

# End of Time Study

## God's call to urgency

The body of believers, the church, is often referred to as the Bride of Christ. Without going into great detail I want us to see the parallel between the wedding sequence in the Jewish culture at the time of Christ and the End Time reunion we call the Rapture.

1. The Holy Spirit chooses the bride, and brings people to God through repentance
2. A bride price (dowry) is established, Christ gave his life to purchase and redeem us
3. Consent: the bride agrees and chooses to accept her husband's offer
4. Written document, Covenant agreement, written registry
5. Drinking a glass of wine; a toast, a communion, seals the covenant agreement.
6. Betrothal [espoused/engaged/promised]
7. Ritual Cleansing bath; a Mikveh or Baptism
8. Gifts given to the Bride
9. The bridegroom departed, going back to his father's house to prepare the bridal chamber, closet (many mansions)
10. The bride was consecrated, set apart, and kept herself ready for the bridegroom to return, and wore a veil which is like the blood of Jesus covering our sins, the righteousness of the saints
11. Bridegroom comes for his Bride on a **"day or hour no man knows, but my father only"** with a shout, command, last trump, trumpet blast
12. Jesus comes for (raptures) his **Bride as a Thief**
13. The **bridal week** (a day for a year) in the wedding chamber as the tribulation week of Daniel
14. (Marriage supper / Wedding Feast) when the bride and groom emerge from the bridal chamber at the end of seven days, and the Lord returns with the Bride at the end of the seven year tribulation
15. The bride and groom were seen as king and queen, trumpet blasts herald the reign of a new king, at the rapture at the trumpet blast, Christ and his people begin to rule in heaven.

This is an exact correlation of the events according to the pre-trib scenario. Jesus, the groom, comes down from heaven, calls up the Church, and after meeting in the air, both He and the bride return to the His Father's house - heaven. The marriage supper itself will take place up in heaven, while down here on earth the final events of the tribulation are playing themselves out. After the marriage supper takes place, the bride and groom are presented to the world as man and wife. This corresponds to the time when Jesus returns to earth accompanied by an army "clothed in fine linen, white and clean." (Rev 19:14)

# The Rapture of the Saints

## The Promise

John 14:1-3 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.

When we search the scriptures and read the passages describing the Lord Jesus' return, we find verses that tell us we won't know the day and hour. The scripture says Jesus will return at an unknown time.

Matthew 24:36-44 But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. 37 But as the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two [women shall be] grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 **Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.**

Consider the parable of the ten virgins.

Matthew 25:1-13 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2 And five of them were wise, and five [were] foolish. 3 They that [were] foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. **13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.**

## The Fulfillment of the Promise

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

## The Salt of the Earth

There are only two kinds of people, "Saints" and "A'int's." Saints are those who have repented from their sin, accepted Jesus Christ and became the Church, the Bride of Christ. Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth"(Mat. 5:13). When the Saints are suddenly removed, the earth will be plunged into spiritual darkness. Can you imagine the chaos that will ensue when all that is left on this world are "A'int's?" When this happens, the Antichrist will then be free to control the world.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This should, indeed, intensify our priorities to get in the Word, reexamine our commitments to our Coming King, and seriously address each day which remains with a high degree of urgency.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. -Matthew 24:44

Are you *really* ready? Do you *really* take Him seriously?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as [do] others; but let us watch and be sober. 7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

It's really pretty simple. Either you are part of the Bride of Christ or you will be left behind when He returns for that bride. Can you imagine the world when the church is gone and only the unsaved are left. I want us to watch a video that dramatically demonstrates that world.