

THE LORD'S CHURCHES IN GLORY

There are three notable things to see about the Lord's churches in glory:

A. **The Church's Judgment.**

This will occur at the Judgment Seat of Christ — *Romans 14:10,12; II Corinthians 5:10.*

Romans 14:10-12

10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, *As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.* 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

1. **The Judgment Seat Of Christ Occurs Immediately After The Rapture.**

We would base this, assertion on the sequence of the apostle John's "rapture experience" in *Revelation 4*:

- a. Rapture — *verse 1.*
- b. *Throne* — *verse 2*
- c. *Crowns* — *verse 4*

Revelation 4:1-4

After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne. 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. 4 And round about the throne *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

Certainly, it is an event which occurs after the return of Christ for His own — *Matthew 25:19.*

Matthew 25:19

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

THE LORD'S CHURCHES IN GLORY

2. The Judgment Seat Of Christ Involves All Believers.

Note the use of the word “*all*” in *Romans 14:10* and *II Corinthians 5:10*, and “*every one*” in *Romans 14:12*.

Romans 14:10-12

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2 Corinthians 5:10

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3. The Judgment Seat Of Christ Is Specific In Its Review.

- a. It Is A Judgment Of WORKS — not salvation.
See: *II Corinthians 5:9-11*; *I Corinthians 3:13-15*.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

- b. It Is A Judgment Related To The New Testament Church. In *I Corinthians 3:12*, the test is concerned with what has been built on “*this foundation*.” This foundation is none other than that of God's building, the Church — *verses 9-11*.

1 Corinthians 3:9-12

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth

THE LORD'S CHURCHES IN GLORY

thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

4. The Judgment Seat Of Christ Dispenses Rewards.
There are five crowns the Lord will give.

- a. The Crown Of Life — faithful living. See: *James 1:12; Revelation 2:10.*

James 1:12

12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Revelation 2:10

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

- b. The Crown Of Rejoicing — evangelistic living.
See: *I Thessalonians 2:19.*

1 Thessalonians 2:19

19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

- c. The Crown Of Incorruptibility — victorious living.
See: *I Corinthians 9:25.*

1 Corinthians 9:25

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

- d. The Crown of Righteousness — holy living.
See: *II Timothy 4:8; I John 3:3.*

2 Timothy 4:8

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

THE LORD'S CHURCHES IN GLORY

1 John 3:3

3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

- e. The Crown Of Glory — for faithful pastors.
See: I Peter 5:4.

1 Peter 5:4

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Note: According to *II John 8* and *I Corinthians 3:15*, this judgment will also see a loss of rewards (not salvation).

2 John 8

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

1 Corinthians 3:15

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

B. The Church's Marriage.

Revelation 19:7-9 speaks of the "marriage of the Lamb" and the "marriage supper of the Lamb."

Revelation 19:7-9

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. 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.

1. This Event Occurs In Heaven — *Revelation 19:1.*

Revelation 19:1

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

2. This Event Occurs Shortly Before The Second Coming Of Christ.

THE LORD'S CHURCHES IN GLORY

Note the sequence in *Revelation 19*:

- Marriage — *verses 7-9*.
- Second Coming — *verses 11&c*.

Revelation 19:11

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.

3. All Honour Is Bestowed Upon The Lamb — *verse 7*.
Christ is to be glorified in the Church (*Ephesians 3:21*) in all ages!

Ephesians 3:21

21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

4. The Wife (Lord's Churches) Hath Made Herself Ready — *verse 7*. She has kept herself chaste while on earth, and has passed through the fire of her Lord's inspection.
5. The Wife Is Arrayed — *verse 8*.
A simple reminder that she was bought by the blood of the Lamb (*Acts 20:28*).
6. The Invited Guests — *verse 9*.
This is a controversial verse to many. The question is, "is this a general blessing applied to all the saved in glory?" or, "is it a particular blessing which distinguishes non-church saints from the bride?"
7. The Honeymoon.
Christ will spend 1,000 years with His wife on earth. See also: *Matthew 26:29*. (Note: The Lord's Supper is a church ordinance.)

Matthew 26:29

29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

8. The Home.
The Groom will escort His beloved wife to the home He prepared (*John 14:2,3*) for her. It is called the New Jerusalem — *Revelation 21:9&c*.

THE LORD'S CHURCHES IN GLORY

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.

Revelation 21:9

9 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.

C. The Church's Glory.

In God's new order (*Revelation 21:1*), the Church will have a distinguished identity. We understand this from the register of things we shall see one day in Glory — *Hebrews 12:22-24*.

Revelation 21:1

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Hebrews 12:22-24

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

In this list of 9 things we note there are three distinct groups of those who make up the redeemed:

1. The General Assembly.
The Greek word translated "general assembly" is πανήγυρις — 'panegyrei.' The 'paneguris' refers to a general festive gathering of all the people of all the Greek states.
2. The Church Of The Firstborn.
Here, the Greek word 'ekkllesia' refers to a particular assembly of a particular Greek state.

In other words, the general assembly of believers is distinguished from the church of the firstborn (note the conjunction "*and*" in *verse 23*) — even though both "*are* (plural) *written in heaven.*"

THE LORD'S CHURCHES IN GLORY

3. The Spirits Of Just Men.

This refers to the Old Testament saints — compare *Hebrews 11:40*.

Hebrews 11:40

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

While many object to this pigeonholing of the redeemed, it is not without Biblical precedent. God chose Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau (*Romans 9:10-14*), Israel over the nations (*Deuteronomy 7:6-8; 10:15; 14:2*), Judah over the other tribes (*Psalms 78:67-70*), David over his brothers (*I Samuel 16:10.12*), and the apostles from the disciples (*Luke 6:13*).

Romans 9:10-14

10 And not only *this*; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, *even* by our father Isaac; 11 (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14 What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

6 For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth. 7 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people: 8 But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 10:15

15 Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, *even* you above all people, as *it is* this day.

Deuteronomy 14:2

2 For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that *are* upon the earth.

Psalms 78:67-70

67 Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim: 68 But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved. 69 And he built his sanctuary like high *palaces*, like the earth which he hath established for ever. 70 He chose David also his servant,

THE LORD'S CHURCHES IN GLORY

and took him from the sheepfolds:

1 Samuel 16:10-12

10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. 11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all *thy* children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. 12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, *and* withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he.

Luke 6:13

13 And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

- There is a difference between the a New Testament Church and the Family of God — *Ephesians 3:14,15,21*.

Ephesians 3:14-15,21

14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

- The marriage of Rebekah to Isaac gives us a pattern. The father (Abraham) sought a bride for his son (Isaac) — see: *Genesis 24:1-3; Matthew 22:1-10; John 6:44*. The servant (Eliezer) went into a far country to find a bride — *Genesis 24:10*. Rebekah is a chaste virgin — *Genesis 24:16*. The servant speaks only of the father and the son — *Genesis 24:34-36; John 16:13,14* — and gives gifts to the bride, *Genesis 24:53; 1 Corinthians 12:4,7-11*. The bride and the groom meet at eventide — *Genesis 24:63* — and are married, *Genesis 24:67*. Abraham chose a bride for his son FROM his family, but Isaac did not marry the whole family.

Genesis 24:1-3

And Abraham was old, *and* well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. 2 And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: 3 And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:

Matthew 22:1-10

And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, 2 The kingdom of heaven

THE LORD'S CHURCHES IN GLORY

is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and *my* fatlings *are* killed, and all things *are* ready: come unto the marriage. 5 But they made light of *it*, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated *them* spitefully, and slew *them*. 7 But when the king heard *thereof*, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

John 6:44

44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Genesis 24:10

10 And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master *were* in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.

Genesis 24:16

16 And the damsel *was* very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.

Genesis 24:34-36

34 And he said, I *am* Abraham's servant. 35 And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses. 36 And Sarah my master's wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath.

John 16:13-14

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

Genesis 24:53

53 And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave *them* to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things.

1 Corinthians 12:4,7-11

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is

THE LORD'S CHURCHES IN GLORY

given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Genesis 24:63

63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide: and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels *were* coming.

Genesis 24:67

67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's *death*.