

“HEAVEN”

PART 3

“Marriage in heaven?”

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There are many aspects of our future home, heaven, that we cannot even begin to comprehend. They will be understandable one day, but not while we are still on this earth.

Thankfully, there are some aspects of heaven we can understand and envision because of the declaration of Holy Scripture. Over the last two weeks we have reviewed some key thoughts. They are:

- Heaven is our true home (for believers)
- Heaven is up and somewhere in the north out beyond the second heaven
- As believers, we will one day have a resurrected, glorified body so that we can enjoy heaven to the fullest
- In heaven, we will begin a “face to face” relationship with Jesus Christ forever

Now, here is another promise of Scripture that highlights our future home, heaven.

BASIC RULES OF INTERPRETATION AS WE STUDY OUR FUTURE HOME...HEAVEN

- All Scripture is to be interpreted **literally**: Either plain-literal or figurative-literal. (There are no exceptions!)
- Literal interpretation demands a clear distinction between **Israel** as a nation and the **Church** (the Body of Christ.)
- Literal interpretation demands that each **context** be kept "in context."

THE "WIFE" OF GOD

- In the Old Testament, the nation Israel is **pictured** as God Jehovah's wife.
- She is also known as the "**adulterous**" wife.

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

- In the New Testament, the **Church** (the Body of Christ) is known as the Bride of Christ.
- She is also known as the "**chaste**," or pure virgin Bride of Christ.

STAGES OF THE MARRIAGE ~ CHRIST AND HIS BRIDE

Stage One - The Dowry

- A down payment for the bride to the bride's **father**.
- This down payment is absolutely **binding** and non-reversible.

Stage Two - Claiming the Bride

- The Bridegroom and His companions would go to the **home** of the bride to "claim" her for Himself and **take** her to His house.
- The bride and groom settle in the groom's house as their **permanent** home.

Stage Three - The Marriage Feast

- The marriage feast would last **many** days normally.
- Special **guests** were invited to attend and celebrate.

Note - In the Oriental marriage, there was no "wedding ceremony" as we **observe** today. The marriage was "consummated" in two ways:

- By the **parents** of the bride and groom
- By the **sexual** "oneness" of the married couple

FINAL THOUGHTS

- As believers, we will one day enjoy forever a perfect **union** with Jesus Christ.
- Are you **looking** forward to your “marriage” in heaven?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. How do you view your future relationship with Christ in heaven? Explain.
2. Does the future picture of being “married” to Christ change the way you act here on earth?
3. Do you believe that Jesus Christ loves you more than your own spouse? Explain.