

WEDDING of the Lamb: Part 2

The Bride, Guests, and others



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Summary: (NOTE: the summary is not word for word but close. There's always more detail in the audio/video). WHY are we discussing this now? Find out. WHO will be in the wedding? How can humans marry the Son of God? Who will all be in the wedding? How many will be in the wedding? Who are the guests? Who are the virgins? Who are the 144,000 and Great Innumerable Multitude of Revelation 7? Are they also part of the Bride of Christ? We'll discuss all this and much more as we look to the joy set before us, as Yeshua did.

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Hello, children of God, my brothers and sisters, members of God's House.

There's a lot of angst and anxiety and just a general malaise going on all around the world with everything going on. There are the tensions between nations. There's the worldwide economic collapse subsequent to the shut-down and lockdowns happening from the worldwide pandemic from China. Then protests and violent racial riots caused by a few bad cops and all that happened recently in several cities.

Other countries have their own issues going on too, so if you're a white farmer in South Africa, your life is in danger. If you live in Venezuela, your future is uncertain. Certainly, the people of Hong Kong and Taiwan wonder what mainland China is up to.

And God's children have to live in this world, and it can get us down. So if we're not careful we start thinking very negatively and we can get overly involved in this world. I have at times myself.

But today I urge all of us – we're in, but not OF, this world. We're of the kingdom of God, though citizens of our countries here as well. Paul had to remind the early believers as well, that though they were under Rome's thumb – they had to look beyond. And that's what we have to do too.

Colossians 3:1-2

“If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above, where Christ is**, sitting at the right hand of God.

2 SET your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Hello everyone. I'm Philip Shields, host and founder of Light on the Rock.org.

Welcome all of you from all over the world. Welcome – and let's SET OUR minds be focused on things above instead of all the troubles down here on earth.

I want to continue the topic of the Marriage of the Lamb and his Bride – and focus this time on who will be there. Are there GUESTS? Are there others besides the Bride and Groom? Who else can be there? How can humans marry God -the son of God? We'll discuss all that and more today.

David said just being a doorkeeper in God's house was good enough for him if that's what God gave him (Psalm 84:10) – even one day in God's courts is better than 1000 days somewhere else, he says.

I'm giving this because you'll see the Wedding IS tied to Pentecost season – but also because I wonder if we're letting this world's troubles take our heart away, our focus and our zeal away?

Listen: the most spectacular ceremony of all times -- in the whole universe – will take place probably fairly soon - - maybe even within 10-20 years, but it's coming soon, surely. This is the wedding put on by God Most High, in heavenly Jerusalem with its streets of gold and beauty beyond description – the wedding between his SON Yeshua, son of God – and the BRIDE, the church, which could involve ... YOU!

And then what happens after that will rock this planet like never before. The “After the wedding” news will be in the next sermon.

So forget the storybook weddings of Cinderella marrying the prince in the breath-taking palace, the beautiful setting. That will be nothing compared to this. Forget the royal weddings we've watched. As spectacular as they have been, they won't compare! And *you're* invited – perhaps even to be one destined to part of the Bride to marry the Son of GOD. The king of kings. In heavenly Jerusalem.

Out of billions and billions who have ever lived, YOU – yes you – have been picked to be in the better resurrection, the first one! Hebrews 11:35.

So let's all quit being depressed by all the bad news out there and focus where you should be focused: on what God has in store for his children and you!

We're talking about when GOD the SON gets married to the Bride, the Church (ekklesia), the beloved joy of his heart. The Bride says:

Song of Songs 2:16

"I am my Beloved's, and I am his."

Get your mind on *this*. On things above. What a wonderful Lord we have in Christ that we can call him "my Beloved".

Please listen first to Part 1 of this series so I don't have to repeat it all. Let me just summarize what we covered last time:

- This Wedding of all weddings is going to definitely be in heaven.
- We know that because God puts on this wedding himself (Matthew 22:1) and Father is in heaven! Plus, the 2 leavened wave loaves on Pentecost are raised towards heaven then lowered. The loaves were **FIRSTFRUITS** (Leviticus 23:17) – that's the body of Christ, the church (James 1:18).
- The Bride definitely is the true body of Christ, spirit-led children of God (Romans 8:9, 14). Paul says clearly in Eph 5:25-32 that the bride is the church, as he says also in 2 Cor. 11:2.
- We also brought out about Isaac and Rebekah getting married in Sarah's tent (Gen 24:66-67) and how Sarah pictured heavenly Jerusalem and the New Covenant, as I showed last time, comparing Paul's statement in Galatians 4.
- And Revelation 19:1,4, 11 to me clearly shows the wedding to be in heaven – where the 24 elders and God himself are. Besides the Bride though, there are those invited as guests.

Revelation 19:7-9 NLT

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him.
For the time has come for **the wedding feast of the Lamb,**
and his bride has prepared herself.

8 She has been **given the finest of pure white linen** to wear."
For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people.

9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast** of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."

TODAY I'M FOCUSING on WHO ELSE, besides the church/Bride, will also be at the wedding. Who will be the Bride and who will be the guests? In the final sermon coming next, we'll discuss WHEN this wedding will be taking place. So today the focus is all the ones mentioned who will be there.

*I showed clearly last time also that there are GUESTS at the wedding. I don't mean the angels – as they are the servers, and workers. **Matthew 22:1** says a king (GOD the Father) put on a wedding for his Son (Christ). We know where GOD is... "our Father who art in heaven..." Those invited first declined to come, so others were called. Notice verses 10-11:*

Matthew 22:10-11

"... and so the wedding hall *was filled* with GUESTS. But when the King came in to see the GUESTS, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment."

THE BRIDE

Let's remember the Bride is the Church.

2 Corinthians 11:2

"For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed YOU to one husband, that I may present YOU as a chaste virgin to Christ."

And it's real, real clear in Ephesians 5:25-28, 32 – that Paul teaches again that the Church will be a spotless, glorious bride to Christ. We covered that last time.

Who make up the Bride, the church? Anyone led by God's spirit (Romans 8:9,14) and who lives a life of faith in Christ. That can be anyone from any nation around the world. Look what Paul said to the ancient Galatians, in Turkey today:

Galatians 3:26-29

"For you are ALL sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither slave nor free, there is **neither male nor female**; for you are **ALL ONE** in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise"

The children of God are called various things in scripture, including:

Children of God, the Elect, little flock (Luke 12:32), firstfruits, Church (Ekklesia), the Bride, and more.

The heavenly city of Jerusalem above, where God the Father dwells and rules from his kingdom of heaven, also becomes the CITY of the Bride. It's OUR city. (Hear my sermon on "Call God YOUR God" that I gave recently). ***So heavenly Jerusalem is also called "the Bride"*** because the Bride and her city are so closely associated with each other.

Revelation 21:2 (also v.9)

"Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, *prepared as a bride* adorned for her husband".

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the Lamb's wife."

10 – he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending from heaven.

So the Bride is the church of God, those being called out of the world now, fighting sin, overcoming by Christ living in us and being led by his mind, his spirit in us – the spirit of God through Christ. But since the Bride's city is the holy city above, the 2 become synonymous.

But the Bride has to be of the "same kind" as Christ is. He is spirit. We are flesh. So that has to be rectified. Our God even says, "for I am GOD, and not man" (Hosea 11:9).

Bride must be the "SAME KIND" as Son of God

In Genesis 1-2 we see that God created the animal and fish kind to mate and be together by the same kind. God is spirit (John 4:24), but he's more than an angel. He is NOT of the angel kind, or human kind, or animal or plant kind. He is GOD. He is the Son of God.

Genesis 1-2 also show us, and we know, that kind (species) reproduces after its kind. Adam could see lions and lionesses, male and females of all animal kinds, but no female bride for him.

So Adam was given the task of naming the animals – before Eve was created. But the real purpose was not to name the animals, but to show Adam that none of these were of the same kind as he! NO, humankind is above and distinct from the animal kind. So then God created Eve. Note the CONTEXT of how it begins...

Genesis 2:18-22

And YHVH God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*" [This was the motivation]

19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. **But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him [note: from among the animals]**

21 And YHVH God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place.

22 **Then the rib which YHVH God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man."**

Romans 5:14 says of Adam: "...who **was a TYPE of him** who was to come." Adam was picturing Jesus Christ, Yeshua – who would have HIS Bride also brought to him as he awaits in the clouds when he comes to collect his Bride.

So at the first resurrection of the saints, we are changed to spirit immortal, glorious bodies that never age, never decay, never has a wrinkle! We read that last time in 1 Cor. 15, that we have to bear the same image of the spirit Christ.

We should read this again – I'll just hit the main points for time:

1 Corinthians 15:44-45, 49

"It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. *There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.* 45 And so it is written, "The **first man Adam** became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving **spirit**.

49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, **we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.**"

Paul earlier speaks of our new spirit bodies as being brilliant astral bodies. **Daniel 12:3** says we'll shine like the bright heavens. **Yeshua says the righteous will shine as the sun in full brightness (Matthew 13:43).** That's you and I he is speaking of!

Matthew 13:43

"Then **the righteous will shine forth as the sun** in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

That all happens when we're CHANGED to spirit in the blink of an eye, at the last trump (1 Cor. 15:50-53), which we covered last time. That makes us IMMORTAL

children of God, brilliant beyond description and now able to see God the Father as well.

As children, we're like our father. Christ is the first Son of God. HE calls US his brothers and sisters (Hebrews 2:11). So we also will be like Christ – children of the Highest in full glory at that time. Of the same “kind” as Christ is. Same family.

For more on this exciting prospect, check out this sermon:

<http://www.lightontherock.org/message/your-breath-taking-destiny-part-1?highlight=WYJkZXN0aW55II0=>

Wow! How can we lose being excited about this? *So God wants a Bride for his son who is like he is – spirit – but more than just angels, but of the same kind as he is.* Of course we'll be changed to spirit at the last trump, to immortality and incorruptible bodies and lives (1 Cor 15:50-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). But then, after we're changed, we'll be able to SEE and be with God the Father and Yeshua in all their glory – for we shall be just like them.

1 John 3:2

“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, *but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*”

NO HUMAN can see God in his glory and live, according to God himself (**Exodus 33:20-23**). Moses was allowed to see the back of God in glory – but not God's face. Though many have seen YHVH apart from his glory – such as Abraham having a meal with YHVH God in Genesis 18.

But we won't be HUMAN anymore. We'll be SPIRIT. We'll be PURE in heart, and the Pure in heart SHALL SEE GOD (Matthew 5:8). Just like Him! And so able to MARRY him, just like EVE was able to marry Adam, being of the same KIND as he was.

This is all encompassing. We no longer think the way we used to think, we hate sin, though we still sometimes stumble into it. But we no longer commit sin as our normal way of life as 1 John 3:9-10 explains.

How MANY people will make up the Bride – as one Body – for Christ? I know many think it is the 144,000. But *I think the Bride will be significantly more than that* – maybe a half million or even a million – or more, and that could still be called a “little flock” compared to the total population of the world from Adam to the end... 20-40 BILLION probably have lived since Adam. 8.5 billion are alive right now. So 1 - 2 million out of many billions is still a tiny flock. How ever many it will be, it will be just a fraction of the total population who have ever lived.

So value your high calling. You may want to hear my sermon titled “Why did God Call YOU?” Just enter that into the search bar.

You and I can't even *begin* to imagine how spectacular, exciting, beautiful, loving, and awe inspiring all this will be!

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...”

SO THE CHURCH will the BRIDE, marrying God's son in heaven.

The “church” is composed of anyone led by God's spirit – from Abel to our time and beyond. They've been tried, tested, and refined. They've come through a lifetime of suffering, testing, failing – and overcoming.

Here's something else: I believe everyone led by God's spirit in this life, who have accepted Christ as Savior, will be in the first resurrection. They are ALL “firstfruits”.

But I don't believe that everyone in the first resurrection will necessarily be the Bride. Some will be guests. Some will have other functions. But ALL of them will be firstfruits.

All those in first resurrection are first fruits. The Bride is firstfruits. But NOT all firstfruits will necessarily be a part of the Bride.

So who are the guests?

Well, scripture doesn't tell us who the “guests” are. But here's what I think:

Those who come out of the Great Tribulation, and are willing to die for Christ and God their Father, and are seen as standing before the throne – in my mind, these, and possibly the 144,000 mentioned in Rev 7 also – could be the guests.

Why do I say that? Because they do fully come over to Christ but do so at the last minute. This means they have not been tested over a lifetime. I could be wrong. Certainly, they give their all, give up their very lives, for Christ.

Let's read about the Great Multitude beyond number and notice they're from every nation and tribe. So remember that many you do not currently recognize

as sabbath keepers, or fully obedient to God (as neither are we always perfectly obedient either!)- many of these we see as being outside the church right now of spirit led believers – could someday also be in the first resurrection! If they are “in Christ”, they will be in the first resurrection.

These are clearly part of the *flock* of God, as they are shepherded by Christ.

Revelation 7:9-17

“After these things I looked, and behold, **a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;

17 **for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them** and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

This Great Innumerable Multitude of Revelation 7, I think, could also possibly be the same ones described in **Revelation 15**, though many assume those in Rev. 15 are the 144,000 of Rev. 7.

Rev. 15 does not SAY who that multitude who sing the Song of Moses are, except that they refused to give in to the Beast system coming soon.

Revelation 15:1-3

“Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying....”

So a great multitude from ALL nations, GENTILES in other words, are also converted at the very last minute and give their lives to God as martyrs, and I believe all of them will be in the first resurrection, they are called God’s flock, and possibly these might be included in “the Guests” at Christ’s wedding. God’s grace puts them into the first resurrection, and though they may not (or who knows) be the Bride, they could be there! As guests! We’ll have to see. All I know is that there ARE guests at this fabulous wedding coming soon.

These innumerable multitude last-minute converts are probably a lot of the churchgoing, Bible reading, praying people today who have not yet fully responded to their calling, so far – but WILL. So WE need to love everyone, as we don’t know yet all whom God plans to call and bring to salvation in these times – or who will be whom, in the wedding.

The 144,000

There are also 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel who are described in Revelation 7 as being sealed and protected - so they seem to still be alive at the time this is describing.

They are sealed after the 6th seal, before the 7th seal, so they too came out of the Great Tribulation ahead of us (the 5th seal), mentioned in Rev. 6.

There’s much controversy who exactly the 144,000 are. Commentaries, not realizing that JEWS make up only 1 tribe of the 12, call them late Jewish converts. But scripture clearly says they come from all 12 tribes, in the last days, not just Judah. Revelation 7:1-4 says they’re sealed, and angels are told to hold off any more plagues until they are sealed and protected.

MANY believe the Bride, those in the first resurrection, are these 144,000. But let’s look carefully. Again, Revelation 6 mentions the 5th seal being the Great Tribulation, then the 6th Seal being the terrifying cosmic signs. Then we come to the 7th seal, which has 7 trumpet plagues within it. But just before that seventh seal is opened, look at what happens:

Revelation 7:1-4

"After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,

3 saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees **TILL we have SEALED the servants of our God** on their foreheads."

4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed. **One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel** were sealed:"

They're called God's servants! Revelation 14 says they are firstfruits, people who are redeemed from the earth. So bare minimum, they'll be in the first resurrection. But will they be part of the Bride? Again, in context, these are people on the scene at the very last days – and in context is NOT referring to God's servants throughout time.

Sealed: WE who have God's spirit are already sealed (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30). So this cannot be talking about us or spirit-filled believers in Paul and Peter's day who are already sealed!

Ephesians 4:30

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were SEALED for the day of redemption."

Ephesians 1:13

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were SEALED with the Holy Spirit of promise..."

Neither do any in Christ who have died over the past millennia, need any protection from the final plagues of Revelation. They're asleep in Christ, awaiting the resurrection. They can't be further harmed – so the wording in Rev. 7:1-4 simply could not apply to Abel, Noah, Enoch, Abraham, King David, or the apostles and all who came before us. Those believers – from Abel til now who have died, don't need to be sealed or protected as they've been sealed and have died already. So this surely can't be talking about the entirety of the Bride, in my view of things, though many think it does!

But then again, the description given a group called the 144,000 in Revelation 14 sure does seem to describe a remarkably close relationship with Christ. But

nowhere in Rev. 7 or 14, where the 144,000 are mentioned, are they ever called “the Bride”, or even “the church”. THEY, like the Great multitude, survived the Great Tribulation. I believe they’ll be personal attendants to Yeshua. Let’s see:

Revelation 14:1-5

“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

3 They sang as it were a new song *before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders*; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.”

Rev 14 says they are firstfruits and follow the Lamb wherever he goes. So they *might* be part of the Bride – or a separate 144,000 from the 144,000 mentioned in Revelation 7. But they definitely, according to Rev. 7, come on the scene AFTER the first 6 seals, and are still alive, and need to receive God’s spirit and be protected from that point on.

So I think – though many ministers will disagree with me – that the GUESTS highly likely include the 144,000 from all 12 Israel tribes that have become modern powerful nations today (I’ll explain some time in the future) + the Guests include “The great multitude” from all nations that can’t be numbered. Easily a million+ guests, maybe several million, as I see it.

So this wedding is in HEAVENLY Jerusalem.

- **The Bride** are those who are the TRUE spirit-led, sin-resisting, overcoming body of believers who have a close intimate relationship with Yeshua and Abba, our great Daddy who is God Most High.
- **There will be guests.** No question about that. WHO are they? I think the Great multitude of all nations plus the 144,000 last minute deciders for Christ who come through the end-time Great Tribulation.

ONE MORE THING....

I'll say something else: In every wedding *you have other people* – such as the groomsmen, the bridesmaids, those with special responsibilities who are not guests and not the groom or bride.

So don't be surprised if several of the people in the Bible you know have high positions with Christ and God but may not be part of the Bride. **John the Baptist** called himself "the FRIEND of the bridegroom", for example (John 3:29). Paul spoke of being the one who betrothed the Corinthians to Christ (2 Cor. 11:2), and he didn't say "we" in that statement. Look at this too, and notice who is with the Bride:

Psalms 45:13-15

"The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace;
Her clothing is woven with gold.

14 **She shall be brought to the King** in robes of many colors;
The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.
15 With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought;
They shall enter the King's palace."

So we see there is the Groom Yeshua, His Bride – some of the firstfruits; and there will be guests there and there will be "virgins" who serve the Bride, but I believe everyone at the wedding will be firstfruits people of those God is calling and saving now.

Remember **Matthew 25 speaks of 10 virgins**, a common number of "bridesmaids" in marriages of those days. Matthew 25 nowhere calls those 10 virgins the "Bride". So in my view, those 10 virgins of Matthew 25 probably are NOT the Bride -- but attendants to the Bride.

Next time we'll conclude with WHEN the first resurrection and wedding of the Lamb take place, so be sure to check out part 3.

So let me recap this part 2:

- There IS a coming wedding for the Bride and the Son of God. It's going to be marvelous, wonderful, awe-inspiring, and moving beyond description.
- YOU are being called to be part of the BRIDE. It's a high-high calling.

- The Bride has to be of the same KIND of being as the Groom is. So we will be changed to spirit and born fully into the FAMILY of God. We shall see him as he is, for we shall be like him (1 John 3:2).
- WHERE: The Wedding of the Lamb and his bride will be in heavenly Jerusalem, presided by the King -- God Almighty, God Most High.
- **The wedding will include the host (God),** the Bridegroom Yeshua the Son of God, the Bride who is the church of firstfruits to God. Plus there will definitely be guests – and many of them “for the hall was FILLED with guests” (Matthew 22:10). These could include the Great Multitude and the 144,000 of Revelation 7 in my view.

There probably will be even others – who are not guests, not the bride and Groom, but who are the Friend of the Groom, the Bridesmaids. Certainly, the attendants and servers – **the HOLY angels of God** – will be there. **Angels in their spirit form** may look like something you’ve never seen before, while others will look like people, or spirit horses, or flying eagles, and so on, as described in scripture. Some have no wings; some have 4 wings or 6 wings. And when they speak, it’s awesome.

I don’t want to miss one second of this magnificent wedding! I want to be there! How about you?

So let’s focus on things above and keep our hearts and minds on what lies ahead. That’s how Yeshua was able to face the cross – by going to what lay PAST all that.

Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, ***who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross***, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Philippians 3:13-14 NCV

“Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. *Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead,*

14 I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above.”

So in this unsettling time we live in, let's all FOCUS on things above, not on things on this earth. Part 3 of this series will be a careful look at WHEN the first resurrection and wedding happen.

Listen also to a soon-coming sermon about Peace in the Storm we're in, in this life. One way to keep our mind on things above is to think about being in the Wedding of the Lamb and Bride – with YOU there as part of the Bride of the Son of God. Pray you be accounted worthy to be there.

We have a lot to be thrilled about, to get excited over, and to look forward to – when it's all said and done.

Father, please send Yeshua back soon. Come, dear Lord.

Prayer...

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If you've found this sermon helpful and thought provoking in places, please tell others about this website and how much it has helped you. We're glad to be here for you and to serve you.