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As a follow up to last week's study on Revelation 21 and the Church not being the "Bride of Christ" that belief originally came from the Catholic Church. The doctrine that the "church" is the Bride of Christ is clearly an inference from several verses and is a direct quote from Paul in one verse. I don't question Paul's direction of telling the Church in Corinth that he Paul was trying to present her to Christ as a pure virgin. Meaning of course that the Corinthian Church was walking in obedience to Christ. It is a single verse with no other confirming verses that I can find. If we take the context of the verse, Paul is speaking directly to that specific Church. His concern was that they were being diluted due to false teachers and were in danger of not following Christ. Paul was well versed in Greek language and culture. It was within the Greek culture that a chosen man would be in charge of prospective brides. It was his job to deliver them to their chosen husband as a chaste virgin. Failure would fall directly on this man. So, in a sense Paul was taking the role of this protector of virginity in the context of the Church in Corinth. Does that constitute a doctrine of God or is it founded in Godly Wisdom to remain pure as a duty to God and to Christ.

The Bride of Christ being the New Jerusalem is not by inference and is declared by God in Revelation clearly. So, how did the New Testament churches take this as a doctrine? Where did it start?

Quoting from Catholic.com

“The reasons Latin rite priests can’t marry are both theological and canonical.

Theologically, it may be pointed out that [priests serve in the place of Christ](#) and therefore, their ministry specially configures them to Christ. As is clear from Scripture, [Christ was not married](#) (except in a mystical sense, to the Church). By remaining celibate and devoting themselves to the service of the Church, priests more closely model, configure themselves to, and consecrate themselves to Christ.

As Christ himself makes clear, none of us will be married in heaven (Mt 22:23–30). By remaining unmarried in this life, priests are more closely configured to the final, eschatological state that will be all of ours.”

If you want to continue to believe that the Church is the Bride of Christ, you can but according to Revelation 21 the Bride of Christ is the New Jerusalem unequivocally. God goes on in Revelation to say that “blessed are those that are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb? So, who are the guests, if the New Jerusalem is as God declares the Bride of Christ?

In full disclosure and in an effort to see how the Catholics and main line denominations and current teaching believes that the Church is the Bride of Christ I did find one verse from Paul that says that, but I would offer it with Paul's own personal comment.

2 Corinthians 11:2 1Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. 2For 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.

In studying this verse through a number of commentators there are some nuances that need to be made.

What does Paul mean "Would to God ye could bear with me"...

[Expositor's Greek Testament](#)

[2 Corinthians 11:1-4](#). "HE BEGS THEM TO BEAR WITH HIM IF HE STATES HIS CLAIMS AT LENGTH; IT IS NECESSARY TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THEIR READINESS TO ACCEPT NOVEL TEACHING."(emphasis NOT mine)

According to the oldest translation of this verse the words; "Would to God" do not appear. Rather a pure translation according to Greek scholars is "I wish" is the proper rendering of this beginning of this verse.

Paul felt he was losing a church he had started in Corinth and was desperate to see them stay true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In this idea Paul, envisioned himself as the “Father” of a virgin that he was espousing to a “Groom”. In this idea he names Jesus as the “Groom” and this Corinthian Church as the potential “Bride”.

Again, in Greek culture, which Paul was well versed, had an individual that would prepare young women of importance for marriage. It was this person’s personal responsibility to ensure that these young women stay chaste virgins, if not he would be held personally responsible. That was the sense I get from what Paul was saying.

Continuing from 2 Corinthians 11:2

2For 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.

However, Mark, says this: This is quoted from Christ Himself.

Who is Jesus calling the “guests”?

Mark 2:18And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not? 19And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is

with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. [20](#)But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

The term “children of the bridechamber” is by most accounts in our English rendered, “guests”. Children of the bridechamber are not the bride otherwise it would say that they are something other than the children of the bridechamber. If “guests” is a valid translation, then; guest of or to what? Jesus is speaking clearly of a wedding, so if the ones He speaks of are not the “Bride”, nor the “Groom” then they can only be part of the wedding party IE guests.

[Expositor's Greek Testament](#)

“...for I espoused you to one husband, that I might present you as a pure virgin to Christ, sc., at His Coming. The figure of Israel as a Bride presented to Jehovah as the Bridegroom was frequently used by the O.T. prophets ([Isaiah 54:5](#); [Isaiah 62:5](#), [Hosea 2:19](#)); and, according to the Rabbis, Moses was the bridesman or paranymp.”

Paranymp was used in Greek culture as we would use today to describe the Best Man or best friend of the Groom. (My comment)

“Here St. Paul conceives of himself as the paranymp (cf. [John 3:29](#)) who presents the Church as a pure Bride (cf. [Revelation 21:2](#)) to Christ, the heavenly Spouse, the “one husband” to whom she is bound to remain faithful. Some critics have found here an echo of Christ’s words at [Matthew 9:15](#); [Matthew 25:1-12](#); but the similarity does not extend further than the employment of the

same image demands. ἀρμόζω in the act(ive). is regularly used of the father of the bride; in the pass(ive). of the bride herself ([Proverbs 19:14](#)); and in the mid. generally of the bridegroom, but sometimes (as here) of others.

The “others” he is referring to would be the guests at the wedding.

The point I am trying to make, and I want to be very careful here not to diminish in anyway Paul’s intensity in what he is saying, but it appears to be an appeal from Paul himself to this church. He is asking them to put up with him, to endure him a bit longer that they would not fall to false teachers but stay true to Christ.

Paul’s plea to the Corinthians is unlike the statement in Revelation 21. John declares that these words and the vision he saw were from God directly or once removed by an angel sent from God to him. He was shown an amazing and difficult thing to comprehend by us that the New Jerusalem was the Bride of Christ. What all that means I do not know, I don’t know if the Church is IN the New Jerusalem, I’d like to think so, but I find no verses that tell us that. Wherever we are we will be with Christ and that to me is sufficient. We can take an inference from Christ that the Church is in the New Jerusalem:

John 14: [1](#)Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. [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 unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Now the inference here seems quite clear. Jesus says that He is going to prepare a place for us. This place is in His Father's house. We know that from Revelation 21 that His Father and His abode will be in the New Jerusalem. Jesus goes on to say that He will receive those who Believe in Him and that where He is Believers will be also. The inference is quite clear, but it still does not in a declarative way state that we will be in the New Jerusalem, unlike the declarative statement to John:

Revelation 21: [9](#)And 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.

[10](#)And 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,

Another issue as to the New Earth: we know that there are nations outside the New Jerusalem and the land God sets aside for Israel. These nations inhabit the New Earth; who are they?

I understand the challenge we have accepting that Jesus is going to marry what appears to be an inanimate object, but His Father did likewise. God married and divorced Israel, not a person but a

nation what appeared to be an inanimate object. But was Israel and is the New Jerusalem inanimate objects. They are filled with people, people called out by God to be His Own, at least guest and maybe the bride in both Israel and the New Jerusalem. So, whomever is in either of the Nation of Israel (OT) or City, New Jerusalem are what He is calling His Bride. There is likely much more to the idea that the New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ but at this point in study it is beyond my understanding. Perhaps God will reveal it scripturally to one of you. So again, if you don't agree do so on scriptural clarity not on what someone told you including, me.

Revelation 22

The River of Life

1And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

The water of life?

Life according to *Strong's Concordance*

Transliteration: zóé

Phonetic Spelling: (dzo-ay')

Definition: life

Usage: life, both of physical (present) and of spiritual (particularly future) existence."

Water is an essential element in life on earth. It apparently has essential presence in Heaven as well. Here on earth $\frac{3}{4}$ of the earth is covered in water. Man can't survive more than 3 days without water. Our bodies are made of roughly 60% water. God created water using hydrogen and oxygen, at least that is what we call it. God being the creator probably has a totally different term but it is one of the essential building blocks of life here on earth and in the universe for a species like man.

From the very Throne of God and Jesus in the New Jerusalem will flow a stream of water that God calls the "water of life". To understand the entirety of why God calls this the water of life will take some scriptural study and maybe some patience for Him to tell us. In any case this water supply is essential for life as revealed in the following verses.

2In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

Are there "streets" in the New Jerusalem? It appears likely due to several verses. The Greek word is Platus (platoos) it uses the word street but according to Strong's Concordance that is synonymous with "broad" or "wide" with the substitution of the word "street". Other verses reference "streets" in the New

Jerusalem. However, if we consider it a broad-way, it seems to work better. So, picture this; a broad-way and just for arguments sake let's say it is a hundred yards wide. In the midst of the broad-way is a river.

The River of Life appears to be real and is likely also in a Spiritual sense it seems to reference singular. We should not overlook the importance of this river. I will admit that what I am about to say is speculation based on other Bible verses that are clear in equating water with the Holy Spirit. It should be considered in context to understand what it is talking about. But let me make a case that this river of life is symbolic of the Holy Spirit, the third part of the Trinity.

Ezekiel 36: [25](#)Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. [26](#)A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. [27](#)And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

The water in these verses is a cleansing and renewing of the heart. A renewing that replaces a heart of stone with a heart of flesh, meaning pliable and malleable to Truth.

Part of the Feast of Tabernacles/Booths the Priests would as the last part of the ceremony pour water on the side of the Alter. It was a recognition of the coming of the Messiah that would take away the sins of the world. The water in this case was a cleansing a Baptizing on the Alter.

John 7:37 [37](#)In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. [38](#)He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. [39](#)(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

In these verses from John 7, this river of Life or River of Living Waters on the earth is supposed to be from Believers and it is not really water, but the water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit that is to flow from Believers now.

John 4:[14](#)But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

The Holy Spirit is a life sustaining part of the God Head. Christ gave us new life at His Resurrection. The Holy Spirit sustained our new lives in Christ during our sojourn on earth.

Revelation 21:[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. [7](#)He

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

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

What did and does the Holy Spirit accomplish in mankind?

1. Cleansing and renewing of a heart of stone to a heart of flesh.
2. A baptizing and claiming of a life for Christ.
3. A sustaining life-giving element both here on earth and on the New Earth, New Heaven, and New Jerusalem. It waters the Tree of Life, brining an everlasting life to those worthy of eating and drinking it.

Now back to the “broad” way and other things contained in it.

A street/ A broad way, A river, A tree. All singular like in the Oneness of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We are One in the Body of Christ. So, it is likely that this tree however God does it reaches to both sides of the river. To describe how He does that would be as challenging as describing how the Trinity exists as three individual entities but as one. It just does!

Deuteronomy 6:4 4Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

The last time we saw the Tree of Life was in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3: [22](#)And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: [23](#)Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. [24](#)So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

The tree's function on the New Earth is to grow fruit during the year but in a very specific manner according to God's design. Its leaves are also for the "healing of the nations". It may be that there is One type of tree but many trees on both sides of the river all of the One type.

2 continued: "which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

If we go back to Ezekiel 47 we find these verses that partially answer our question as to what is the purpose of the "fruit", but also answers the question of whether there will be a "sea" as in ocean.

Ezekiel 47: [10](#)And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. [11](#)But the miry places thereof and the

marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

That may help answer the question of “sea” on the New Earth.

12And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

Again, a bit of a challenge? “**and the leaf thereof for medicine**”.

Not sure why we would need medicine?

God tells us through His prophet Ezekiel that the Fruit is for “food”, He actually calls it “meat”. So, another assumption that we no longer eat animals, but we can eat fish, why else would fishermen cast their nets in the sea?

As with anything that God does and declares it will not nor ever fail. There is a nuance as well that this fruit will produce for 12 months and 12 kinds of fruit. Some commentators believe that it is a different fruit each month, or it may be that it produces all 12 kinds each month. It is unclear from the verse.

This entire description can be Spiritualized with an entirely different understanding from “real or physical” to “spiritual”.

Psalms does that in many verses by using an analogy of various

things to point out a Spiritual Truth. You may want to take the time to read those first two verses and put them into a Spiritual sense as opposed to a purely physical sense.

We find in Psalms this analogy to a Tree and a Believer:

1Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.3And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

3And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be **in it; and his servants shall serve him: (emphasis mine)**

“In it”, refers to the city of New Jerusalem.

God has the capacity to deliver blessings and curses. Since in this verse we are talking about “no more curse”, we will concentrate on that part of God’s ability.

Curses from God began with the fall of Adam. After creation there were no curses, everything operated in this world in harmony. If you read Genesis 3 and 4 you will see the curses on earth started with the serpent (Satan), then went to Eve the woman and then to the ground and then to man (Adam) in the sense that in order to

eat he (mankind) would eat by hard work or the sweat of his brow. Harmony turned to chaos and disharmony.

Even though Satan was cursed as well, it began the separation of man from God. This separation got so bad that God eventually brought a flood and killed all living things on earth except those saved on the ark with Noah and his family. God's assessment of mankind at this point and even today is perhaps even worse today:

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

God as we have learned is slow to anger but His wrath has built up over the centuries and it will be poured out on Jerusalem and the entire world. Not only God's wrath but the Devil as well knowing his time is short will stop at nothing to kill as many humans as possible before they turn their lives over to Christ the King.

With the removal of the curse that was brought about by the fall of man, earth the New Earth, New Heaven and New Jerusalem can once again return to harmony.

It is also the end of all curses due to Satan being in the Lake of Fire and the last curse being defeated which God tells us is “death”.

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Once the curses are gone then we can serve God and Jesus with a pure heart of love and adoration which He deserves.

4And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

No man has seen the face of God other than the human form that Jesus took as man. God we are told is Spirit but He in some way can manifest a form that is visible, or He allows man to see in the Spirit realm His true form.

We know this from Moses being on the Mountain and asked God to show Himself. Moses was allowed to see the back part of God’s form but not His face. No man can live and see the face of God. So, in this New Earth we will see Christ and see God in whatever manner God deems right. God declares that His Name, will be on the foreheads of His servants.

Q. Will His servants be from all believers or from the Nation of Israel?

Short answer is it doesn't say, but I believe the Hebrew nation continues to hold a special place in God's heart and will play a significant role in serving Him. There will be no temple and no need for Priests as no sacrifices appear to happen in the New Heaven and New Earth. There would be no need, as the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament and the Millennial period were to show man the result of sin. What is the service of the Hebrew Nation or of any Believer on the New Earth? Not sure, but whatever it is it will be amazing.

5And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

We obtain our light from the sun a huge ball that is on fire and just the right distance from earth to give light and heat but not destroy the earth and its inhabitants. In the New Heaven and Earth, God and Christ will be the source of light. The earth has been in darkness since the fall of man in a Spiritual sense. It appears God and Christ and Holy Spirit address the Spiritual and physical need for light just as Christ was a light unto the world. We know that the Spirit took the place of Christ in a fallen world when Jesus went to be with the Father on His Throne.

Jesus is Coming

6And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

In this sense from this verse “servants” is plural even though the message was delivered to a single person, John the Disciple of Christ. The inference is that the message was to be shared with other “servants” of Jesus. According to Strong’s Concordance the word “servant” is translated from the Greek as:

“Transliteration: doulos

Phonetic Spelling: (doo'-los)

Definition: a slave

Usage: (a) (as adj.) enslaved, (b) (as noun) a (male) slave.

HELPS Word-studies

1401 *doúlos* (a masculine noun of uncertain derivation) – properly, someone who belongs to another; a *bond-slave*, without *any ownership rights* of their own. Ironically, [1401](#) /*doúlos* ("bond-slave") is used with the *highest dignity* in the NT – namely, of believers who *willingly* live under Christ's authority as His devoted followers.”

Under that definition it would make all Believers of course “servants” of the Most High. John unlike Ezekiel was told to release this prophecy to the world of Believers in vs 10.

7Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

This word quickly in our vernacular is quite different that in God's domain. In an effort to show mankind two things at once God described how the difference in time operates for Him and for us. The points He makes are that time is far different to an eternal being and that patience on His part is for a specific reason and that is that more people can be saved.

2 Peter 3: 8But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (emphasis mine)

To the point of the word "quickly". If we use God's analogy of a day is as a thousand years to Him, consider this. God created all that we know around 6 thousand years ago in our reckoning. In His reckoning, He created all that we know, all that our history tells us has happened since creation and to God it was just 6 days ago. So, when He responds with the Millennial period it will have only been 7 days ago that He created all of this. I'd say that is pretty quick. He says He is coming "quickly" I think He means that.

Vs 7 gives us a simple piece of advice on all of this:

blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

8And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

John is a bit slow on the uptake here about who to worship. It could be that the presence of Jesus in His resurrected body and that of one of these messenger angels is so striking that John does not at once see the difference. That strikes me as hard to believe but I'm not the one God engaged in this prophecy, so we just have to read and understand what happened to John. This is perhaps the second or third time that John knelt in honor of whom he was speaking to, only to be chastised for that display of honor to one that is not worthy of worship, namely this messenger angel.

9Then saith he unto me, *See thou do it* not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

This angel presents 3 things that he is: fellow servant, brother to the prophets and third a brother to those that keep the sayings of this book. This all culminates into who is worthy to be worshipped and that is GOD, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

10And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Again this “time” issue. To us 6 thousand years, to God closer to 4 days when it was given to John and now it has advanced to the 6th day relatively speaking in our time. So, for this angel to say that “the time is at hand”, in respect to God’s time it was only two days away for the end of time on earth to begin.

11He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

According to Strong’s Concordance these four words: unjust, filthy, righteous, and holy in the Greek mean this:

Unjust:

Transliteration: adikeó

Phonetic Spelling: (ad-ee-keh'-o)

Definition: to do wrong, act wickedly

Usage: I act unjustly towards, injure, harm.

Filthy:

Transliteration: rhuparos

Phonetic Spelling: (rhoo-par-os')

Definition: filthy

Usage: filthy, defiled, dirty.

Meaning and immoral person based on God’s law not man’s perceived idea of moral.

Righteous:

Transliteration: dikaios

Phonetic Spelling: (dik'-ah-yos)

Definition: correct, righteous, by implication innocent

Usage: just; especially, just in the eyes of God; righteous; the elect (a Jewish idea).

Holy:

Transliteration: hagios

Phonetic Spelling: (hag'-ee-os)

Definition: sacred, holy

Usage: set apart by (or for) God, holy, sacred.

Meaning different from the world.

12And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

13I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Again, from God's perspective (this is not a Biblical measure of time) Jesus arrived around the 4th day in roughly the 4th century to us. He was here, carried out all that He did in just a twinkle of an eye in God's arena; but 32 years in ours. That monumental occasion authored by God of just 32 years changed everything for humanity; those that had eyes to see and ears to hear.

The Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

November 6, 2022

14Blessed 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.

We have seen God use this phrase on a number of occasions. If you start with the Old Testament, you will see that God used this term to describe what He did for individuals, groups and nations especially Israel. God would bless say Israel, in order for them to win a war, moved to a place to prosper, it was almost like an anticipatory blessing; God was preparing the way for them in a way.

When you get into the New Testament, we find a slight change in the manner it is used not always but on occasion. It becomes more of a response to something an individual did that elicits this response from God:

In vs 14, God says:

14Blessed 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.

According to vs 14 this blessing of being able to enter the City of the New Jerusalem is based on something? “**they that do His commandments**”. It would take weeks to pull out all the commandments that God has given us to walk in, but Jesus

summarized it with two as being the most important commandments.

Matthew 22: [36](#)Master, which is the great commandment in the law? [37](#)Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. [38](#)This is the first and great commandment. [39](#)And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. [40](#)On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Let's go back a couple of chapters to find out who is it that is "blessed" and allowed access to the New Jerusalem?

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."

If the Bride of Christ is the New Jerusalem as is said by God in Revelation 21:2, 9, 10, then who are the "blessed" invited guests?

I don't know what else to tell you about Revelation 19:9 that to say that God clearly says that there are those that are invited guests to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Not the bride, but guests. It is emphasized to John that **"These are true words of God."**

Back to Revelation 14

[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.

This verse clearly speaks of those people who have overcome and are in the Kingdom of God. Is there anything else we know about those who do the commandments of God overcome evil?

Revelation 2: And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

This adds another dimension and offers an additional idea to what it is that we may be doing in God's Kingdom? Power over the nations? Who makes up the nations? All good questions and at this point questions without answers.

15For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

What the world embraces especially today will be rejected by God for His Kingdom and the New Jerusalem and New Earth and Heaven.

The term "without" in vs 15 in my understanding means without or outside God Glorious Kingdom the New Heaven and New Earth. These are the condemned who will live out eternity in the Lake of Fire.

In today's culture we have what is called "cancel culture". It is a phenomenon that Jesus told us would come in the end times

along with other striking evils that one human would commit upon another.

Matthew 24: [5](#)For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. [6](#)And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. [7](#)For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. [8](#)All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Jesus calls these six things the beginning of the end:

1. False Christs
2. Wars and rumors of wars
3. Nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom
4. Famines
5. Pestilences
6. Earthquakes in divers places

Those Jesus said are the beginning of sorrows.

Have we had any “false Christs” those claiming to be the Messiah but are liars? The list is long and starts even before Christ was born. Let’s move to what is apparently things that will happen closer to the end than the beginning of sorrows.

([Mark 13:10-13](#); [Luke 21:10-19](#))

[9](#)Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

There are Nations that currently afflict, arrest, and kill Christians worldwide. They are most commonly Communist/Socialist, Islamic and African nations run by dictators. The Jews have made a good case that they are the victims of Anti-Semitism around the world. I believe the same case can be made for Christianity and there are far more Christians than Jews in the world. It is because we Worship and believe that Jesus is the Messiah that we are hated.

Dr. Jeremiah in a recent sermon pointed out a verse that I have often just glossed over but it is prophetic from Christ about this very time we are living in.

The verse is in Matthew 24. We just read a list of things from Matthew 24, that would happen prior to the return of Christ, likely the Rapture not His Second Coming.

Matthew 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. (emphasis mine)

This is a precise description of Cancel Culture we are seeing today. The idea that if someone disagrees with you that you should take it upon yourself to destroy their livelihood, their reputation is quite appalling, yet we were told it was coming. “.... many shall be offended” is the hallmark of society today. With the social links at everyone’s finger tips and no fear due to anonymity, it is the wild west of the Ether World. Everyone is a victim if they

allow themselves to be such. What comes from this cancel culture is hatred and that is all from the author of hatred and lies. Satan comes to kill and destroy.

John 8: [44](#)Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. [45](#)And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

[11](#)And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. [12](#)And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. [13](#)But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. [14](#)And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

There are many religions in the world today that have nothing to do with God. Aside from the main religions like Islam, Buddhism, etc, other religions of started up in the past century.

Environmentalism, Abortion(ism), Feminism, Tans genderism, Homosexualism, Global Warming religion. Make no mistake they worship their god, and they serve him day and night. Their spokesmen attack anyone who does not kneel to their god, especially Christians. From the Christian perspective these could be considered false prophets of a different sort. They proclaim their religion is supreme to all things and all people and for anyone to not agree then they are evil and should be destroyed. The verses of John 8 above can clearly describe these false

religion acolytes as well as false (c)hristian prophets. There are many deceived both from within so called (c)hristian religions and outside; those who reject TRUE Christianity. TRUE Christianity is not a religion; it is a RELATIONSHIP with God, in and thru His Son Jesus Christ.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

16I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

We now have Jesus identifying Himself speaking directly to John. Jesus directed His Angel to show John the things that he was to see and to share with the Believers of all times.

Jesus referred to those local groups that followed Him as “churches”

According to Strong’s Concordance the Greek word for Church(es)

Transliteration: ekklésia

Phonetic Spelling: (ek-klay-see'-ah)

Definition: an assembly, a (religious) congregation

Usage: an assembly, congregation, church; the Church, the whole body of Christian believers.

Can we say today that any and all churches are part of the Body of Christ? That statement is unlikely, but we can say that ALL Believers in Jesus Christ are part of the Body of Christ the CHURCH. Believers have a TRUE relationship with Jesus, it is not a religion and is definitely not defined by a church name.

Jesus goes onto declare what the prophets said as to who the King of Kings would be. He would be of the offspring of King David.

This next verse was given to the prophet Samuel who then gave it to King David.

2 Samuel 7: [12](#)And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. [13](#)He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. [14](#)I will be his father, and he shall be my son. (emphasis mine)

From Revelation 22:16 Jesus refers to Himself as

....I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. (empha“sis mine)

In Scripture both Satan and Jesus are referred to in that term of “morning star” but with one grand exception. Jesus is referred to as the “bright and morning star”. Jesus outshines all other stars; Satan is a mere false image of a morning star.

Also, both Jesus and Satan are referred to as “lion” in Scripture. Vast difference in what that really means though. Jesus is the “Lion of Judah”, the preeminent one over the Nation of Israel, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Satan is a lion that kills and destroys.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Jesus brings life as the Lion of Judah; Satan brings death as a lion that kills.

17And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Here we get back to the challenge of the Bride. In this case the Bride is somehow connected to the Spirit. We know that the Spirit resides in the body of each Believer. We know that God has told us and called us the “Body of Christ”. The question comes when the Spirit and the Bride say come and, in this chapter, God declared that the Bride is the New Jerusalem then who is invited to come?

If those who “heareth” meaning Believers say “come” who do, they say it too? They say it to unbelievers.

It is an invitation of Salvation for anyone that is “athirst”, meaning sinners who are seeking the life-giving water that comes from Christ.

I can find no Biblical proof that the Body of Christ the CHURCH is in the New Jerusalem, but it would make sense that it is if for no other reason that Jesus said he went to prepare a place for those who Believed in Him. Whether or not I have misunderstood the declaration by God that the New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ, I can only teach what is written. It is God’s Wisdom that will sort it out for us.

Nothing May Be Added

18For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

20He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Jesus says He will come quickly. As we considered how God said time works for His realm as compared to our realm it is just a day or so before Jesus comes for the Body of Christ His Church.

21The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all.
Amen. {THE END.}

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