

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST Revelation 19:7-9

Intro: In order to understand Bible prophecy concerning the Bride of Christ we must understand the marriage ceremony, customs, and procedures surrounding this ceremony.

- The ceremony consisted of three separate and distinct stages:
 1. The betrothal stage.
 - There was a dowry (negotiated price) paid.
 - There was a contract sealed.
 - The couple were legally married during this stage.
 - The length of this period was determined by the **Father**.

Scriptural references: Matt.1:18; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephs.5:22-32.

2. The presentation stage.
 - The Father sends the groom to the home of the bride.
 - They join hands and are escorted by the Father's servants to the Father's house.
 - The private marriage service takes place at the Father's house. The length of this service is determined by the Father (seven years).
 - The bride was to be ready and watching at all times so that she would not be caught unprepared.
 - The bride and groom were officially married when they walked through the door of the Father's House.

Scriptural References: Ephs.5:25, 27; Jude 24; Rev.19:7-9; 4:1; John 14:1-3.

3. The celebration stage.
 - After the private ceremony takes place the public celebration takes place.
 - The length and cost of the celebration was determined by the wealth of the Father!

Scriptural References: Jn.2:1-11; Matt.22:2-3; Lk.12:35-37; 14:16-17.