

# HERE COMES THE BRIDE Part 2

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We are sharing with you from our “**POSITIONED FOR GOD’S PURPOSE**” series. In this series we’re taking a deep dive into the themes we touched on during our 2026 Focus Meeting. During that time we shared with you a dream that will be the basis for everything we will be talking about in this series.

In this dream everyone was busy making preparation for a wedding. Everyone’s attention seemed to be on making sure the bride was ready for the wedding.

Thus, we’re calling the first part of this series, **HERE COMES THE BRIDE!**

## **Revelation 19:7**

***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.***

This, of course, is a description of the marriage of the Lamb. Notice, *two* things:

- 1) The bride isn’t simply given this honor, she PREPARES herself for it.
- 2) She prepares herself BEFORE the marriage actually takes place.

The question is, How? *HOW* does the bride prepare herself for the wedding?

## **Revelation 21:7, 9–10**

***7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 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. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,***

There seems to be a connection between the bride and *overcoming*. This agrees with our dream where ‘Niki’ was the bride. (**Níkē** is Greek for victory or overcome!)

## **Revelation 3:12**

***12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.***

Again, being victorious (*overcoming*) is how the bride “makes herself ready.” Now, we might think that EVERYONE in the Church is (or will be) an overcomer and, as a result, will be part of the bride. Yet, we *don’t* see this when we examine Scripture.

For example, when we examine Scripture we find that the Scripture repeatedly reminds us that there are “prizes” that believers can obtain and *miss*.

**1 Corinthians 9:24**

***24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.***

Everyone may run in a race, but everyone will not obtain the prize. To obtain the prize you must overcome! If believers must overcome to win the ‘prize,’ AND if believers must overcome to be part of the bride, then being part of the bride could be seen as the actual *prize*.

This is what we see in the story of Esther. In fact, the story of Esther fits neatly within this narrative that we must attain to the level of the ‘bride.’

**Esther 2:2, 4**

***2 Then said the king’s servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king: 4 And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.***

While there were MANY maidens who were called (“sought for”) by the king, only ONE was chosen to receive the prize. And what was the prize?

The “prize” was being made QUEEN!

Incidentally, Esther was NOT just *randomly* chosen. Instead, she was chosen because of her PREPARATION.

Finally, Scripture reminds that believers do not all overcome the *same* way.

**1 Corinthians 15:25–26**

***25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.***

Notice, death is the *final* enemy that must be defeated. Moreover, death is one of those things that believers will not defeat or overcome the *same* way!

**John 11:25–26**

***25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?***

Not all believers will overcome death by being *raised* to life. Some will not need to be raised because they will NEVER DIE!

Someone might say, “Yeah, that’s only because they will have the fortune to be alive when Christ returns.” But, that’s NOT the reason Jesus gives!

**John 11:26**

***26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?***

It’s FAITH (believing) not FATE that keeps people from dying. NO ONE will escape death by chance. You must believe to escape death!

**Hebrews 11:5**

***5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.***

The reason Enoch did not see death is because he believed!

“Are you saying that those who die are unbelievers (not saved)?” No.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16–17**

***16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.***

Clearly, those who ‘die’ as well as those who will be ‘alive’ will one day be with the Lord! Still, we must not miss the distinction Paul makes between those who die and are raised, and those who never die. Those who NEVER die are given a *unique* distinction from those who die and must be raised.

**Matthew 16:28**

***28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.***

Jesus is clearly speaking prophetically here. He’s implying that there will be some believers will be left ‘standing’ (not taste death) when He returns! What about the rest? Where will they be?

**Matthew 25:1, 5–7**

***1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.***

Notice how the virgins were 'asleep' when the bridegroom came! This immediately distinguishes them from the previous group who will be 'standing' (alive). Furthermore, if we take into account that they are given 'lamps,' we can conclude that these virgins are the bridal party (bridesmaids) and NOT the bride!

In that day, the bridal party would accompany the bride and groom with lamps.

Therefore, if Jesus calls those who 'fall asleep' virgins, this suggests that anyone who dies and is not alive when Christ returns will not be part of the bride. Again, Scripture does not state this directly, but this is what we see when we connect the dots.

When we connect the dots we realize...

1. There's a PRIZE being offered to us. It's not your everyday, run-of-the-mill prize. Paul called it "the prize of the HIGH CALLING of God." We discovered today that it's connected with being the bride.
2. This honor isn't given just because you participated. Paul said, "Everyone may run, but not everyone does not receive the prize." To receive this prize you must overcome—sin, the world, the devil and ultimately DEATH!