

Prayer:

When you get to the book of Revelation, you need to think in terms of the BIG picture. The book of Revelation is the capstone of all prophetic revelation and shows us the consummation of all things. To properly appreciate the truth of Revelation, one should study all the previous 65 books of the Bible, because Revelation builds on this foundation and provides the capstone.

God’s plan for the world involves three essential people groups, namely the Gentiles, the Jews, and the Church.

Slide # 1

1 Corinthians 10:32 (NKJV)

32 Give no offense, either to the **Jews** or to the **Greeks** or to the **church** of God,

According to the Bible, the world is about 6000 years old. In a general sense, you can break it down like this:

Slide # 2

Gentiles – 2000 years

Jews – 2000 years

Church – 2000 years

In accordance with these three groups, God has been fulfilling His plan down through the ages of building a forever family of believers, which comes to complete fruition in the book of Revelation. Down through the centuries, God has always had a remnant.

During the first 2000 years, there were only Gentiles, but there was a remnant of believers, as seen, for example, in Abel, Enoch, and Noah. Then, starting with Abraham, God started building a special witness nation called Israel. God worked with Israel for the next 2000 years, but alas, they failed in their mission in the rejection of their Messiah, and so God has temporarily set them aside. This was then followed by the next 2000 years of the Church Age.

God is going to complete His program related to the Gentiles, the Jews, and the Church, and the book Revelation presents the culmination of this plan in basic chronological order.

Slide # 3

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which will take place **after this**.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- “after this” – Future (Post-Church Age) – Ch. 4-22
- - Scene in heaven – Ch. 4-5
- - Tribulation – Ch. 6-18
- - **Second Coming – Ch. 19**
- - Kingdom – Ch. 20
- - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

Throughout the ages, God has had a plan concerning building a forever family of believers, but Satan also has had a plan to unite the world in rebellion against God. Satan’s plan is called “***The Babylonian System***,” involving organized rebellion against God.

Slide # 4

<u>God</u>	<u>Satan</u>
God’s People	The World
Israel/Church	Babylon
True Worshipers	Idolaters

Satan’s organized system of rebellion against God (Babylon) will come to a climax under Antichrist, who will rule the world economically, politically, and religiously, with his economic headquarters being centered in the rebuilt city of Babylon. Antichrist will thus rule the world for 3 and ½ years.

But then his whole Babylonian system comes crashing down under the judgment of God as seen in Revelation 17 and 18.

And as it does so, all of heaven erupts in a Hallelujah celebration. Hallelujah is the climactic praise word and is not used in the NT until we get to Revelation 19. At the fall of Babylon, it is found 4 times in Revelation 19:1-6.

The earth is wailing over the fall of Babylon, and heaven is celebrating!

Revelation 19:6 says...

Slide # 5

Revelation 19:6 (NKJV)

6 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!”**

This fourth Hallelujah celebrates the reign of God Almighty and **segues** from celebrating the fall of Babylon to the marriage supper of the Lamb. This celebratory atmosphere is a fitting introduction to the marriage supper of the Lamb. We now come to the marriage of the Lamb and the marriage supper of the Lamb in 19:7-10.

Revelation 19:7–10 (NKJV)

7 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.”

This is a time of heavenly celebration!

It is the time for the marriage of the Lamb – proper!

Biblical weddings are a time of festive celebration, a time of joy and gladness. This is the marriage of the Lamb, and so it calls for an unparalleled celebration. This is a climactic moment! This is the moment the Church (the bride of Christ) has been waiting for throughout the Church Age.

In our culture, the FOCUS on the wedding day is on **the bride**. All eyes are waiting for her appearance, and at her appearance, all rise as they play “***here comes the bride***” or some such equivalent. Everyone rises, and all eyes are on the bride!

But in this case, the emphasis is on the BRIDEGROOM – the Lamb. The text says, “***Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory***”, and again, “***for the marriage of the Lamb has come.***”

The emphasis here is on “***Here comes the bridegroom!***”

We should note that the marriage of the Lamb in many ways parallels the Jewish wedding customs in the NT days. A Jewish wedding involved a number of phases.

Phase one was similar to our engagement period, but was stronger in that it signified entrance into a covenant relationship. It was called the “***betrothal period***”.

Either the parents or the prospective bridegroom would negotiate with the prospective bride’s parents about the price of a dowry. In other words, they negotiated the purchase price of the bride.

[By the way, as the father of 4 daughters, how in the world did marriage ever get so far from this biblical norm as to where the parents of the bride now have the lion's share of expenses in our culture?]

Once the price was paid, the marriage covenant was thereby established. The young man and woman were legally considered husband and wife. The marriage was now covenanted but not yet officially consummated.

The betrothal period would normally last for one year. During this time, the young man would prepare a house for the couple in close proximity to his father's house. She would ready herself for marriage physically, emotionally, etc.

Currently, this is the status of the church – we as believers are betrothed (promised to Christ).

Slide # 6

2 Corinthians 11:2 (NKJV)

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.

Phase two involved the official ceremony and consummation of the marriage. At the end of 12 months, the bridegroom would come for his bride. She never knew exactly when he would show up, so she had to be ready all the time. She had to “live ready.” Usually, he made the trip by night with a torch-lit procession. The groom's arrival would be preceded by a SHOUT, which signaled her to immediately prepare for his arrival. The wedding party would then return to the father's house of the bridegroom. The couple would then enter into the bridal chamber where the marriage UNION would be officially consummated.

This is what is represented here in Revelation 19:7 as “***the marriage of the Lamb has come.***”

This is what Jesus spoke about in John 14.

Slide # 7

John 14:2–3 (NKJV)

2 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.**

3 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.

Christ has given to us the “***engagement ring***,” - the promise of consummation in giving us the Holy Spirit, Who is repeatedly spoken of as the guarantee (cf. 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5).

Slide # 8

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV)

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,**

14 **who is the guarantee** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Today, the church is “engaged” to Christ, and even though we do not see Him, we love Him (1 Pet. 1:8). Paul says a “crown of righteousness” is promised, “to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Tim. 4:8). For the true believer Christ's coming is our “blessed hope” (Titus 2:13). Hebrews 9:28 says, “To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

Engagement is an exciting time of anticipation. That is where the Church is to live, and it is a key reason we are so excited about Christ's coming!

One of these days, Christ is going to come for His bride [the church] and take her back to Father's house, where the marriage will be officially consummated. This is what is in view in Rev. 19:7. Marriage signifies intimacy of relationship. It signifies the consummation of the covenant relationship.

Phase three involves the wedding celebration:

Following the consummation, there would be a time of extended celebration involving a period of feasting and making merry. This is what is pictured in Revelation 19:9 at the "***marriage supper of the Lamb!***"

Of all the provisions of God for man's well-being and joy on earth, marriage, God's first institution, ranks second only to that of salvation [and is itself a PICTURE of the salvation relationship with Christ].

– ***Liberty Bible Commentary***

As such, marriage is a picture of God's relationship with His people. In the OT, Israel is said to be the wife of God. But she is pictured as an unfaithful wife who has temporarily been put aside and will ultimately be restored in conjunction with the Tribulation Period/Second Coming.

But here in Revelation 19:7, the scene is in heaven, and the bride of Christ (the Church) is in view. Of all the human relationships on earth, biblical marriage is the most sacred as it pictures Christ's relationship to the Church.

Slide # 9

Ephesians 5:32 (NKJV)

32 This is a great mystery, [the marriage relationship] but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Note the contrast: Babylon was all about the world's relationship with idolatrous, unfaithful religion, and in 18:23, we read that there will be no more marriage there, and the world laments. In contrast, there is rejoicing in heaven because of the marriage ceremony taking place between Jesus Christ and His bride. Marriage to the world leaves you weeping, marriage to Christ leaves you rejoicing!

Note it says in verse 7 that the “**wife has made herself ready**.” What this entails, we are not told. However, many believe this relates to the Judgment seat of Christ spoken of in 1 Corinthians 3 and 2 Corinthians 5.

This is the believer’s judgment in which the believer’s works will be examined by fire. It’s not about salvation, which was settled by the cross of Christ wherein He died for all sin. The issue of punishment for sin is forever settled (cf. Heb. 10:14). Rather, the issue of the believer’s judgment is all about rewards based on the quality of the believer’s service in this life. Anything not meeting Christ’s approval will be burned up. Only that which is of good quality will survive and be the basis of our eternal reward.

This phrase, “**the wife has made herself ready**,” would seem to indicate that the Church has now completed that process and is now ready to be officially presented to Christ.

Slide # 10

Ephesians 5:25–27 (NKJV)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

26 that **He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,**

27 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.**

Right now, the Church is in the process of being sanctified in terms of our walk. Our position of justification never changes, but in terms of sanctification (becoming more like Christ in our walk), we are in process, which is what is in view here. But at the judgment seat of Christ, this process will be complete.

When the bride arrived in heaven at the Judgment Seat of Christ, she was not at all beautiful (in fact, she was covered with spots, wrinkles, and blemishes according to Paul in Eph. 5:27); but now she is radiant in her glory. She has “made herself ready” for the public ceremony.

– **Warren Wiersbe**

Even now, God is applying a SANCTIFYING PROCESS to His bride, but it will reach consummation at the Judgment seat of Christ when all dross will be forever removed. Of course, the goal for us in our walk is to become as Christlike as possible so that we might be presented to Christ as a chaste virgin (2 Cor. 11:2).

Apparently, upon arrival in heaven after the Rapture, the believer's judgment comes first, then the timing of this official marriage of the Lamb happens right before the Second Coming of Christ. That reflects the flow of the text.

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.

At salvation, at the MOMENT we truly believe in Christ as Lord and Savior, we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ. His righteousness is imputed to our account. ON the basis of faith in Christ, God accounts us righteous. (cf. Rom. 3:21-24, 4:5, 5:19, 1 Cor. 1:30, 2 Cor. 5:21, Phil. 3:8-9). That is justification. It is a judicial declaration – the statement of a judge declaring us RIGHT with Him on the basis of Christ's sacrifice and our faith in Him. However, that is not what is in view here in Revelation 19.

The garments that the bride of Christ has on at this point relate to her works – literally her “**righteous deeds**” (plural).

The bride's array is “fine linen,” which is explained as “the righteous acts of the saints.” In other words, the bride's wedding garment will be made up of righteous deeds done in life. The bride is the bride because of the righteousness of Christ; the bride is clothed for the wedding because of her acts. Righteous acts flow from a righteous character, which is entirely of the grace of God.” – **Charles Ryrie**

Let me put it to you this way. The moment you believe in Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are clothed with the garments of salvation and covered with the robe of righteousness (Isa. 61:10). That is your position in Christ, and that will never change!

However, the “**robe of righteousness**” is not the wedding dress. After you are saved, you begin to weave your own wedding dress that you will wear for Christ on the wedding day.

What the bride wears on her wedding day is a big deal. I know this – remember I have 4 daughters – all married now. Her wedding dress is one of the biggest things on this very special day. People who cannot attend the wedding will commonly ask, “**What did the bride wear?**” It is a major focal point. And it can be quite elaborate...

Slide # 11



In addition to wearing what Christ has done for us, we will be wearing what we have done for Him – all by the grace of God.

“Has it ever occurred to you my Christian friend, that at the marriage of the Bride to the Lamb, each of us will be wearing the wedding garment of our own making? ...

The wedding gown then will be made up of good works that remain after the testing of the Judgment Seat of Christ. Now, can you see how the wife makes herself ready?” - **Leman Strass**

This is why the apostle John warns us...

Slide # 12

1 John 2:28 (NKJV)

28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and **not be ashamed before Him at His coming.**

What we weave in time we will wear in eternity.

What will you be wearing to the marriage of the Lamb? Answer your righteous acts – what you did for Christ. This is a dress-up occasion and now is the time to dress for the occasion.

Slide # 13

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

Fine Linen was expensive cloth used to make garments worn by priests and royalty.

Clean reflects purity, loyalty, and faithfulness.

Bright speaks of radiant, bright white that depicts glorification.

The clothing of the bride stands in stark contrast to the gaudy apparel of the harlot described in chapters 17 and 18 (cf. 17:4; 18:16).

Note: In Revelation 3:4-5 and 18, it is to the overcomers in the church that Christ promises to clothe in white garments. Also, the exact apparel as described in 19:8 is that which the armies in heaven are wearing as they return with Christ, arguing that indeed the wife of Christ in verse 7 is the Church who returns with Him at His Second Coming.

Slide # 14

Revelation 19:8 (NKJV)

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.

Revelation 19:14 (NKJV)

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

As seen in Revelation 3, these are the garments that Christ has promised to the true Church, and now, here in Revelation 19, we see that they are dressed accordingly.

9 Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

Note there is a distinction between the **marriage of the Lamb** in verse 7 and the **marriage supper of the Lamb** in verse 9. Those are two related but distinct things. Also, the “**wife**” of the Lamb in verse 7 is distinct from **those invited** to the marriage supper in verse 9.

The betrothed bride (the Church) in 2 Corinthians 11:2 has, in the official marriage of Revelation 19:7, now become the wife of the Lamb. Note the following arguments for this.

- 1) The scene is in heaven prior to the 2nd coming. Only the Church will have made herself ready at that point, having been completed, resurrected, and judged.

- 2) In the OT, Israel was pictured as the wife of the Lord, already officially married. By contrast, in the NT the church is pictured as a virgin awaiting the coming of her bridegroom – she is just betrothed – awaiting the official marriage which is just now taken place in heaven.
- 3) A place on Christ's throne is promised to overcomers in the church, which is the position of the bride as they come to reign with Christ (Rev. 3:21; Rev. 19; 2 Tim. 2:12).
- 4) The apparel of the armies that are coming with Christ at His second coming match of those of His bride. (19: 8, 14).

The difficulty of including Israel along with the church as part of the bride is a chronological one. OT saints and dead saints from the period of Daniel's 70th week will rise in time for the Millennium (Dan. 12:1-2), but not in time to join Christ in His triumphal return (19:14).

– **Robert Thomas**

So, as I have emphasized, it would appear that in chapter 19, the “wife” of Christ is the church, which is consistent with the whole of NT theology!

The angel then said: “**Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’**”

The one saying this is evidently the angel who began addressing John at 17:1.

Blessed literally means “happy.” This is the 4th of 7 beatitudes in the book of Revelation. (cf. 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14). Each of the beatitudes pronounces the blessedness of those who are in right relationship to Christ.

We have seen the betrothal period, which relates to the present church age. We have seen the marriage proper, which will evidently take place in heaven after the judgment seat of Christ. And now we see the marriage SUPPER of the Lamb.

This is the celebration phase of the wedding.

These are the questions:

When does it take place?
Where does it take place?
Who is involved?

Because of the imminent tie to the Second Coming, many commentators believe that while the **marriage takes place in heaven**, the celebratory **SUPPER takes place on earth** during the Millennial reign of Christ. I would agree with this view.

Slide # 15

“The normal understanding would be that the event, coming after the destruction of Babylon at the end of the Great Tribulation, has the second coming of Christ to earth as its climax. This fixes the place of the feast as on earth and the time as during the Millennium.”

– **Robert Thomas**

Keeping the church distinct as the bride (at this point, prior to the eternal state) means that the OT saints, the martyred Tribulation saints, as well as the saved mortals coming into the kingdom, will evidently be the guests.

For example, John the Baptist spoke of the bride and the bridegroom, but said he was a “friend of the bridegroom” (Jn. 3:29). Further revelation shows the church to be the bride of Christ. In the prophetic wedding Psalm of Psalm 45, it speaks of the royal bride who shall be brought to the King, but then she is accompanied by her companions (Ps. 45:9, 13-14).

The sense is that all the saved of the ages will participate in this great supper. All the saved of all the ages will be invited – that is called – and they are the blessed in view.

Slide # 16***The Process of Christ’s Marriage to the Church***

Betrothed – (Engaged) – 2 Cor. 11:2

Marriage – (Official Ceremony in heaven) – Rev. 19:7

Marriage Supper (Kingdom Celebration) – Rev. 19:9

The angel then said, **“These are the true sayings of God”**

This is a solemn statement commonly verifying something that is being emphasized. It drives home the CERTAINTY of it. Evidently, it encompasses all that the angel has revealed from 17:1 through 19:9.

“In recognition that 19:9 is part of the concluding formula of the angel who became John’s guide in 17:1, the best interpretation is to refer “these words” to the prophecies and revelations since then.”

-Robert Thomas

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

One of the great evidences of the truthfulness of Scripture is that it **tells the truth** about great men of God, warts and all.

“The Bible is not a book man would write if he could, nor is it a book man could write if he would.” - **Lewis Sperry Chafer**

John here **tells of a terrible blunder** on his part. He falls down to worship the angel who is telling him these things. And the worst part is, he will do it again, a short time later in 22:8-9, and again have to be reprimanded.

To worship means to bow down before in the sense of adoring a “higher power”. It is beyond mere respect – it attributes worth, honor, and adoration that are due only to God.

The nature of the revelation was so gloriously overwhelming that John felt compelled to worship, but the angel in effect screamed: “STOP!” This is a terrifying thing to have happen in heaven!

The very first commandment is “***You shall have no other gods before Me.***” (Ex. 20:3)

Perhaps the glory of heaven in combination with the awesomeness of the revelation so overwhelmed John that he was somewhat disoriented. I mean, it is easy for us to be critical, but here he is in the presence of a glorious heavenly being in the context of being shown overwhelmingly incredible prophetic things– so overwhelming that he felt like worshipping. The angel quickly corrected him and identified himself merely as one entrusted with “the testimony of Jesus.”

He said, “***See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant (literally slave), and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus.***”

Fellow servant is literally “fellow slave.” He was saying, we are on the same level in that we both SERVE the higher power Who alone is worthy of worship. The angel was a glorious being, and John was not yet glorified, but both were under God and served His purposes.

The angel further explains that he is “***of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus.***”

The testimony of Jesus is what He says about Himself. The testimony of Jesus is all about WHO He is. It is sourced in Jesus, and He Himself is the subject.

The angel lumps himself with the great company of believers who faithfully identify with and adhere to the testimony of Jesus (cf. Rev. 6:9; 12:11; 14:12; 20:4).

Note the **context** here: The issue in context is worship on the basis of this glorious revelation. This angel has just revealed to John these awesome realities, and John felt compelled to worship.

But the angel, in effect, was saying, “*I am just the messenger, just like your brethren who are messengers. We are all just messengers of the testimony of Jesus. We are not the SOURCE of the message – just the messengers. And the messengers are not to be worshiped!*” This is the critical point in context.

The sense is that Jesus HIMSELF is the source and subject of this testimony and therefore He is to be worshiped, not us – not the angel, not the brethren.

Remember the very first verse of the book.

Slide # 17

Revelation 1:1 (NKJV)

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

The testimony of Jesus is FROM Jesus and ABOUT Jesus! He is the source of it, and as such, He is worthy of worship! As the angel said:

Worship God!

Worship is for God alone, not for angels or anyone else.

Slide # 18

Acts 10:25–26 (NKJV)

25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.

26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, “**Stand up; I myself am also a man.**”

Colossians 2:18 (NKJV)

18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and **worship of angels**, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

It is noteworthy that when John falls down to worship an angel, both here and in 22:8-9, he is immediately corrected, and it is made clear that this is forbidden. **However, in Revelation 1:17** when John fell at the feet of Jesus, there is no such reprimand – only the removal of fear. Thus, Jesus is worthy of worship because He is God – He is the God-Man!

In the Bible, **people are NEVER rebuked for worshipping Jesus**. In fact, it is always seen to be proper because He, in fact, is God.

Slide # 19**Matthew 14:33 (NKJV)**

33 Then those who were in the boat came and **worshiped Him**, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

Note that here in Revelation 19:10 “***Worship God!***” is bracketed on both sides by “***the testimony of Jesus,***” strongly inferring that worship is to be directed to Him as the SOURCE of this great revelation!

The angel, in effect, was saying, “*It's not about me or any of us – it's all about Jesus.*” ***Worship God! Worship Jesus!***”

And then he added, “**For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**”

Three interconnected things are emphasized by the angel.

- 1) Jesus Himself is the source of the message, which is “the testimony of Jesus.
- 2) The whole of the message (prophetic truth) is centered in Jesus as “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

- 3) Therefore as God (the source of all revelation) He (Jesus) is to be worshipped!

We have a prophetic faith, and the core subject of it is JESUS! In all of prophecy, Jesus is the central theme. He Himself is the major hub, and all the various strands of prophecy are centered in Him. It's all about Jesus!

The whole of the OT prophecy looked forward to and finds fulfillment in Jesus. Jesus is the centerpiece in the whole of prophecy. It is all pointing to Jesus in one form or another. Jesus is the center and theme of all prophecy.

Slide # 20

Jesus – The Spirit of Prophecy

O.T. – Preparation
 Gospels – Manifestation
 Acts – Propagation
 Epistles – Explanation
 Revelation - Consummation

Through and through the Bible is a prophetic book with Jesus being the central subject!

There is no more prophetic book in the Bible than the book of Revelation, and it has Jesus as its grand subject, as so stated in the very first verse, which begins with “***The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants...***”.

Here in Revelation 19:10, the angel, in effect, is saying that all Revelation centers on Christ – He is its source, and He is its subject! It's not pointing to anyone else. It all centers in Jesus.

Slide # 21

Luke 24:25–27 (NKJV)

25 Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in **all that the prophets have spoken!**

26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”

27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them **in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**

“...the Lord Jesus gave them the great key to the understanding of Scripture – that He Himself is its subject and that in Him the entire Book finds its unity.” – **C.I. Scofield**

The purpose and nature of prophecy is to testify of Christ. Jesus said the Spirit who guides into all truth would reveal things to come, and thus He would glorify Christ, taking what is Christ's and declaring it to the apostles who in turn shared it with us (Jn. 16:13-14).

The “spirit” of essentially all prophecy is to point to Christ.

The Tim LaHaye Prophecy Study Bible says there were 125 prophecies of the first coming of Christ. There are 329 prophecies of either the rapture or the Second Coming.

All prophecy essentially ties in with three main streams of thought.

- 1) Some prophecies relate to **the nations**, but the catalyst behind them all is Jesus. For example, the Day of the Lord judgments prophesied about the nations ultimately find Jesus behind it, opening the seals and bringing forth these judgments. They show that He is LORD! Behind it all is Jesus.
- 2) Some prophecies relate to **the church**, but the catalyst behind it all is Jesus. All eventually focuses in on the Bridegroom of the Church.
- 3) The bulk of prophecies relate **to Israel**, but the catalyst for it all is Jesus, their Messiah. He brings to pass all that has been promised them.

The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy – it's all sourced in Him, it's all centered in Him, and it's all fulfilled in Him! Worship God!

This statement **introduces** that great climactic moment which all of prophecy has been looking toward; namely, the grand climax of the book as seen in THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST at His Second Coming.

Prior to this, the rapture will take place, followed by the marriage of the Lamb.

Slide # 22



Live ready! What will you be wearing for the marriage of the Lamb! What we weave in time we will wear in eternity, and it will be fully on display on this big day.

There have been some really “big deal” weddings in the eyes of the world. The rumor mill this week is that Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's wedding is going to transpire at Madison Square Garden over the July 4th holiday weekend. The world is all excited.

But there have been bigger weddings.

- **Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer (1981):** Known as the “wedding of the century,” this ceremony reached an estimated 750 million viewers worldwide.
- **Prince Harry and Meghan Markle (2018):** This highly anticipated royal union drew an estimated 1.9 billion global viewers

But the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton on April 29, 2011, is widely recorded as the most-viewed wedding in history, with an estimated 2 billion global viewers tuning in across television and internet streams.

Slide # 23



But I want you to know these weddings, as magnificent as they may have been, can't hold a candle to the wedding God has planned for His Son. It is going to be hands down the greatest wedding of all time! Don't miss it!

The NEXT great prophetic event on God's calendar is the Rapture of the Church – the coming for Christ to take His bride back to Father's House, which begs the question:

Are you a member of the bride of Christ?

A saving faith commitment is like saying **“I do”** in a marriage ceremony in which you, in a solemn, sacred covenant commitment, irreversibly commit yourself to the other person!

When I was right at the door of accepting Christ, my friend who was witnessing to me said, ***“Are you married to Him?”*** That is a great question!

Romans 7:4 (NKJV)

4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

In saving faith, you enter into a covenant relationship with Jesus that is irrevocable.

Are you willing to say “***I do***” to Jesus? “I do receive you as my Savior and living Lord.”

John 1:12 (NKJV)

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

If you have so received Jesus, then you are RAPTURE READY.

The last invitation in the Bible comes in the last chapter, right towards the very end...

Slide # 24**Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)**

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “**Come!**” And let him who hears say, “**Come!**” And let him who thirsts **come**. Whoever desires, let him **take** the water of life freely.

The invitation is given, but you do have to respond.

Slide # 25

If you accept Christ, then...

You have your mansion reserved in the Father's house.

You will be at the marriage of the Lamb.

You will share in the marriage supper of the Lamb.

But only if you...**RSVP** by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ!

Come!