

**Chapter 1 : What Does the Bible Say About The Bride Of Christ?**

*Christ, the Bridegroom, has sacrificially and lovingly chosen the church to be His bride (Ephesians ). Just as there was a betrothal period in biblical times during which the bride and groom were separated until the wedding, so is the bride of Christ separate from her Bridegroom during the church age.*

Victor Hafichuk 22 March, Richard wrote: Thank you but please remove my email address from your address book. Hi Richard, I have some things to say to you. Do you believe that? It is also taught that He comes for a chaste bride, one without spot or blemish. As it is written: Throughout history, the Roman Catholic Church has slaughtered countless numbers of people who did not agree with its doctrines and practices, such as Lutherans, Calvinists, Mennonites, Hutterites, Anabaptists, Waldenses, Albigenses, Montanists, Quakers, Puritans, Methodists, and many, many more. This is historically documented, a matter of record, easily verified by those who are willing to be honest, and who want the truth. When did He ever direct persecution? They are abused, but they do not abuse. They do not have an organization to promote and protect them in vile sins. His true servants stand against such evils, rather than walk in them. Today, for all to see, the Roman Catholic Church is being exposed for its vile corruptions, even and especially in its clergy, its very leaders. Many not few priests and higher clergy are found guilty of sexual abominations such as child abuse and homosexuality, the kinds of vile sins they hear confessions about from those they abuse. Cover it up as much as possible, and failing that, it denies the crimes, pleads not guilty and fights those charges in courts of law run by the world it presumes to teach and to save! I have barely begun to tell the sins of the Roman Church. God is then a brutal and deceitful charlatan, a liar and a murderer. You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them. Jesus Christ died on the cross to save souls, and to bring a chaste and holy bride unto Himself. After such a remarkable price paid by the only begotten Son of God, His own blood no less, are you trying to tell me that all He deserves is a vicious slut, which claims to be His bride? We come in His Name, and you reject us. Did not the Jews say the same thing to Him in the days of His flesh? Why do you not understand My speech?

**Chapter 2 : How is the church the bride of Christ?**

*In this case many christian clearly interperert and/or assume the Bride of Christ is the chruch doctrine, due the the fact that much of the Bride of Christ is the church doctrine come from those who stand at the pulpits.*

In some passages the bride is the Church. Also see 2 Corinthians Now it is not absolutely clear exactly what this city is. There are a number of views. You might want to look at the book called, Revelation: So which is the metaphor? The bride or the city? Or are they both metaphors for a new covenant or people? It is definitely debatable and the answers may not be known for certain this side of Heaven. A people and a place are often identified virtually interchangeably, both in the Bible and in modern culture. So is the bride of Christ the Church a people or the New Jerusalem, a place where people will live? The answer is both. A people and the place where that people dwell are inseparably linked. In fact, according to Scripture it is both. A virgin is not a bride. If she was then what about the parable of the ten virgins. Will Christ have ten wives? Would a man marry his own body? It is clear that Paul is using marriage imagery to speak of the relation of Christ to the church. You dismiss this passage by saying Paul is talking foolishness. What Paul is doing is simply talking about the very next sentence where he speaks of his feelings of jealousy for the Corinthian church. He is saying he feels a bit foolish baring his strong feelings for the readers of this letter. He is not talking about his metaphor of presenting a virgin to a husband. When a virgin is presented to a husband, it is clearly a marriage situation. To think otherwise is to suggest Paul is talking about fornication. You dismiss this passage by referring to the ten virgins of Matthew Here Jesus is using a simile. He says the kingdom of heaven is like ten virgins who went out to meet their bride groom. The point of this parable is to be ready, to live life prepared to meet the Savior. Jesus is using metaphor to teach a truth. You are adamant in the belief that the bride is a city. I believe that, too, because the Bible plainly says it is. Does this mean you believe Jesus will marry a city which is made up of streets, buildings and gates? How does one marry real estate? Can you deny that Scripture likens the relationship of Christ and the Church to a husband and his wife? The bottom line is this: It is what John saw while on the island of Patmos. He did not say what he saw was on the island of Patmos. He said it was a view to the future. He wrote the last book of the Bible and what it says must be interpreted in light of all scripture. All we are saying is the Holy City is described metaphorically as the bride. Because of other passages such as Eph. We are simply appealing to the whole of scripture. It matters what scripture says. Thank you for your comments and questions. I agree wholeheartedly with the above words. She is a virgin before she is married. This is very plain to me. What other possible meaning is there of Christians being promised to Christ as a husband, and being presented to him as the virgin who becomes his bride? I see this as the plain and simple meaning of this text. Randy Alcorn randyalcorn is the author of over fifty books and the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries.

**Chapter 3 : Which church is the true church?**

*The Bible says there is but one body, or church, into which Jesus calls His end-time people "the bride of Christ. To some, this is unnerving, as there are thousands of churches today that call themselves Christian.*

One would not have a luxury vehicle while another drives a broken down dangerous wreck- one does not consume a lavish vacation while another toils excess hours in order to make ends meet! The true disciples of Jesus do not work that they may have to consume it upon themselves- they work that they may give to others. Sorry, but- These are the "Hard words". The true church of Christ is as well as being totally surrendered in love for the Lord and therefore love for others, is a separate entity from the world. This church is not part of Sodom and Gomorrah any longer, she has washed and separated herself from the filthiness of the world, in the name of Jesus and by His Spirit. They live modestly, not showy as the world. They live simply, not entangled in the affairs and extravagances of the world they live together in peaceful unity, not as the world in selfish competitive enterprises building independent kingdoms to their own gratifications instead, they sacrifice in love for all others- both for their brethren and for the lost, not hoarding to themselves They share all that they have without fear, not considering their own selves, their simple homes are both shelters for their families and any extra room is open to any in need, their lands, crops, tools, clothes, and basic possessions are for whoever has a need. In a church community their clothes are modest giving no occasion to the flesh, only fulfilling the purpose of covering and protecting their bodies and nothing put on to be seen or accepted by man. Their food is simple and basic to the strengthening of their bodies for the service of the Lord, with no expenses for the pleasing of their fleshly appetites. What is the bottom line? How far would the Lord have us go? What can I say? Is not this the cost of true discipleship, even self-denial to the death, even as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us? The church in love, the church I desire to be part of, and could believe is the true visible body of Christ on earth, would be a family of people, set apart from the world by God, living as a unit in love with one another every day, living and working for the the salvation and needs of all men- demonstrated by simple, modest, self-sacrificing , self-denying lives. To the human eye these church families would look like quiet villages of plain living people, with simple homes and primitive trades. They raise their food, plow their fields, and work and worship together, sharing all things equally and trustingly. Within this community everything above their basic needs, time, efforts, and resources is offered and sacrificed in love for the salvation and needs of others. Within this church are always a few extra houses for visitors, homeless, or newcomers, and some of the families have an extra room for same. Individual family life is important, although everyone works and interacts closely and all are accountable one to another. There is a peace pervading this community and frequent singing can be heard. All homes and meals are open all of the time for any one to join with and share whatever they have, and all are encouraged to do so. No one is turned away, and everyday brethren from this community go into the hi-ways, into the cities, towns and country, sharing the good news of salvation; going by twos or even in large groups, sharing the love of Jesus and bidding all to come. To come to Jesus and to also come out from this world system, and be truly part of a family of God. They even rent buildings to be used as "fishing nets"- in the form of shelters, soup kitchens, halfway houses; they visit prisons, schools, hospitals- anywhere there can be a hand of love extended and the message of salvation given. To these Christians the "Sermon the Mount" is not obsolete but contrariwise it is the heart and soul of their lifestyles. This message is not for some "Future Kingdom age", or just for those disciples then. Yet there are some pastors that teach that there is no way that we can live by the "Sermon on the Mount" today. We warn them, as Jesus did:

## Chapter 4 : The Mystery of the Ages: The Bride of Christ

*United Faith Church declares that the Bride of Christ is the Church! The Church consists of all believers and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. The disciples throughout the world collectively make up the Universal Church, or the "Body of Christ."*

Beloved, let us search the Scriptures. It is shocking to learn that the Bible usually does not say what people often presume it says. We do find in our King James Bible the following phrases and terms: A marriage is certainly occurring in the closing chapters of the book of the Revelation, but who is marrying whom? We should not rip these verses out of their contexts and fabricate the identity of the bride and the groom unless, of course, we seek to advance a denominational system rather than the simple teachings of Scripture! Hosea also recounts how Israel became unfaithful to Him as a wife would cheat on her husband. Israel polluted herself with the idols of her pagan neighbors; she willfully went after other gods. Eventually, God had to divorce Israel; essentially, He sent her into Gentile captivity, exemplified most fully in the book of Lamentations, when Jerusalem was destroyed. God wanted the nation Israel to be His nation in the earth see Exodus Israel is His earthly nation, and the way God will rule over the earth is through redeemed Israel. The planet Earth that Satan has polluted will one day be redeemed. God will save the nation Israel and marry her to the land, the Promised Land, the land of Canaan, thus marrying Himself to that land as well. These passages interpret the marriage situation in the book of the Revelation the verses we mentioned at the beginning of this study. Let us return to these verses in Revelation and comment on them in light of what we read from the Old Testament prophets. Please read Revelation And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. Friends, the book of the Revelation has nothing to do with us. It was written by John, an apostle of Israel Revelation 1: However, we must be mindful not to read something into the Bible text which is what denominationalists are trained to do. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. Ephesians chapter 5 is describing how marriage is designed to function, and the way to understand the marriage relationship is to see how Jesus Christ and His Body us interact with each other—the respective roles, the attitudes of each toward one another, et cetera. All Romans chapter 7 is discussing is how we are free from the Law, dead to the law of sin and dead works, not bound to live the Christian life in our flesh and energy. In 2 Corinthians False teachers had crept into Corinth, and throughout this chapter 11, we read about how the Corinthians enjoyed being misled. Paul warned them that he was jealous over them with a godly jealousy—he did not want some false religious system to corrupt them. He wanted them to abandon and avoid false religion see 2 Corinthians 6: In the above verses, we read how Satan would use the same tactics he used to mislead Eve, to mislead us. Satan would quote Bible, but misquote it, ignoring the dispensational layout see Psalm The Church the Body of Christ is in such shambles doctrinally today, in such confusion, because it has allowed Satan and his policy of evil religious tradition to corrupt them. I know; I used to be a part of that system myself! However, the Bible does say that Jesus Christ will marry someone. This is what we want to focus on; we ignore the religious tradition. According to Revelation These are the concepts being advanced regarding the marriage of Revelation chapters 19 and We can either believe the testimony of the Scriptures, or we can continue with our church tradition. I prefer to believe God, and let His critics be the liars Romans 3:

**Chapter 5 : Is the Church or New Jerusalem the bride of Christ?**

*Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

Satan is orchestrating a Worldwide Political Unity [ seven heads equal totality of rule] Revelation Worldwide Religious Unity[2] as the Beast is worshipped Revelation The Beast is beloved Revelation The Beast is honored Revelation The Beast is confidently followed Revelation This system is seen as a harlotrous woman. This chapter records the demise of the counterfeit church Satan founded at Eden and has worked on ceaselessly ever since. His ultimate goals in the world today are to forge global unity politically, religiously and financially. Who is the Woman On the Beast? There are 14 identifying[3] marks[4] of the Harlot Bride of Satan - 1. The woman is a harlot v. It is a woman without faithfulness in spiritual worship. This is spiritual fornication. The only city that qualifies - conspicuously- is the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church. The central figure of Roman Catholicism is a woman: There is no church, no city, which is a spiritual entity, no religious institution past or present, which even comes close to possessing the incalculable wealth of the Roman Catholic Church. She has a golden cup in her hand. This is the holiest instrument in Roman Catholicism: No doctrine in the World is more damnable than the Doctrine of Transubstantiation re-crucifying Jesus at every mass in every church around the world every day! This "Gold Cup" is a picture of a false and vile counterfeit of true communion with God. Only the church of Rome is built upon that spiritual fountain of false teaching going back to Nimrod in the Old Testament On her forehead is her name: Babylon is a code word for Rome. Rome has its spiritual foundations in Babylon from its occultic origins, the Tower of Babel, and the attempt to reach Heaven by steps of its own making. No institution on earth has more aggressively and consistently slaughtered those who adhered to the Gospel of Christ. In the inquisition alone more were horribly murdered than by Hitler and Stalin combined! Note she is first seated on the beast, which means for a time she directs the beast. The harlot is a system which will be destroyed by the beast v. No other city in the World that is existing today has a three thousand year history of continuous inhabitation, and once ruled the World, and once headed a world-wide empire than has never been destroyed. The origin of paganism in Romanism. Overview of World History So how did Rome inherit this wickedness? Hold on to your seats, here is an overview of world history in 3 minutes: The very principles found in the bloodless sacrifice of the Mass as it is in the Church of Rome today can be traced.

**Chapter 6 : The True Bride of Christ**

*The Bride of Christ IS his body, and will come out of the body of Christ, the church, (kingdom and grace saints, think Rachel and Leah), but not all of the church is the Bride (naomi, Ruth, Boaz).*

Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord. Do bear with me! For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. Believe in God; believe also in me. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants. The smoke from her goes up forever and ever. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous that is, an idolater, has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Chapter 7 : Bride of Christ - Wikipedia

*I assure you that if you were committed to the true Bride of Christ, you would receive us, because we are His bride, His elect, His brethren, and members of His Body in particular. We come in His Name, and you reject us.*

He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: In the three Synoptic Gospels , when Jesus is asked why his disciples do not fast, but the followers of John and the Pharisees do, Jesus answers: And Jesus said unto them, Can the friends of the bridegroom fast, as long as the bridegroom is with them? The Bridegroom is also mentioned in the Parable of the Ten Virgins. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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, [Revelation  
And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. The context of Revelation She is simply a "woman" getting married - a bride. Rather, the author encourages the readers to constantly give thanks with song in their hearts because of what God has done for all in Christ. That is approached in Ephesians 5: A major analogy is that of the body. Just as husband and wife are to be "one flesh", [Eph. Just as the husband, when he loves his wife is loving his own flesh. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him". Other interpretations[ edit ] While the most commonly accepted interpretation of the bride of Christ is the Church, there are other, uncommon interpretations. The love poems of the Song of Songs and the Latter prophet Hosea have many references to the sexual correspondence of God and his people. The theme of bridal love is central in the dramatic marriage of Hosea.

**Chapter 8 : What does the Bible say? The bride of Christ and the marriage of the Lamb**

*Likewise, Christ's love for the church and the church's love and respect for Christ form the basis for a God-honoring church. Second Corinthians offers a similar look at Christ as the groom and the church as the bride of Christ.*

Source Do you still believe women should not be pastors or leaders in the church? Do you still believe healing was for the early church? Do you still believe the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was for the early church and not for the body of Christ today also? With a spirit of honest examination, the church has realized that they were not quite right. With that said, I believe its time to take a closer look at the "Bride of Christ" doctrine as well. Here are the reasons why: One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. If the church is "the bride of Christ," then the Christian has to do something to get "herself ready. The Word says that we are already made righteous and are already sanctified. The bride of Christ has to be something else! Jesus did not teach that his body is also his bride. Christians are repeatedly called "sons of God," "the body of Christ," and "the church" throughout the New Testament but are never called "the bride of Christ. This teaching is inconsistent with the entire Pauline Revelation of the Gospel of Grace. We are already ready! The "bride" must refer, not to the church, but to the Holy Jerusalem, just as the Word of God says in Revelations The Unfortunate "Bride of Christ" Doctrine: If this is true, then there is absolutely no way Jesus will ever return and get us. We are not perfect, and we can never be perfect outside of his gift of righteousness. It is just not possible. It will never be possible! The Word does make those comparisons. God has made a lot of promises to us similar to those we make to each other when we get married. But as far as my personal relationship with God? I am a friend of God. He is my Dad, and I am His son, too. In the Scripture, it reads " He is a Dad who has promised me an inheritance and the ability to come boldly to His throne of grace. Jesus never told His disciples He would someday be their bride. In fact, nowhere in scriptures does it ever say Christians are the bride of Christ. Not only that, it just seems strange. I searched the Bible for the term "Bride of Christ". It surprised me when I did that search and came up with no results! And to think, after all these years of hearing how we are the bride of Christ and He will come get us once we have made ourselves ready. What does the word say about the "Bride of Christ"? The term "Bride of Christ" is nowhere in the Bible. These passages are all parables or similes. They are simply making a comparison of our relationship to Him. He loves us and has made covenant promises to us, similar to how a husband loves and upholds promises to his wife. Again, the passage that comes closest to mentioning a bride from Revelation: 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, Having the glory of God: In verse 10, it also says that John the Revelator saw that great city descending down from heaven adorned as a bride. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen. The bride is not the subject of this story—the guests are. The commonly accepted interpretation of this parable is that the guests represent the church—how can the guests be considered the bride? And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to

meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. They are only guests trying to get into the wedding. This story is about being ready to be accepted into the kingdom of heaven. How is that done? By accepting Jesus as our Lord. That story is as simple as that! Another Argument Lies in Isaiah 62 Isaiah Some have said the Lord would not marry a city, but here the Lord is married to the land. It is not a stretch that He could be married to a city if He wants, as has been indicated in Revelation God can do what He wants, whether we understand it or not. After all, when did God ever do anything that really made sense to us? In the Old Testament, the church of Christ had not yet been established. Therefore, there was no church yet; furthermore, the prophet says God is already married to Israel! So, how did some miss that passage and turn the church or even Israel into the "bride of Christ"? The only thing you know must be true is the Word of God. So instead of putting unwavering faith in preachers, examine stories that seem clear to you. However, with further consideration, I have concluded it is a fundamental concern. What the doctrine teaches causes to do works to become "without spot or wrinkle. We then become all about works. The Galatians were all about works. What did Paul call those Galatians? He called them fools. Other Problems with the "Bride of Church" Doctrine In addition to devaluing His gift of righteousness, the "Bride of Christ" doctrine also devalues our authority and position in Christ. Being in his body is much more powerful than simply being his bride. For example, when it comes right down to it, my wife is limited in her authority over me because she is a separate person. He gave us all of His authority as kings and priests in the earth. We are his body. We have His authority in the earth. That authority is the Word of God He gave us to hear, believe, speak, and live by. But the ones who believe the church is the bride of Christ cannot back it up with obvious scripture. Reconsidering Doctrine Luke Its good to question everything we are being taught.

**Chapter 9 : Why Do You Say the Bride of Christ is the Church? - Resources - Eternal Perspective Ministries**

*Ephesians - Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; Revelation - 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.*

The New Jerusalem is! Christians are not the bride of Christ, that is the New Jerusalem; Christians are invited to the marriage supper of the lamb. Israel is the "woman" of the Bible: She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot. Can Christ marry His brothers: Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. The Bride of Christ is Jerusalem: Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Christians are sons of God: Joint heirs with Christ making them His brothers and sisters: Jews invitation to supper and refuse it: I ask you to have me excused. Christians are invited to the "supper of the Lamb": Hi, Thanks for the email although clearly we have some different beliefs here! Do you believe that we will get to marriage of the Lamb, the culmination of the redemptive purposes of God throughout all the ages, and find that the Bride, the one above all others, the greatest love of the Lord Jesus, is While those that He died for are merely guests at the wedding to see Him finally united with a city??? When you read that do you think that the love of God is for the physical world dirt, trees, rocks etc or for the human beings that dwell in the world? Obviously the human beings. Paul said it clearly writing to the church: For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. Or, as an easy read version says: I promised to give you to Christ. He must be your only husband. I want to give you to Christ to be his pure bride. John MacArthur comments on this verse: The OT pictures Israel as the wife of the Lord cf. Having betrothed or pledged the Corinthians to Christ, Paul wanted them to be pure until the marriage day finally arrived cf. The above verse makes no sense if the bride is an actual city! The bride is made up of the saints whose corporate acts of righteousness form her clothing in preparation for the wedding. You will see also that the bride, still dressed in fine linen, bright and clean, follows Christ out of Heaven later in Rev Again makes no sense if the bride is a city! John the Baptist said the same thing when the people were going to Jesus and not him. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He clearly said that the people that were going to Jesus were the bride, going to their bridegroom. He, as the last of the Old Testament saints, was not the bride but the friend of the bridegroom like a best man. J Vernon McGee writes: John the Baptist is the last of the Old Testament prophets. He is actually not in the church. He makes it clear here: He is the friend of the Bridegroom. He will be present at the marriage supper of the Lamb, but he is not a part of the church by any means. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who walks out of the Old Testament onto pages of the New Testament to announce the coming of the Messiah. Each simply portrays different aspects of spiritual truth as a whole. So how can we, as His body, also be His brothers? It is all true and expresses a different aspect of spiritual reality. Well, I have written more than I expected. I hope it helps, All the best.