

HANDOUT – Lesson 210 – THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

At the time of Christ, the Jewish wedding ceremony had four parts:

1. The father of the groom arranged the marriage, often when the bride and groom were still children, and paid the “bride price”. From this day forward, the bride was “set apart” for her future husband and was considered his wife even though the marriage was not yet consummated. There followed a period of preparation that lasted at least a year to be sure the bride was not with child and often lasted much longer.
2. The wedding generally had to wait until the groom received his inheritance or had established his own household. When the groom was ready to marry, he would go to the home of the bride to fetch her and take her to his own home.
3. The wedding ceremony would then take place in the presence of a few witnesses and special guests.
4. The ceremony would be followed by a great feast to which many guests would be invited. The feast, or wedding supper, could last as long as seven days.

Arranging the Marriage

God the Father has arranged the marriage of His Son. He has identified the Bride. We are set apart to be His wife.

Does the Bride of Christ include the Jews who will be redeemed at the Day of the Lord? Does it include the Old Testament saints? Is Israel the Bride of the Father and not the Bride of Christ?

Deut 7:6 (NASB)

⁶“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for **His own possession** out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Ezek 16:8 (NASB)

⁸“Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and **entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine,**” declares the Lord GOD.

Jer 3:19 - Jer 3:20 (NASB)

¹⁹“Then I said, ‘**How I would set you among My sons** And give you a pleasant land, The most beautiful inheritance of the nations!’ And I said, ‘You shall call Me, My Father, And not turn away from following Me.’ ²⁰“Surely, as a woman treacherously departs from her lover, So you have dealt treacherously with Me, O house of Israel,” declares the LORD.

Jer 31:31 - Jer 31:34 (NASB)

³¹“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, **although I was a husband to them,**” declares the LORD. ³³“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴“They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Isa 54:4 - Isa 54:8 (NASB)

⁴“Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; And do not feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; But you will forget the shame of your youth, And the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. ⁵“For **your husband is your Maker**, Whose name is the LORD of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth. ⁶“For the LORD has called you, Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of *one*’s youth when she is rejected,” Says your God. ⁷“**For a brief moment I forsook you, But with great**

compassion I will gather you. ⁸ “In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you,” Says the LORD your Redeemer.

Isa 62:1 - Isa 62:12 (NASB)

¹ For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, And **for Jerusalem’s sake** I will not keep quiet, Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, And her salvation like a torch that is burning. ² The nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And **you will be called by a new name** Which the mouth of the LORD will designate. ³ You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴ It will no longer be said to you, “Forsaken,” Nor to your land will it any longer be said, “Desolate”; But you will be called, “My delight is in her,” And your land, “Married”; For the LORD delights in you, And *to Him* your land will be married. ⁵ For *as* a young man marries a virgin, *So* your sons will marry you; And *as* the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, *So* your God will rejoice over you. ... ⁷ And give Him no rest until He establishes And makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth... ¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth, Say to the daughter of Zion, “**Lo, your salvation comes**; Behold His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.” ¹² And they will call them, “The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD”; And you will be called, “Sought out, a city not forsaken.”

Obviously, the marriage contract was struck between God the Father and Israel. God considered Israel His wife and the Old Testament Scripture is filled with imagery of Israel’s unfaithfulness, harlotry and adultery. But also throughout the Old Testament Scripture is God’s promise of a New Covenant – a promise to cleanse Israel and take her back to Himself. I believe this New Covenant is embodied in Christ’s relationship to the Church (which to Christ and the apostles clearly included both the Jews and the Gentiles).

Therefore, it makes perfect sense that the Bride of Christ is referred to in the New Testament as the Church and as the New Jerusalem.

2 Cor 11:2 (NASB)

²For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for **I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.**

Rev 21:2 - Rev 21:4 (NASB)

²And I saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.** ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

The “bride price” was a two-part price. First, the death of Christ on our behalf when he took on all our sins. Second, the Holy Spirit left as a deposit, a guarantee of Christ’s return to take us to His home.

Eph 5:25 - Eph 5:32 (NASB) ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, ³⁰because we are members of His body. ³¹**For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.** ³²**This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.**

Eph 1:13 - Eph 1:14 (NIV) ¹³And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, **you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,** ¹⁴**who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.**

Fetching the Bride

When Jesus left, He promised He was going to prepare a home for us to be with Him forever.

John 14:2 - John 14:3 (NASB) ²“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

When the Bride is completely prepared, the Groom will come for her. Revelation describes the sequence of events. First, the time arrives for the marriage of the Lamb to begin. The Bride is clothed in her bridal gown and waiting for Him. She has been cleansed by the Lamb and clothed in the righteous deeds of the saints, the faithfulness of the martyrs over all the ages, those who overcame in every age including the Great Tribulation, and she is ready – radiant in holiness.

Rev 19:7 - Rev 19:10 (NASB)

⁷“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” ⁸It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹Then 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.” ¹⁰Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said* to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Then the Groom arrives.

Rev 19:11 - Rev 19:16 (NASB)

¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹²His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself. ¹³*He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

According to the passage in 1 Thess 4, this is when the dead are resurrected and those believers who have survived on earth are raptured to meet the Lord in the air. This occurs at “the last trumpet”.

1 Thess 4:13 - 1 Thess 4:18 (NASB)

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even **so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.** ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶**For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.** ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words. **(This is the classic “Rapture” passage.)**

1 Cor 15:51 - 1 Cor 15:52 (NASB)

⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in 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 will be changed.

In Revelation, there are seven trumpets. This is the sixth trumpet.

Rev 9:13 - Rev 9:21 (NASB)

¹³Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, ¹⁴one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. **¹⁶The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million;** I heard the number of them... ²⁰And the rest of mankind, ... did not repent of the works of their hands, ... ²¹and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

The seventh, and last, trumpet heralds the Second Coming of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom.

Rev 11:15 - Rev 11:19 (NASB)

¹⁵Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." ¹⁶And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷saying, "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸"And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth." ¹⁹And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

When Jesus comes, the armies of heaven are with Him – specifically, the angels.

Matt 16:27 - Matt 16:28 (NASB) (Also Luke 9:26)

²⁷"For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father **with His angels**, and will then repay every man according to his deeds. ²⁸"Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."

Matt 24:35 - Matt 24:36 (NASB) (Implies they are the ones who need to know since they will be coming also)

³⁶"But of that day and hour no one knows, **not even the angels of heaven**, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Matt 25:31 - Matt 25:31 (NASB)

³¹"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, **and all the angels with Him**, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

Mark 8:37 - Mark 8:38 (NASB)

³⁸"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His **Father with the holy angels.**"

John 1:50 - John 1:51 (NASB)

⁵¹And He said* to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.**"

2 Thess 1:6 - 2 Thess 1:8 (NASB)

⁶For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from **heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire**, ⁸dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

The angels then immediately gather the saints to join them in the air and we all arrive on earth together.

Matt 24:30 - Matt 24:31 (NASB)

³⁰And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. ³¹"And **He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.**

1 Thess 2:19 - 1 Thess 2:20 (NASB)

¹⁹For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not **even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?** ²⁰For you are our glory and joy.

1 Thess 3:12 - 1 Thess 3:13 (NASB)

¹²and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; ¹³so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus **with all His saints.**

2 Thess 1:6 - 2 Thess 1:10 (NASB)

⁶For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well **when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,** ⁸dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰**when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day,** and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed.

2 Thess 2:1 - 2 Thess 2:4 (NASB) ¹Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ **and our gathering together to Him,** ²that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

Heb 9:27 - Heb 9:28 (NIV) ²⁷Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, **but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**

This is also recapped in Rev 17 where the Battle of Armageddon is linked with the Second Coming and the fact that the saints are with Christ at this time.

Rev 17:12 - Rev 17:14 (NASB)

¹²“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. ¹³“These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and **those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”**

All of this is consistent with the sequence of events described in Rev 19 – where we left off with Christ coming with “KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS” emblazoned on His thigh. This passage gives us more detail about the sequence of events when Christ comes.

Rev 19:17 - Rev 19:21 (NASB) (The judgment of the AntiChrist)

¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God, ¹⁸so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.” ¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. ²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh. *(This is the end of Rev 19)*

This judgment between the saints and the AntiChrist is described in Daniel.

Rev 20:1 - Rev 20:6 (NASB) (The binding of Satan)

¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. ⁴Then I saw thrones, and **they** sat on them, and judgment was given to **them**. **And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** ⁵The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. **This is the first resurrection.** ⁶Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

This "First Resurrection" must by definition include all those dead in Christ who were raised at His coming, including the Tribulation martyrs, plus those who were alive and were raptured. John saw all these groups as part of the First Resurrection. "Those" who were given to judge are the saints.

1 Cor 6:2 - 1 Cor 6:3 (NASB) ²Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? ³Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

The First Resurrection obviously includes the gathering of the Church. At the same time, Jesus sends His angels to gather the Jews from all the corners of earth and heaven – presumably resurrecting the Old Testament saints. Many people believe the Old Testament saints are not resurrected until the Great White Throne judgment at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. However, the whole focus of the Millennial Kingdom seems to be to reward the Jews, and to limit that to the few who physically make it through the Great Tribulation doesn't make a lot of sense to me.

All of these resurrection and gathering events are telescoped into the time of the Second Coming.

Mark 13:24 - Mark 13:27 (NASB)

²⁴“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷“And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.

Christ and the resurrected or raptured saints rule the Gentile nations with a rod of iron.

Rev 19:15 - Rev 19:16 (NASB) ¹⁵From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and **He will rule them with a rod of iron**; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Psa 110:1 - Psa 110:6 (NASB)

¹The LORD(*God*) says to my Lord (*Christ*):

“**Sit at My right hand**

Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

² The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter **from Zion**, saying, (*Christ rules from Mt Zion*)

“**Rule in the midst of Your enemies.**”... (*There are still enemies of Christ on earth – but their power has been shattered. We will find in the NT Scripture that Christ will ultimately conquer all power, dominion and authority on earth and in heaven – including death.*)

...⁵ The Lord [*Christ*] is at Your right hand;

He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath.

⁶ **He will judge among the nations,**

He will fill *them* with corpses,

He will shatter the chief men over a broad country.

Christ will govern personally from Mt. Zion (Jerusalem) and there will be worldwide peace.

Isa 2:2 - Isa 2:4 (NASB)

² Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.

...

For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war. (Note: *It doesn't say there will never be another war ever again – there actually is one more war at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. It just says that nations will never again train for war.*)

All men come to Jerusalem to worship the Lord.

Isa 66:22 - Isa 66:24 (NASB)

²² “For just as the new heavens and the new earth Which I make will endure before Me,” declares the LORD, “So your offspring and your name will endure. ²³ “And it shall be from new moon to new moon And from sabbath to sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me,” says the LORD. ²⁴ “Then they will go forth and look On the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die And their fire will not be quenched; And they will be an abhorrence to all mankind.”

The reference to new heavens and new earth are to future creations we will see at the end of the Millennial Kingdom after the Great White Throne judgment. The Lord is just using them as a simile here, comparing the longevity of Israel to the longevity of the new heavens and new earth that He will someday create.

God Himself judges the Jews, separating them between the righteous and the unrighteous.

Ezek 20:34 - Ezek 20:38 (NASB) ³⁴“I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; ³⁵and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. ³⁶“As I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you,” declares the Lord GOD. ³⁷“I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸and I will purge from you the rebels and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they will not enter the land of Israel.

This will be a time of great blessing for Israel. For a thousand years, Israel will be blessed and will learn about Christ.

Isa 65:17 - Isa 65:25 (NASB)

¹⁷ “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸ “But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem *for* rejoicing And her people *for* gladness. ¹⁹ “I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in **My people**; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying.

Although the old heaven and old earth do not pass away until the end of the Millennial reign, apparently, the Millennial Kingdom is the beginning of the new creation.

The lifespan of man will be extended again, like it was at the beginning of creation.

²⁰ “No longer will there be in it an infant *who lives but a few days*, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be *thought* accursed.

Note that there will still be marrying and bearing children – so “My people” (the righteous Jews who are still alive on earth at that time) will not have received their imperishable bodies yet.

²¹ “They will build houses and inhabit *them*; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² “They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, *so will be* the days of My

people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. ²³ “They will not labor in vain, Or bear *children* for calamity; For they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, And their descendants with them.

²⁴“It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. ²⁵“The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,” says the LORD.

The righteous Jews will learn about Christ. Spiritually, they were already prepared to be His bride and have been judged righteous. This is simply a period of blessing and growth in knowledge and understanding – as well as a time of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on Israel.

Jer 3:15 - Jer 3:17 (NASB)

¹⁵“Then I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding. ¹⁶“It shall be in those days when you are multiplied and increased in the land,” declares the LORD, “they will no longer say, ‘The ark of the covenant of the LORD.’ And it will not come to mind, nor will they remember it, nor will they miss *it*, nor will it be made again. ¹⁷“At that time they will call Jerusalem ‘The Throne of the LORD,’ and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of the LORD; nor will they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart.

Ezek 39:28 - Ezek 39:29 (NASB)

²⁹“I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD.

The people of Israel will be the priests and ministers of God and will have all the riches that used to belong to the Gentile nations. We know the timing of this period, as it is also prophesied as part of the Day of the Lord.

Isa 61:1 - Isa 61:6 (NASB)

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; ² To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD (*This is where Christ stopped reading and said He fulfilled this part*)

(*This is the part that is still to come*)

And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³ To grant those who mourn *in Zion*, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. ⁴ Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, They will raise up the former devastations; And they will repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations. ⁵ Strangers will stand and pasture your flocks, And foreigners will be your farmers and your vinedressers. ⁶ But you will be called the priests of the LORD; You will be spoken of *as* ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, And in their riches you will boast.

At the end of the Millennial Kingdom, the Bride will have been “fetched”. The stage is set for the marriage ceremony.

According to Rev 20, at the end of the thousand-year reign, Satan is released once more and the armies of the world gather one more time against Jerusalem.

Rev 20:7 - Rev 20:10 (NASB)

⁷When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. ⁹And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

This is immediately followed by the resurrection of ALL the dead and the Great White Throne judgment. Those who are not found in the Book of Life are thrown in the Lake of Fire – a place of eternal torment and outer darkness where there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The Marriage Ceremony

Though the description of the marriage ceremony is not found in Revelation, we know that in Jewish tradition the marriage ceremony occurs immediately after the Bride has been fetched. Therefore, we can reasonably assume that the marriage of the Lamb also occurs as soon as He finishes fetching His bride.

It is also confirmed by the very next event after the Great White Throne judgment.

Rev 21:1 - Rev 21:2 (NASB) ¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, **made ready** as a bride adorned for her husband.

Finally, the wedding day has arrived. The eternal Jerusalem, the new Jerusalem, is established as the wife of Christ.

Rev 21:9 - Rev 21:27 (NASB)

⁹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper... ²²I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵In the daytime (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed; ²⁶and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; ²⁷and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Many believe that the marriage ceremony and feast take place at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.

The Wedding Feast

Rev 22:1 - Rev 22:17 (NASB)

¹Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, ²in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve *kinds of* fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; ⁴they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads. ⁵And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever...

¹⁰And he said* to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. ¹¹“Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.”

¹²“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

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

¹⁴Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. ¹⁵Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

¹⁶“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

Then the Spirit and the Bride beckon to all to join in the Wedding Feast.

¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.