



I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it].



- 1. Who is the Bride of Christ?
- 2. When is the Church presented to Jesus in glorious splendour, spotless, without blemish, holy & blameless? (Ephesians 5:27)
- 3. How will this happen... or how can this be?

1 Thessalonians 4:15–18

- 15. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- 16. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
- 18. Therefore encourage one another with these words.



The Church Age

The beginning of the Church Age
The Church is birthed
on the Day of Pentecost
in the early rain
outpouring of the Holy Spirit

The end of the Church Age
The Church is caught up
in the Rapture
& meets the Bridegroom
as the Bride of Christ

Millennium Participants

- * The remnant of Israel
- The Raptured Saints (the Bride)
- * The Tribulation Saints
- The Old Covenant Saints (the righteous)
- Pro-semitic Gentile believers who survive the Tribulation

Messages 43 & 44 in the series on the Book of Revelation

Ephesians 1:22–23

Also, He has put all things under His feet (Jesus) and made Him head over everything for the Messianic Community, (the Church)
which is His body, the full expression of Him who fills all creation.

Verse 23: Amplified Bible

Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].

Ephesians 4:11–14

- 11. And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,
- 12. to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
- 13. UNTILwe all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- 14. so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Ephesians 5:23, 25-27

- 23. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, His body, and is Himself its Saviour.
- 25. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
- 26. So that He might sanctify her (the church), having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word,
- 27. That He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such things [that she might be holy and faultless].

The Church in Ephesians

- the full expression of Jesus in the earth
- having attained unity in the faith & in the knowledge of the Son of God
- having attained maturity to the level of the fulness of the stature of Christ
- no longer like a child tossed to & fro by false doctrine & false teachers
- presented to Jesus in glorious splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such things [that she might be holy and faultless].

1 Corinthians 15:51–55

- 51. I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
- 52. in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.
- 53. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.
- When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."
- 55. "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Revelation 19:7

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready.

Revelation 21:9

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb."

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."

Understanding Biblical Prophecy

The Greco-Roman (western) view of prophecy

Prophecy is prediction & fulfilment

- one single prediction & one single fulfilment
- even if that fulfilment is only partial

The Hebraic (Biblical) view of prophecy

There are often two or more levels of fulfilment of a single prophecy

- often that which is fulfilled close to the time of the prediction but which is a foretaste of a greater fulfilment to come

Acts 2:1-4

- 1. When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.
- 2. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
- 3. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.
- 4. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:15-21

- 15. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.
- 16. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:
- 17. "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;
- 18. even on My male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out My Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

19. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke; 20. the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 21. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

The Church in Ephesians

- the full expression of Jesus in the earth
- having attained unity in the faith & in the knowledge of the Son of God
- having attained maturity to the level of the fulness of the stature of Christ
- no longer like a child tossed to & fro by false doctrine & false teachers
- presented to Jesus in glorious splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such things [that she might be holy and faultless].

Qualifications and Marks of the latter-rain outpouring of the Spirit

- 1. A focus on the final harvest of souls.
- 2. A spirit of grace leading to repentance and godliness.
- 3. A spirit of supplication resulting in surrender and an urgency to pray in the Spirit.
- 4. A yearning for Jesus, and a mourning, brokenness and weeping with godly sorrow for sin. Only after such dealings of the Spirit will come the true blessing of joy!

David Wilkerson

Dear saint, it is possible to miss out on all that the Spirit has promised. Even in the midst of His rain, you can end up in a desert - dry, withered, empty. All you have to do is join the Laodicean crowd - to remain lukewarm and be satisfied with halfhearted service to the Lord. And the rain that comes to ripen the last-day harvest will only water the thorns and thistles in you (Hebrews 6:7-8)

I don't want to miss out on God's last outpouring! I have been praying for Him to include me, and I urge you to do the same. Pray with me now:

"Lord, I don't have the discipline needed for Your holy work. You have to give it to me! Give me Your burden for lost souls. Put Your weeping Spirit in me. You are my only hope - so I surrender and turn totally to You. I'll do anything You tell me. And I will depend on You for everything!" Amen!

Isaiah 48:3

The former things I declared of old; they went out from My mouth, and I announced them; then suddenly I did them, and they came to pass.

James 5:7-8

- 7. So, brothers, be patient until the Lord returns. See how the farmer waits for the precious "fruit of the earth" he is patient over it until it receives the fall and spring rains.
- 8. You too, be patient; keep up your courage; for the Lord's return is near.