

## C. The Marriage Supper Of The Lamb

This will take place in heaven, just prior to Jesus riding back to earth. Read the doctrinal passage in Revelation 19:1-8. It will probably happen towards the end of the 7-year tribulation on earth and probably after the Judgment Seat of Christ.

It should be noted here that there are no physical marriages of husbands and wives in Heaven (see Luke 20:27-40).

### 1. God's People are Referred to as His Spiritual Wife

#### a. Israel

“For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.” (Isaiah 54:5) Also read Isaiah 62:5; Jeremiah 3:14; and Hosea 2:19.

#### b. The New Testament Church

##### i. Christ portrayed as the Bridegroom

“And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.” (Matthew 9:15). See also Matthew 25:1,6 and John 3:29.

##### ii. The church portrayed as His bride or wife

“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.” (Romans 7:4) See also John 3:29; 2 Corinthians 11:2; and Ephesians 5:25-33.

##### iii. The church today is espoused to Christ

“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:2)

To “espouse” means “to marry, take up, or make one’s own; To betroth.” Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary defines “espouse” this way: “to bestow in marriage by contract, in writing, or by some pledge.”

Unlike our society, marriage in Bible times had an espousal stage where a man and woman were bound together legally as husband and wife, but did not come together in sexual union. They were legally married, but physically separated (see Matthew 1:18-25).

Likewise, we are legally married to Christ though currently separated from Him physically. This is a time of proving by self-discipline and commitment. See 1 Corinthians 6:15 and Ephesians 5:27.

This physical separation was broken by an official ceremony and followed by a marriage supper.

### 2. At the Rapture, the Church is Taken to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

As portrayed in the parable of the 10 virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) and the parable of the

marriage of the king's son (Matthew 22:1-14).

### **3. The Lord Himself will Serve the Dinner After the Wedding**

“Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.” (Luke 12:37).

## **III. The Seven-Year Tribulation On Earth**

While Christians are in Heaven being judged and experiencing the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, those left on earth will be experiencing tribulation such as the world has never seen (See Matthew 24:21).

### **A. The Tribulation Defined**

#### **1. A Time of Jacob's (Israel's) Trouble**

“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.” (Jeremiah 30:7).

#### **2. The Great Tribulation**

“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:14). See also Deuteronomy 4:30,31.

#### **3. Daniel's' 70<sup>th</sup> week**

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.” (Daniel 9:24-27). A week is 7 years (See Genesis 29:27).

### **B. The Events Of The Tribulation (In Probable Order)**

#### **1. Immediate War**

A war will break out between various Eastern Bloc and Middle East countries against Israel. Read Ezekiel 38 and 39. God delivers Israel miraculously.

## **2. The Anti-Christ's Rise**

The Anti-Christ will sign a 7-year covenant of peace with Israel (see Daniel 8:25 and 1 Thessalonians 5:3). He will break that covenant in the midst of “the week” (after 3½ years) and shall sit in the temple, controlling the world and declaring that he is God. This event is called the “abomination of desolation” in Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14. The Anti-Christ is described in further detail in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 and Daniel 8:23-25.

## **3. Temple in Jerusalem Rebuilt**

This is told in Ezekiel 40-48. Note the existence of the temple at the midway point of the tribulation in 2 Thessalonians 2:4.

## **4. God's Two Witnesses Begin to Preach**

“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.” (Revelations 11:3) .

## **5. Book With Seven Seals is Opened**

Each seal reveals something that will happen on earth. This is told in Revelations 5.

### **a. First seal**

“And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.” (Revelation 6:2). The anti-Christ begins to rule.

### **b. Second seal**

“And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.” (Revelation 6:3,4). Peace is taken from the earth and replaced by a great sword (possibly a reference to the previously mentioned war in Ezekiel 38 and 39).

### **c. Third seal**

“And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.” (Revelation 6:5-6). A world-wide famine.

### **d. Fourth seal**

“And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.” (Revelation 6:7,8). One-quarter of those living on earth are killed.

## **e. Fifth seal**

“And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.” (Revelation 6:9-11). The martyrdom of believers on earth.

## **f. Sixth seal**

“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” (Revelation 6:12-17). A great earthquake.

## **g. God’s mark and seal on His own**

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.” (Revelations 14:1-5).

Following the opening of the Sixth seal, God marks his children on their foreheads and seals 144,000 who will be witnesses for Him. These 144,000 are Jews.

## **h. Seventh seal**

This part of the sealed book reveals seven angels, sounding seven trumpets of Judgment. This is all told in Revelation 8:1 - 11:19.

### **i. First trumpet**

Revelation 8:7 – One-third of trees and grass are burnt up.

### **ii. Second trumpet**

Revelation 8:8,9 – One-third of the sea becomes blood, one-third of all water life dies, one-third of all ships destroyed.

### **iii. Third trumpet**

Revelation 8:10,11 – One-third of the earth's water becomes bitter

### **iv. Fourth trumpet**

Revelation 8:12 - One-third part of daylight removed.

### **v. Fifth trumpet**

Revelation 9:1-12 - Hideous satanic demons torment unbelievers on earth for 5 months.

### **vi. Sixth trumpet**

Revelation 9:13 - One-third of all men killed in war.

### **vii. Two witnesses are slain**

Revelations 11:7-12 – The witnesses from God, who tormented unbelievers with their preaching, are slain and left dead in the streets for 3½ days. They resurrect and ascend into Heaven.

### **viii. The seventh trumpet sounds**

Revelation 11:15 – lightnings, voices, thunder, earthquake and great hail.

## **6. The Beast and False Prophet Rise**

The Beast is the one-world political leader. The False Prophet is the one-world religious leader. These will rise to full prominence and control the entire world. Read Revelation 13.

## **7. The Gospel is Preached to All the World**

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,” (Revelation 14:6) Read also Matthew 24:14.

## **8. The Seven Vial Judgments On the Earth**

“And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.” (Revelation 16:1).

### **a. First vial**

“And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.” (Revelation 16:2).

### **b. Second vial**

“And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.” (Revelation 16:3).

### **c. Third vial**

“And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.” (Revelation 16:4).

## **d. Fourth vial**

“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.” (Revelation 16:8-9).

## **e. Fifth vial**

“And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.” (Revelation 16:10-11).

## **f. Sixth vial**

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” (Revelation 16:12). See also verse 13-16. This is the preparation for the Battle of Armageddon.

## **g. Seventh vial**

“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.” (Revelation 16:17-18). Also read verses 19-21.

This will be the greatest earthquake ever, bringing about the destruction of the one-world religious system (Revelations 17) and the one-world political and commercial systems (Revelations 18).