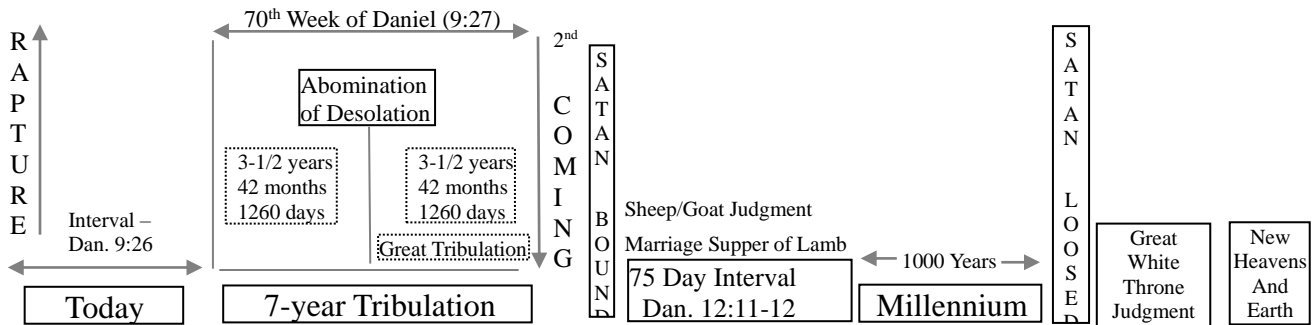


## Revelation 19: The End of the Beginning



**Jude 1:14,15** It was also about these people that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord has come with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

**Luke 1:31-33** “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

**Daniel 2:44-45** – And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

**Exodus 20:25** – If you make me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stones, for if you wield your tool on it you profane it.

**Why?:** Altar the means of atonement. Christ the Rock is our propitiation. You can add nothing to your salvation. Hewn stones represent human effort.

### God’s Promise

- The Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7:11-16).
- God promised David a royal dynasty (Isa 7:13).
- An eternal throne (2 Sam 7:13, 16, 19; 1 Chr 17:12; 22:10; Isa 55:3; Ezek 37:25).
- A political kingdom (Gen 17:2-8).
- It was even confirmed by oath (Ps 132:11; 89:3, 4, 34).
- This cannot be applied to the Church (Ezek 37:21-28).
- It was this future throne that was recognized by the First Church Council in Acts 15 (Acts 15:16-18, quoting Amos 9:11-12. Cf. Jer 30:7, 11, 18).

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The oldest prophecy uttered by a prophet: *before the Flood of Noah!*

1] And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God:

*Meta tauta:* (4X) 4:1, 7:1, 18:1; 19:1. “After the Church things...”

*Alleluia* is the Greek form of the Hebrew *Hallelujah*: (4X) only occurrences in NT are here in Revelation = “Praise Yahweh.” It occurs 24X in Psalms (Ps 146-150). First use: 1 Chr 16:4 (Hebrew) to celebrate the ark of God in the midst of Zion.

Sung for three reasons: God has judged His enemies (19:1-4); God is reigning (19:5-6); The Bride is ready (19:7-10). Rom 8:18-23!

2] For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

The Great Harlot again. “Rejoice over her” was commanded when she fell (18:20). This section is a response to that command. [Believers are forbidden to avenge themselves (Rom 12:19).]

3] And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. “...for ever and ever”:  
That’s a long time. God’s throne and altar are related to His *judgments*; cf. v.3 with Rev 14:10-11; v.4 with Rev 5:6-10.

4] And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. This is the last appearance of the 24 elders. They apparently become the Bride. The unique “Amen” speaks volumes: “verily, verily...”

5] And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. Revelation, indeed, is the book of the throne (Psalm 110:1).

6] And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

7] Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8] And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. Granted, not earned (cf. Ps 45).

9] And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Fourth of seven “beatitudes.”

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## The Bride?

Is it Israel? “Wife of Yahweh” (Isa 54:1,4); Harlot (Ezek 16:35).

Hosea’s Object Lessons (Hos 2:14-23): Wife from whoredoms; gifts to lovers to prevent want; bought at slave market: Hosea was to love her anyway.

## Israel: Idolatrous Wife

Hosea’s three children: *Jezreel* (cast away; sowed for later harvest); *Lo-Ruhamah* (unpitied; without mercy, cf. Hos 1:6) and *Lo-Ammi* (not my people vs. Rom 11:1). But not permanently cast away: Hos 1:11,2:23; Rom 9,10,11; Zech 12:10; Isa 62:5.

But the names of the children were changed (Hos 2:1, 14,15). Israel will not be cast away forever (Rom 11:1). Paul, in his definitive statement of doctrine called the Epistle to the Romans, spends three chapters hammering away on the theme that Israel is not cast away forever, but will be the path of blessing (Rom 11:11,12,15). Israel appears 73 times in the New Testament—each time referring to national Israel.

## Strange Contrast

- Mystery Babylon: “She saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.” (Rev 18:7)
- Israel: “Divorced” (Isa 54:4-9; Jer 3:8,14; Hos 2:14-19) and “Widowed” (Lam 1:1; Isa 54:4). The High Priest is forbidden to marry a divorced or widowed woman! (Lev 21:10,13,14).

## The Bride

- The Church 2 Cor 11:2 – Chaste virgin Eph 5:22-3
- Jesus is the Bridegroom John 3:22

The Church is described as the virgin waiting for her bridegroom’s coming (2 Cor 11:2; also, Eph 5:22-23). The Church is “engaged” to Him even though we have not seen Him (1 Pet 1:8). One day He will return to take His bride to heaven (Jn 14:1-6; 1 Thess 4:13-18).

## The Jewish Wedding

- **The Ketubah, Betrothal:** • Betrothal (*shiddukhin*): the prospective groom’s traveling from his father’s house to the home of the prospective bride, paying the purchase price, and thus establishing the marriage covenant (*ketubah*). Usually arranged by the parents. Binding and could only be broken by a form of divorce. Any unfaithfulness during the engagement was considered adultery.
- **Bridegroom departs to Father’s House:** The groom returns to his father’s house and remained separate from his bride, during which time he prepared the living accommodations for his bride in his father’s house; the groom comes for his bride at a time not known exactly to her; she lived in expectation until he surprises her on his return.
- **Surprise gathering:** His return with her to the groom’s father’s house for the *huppah* (wedding ceremony), to consummate the marriage and to celebrate the wedding feast for the next seven days (during which the bride remained closeted in her bridal chamber).

## The Marriage Fulfilled

- Covenant established: 1 Cor 11:25
- Purchase price: 1 Cor 6:19-20
- Bride set apart: Eph 5:25-27; 1 Cor 1:2; 6:11; Heb 10:10; 13:12
- Reminded of the covenant: 1 Cor 11:25-26
- Bridegroom left for the Father’s house...
- Escort to accompany Him upon His return to gather His Bride: 1 Thess 4:16-17

*And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.* Luke 22:15-18; Mk 14:25;

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Mt 26:29

- Bridegroom: Mt 9:15; 22:1-13; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:23-32
- John the Baptist (Friend of Bridegroom, not the Bride): Jn 3:29; Lk 16:16; Mt 11:11-13
- Banquet: Isa 25:6-10; 26:1-4,19; cf. Lk 22:15,16; Mt. 26:39
- Bride enjoys a unique relationship: cf. Jn 17:23-26

[Virgins of Mt 25:1-13 are not the bride.] Many scholars suggest that the Old Testament saints apparently are not in view. [Some see this differently: they see Israel and the Church *combined* here. Israel is also figured in Hos 2:14-23; Isa 62:5. There are some outstanding scholars (Barnhouse, etc.) who suggest that both are in view. They certainly appear to be combined ultimately in the New Jerusalem in Chapters 21 and 22.]

10] And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See *thou do it* not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

### Revelation 19 – Part 2 Armageddon Scenario

“*Hora me*”: two staccato words in the Greek. This angel was not about to be ensnared as was Lucifer in Isa 14. Worshipping angels was wrong (Col 2:18) and John knew this. The angel was only a servant of God (Heb 1:14) and we do not worship servants (Acts 10:25-26). John was overwhelmed; and he even repeats this later (22:8-9)!

Jesus permits worship: Simon Peter (Lk 5:8); Thomas (Jn 20:28); and Joshua (Josh 5:13-15), etc.

“The volume of the book is written of me.” Psalm 40:7.

11] And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Heaven opened; (as at His baptism). His enemies know He is coming; Rev 12:12; Mt 24:29-30; 26:64; Under Oath! Acts 1:11; 2 Thess 1:7-10.

Distinct from the first horseman of Rev 6. Here He is not coming *in the air* to take His people home (1 Thess 4:13-18), but *to the earth* with His people, to conquer His enemies and establish His kingdom.

“Faithful and True”: (1:5, 3:7, and to the last of the seven churches, Isaiah 3:14).