

THE END TIMES: *the* MARRIAGE

February 28th, 2010

Marriage of the LAMB

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.

The HOST

Luke 14:16-23 Jesus replied with this story: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations.¹⁷ When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.'¹⁸ But they all began making excuses. One said, 'I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.'¹⁹ Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.'²⁰ Another said, 'I now have a wife, so I can't come.'²¹ "The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.'²² After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.'²³ So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.'

The BRIDEGROOM

John 3:27-30 John replied, "No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven.²⁸ You yourselves know how plainly I told you, 'I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.'²⁹ It is the bridegroom who marries the bride, and the best man is simply glad to stand with him and hear his vows. Therefore, I am filled with joy at his success.³⁰ He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

The BRIDE

Ephesians 5:22-32 For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.²³ For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church.²⁴ As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.²⁵ For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her²⁶ to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word.²⁷ He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.²⁸ In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself.²⁹ No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.³⁰ And we are members of his body.³¹ As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."³² This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.

The GUESTS

Revelation 19:9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God."

The service SCHEDULE

Ephesians 1:3-4 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

The CELBRATION!

John 14:2, 3 There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.