

When We Move to Our Heavenly Home

Part Five

THE RECEIVING OF THE BRIDE

After the Father gives the word for the LORD to take His bride from the earth, an angel will announce it with a shout. His voice will sound like a trumpet blast. Then, the LORD will leave the Holy City. You and I will be with Him as He leaves heaven. Together we will come with Him and hover over the earth in the upper atmosphere. (1 Thessalonians 4:14–18).

THE RESURRECTING OF THE BODY

Suddenly, all the buried dead bodies of all those who have accepted the LORD since His resurrection will be resurrected in the form of perfect spiritual bodies of flesh and bone, just like the body of Jesus when He was resurrected. So, too, our physical bodies will be resurrected from the grave, rising to rejoin our souls in the air to reside in our white robes (1 Thessalonians 4:14–18). Perfect bodies. That is what the Scripture means when it says, “...*the dead in Christ will rise first.*” Our old, decayed bodies, will be transformed and meet up with each of us in the air.

After the resurrection of the bodies of all the saints who are already with the LORD, we will see the living saints still alive on earth in human bodies begin to rise into the air – defying all the laws of gravitation. At that moment, their bodies will be transformed into glorious resurrected bodies, with their souls, with their new white robes, and they will rise to meet the LORD in the air with us. The Scripture says, those

*“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”*

(1 Thessalonians 4:14–18).

Those saints who will be alive at the time of this event will not have to go through the process of death. Because these raptured saints will not die, they will not stand before the Judgment Seat of God at His Throne. They will simply be transformed and rise into the air. The LORD will receive them just as the LORD will come to receive you and me. What about their verdict and what about the accuser? He will not have a chance to accuse these. They, along with all of the New Testament saints, will be headed directly to the marriage chamber of the LORD. No death on earth, no need to stand in the court of God the Father.

THE MARRIAGE IN THE HOLY CITY

Back to the Holy City, we will travel with the LORD for the marriage ceremony. It will be a grand time with all the true members of the Church from the new believers still alive at the

resurrection of the LORD from His grave in AD 30 until the time the LORD snatches the Church away from the earth in the future. We will all be part of that wonderful time and see it all transpire from our point of view in heaven and with the LORD. More than that, we will participate in the celebration with all the saints of all time who belonged to the Church, the Bride of Christ. We will hear a voice from the throne speak to us, and we will join in one great multitude in heaven as follows.

*And a voice came from the throne, saying,
 “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.”
 Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like
 the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying,
 “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns”
 (Revelation 19:1–6).*

Kay, you and I, and all the New Testament saints will be that multitude. Our voices will
 be heard across the vast Holy City like thunder as we will shout
“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.”

The marriage in the Holy City will be a wonderful time where the LORD will give many gifts to everyone who is part of His Bride. He has many gifts for you.

THE GIVING OF GIFTS IN THE HOLY CITY

The Bible calls the time when the LORD will give gifts to his Bride the Judgment Seat of Christ. Of course, you will already have your *robe of white* and your *crown of life*. Those two gifts will be provided when you transition from this earth to heaven. But at the Judgment Seat of Christ, you, me, and every other saint that is part of the Bride will receive more gifts at that special time with the LORD in the future.

We have already mentioned this, but the LORD will give you the gift of being able to eat the fruit and vegetation from “*the tree of life*” (Revelation 2:7). We have also already mentioned that He will give you a “*crown of life*” (Revelation 2:10).

In addition, a special gift will be a promise. The promise is this, you will not “*be hurt by the second death*” that will occur when the LORD holds His Great White Throne Judgment after He has reigned on earth for one thousand years (Revelation 2:11). That judgment will send all those who did not trust in Him as their Savior to the *lake of fire* forever.

Moreover, besides the fruit and vegetation from the tree of life, the LORD will provide “*some of the hidden manna*,” the same food He fed to the Nation of Israel while they were in the wilderness.

He will also give you a little “*white stone*” with your “*new name written*” on it. No one will know the name except you, the Father, the LORD, and the Holy Spirit (Revelation 2:17).

Now comes an interesting gift. The LORD will give you “*authority over nations*” (Revelation 2:26). You will need this authority when you return to earth with the LORD at the Battle of Armageddon to help the LORD manage the humans still on earth for one thousand years. You

will have a job in the LORD's organization because you are part of His Bride and will soon be His Wife. Just as wives have important responsibilities in families here on earth, you will help protect all those still on earth after the LORD returns to make sure sin does not raise its ugly head for one thousand years, just as you helped protect our daughter from the same while we are on earth.

Along with the authority, the LORD will give you "*the morning star*" (Revelation 2:28). What is that gift? It is the presence of the LORD living within you. He is the Bright and Morning Star, and He will live inside you for all eternity.

You will be dressed in your beautiful "*white garment*," the new robe that the LORD will give you (Revelation 3:5).

And a special gift will be that He will not erase your "*name from the book of life*" (Revelation 3:5). As special as that will be, the LORD will have also announced to God the Father and all the angels in heaven that you belong to Him (Revelation 3:5).

To add to all those blessings, you will always be with the LORD, in His presence and He in you. In heaven, you will not see a temple because the LORD is the Temple. But, you will be a "*pillar in the temple*" that is, His organization (Revelation 3:12). Wherever He is, you will be, serving Him, because you became His bond-servant here on earth.

On your forehead, three special names will be written. The first is the name of God the Father, the *Ancient of Days*. The second is the name of His city, the "*New Jerusalem*," which is the home of God the Father. The third will be the "*new name*" of the LORD. We will have to wait until that day to learn the LORD's new name (Revelation 3:12). But, just in case you are wondering, the LORD has many names already. In our western mindset, we might often call them titles. For instance, from Isaiah 9 we know the LORD by the titles of "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, . . . Prince of Peace." In other places He holds the title of Jehovah Jireh, meaning the God Who Heals. There is Jehovah Rapha, Jehovah Shamma, and many more. With each work of the LORD, a new name or title is attached to Him. When the LORD takes His Bride, He will have a new name associated with Him. But, we will have to wait for that name.

Then the LORD will give you the privilege to "*sit down with My Father on His throne*." What a gift! To sit with the LORD, your King of kings, LORD of lords, the Creator and Savior, while He is sitting with His Father! (Revelation 3:31). Nothing in the world could ever compare to the gifts the LORD will give you.

Now, the LORD will remember all that you did while on earth. It is all written in a "*book of remembrance*." (Malachi 3:16). He will use this book so each person can

*"receive what they should as they will be paid, according to whatever they had
either right or wrong when they lived in this earthly body"*
(1 Corinthians 5:10).

In so doing, He will honor the people of His Bride with crowns. Five crowns will be given to the people who did His work on earth.

The *Incorruptible Crown* will be given to those who had victory over the world's sins, the sins of the flesh, and the temptations of evil (1 Corinthians 9:25).

The *Crown of Rejoicing* will be given to those who win souls for Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

The *Crown of Life* will be given to those who endure the pain of this world and remain faithful to Christ. It is also called the "*crown of eternal life*" (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10). Everyone who is part of the Bride has this crown. You will get yours when the LORD takes you from this world and crowns you after the Father has proclaimed you innocent of your sins and your sins He will "remember no more" (Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 8:12; 10:17). While this saying is specifically applied to the Nation of Israel, the writer of Hebrews also tells us that it applies to all who have been redeemed by His death on the cross, and that includes you and me (Hebrews 9:15). So, when we receive our *Crown of Life*, after God the Father says, "Not Guilty," our sins will be remembered no more. As Isaiah said it, "*Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be whited as snow ...*" (Isaiah 1:1).

Then there is the *Crown of Glory*. It will be given to those who shepherd the flock of the LORD on earth (1 Peter 5:4).

Finally, the *Crown of Righteousness* will be given to those who had hope for the Second Coming of the LORD (2 Timothy 4:8).

Because you belong to me, and I am a minister of God's Word, you will have a special treat when the gifts are given out. You will receive all the gifts you deserve, and you will also receive all the gifts that I deserve as an extra bonus. The LORD said,

"He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward"
(Matthew 10:41).

All of my rewards will be yours too. But I will not be gifted your rewards. But notice that the promise also applies to all the women who have married righteous men. They, too, will receive the gifts of their righteous husbands.

At the end of the Judgment Seat of Christ, things on earth will be in such a sad state that only the visual presence of the LORD can correct all the wrongs of all the ages. The LORD's elect nation of Israel is finally ready to be faithful to Him as it never truly was since the day that He chose her to be the bloodline that He would be born into this world as a Babe. It will be time for His Second Coming to rescue Israel; you and I, along with all the saints of all the ages, will come with Him, prepared with our assignments, in His organization, for our faithful work on earth.

*"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." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean;
for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints*
(Revelation 19:7–8).

It will be time to leave the marriage chamber of the LORD,
not as the Bride, but as the Wife.