

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James

October 16,2022

We are all saddened by the loss of our brother Wheatly Ryan. He is missed but I believe he is with Christ. I just don't understand people especially Christians taking their life out of God's hands and putting it in their own to decide when it ends. I just don't get it. The pain that they leave behind for those that loved them. I can only assume that in their moment of trial they forgot that they were loved by those they left behind.

The earth has experienced having Jesus as King and High Priest for a thousand years at this time. We now moved beyond all that we have known and experienced our entire lives, life on earth as we know it is over. The earth and heaven have been replaced by God. He is going to give us a glimpse into what eternity holds, but only a glimpse. There is so much more than is being revealed to John that we will simply have to wait to see and understand in God's timing.

John sees this vision some 2000 years before it happens. There is a bit of controversy that I'll put out early. Some scholars believe that the New Jerusalem comes down at the beginning of the Millennial period. We will read this as a fact that this is future at the conclusion of the Millennial period, after the Great White Throne Judgment. A larger controversy is who is the Bride of

Christ, fasten your seatbelts, it may prove to be a bumpy ride today.

Revelation 21

A New Heaven and a New Earth

1And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

We know from Revelation 20:11 that the earth and heaven fled away from the face of God as He prepared the Great White Throne Judgment.

11And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

A new item is introduced and that is that there is no more “sea”. We can speculate as to why that is but that would be futile, God will reveal that in time. There are many who love the oceans and sea’s and are disheartened by this revelation but whatever God has in store it will be superior to what we understand at this time.

A number of commentators have suggested that this entire description is not to be taken literally. God repeatedly used the term “sea” and similar terms to describe tumult, turmoil in human life. He described a “beast” that came up out of the sea and in that we learned God was speaking of coming from within the

masses of people. So, the term “sea” here may well mean that in this New Heaven and New Earth built by God and totally under God’s control there will be no more turmoil, but God’s Peace will abound. Time will tell.

This first verse though does reinforce the idea that the first earth and first heaven were passed away.

These next verses are the center of a great controversy. Put simply is the Church the Bride of Christ or is New Jerusalem the Bride of Christ?

I have always believed the Church is the Bride of Christ but that has changed due to an in-depth study of these verses. I will start with this. Only one verse in the Bible is the term: The Church is the Bride of Christ. And that verse is a plea from Paul to the Corinthian Church to bear with him.

2 Corinthians 11:2 [1](#)Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. [2](#)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.

I will discuss this more as we start our study in Revelation 22.

There are verses as similes not metaphones, that compare a Husband-and-wife relationship to the way Jesus loves the

Church, but it is a comparison not a declaration that they are one in the same. There are several verses that declare who or what the Bride of Christ is, and we will get to them as we study Revelation 21 and 22.

2And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

To some this may be a challenging verse in that we have always understood the Bride of Christ to be the Church. In this verse it is said that the “New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, **prepared as a bride** adorned for her husband. I don’t think the New Jerusalem is taking the place of the Church, because the Church is not the Bride. Believers only as God tells us at some point there will be neither Jew nor Gentile, only believers. The New Jerusalem is described as **“prepared as a bride”** in other words all new, untainted, pure, glorious as a bride on her wedding day. Its inhabitants will be part of the city, New Jerusalem. The inhabitants are as described in

Galations 3: 26For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

3And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be their God.*

After God created man, he walked with him in the Garden of Eden. It does not use the words; dwell, tabernacle or show that God's abode was perpetually on the earth with man and woman. It does tell us that God would walk in the Garden with Adam and Eve, until sin of man came about, and man could no longer be in the presences of God.

At another point in time God's temporary abode was on earth with the Hebrew nation. He manifested His presence before the patriarchs in different ways, from Abraham to Moses to David and Solomon. God's presence has been seen as a cloud, a pillar of fire, and a fire on a mountain, up to when His presence was in the Tent of meeting and on into the Temple in Jerusalem. That ended when God removed His presence from the earth and left the temple due to sin.

From Strong's Concordance

Transliteration: skéné

Phonetic Spelling: (skay-nay')

Definition: a tent

Usage: a tent, booth, tabernacle, abode, dwelling, mansion, habitation.

You can study the point at which evil was so prevalent in the Temple of God that He withdrew from Israel and the earth. Ezekiel 8 through Ezekiel 10. God's desire since the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve was to "skene", tabernacle, dwell have His habitation with His creation "mankind". It was due to sin that that habitation repeatedly has caused God to withdraw but now at the New Earth and New Jerusalem for the final time God will dwell with mankind as sin and death have been defeated.

4And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

When the presence of the Lord is with mankind and sin and death have been destroyed there will be no more sorrow, death, crying nor pain: all of that is gone and we know live in a sin free world with our God and our Savior. To get there requires patients on our part. God is working it all out for our benefit, but we have to abide in Him while we wait for it to come about.

5And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

God's declaration of making all things new is reference to the New Jerusalem as in verse 2:

***Revelation 21:2* And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**

When God declares it, it will be done exactly as He says. This will be our abode with God and Christ forever. What lays beyond is a mystery, but can you just imagine with God's power and Love what He has in store for us? God emphasizes His word to us by declaring it as "True and Faithful".

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

God/Jesus/Holy Spirit the Godhead, declares that "it" is done. It is everything that was earthly, sinful and deadly. "it" is done. It is impossible to separate the three of the Godhead. They were together as One at the beginning of creation. They existed before creation as we know it existed. They will exist forever. Our sojourn here on this earth is temporary and for most people has a beginning and an end in this flesh. The spirit however once created lasts for eternity either with God or without God. God not only in this verse declares the end of the earth as we know it but the end of all sin, sickness, pain, suffering, crying; it is all gone at His Word.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Notice that the declaration is that “He that overcometh” “shall be my son”. Not bride, but Son. The “Bride” is declared to be the New Jerusalem. There are some commentators that try to insist that Israel will be the Bride of Christ represented by New Jerusalem. I think it falls short for several reasons, the main being that Israel was God’s Wife until He divorced her for breaking the marriage covenant. I don’t think Christ is going to marry the divorced wife of His Father. So, the New Jerusalem is a new Creation by God a place without sin, totally pure where He will live for eternity with His Son and the Body of Christ the Church.

We know that Jesus is the only Son of the Living God. However, with Salvation by the Blood of the Lamb we are transformed into son’s and that is non-gender specific, women as well are the daughters of God, He just doesn’t separate the genders when He says “sons”. Neither is the word “he” at the beginning of the sentence gender specific. And the libs thought they started the pronoun issue!

From Strong’s Concordance:

*“o definite article - nominative singular masculine
ho ho: the definite article; the (sometimes to be supplied, at others omitted, in English idiom) -- the, this, that, one, he, she, it, etc”*

I believe what that means is that the word used for “he” as in “he shall be my son” is non-gender specific and includes both male and female.

Galatians 3:28: ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is **neither male nor female**: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (Emphasis mine)

The point being we become brothers and sisters as “one” with Jesus the Son of God, we are therefore also sons (to include all females) of God by His declaration under one condition; “overcome”.

So, if we the Church are not the Bride of Christ who is the “Church”. The Church is made up of only Believers and is called the “Body of Christ”. The Body of Christ on earth to look and act like Christ to an unsaved world. That is who we members of the Church are. It is similar to the role given to Israel, and Israel failed in that calling. They were to represent God to the world in the flesh and show the world that serving the One True God is the only acceptable way in life eternal. That failure led to Christ coming in the Flesh to make a way for mankind to repent and receive Salvation by the Blood of the Lamb. The Church was to become that new example to the world.

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

There is a well done description of the some of the verses that depict the Church as the Body of Christ from “Got Questions”

<https://www.gotquestions.org/body-of-Christ.html>

The phrase “the Body of Christ” is a common New Testament metaphor for the Church (all those who are truly saved). The Church is called “one body in Christ” in [Romans 12:5](#), “one body” in [1 Corinthians 10:17](#), “the body of Christ” in [1 Corinthians 12:27](#) and [Ephesians 4:12](#), and “the body” in [Hebrews 13:3](#). The Church is clearly equated with “the body” of Christ in [Ephesians 5:23](#) and [Colossians 1:24](#).

When Christ entered our world, He took on a physical body “prepared” for Him ([Hebrews 10:5](#); [Philippians 2:7](#)). Through His physical body, Jesus demonstrated the love of God clearly, tangibly, and boldly—especially through His sacrificial death on the cross ([Romans 5:8](#)). After His bodily ascension, Christ continues His work in the world through those He has redeemed—the Church now demonstrates the love of God clearly, tangibly, and boldly. In this way, the Church functions as “the Body of Christ.”

The Church may be called the Body of Christ because of these facts:

- 1) Members of the Body of Christ are joined to Christ in salvation ([Ephesians 4:15-16](#)).*
- 2) Members of the Body of Christ follow Christ as their Head ([Ephesians 1:22-23](#)).*
- 3) Members of the Body of Christ are the physical representation of Christ in this world. The Church is the organism through which Christ manifests His life to the world today.*
- 4) Members of the Body of Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of Christ ([Romans 8:9](#)).*
- 5) Members of the Body of Christ possess a diversity of gifts suited to particular functions ([1 Corinthians 12:4-31](#)). “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its*

parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ” (verse 12).

6) Members of the Body of Christ share a common bond with all other Christians, regardless of background, race, or ministry. “There should be no division in the body, but . . . its parts should have equal concern for each other” ([1 Corinthians 12:25](#)).

7) Members of the Body of Christ are secure in their salvation ([John 10:28-30](#)). For a Christian to lose his salvation, God would have to perform an “amputation” on the Body of Christ!

8) Members of the Body of Christ partake of Christ’s death and resurrection ([Colossians 2:12](#)).

9) Members of the Body of Christ share Christ’s inheritance ([Romans 8:17](#)).

10) Members of the Body of Christ receive the gift of Christ’s righteousness ([Romans 5:17](#)).

You will find many verses that talk about the Church being the Body of Christ, but only one from Paul to the Corinthians about the church being:

2 Corinthians 11:2 [1](#)Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. [2](#)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. (emphasis mine)

I can find no other verses in the New Testament that make such a clear declaration. But as I read this Paul is talking to a specific Church the Church in Corinth. And, this church was being pulled

away by false teachers and Paul was pleading with them to listen to him.

Many teachers and commentators try to use the verses that reference how a husband is to treat his wife to claim that Jesus was speaking of His own bride the Church. That is incorrect. The predominate verse used to make this point is found in Ephesians.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

This verse does not say that the Church is the Bride of Christ it states that a husband must love his wife in a sacrificial way, giving himself to and for her up to an including his own life.

Back to verse 7: What does it mean to “overcome”. God goes on in vs 8 to describe what “not overcoming” looks like. So, to overcome is not to be as described in vs 8.

8But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (emphasis mine)

That is a short non-all-inclusive list of what not to do if you are an overcomer.

The New Jerusalem

9And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew **thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.** (*Emphasis mine*)

One of the 7 angels that had pretty much destroyed the earth is now dispatched to John to reveal who the Bride of Christ is going to be.

10And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Not to belabor the point, it is not the Church that the angel reveals but the New Jerusalem. John now describes what he sees as he watches the New Jerusalem come down to a new earth.

*Revelation 20: **14**Blessed are **they** that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. **15**For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. (emphasis mine)*

Blessed are **they** that do His commandments: that would be those that love Him, meaning love God and Christ. So, what do you receive in return for loving Christ? **“They”**, the Believers have a right to the “tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city.” What city? The New Jerusalem, it is a city created by God that even Abraham was in search of.

*Hebrews 11: **8**By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. **9**By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: **10**For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Emphasis mine)*

We are reading the very description of what Abraham had been in search of the New Jerusalem.

11Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; **12**And had a wall great and high, *and* had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: **13**On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. **14**And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The New Jerusalem has many attributes that point to the 12 Tribes and to the Apostles of Jesus. It without doubt a special privilege to be placed in such positions of importance in this Holy City. Sons of Jacob and chosen Apostles of Christ all centered on the Nation of Israel.

15And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. **16**And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with

the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

God declares that the New Jerusalem the Bride of Christ is configured in a cube.

17And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred *and* forty *and* four cubits, *according to* the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. 18And the building of the wall of it was *of* jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. 21And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

If you do the calculations of this New Jerusalem, you will find it is huge to put it lightly. Thousands of miles square and that sits upon a New Earth brought down from Heaven. Created by Jesus to host His beloved City the New Jerusalem. Created by Jesus?

Colosians 1: 15Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead;

*that in all things he might have the preeminence. [19](#)For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; [20](#)And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.
(Emphasis mine)*

The Church is the Body of Christ, not the Bride.

[22](#)And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

What is “it” in vs 24? “It” is the New Jerusalem the Bride of Christ.

[23](#)And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof. [24](#)And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

The word “nations” according to Strong’s Concordance:

Transliteration: ethnos

Phonetic Spelling: (eth'-nos)

Definition: a race, a nation, the nations (as distinct from Israel)

Usage: a race, people, nation; the nations, heathen world, Gentiles.

It is where we get our word Ethnic: we are all part of one race the human race in man’s terms, but God makes a distinction here in that there are different races, cultural perhaps that He calls “nations”. The reference here is to all the people of each race or nation that is saved. As to Kings? Not sure about that one.

25And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

Again, what is “it” in verse 25? It is the City of God the New Jerusalem, where there is no temple because God and Jesus are there and are the temple, can we say the Heart of the New Jerusalem. It is always lit up with the Glory of God and His Son and the gates are never shut. There would be no need, gates were to keep bad people and wild animals from entering a city. No bad people and animals if memory serves me will be as gentle as doves.

26And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

It? The City of God the New Jerusalem

27And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Do I really need to point out what “it” is in vs 27?

I have had to rethink a lot of what I believed and taught about the Bride of Christ. I have I believe taught in error as to the Church being the Bride of Christ in what I have learned in Revelation 21. I have gone back and looked at what I taught these past few weeks and believe I was in error. I am changing the teaching that I will

post on our web site correcting that error. It pertains to at least Revelation 19 and likely other chapters as well.

This does not change anything about Salvation and our position with Christ through His Blood shed for us for the remission of sins. It just means we must take a hard look at what role we as Believers the Body of Christ; not His bride plays in the New Jerusalem. We are invited guests to this amazing place that God built that Abraham was searching for. We are blessed to be invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Revelation 19: 9 Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Jesus spoke of this place in terms that we may have misconstrued: It is where we will live or visit it appears.

John 14:2 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.

You may disagree on what I taught on this chapter, if you disagree do so based on your personal study of what God says not what anyone else says including me. Don't rely on what teachers taught or even on what others say, search the Scripture and come to your conclusion based on your study of God's Word.

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