

# **“Body by Jesus”**

## **(part 6)**

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. An amazing scene**

1. Described in the last chapters of Revelation
2. A brilliant city descending from heaven
3. But note what it is called
  - a. Revelation 21

*(9) One of the seven angels...said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” (10) And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. (11) It shone with the glory of God,*

4. Who’s the bride?

### **B. The “profound mystery” of Ephesians 5**

1. Ephesians 5:31-32

*(31) “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” (32) This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.*

2. Concluding our six-part series
3. We’ll be there as his bride
4. Raises more questions than answers

## **II. Review**

## **1. The Tribulation (Revelation 6-18)**

## **2. The Second Coming (Revelation 19)**

- a. The Battle of Armageddon
- b. The Binding of Satan

## **3. The Millennium (Revelation 20:1-6)**

## **4. The Final Rebellion (Revelation 20:7-9)**

*\*now let me read to you the rest of the story*

## **5. The Judgment of Satan (Revelation 20:10)**

*(10) And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

## **6. The Judgment of Sinners (Revelation 20:11-15)**

*(11) Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. (13) The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. (14) Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. (15) If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

## **7. The New Jerusalem (v. 21:1-22:6)**

- a. The meltdown described in II Peter 3:7 & 10-13

*(7) By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

*(10) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.*

*(12) That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. (13) But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

b. The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21)

*(1) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. (2) I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne say, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. (4) He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*

*(9) One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” (10) And he carried away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. (11) It shone with the glory of God,*

c. Where is the Holy City right now?

1. This is the “Father’s house” of John 14:2
2. Where believers go at the time of death or the Rapture.
3. It will come down from heaven to the new earth

d. Why is it called “The Bride?”

*The New Jerusalem is described as “a bride adorned for her husband” **because the Bride of Christ (the church) lives in this city***

e. Who will live in the New Jerusalem?

1. We will.....The church
2. God
3. Holy angels
4. Possibly the righteous Jews

1. The twelve gates inscribed with “the twelve tribes of the children of Israel” suggest that born-again *Jewish* people (those Jews saved before or after the church era) will continue to live in the New Jerusalem

f. Who will live outside of the city?

1. Revelation 21:23-26

*(23) The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. (24) The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. (25) On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. (26) The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. (27) Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.*

2. The "Nations"

- a. With leaders, etc
- b. Believers from before or after the church age

g. Key details given in Revelation 21:9-27

- 1. Fifteen hundred miles square and fifteen hundred miles high
- 2. River and trees and seasons

### **III. Questions I've been asked**

**1. Will heaven be boring?**

- a. The great fear of many
  - 1. Like going to church 24-7
- b. Heaven won't be boring

**1. People**

- a. Jerry will be there!
  - 1. Your friends
- b. Fellowship with people from the past

**2. Your job**

- a. You'll enjoy your job
- b. Your current job without the hassles

**3. Your dreams**

- a. Your dream job
- b. Heaven will fulfill your longings

#### ***4. Your gifts and talents***

- a. Using your gifts to the fullest

#### ***5. Adventure***

- a. Exploring creation
  - 1. Gazing into the heavens
- b. “To infinity and beyond”

#### ***6. Learning***

- 1. Learn more and more about creation
- 2. We’ll learn from each other

#### ***7. Discovery***

- a. God’s plans for the future
- b. What will God do next
- c. Angels observed our creation
  - 1. And assist God in it even today
  - 2. Played an active role
- c. God’s not boring
  - 1. He knows what we like to do

## ***2. Will we get to hang out with the angels?***

- a. One of the great thrills of heaven will be to meet the angels of God.
- b. What are angels?
  - 1. Angels were apparently created long before Adam and Eve

2. Most of them have remained sinless and faithful to God
3. They will exist forever
4. We are told we will be physically similar to the angels
  - a. In our eternal bodies
  - b. The “measure of a man...and angel”
  - c. Will be “like the angels”...no marriage
5. There are a number of distinct kinds of angels:
  - a. Cherubim
  - b. Seraphim
  - c. Others

c. What about “Guardian Angels?”

1. Psalm 91:11

*For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways*

2. Hebrew 1:14

*Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

3. Hebrews 13:2

*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.*

d. Will we meet our guardian angels?

1. When we get to heaven we'll spend hours talking to the angels who have been assigned to watch over us on earth.
2. What stories they'll tell

**3. What will our heavenly bodies look like?**

- a. Your current body

1. Wasting away (II Corinthians 4:16-17)

2. Jim K. yesterday

b. Your new body will be like the body of Christ

1. Philippians 3:20-21

***(20) But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.***

2. I John 3:2

***(2) Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.***

c. The most complete description is in I Corinthians 15

***(35) But someone may ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” (36) How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. (37) When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. (38) But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. (39) All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. (40) There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. (41) The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.***

***(42) So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; (43) it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; (44) it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.***

***If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. (45) So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. (46) The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. (47) The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. (48) As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. (49) And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.***

d. What we know about your future body

***1. Imperishable***

a. I Corinthians 15:42

*(42) So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;*

b. Indestructible

## **2. Identifiable**

a. Will look like yourself...only better

1. John 20:11-29

2. They recognized Jesus

b. I Corinthians 13:12

*(12) Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

c. Will have deeper relationships in heaven (fully known)

## **3. Incandescent**

a. Means to “shine brilliantly”

b. Can be a definition of “glory”

1. To “glow”

c. I Corinthians 15:43

*(43) it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;  
(44) it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.*

## **4. Image of Christ**

a. I Corinthians 15:49

*(49) And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.*

## **4. How old will we be?**

a. How Christ appeared after the resurrection

1. Mary Magdalene mistook Jesus for a healthy young gardener.

- b. Age will not be an issue
- c. Your soul will not age

## **5. Do babies (*born and unborn*) go to heaven**

- a. Why I believe that babies make it to heaven

### **1. The Condition for Salvation**

- a. The threats of hell in the Bible are reserved for people who have sinned knowingly and willingly

1. Galatians 5:19-21 and Revelation 21:8

- b. The age of moral innocence of the children

1. Deuteronomy 1:39....The Exodus

***(39) And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad—they will enter the land***

2. Isaiah 7:15-16

***(15) He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. (16) But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.***

- c. Dave Jeremiah

*There's a period of time when children don't understand the Gospel. During that period of time, these children are protected under the blood of the Lord. If a child is not capable of accepting the Gospel, then certainly, God has provided for him in grace.*

- d. Would certainly include the “unborn”

### **2. The Compassion of Jesus**

- a. Jesus demonstrated his love for the children on many occasions

1. Matthew 19:13-14

***(13) Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. (14) Jesus said, “Let the little***

*children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”*

2. Matthew 18:5

*(5) And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.*

3. Matthew 18:14

*(14) In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.*

### **3. The Child of David**

a. II Samuel 12:21-23

*(21) His servants asked him, “Why are you acting this way? While the child was alive, you fasted and wept, but now that the child is dead, you get up and eat!” (22) He answered, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, ‘Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live.’ (23) But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”*

b. Age of accountability

*So at what age do children become responsible for their relationship with God? Whenever they are able to understand God’s love. When they comprehend what it means to be a sinner. For some children, that knowledge comes at a very early age, and for others it takes more time. The age of spiritual accountability is not a chronological measurement; it is a reckoning of spiritual understanding.*

### **6. Will we be male and female?**

a. Male and female before the fall

1. The creation of Eve was a holy act of God which took place before the sin of mankind.

b. Can see no Biblical reason at all why Christian women on earth today will stop being women in the resurrection.

c. It’s true that neither men nor women in heaven will participate in the propagation of children,

d. But it is also true that men and women are distinct in many ways besides their basic reproductive systems!

## **7. Will we be married in heaven?**

- a. “The great divorce”
  - 1. Will the Rapture be “the great divorce,” alienating lifelong marriage partners and splitting happy families?
  - 2. Wedding vows....“Till death do us part”
- b. Matthew 22:30

***At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.***

- c. Now the bride of Christ
- d. For the first time all Christian men and women will be able to fellowship with each other as freely as they like, with no risk whatever of getting into moral trouble with each other.

## **8. What about the “crowns”**

- a. Will lay our crowns before the throne of God
  - 1. Revelation 4:10
- b. The Five Crowns

### ***1. The Crown of Rejoicing***

- a. Often called the “Soul Winners Crown”
- b. I Thessalonians 2:19

***(19) For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? (20) Indeed, you are our glory and joy.***

### ***2. The Crown of Life***

- a. For those who have conquered temptation, persecution & suffering
- b. James 1:12

***(12) Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.***

c. Revelation 2:10

*(10) Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

### **3. The Crown of Righteousness**

a. For those who love Jesus and long for his appearing

b. II Timothy 4:7-8

*(7) I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (8) Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

### **4. The Crown of Glory**

a. Often called “The Pastors Crown”

b. I Peter 5:4

*(4) And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

### **5. The Victor’s Crown**

a. For those who finish strong

b. I Corinthians 9:24-27

*(24) Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. (25) Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. (26) Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. (27) No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

c. The Isthmian Games

1. 10 months of training prior to games to qualify

2. The last month was spent in Corinth with supervised daily workouts in the gymnasium and athletic fields.

## **9. Will there be any sorrow in Heaven**

a. Revelation 21:2-4 (verse 4 from NKJV)

*(2) I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. (3) And I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. (4) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.*