

# WEDDING PLANS!

CHOSEN  
BETROTHED: COVENANT/PRICE / GIFT  
WAITING  
PRESENTATION: RAPTURE / JUDGMENT SEAT / FESTIVITIES  
CEREMONY: WEDDING BANQUET / VOWS / UNION

## CHOSEN

**Ephesians 1:4** just as <sup>a</sup>He chose us in Him before <sup>b</sup>the foundation of the world, that we should be <sup>c</sup>holy and blameless before <sup>1</sup>Him in love

**Matthew 25:34** Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

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## BETROTHAL: COVENANT / PRICE / ENGAGEMENT GIFT

**2 Corinthians 11:2-3** <sup>2</sup> For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I <sup>a</sup>betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might <sup>b</sup>present you as a pure virgin.

**COVENANT Luke 22:20** <sup>20</sup> And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is <sup>a</sup>poured out for you is the <sup>b</sup>new covenant in My blood.

**PRICE Acts 20:28** Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God,<sup>1</sup> which He purchased with His own blood.

**ENGAGEMENT RING Ephesians 1:13-14** <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee<sup>1</sup> of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,<sup>2</sup> to the praise of his glory.

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## WAITING

**John 14:1** "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;<sup>1</sup> believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

**Psalm 116:15** <sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints

**2 Corinthians 5:1-10** For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup> if indeed by putting it on<sup>1</sup> we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened--not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. <sup>6</sup> So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

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## PRESENTATION: RAPTURE / PREPARATION / FESTIVITIES

### CAPTURE OF THE BRIDE! (RAPTURE)

**John 14:1; 1 Corinthians 15:49-53** <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall<sup>1</sup> also bear the image of the man of heaven. <sup>50</sup> I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** <sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, <sup>1</sup> that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

## 8 FABULOUS FACTS ABOUT OUR FUTURE BODIES

1. They will never be subject to disease, decay, or death. They will be imperishable. Our present bodies are born with an expiration date. Our future bodies will never wear out.
2. They will be perfectly suitable to our new environment. They will be 'heavenly' bodies.
3. They will each be unique and diverse from one another. Just as different stars and planets are unique and have varying degrees of glory, we will each maintain a uniqueness and diversity in heaven.
4. They will be vastly superior to our present bodies. As superior as celestial bodies in the heavens are to our little planet earth.
5. They will be glorious – 'full of glory' – they will never disappoint us.
6. They will be powerful. The future body will be an invincible fortress. We will be like Superman or Wonder Woman without the spandex and tights. Our new body will never get tired, never wear out, and never yield to sin.
7. They will be spiritual, not natural. This doesn't mean they won't be real or physical. It simply means that our new body will allow us to fully express our spiritual nature. Unlike our present natural body, our future body will be unaffected by the physical laws of gravity and space.
8. They will have continuity with our present body, yet be vastly changed. (1 Cor 15, seed representing placing of body in ground at death, continuity between seed planted and what grows up, although there is a vast change.)

Mark Hitchcock, 55 Answers to questions about Life after Death, pg 208

## SEEING JESUS!

**Matthew 17:2** <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

**Luke 9:29** As he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became very bright, a brilliant white.

**Revelation 1:13** among the lampstands was One like the Son of Man,<sup>1a</sup> dressed in a long robe, and with a gold sash wrapped around His chest.<sup>14</sup> His head and hair were white like wool-- white as snow, His eyes like a fiery flame,<sup>15</sup> His feet like fine bronze fired in a furnace, and His voice like the sound of cascading<sup>1</sup> waters.<sup>a</sup>  
<sup>16</sup> In His right hand He had seven stars; from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was shining like the sun at midday.<sup>1</sup> <sup>17</sup> When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. He laid His right hand on me, and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the first and the last,<sup>18</sup> and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore.

### BRIDE'S PREPARATION (JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST)

**1 Corinthians 4:5** Therefore don't judge anything prematurely, before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the hearts. And then praise will come to each one from God.

1. The Incorruptible Crown: The reward for those who consistently practice self-discipline and self-control.

**1 Corinthians 9:24** Do you not know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.<sup>25</sup> Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. However, they do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.<sup>26</sup> Therefore I do not run like one who runs aimlessly, or box like one who beats the air.<sup>27</sup> Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

2. The Crown of Righteousness: The reward for those who eagerly look for the Lord's coming and live righteous lives in view of this fact.

**2 Timothy 4:8** In the future, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved His appearing.

3. The Crown of Life: the reward for those who faithfully endure and persevere under the trials and tests of life.

**James 1:12** Blessed is a man who endures trials,<sup>1</sup> because when he passes the test he will receive the crown of life that He<sup>2</sup> has promised to those who love Him.

**Revelation 2:10** Don't be afraid of what you are about to suffer. Look, the Devil is about to throw some of you into prison to test you, and you will have tribulation for 10 days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown<sup>1</sup> of life.

4. The Crown of Rejoicing: the reward for those who win people for Christ

**1 Thessalonians 2:19** For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

5. The Crown of Glory: the reward for those pastors, elders, and church leaders who lovingly and graciously shepherd and oversee God's people.

**1 Peter 5:2-4** shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,<sup>1</sup> not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;<sup>2</sup> not for shameful gain, but eagerly;<sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.<sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

**1 Corinthians 3:12-13** <sup>12</sup> If anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw,<sup>13</sup> each one's work will become obvious, for the day<sup>1</sup> will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work.

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## THE CEREMONY: BANQUET / VOWS / UNION

### THE WEDDING BANQUET

**Revelation 19:7-9** <sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice <sup>13</sup> and exult and give {GOD} glory, because the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup> She was permitted to be dressed in bright, clean, fine linen" <sup>14</sup> (for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints). <sup>15</sup> <sup>9</sup> Then <sup>16</sup> the angel <sup>17</sup> said to me, "Write the following: Blessed are those who are invited to the banquet at the wedding celebration of the Lamb!" He also said to me, "These are the true words of God."

**Revelation 19:12-16** <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like a fiery <sup>30</sup> flame and there are many diadem crowns <sup>31</sup> on his head. He has <sup>32</sup> a name written <sup>33</sup> that no one knows except himself. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in clothing dipped <sup>34</sup> in blood, and he is called <sup>35</sup> the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The <sup>36</sup> armies that are in heaven, dressed in white, clean, fine linen, <sup>37</sup> were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> From his mouth extends a sharp sword, so that with it he can strike the nations. <sup>38</sup> He <sup>39</sup> will rule <sup>40</sup> them with an iron rod, <sup>41</sup> and he stomps the winepress <sup>42</sup> of the furious <sup>43</sup> wrath of God, the All-Powerful. <sup>44</sup> <sup>16</sup> He has a name written on his clothing and on his thigh: "King of kings and Lord of lords."

**Isaiah 25:6-9** <sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines.

**Matthew 8:11** <sup>11</sup> "And I say to you, that many <sup>a</sup>shall come from east and west, and <sup>1</sup>recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven

### 10 MOST PROMINENT CONDITIONS THAT WILL PREVAIL ON EARTH DURING MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

**1. Peace:** all wars will cease as the world unifies under the reign of the true King. **Isaiah 2:4** <sup>4</sup> And He will judge between the nations, And will <sup>1</sup>render decisions for many peoples; And <sup>a</sup>they will hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. <sup>b</sup>Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war. (Is 9:4-7, 11:6-9, Zech 9:10)

**2. Joy:** full joy because the Lord reigns, the earth receives her true King. **Isaiah 9:3** <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. **Zephaniah 3:14-15** <sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

**3. Holiness:** the kingdom of Christ will be a holy kingdom. Everything in it will be set apart to God for His use. The holiness of the Lord will be manifest in His own person as well as in the citizens of His kingdom. The land, the city, the temple, and the subjects will all be holy unto the Lord. **Isaiah 4:3-5** <sup>3</sup> And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, <sup>4</sup> when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. <sup>1</sup> <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. **Ezekiel 43:7** <sup>7</sup> and he said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name,

**4.Glory:** the radiant glory of God will be fully manifest in Christ's kingdom. **Isaiah 60:1-3** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup> And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**5.Justice and righteousness:** When the millennial kingdom begins, only believers will inhabit it. However, these believers will still have human bodies with a fallen nature and will be capable of sin. Humanity's sin will be judged by the administration of perfect justice at the hands of the Messiah. He will rule with a rod of iron, restraining and judging sin so that the prevailing atmosphere in the kingdom will be righteousness.

**Isaiah 42:1-3** Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. **Isaiah 11:1-5** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

**6.Full knowledge:** the teaching ministry of the Lord and the indwelling Spirit will bring the subjects of the kingdom into a full knowledge of the Lord's ways. (Is 11:1-2, 9; Jer 31:33-34, Hab 2:14) **Jeremiah 31:33-34** <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." **Habakkuk 2:14** <sup>14</sup> For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

**7.Absence of sickness or deformity:** Christ will heal all diseases and deformities among His people. **Isaiah 35:5-6** <sup>5</sup> Then blind eyes will open, deaf ears will hear. <sup>6</sup> Then the lame will leap like a deer, the mute tongue will shout for joy; for water will flow<sup>9</sup> in the desert, streams in the wilderness.<sup>10</sup> People will have extended life spans, like those who lived before the Flood. A person who dies at the age of one hundred in this kingdom will have died very prematurely. **Isaiah 65:20** <sup>20</sup> Never again will one of her infants live just a few days<sup>46</sup> or an old man die before his time.<sup>47</sup> Indeed, no one will die before the age of a hundred,<sup>48</sup> anyone who fails to reach<sup>49</sup> the age of a hundred will be considered cursed. **Zechariah 8:3-5** <sup>3</sup> Thus says the LORD: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the holy mountain. <sup>4</sup> Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age. <sup>5</sup> And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.

**8.Universal worship of God:** all inhabitants of the earth will join in worship to God and Jesus Christ. **Zephaniah 3:9** <sup>9</sup> Know for sure that I will then enable the nations to give me acceptable praise.<sup>32</sup> All of them will invoke the LORD's name when they pray,<sup>33</sup> and will worship him in unison. **Zechariah 14:16-17** <sup>16</sup> Then all who survive from all the nations that came to attack Jerusalem will go up annually to worship the King, the LORD who rules over all, and to observe the Feast of Tabernacles. <sup>17</sup> But if any of the nations anywhere on earth refuse to go up to Jerusalem<sup>25</sup> to worship the King, the LORD who rules over all, they will get no rain.

**9.Economic prosperity:** the world will flourish under the hand of the King of heaven. **Joel 2:23-26** <sup>23</sup> Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. <sup>24</sup> The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. <sup>25</sup> I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten-- the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm --my great army that I sent among you. <sup>26</sup> You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.

**10.The presence of God:** Christ Himself will be there. God's presence will be fully recognized and the Lord's people will experience fellowship unlike anything they have ever known with Him. The city of Jerusalem will be called Jehovah Shammah, which means: "The Lord is There." **Zechariah 2:10-11** <sup>10</sup> "Shout and be glad, O Daughter of Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you," declares the LORD. <sup>11</sup> "Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you.

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## UNION:

**CSB Revelation 21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,<sup>a</sup> for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea existed no longer.<sup>b</sup> <sup>2</sup> I also saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,<sup>a</sup> prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.<sup>b</sup> <sup>3</sup> Then I heard a loud voice from the throne:<sup>1</sup> Look! God's dwelling<sup>2</sup> is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people,<sup>a</sup> and God Himself will be with them and be their God.