

Warring Army, Chaste Bride, Glorious City

Rev 19 ⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" ... ¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war ... ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS ... ²¹ ⁹ Then one of the seven angels ... talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ¹² Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates ... [with] the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel ... ¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb ... ²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. ²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

* **What are** three ways the Bible presents the church?

1)

2)

3)

* **How do** those three go together?

1)

2)

* **Let's look** to Ephesians, for it is Paul's great _____ for the church.

Eph 3 ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

– In other words, the church is not God's Plan ____.

Eph 3 ¹⁴ I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... ¹⁶ that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, ... ¹⁷ that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

– Where do we see the fullness of God's love?

– What does Eph 3.10 mean ?

Eph 3 ¹⁰ that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

– How does it dovetail with John 13.34-35?

Jn 13 ³⁴ [L]ove one another; as I have loved you, ... you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

– How does John 13.34-35 dovetail with Eph 4 & 5's description of life and ministry within the church?

*Eph 4 ¹⁰ [Christ] ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. ¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we ... ¹⁵ ... may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body ... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love ...
5 ¹⁸ [B]e filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*

– How does Christ use all of this to authenticate the truth of the gospel? And what is the chief means by which Christ has brought unbelievers to faith in him during the 2000 year history of the church?

– What topic does Paul move to as he wraps up his letter?

Eph 6 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.