

The Glorious Church

The Holy City, New Jerusalem

- We have seen four women
 - Eve in Genesis 2
 - The wife (the church) in Ephesians 5
 - The woman in the vision of Revelation 12
 - The wife of the Lamb in Revelation 21
- These four women are actually one, but her history can be divided into four stages.
 - When she was conceived in the plan of God, she was called Eve.
 - When she is redeemed and manifesting Christ on earth, she is called the church.
 - When she is persecuted by the great dragon, she is the woman in the vision.
 - When she is completely glorified in eternity, she is the wife of the Lamb.

The Fall of Babylon

- Of the two women spoken of in Revelation 17 and 21, one is called the great harlot, and the other is called the bride.
 - The harlot spoken of in chapters 17 and 18 is Babylon, whose deeds are extremely displeasing to God.
- The meaning of Babylon related to man's own efforts to build a tower to reach unto heaven
 - Babylon represents man's ability. It represents a false Christianity.
 - The principle of Babylon is hypocrisy.
 - There is no reality, yet people act as if there is in order to obtain glory from man. It is to pretend in order to receive glory from man.
 - Whenever we put on a garment which does not match our actual condition, we are in the principle of Babylon.
- The principle of Babylon is mixing the things of man with the Word of God, and the things of the flesh with the things of the Spirit.
 - Babylon is mixed and corrupted Christianity.
- According to God's Word, His children cannot be involved in any matter containing the character of Babylon.
- Rev. 18:2-8 tells us the reason for Babylon's fall and judgment.

- Though the **actual** judgment will be performed by God in the **future**, the **spiritual judgment must be made by us today**.
- **Rev. 19:5** is a proclamation from the throne to **give praise to our God**.
 - There are two reasons for praise.
 - First, God reigns.
 - Second, God has obtained what He determined to have in eternity past.
 - Regardless of how much **weakness** there has been, both yesterday and today, **God will obtain** His determined will in that day.
- All of our seeking and all of our growth is **not for us as individuals**, but **for the Body**.
 - Whatever the **overcomers** accomplish is the accomplishment of the **whole Body**.
 - When God sees the readiness of the overcomers, He reckons it as the readiness of the whole church.
- The readiness of the wife especially refers to the **garments** of the wife.
 - There are two kinds of garments for Christians.
 - One is the **Lord Jesus**.
 - When we come before God, the Lord Jesus is our garment.
 - The other is the **fine linen garment, bright and clean**.
 - When we are presented to Christ, we must be arrayed with fine linen, bright and clean.
- The **embroidered** garment is related to our deeds—wrought one stitch at a time by the **working of the Holy Spirit** in us **day by day**.
 - We need the **blood** of the Lord Jesus for the garment to be made **white**.
 - We must be willing for every kind of **difficulty** to come upon us to make the garment **bright and shining**.
 - The **fine linen** tells us that God not only requires man to have His righteousness, but also his own **righteous deeds**.
- The bride is a chosen group—the new man. But those who are called to the marriage dinner are a great many individuals—the overcomers. May God cause us, for His sake, to be able to enjoy this special fellowship with Him. May He make us those who will humbly seek to satisfy His heart's desire. May He cause us to seek to be those who supply life for the sake of the church. And may He cause us and enable us to be the overcomers for the sake of the kingdom.