near or on Pentecost, I look forward with great excitement to being in, or a guest at, a wedding feast beyond description. Let's focus on things above, not on things on this earth (Colossians 3:1-3). Let's become more zealous than ever before and do all we can – in prayer and seeking God – to be sure he allows us to be in that better resurrection, the first resurrection – and to be at the Wedding of the Lamb – either as the Bride or among the invited guests. We can't even imagine what it will be like! See you there!

Closing prayer.