

How will Jesus (the Groom) marry the Church (the Bride)?

With perfect wholeness, holiness, and unity! The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be the most awe-inspiring and glorious celebration in the history of the universe! The Lamb of God and the Church will be united in marriage. Currently, the whole Body of Christ is betrothed to Jesus, but in Revelation 19, we get a glimpse of the wedding celebration.

Key Term

אֶחָד and εἷς

echad (Heb.) eis (Gk.) = one, complete unity

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

*“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the **wedding of the Lamb** has come, and his bride has made herself ready.*

⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.”

*(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) ⁹ Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the **wedding supper of the Lamb!**”*

Engaged for how long?

Consider this personal question... If you are married, how long were you engaged? If you are not yet married, how long do you expect your engagement to last? 1 week, 6 months, 2 years? Now think about Jesus. This most patient and powerful Groom has been betrothed to his Beloved for nearly 2,000 years! And he is still waiting!

The Bride... ready and righteous

Revelation 19:7 says, *“his bride has made herself ready.”* In the Forever Family, the Bride has completed her task, just like her Groom (John 17:4). Jesus fulfilled his promise. He went away to prepare a place, then he returned (John 14). The Bride likewise, fulfilled her promise and “made ready” the Church by completing the Great Commission, announcing God’s kingdom to all nations. The entire record of her good deeds is evident in her wedding dress. Rev. 19:8 says, *“Fine linen was given to her to wear (linen stands for the **righteous acts of God’s holy people**)”* The Bride literally wears good deeds as a garment. Jesus will see and remember EVERY righteous action of his Bride for eternity!

Becoming “ONE”

The entire Church (composed of both men and women) will unite as the Bride for Jesus. We will fulfill his prayer for unity in John 17:23. We will become “one” as Jesus and the Father are “one.” Though there is great mystery in the consummation of the Marriage of the Lamb, we can be certain that Jesus’ prayer for unity will be fulfilled. Gen. 2:23 says that the man and woman became *“one (echad) flesh.”* The same word is used in Deut. 6:4 (The Shema): *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”* (echad in Hebrew, AND eis in Septuagint LXX). Going further, Jesus prayed for *“complete unity”* and oneness in the Church (εἷς ἐν/eis en see John 17:21). Jesus used the same word for unity in the Church as the Shema. Unity does not mean *identical sameness* nor *singularity*. It means united!

Jesus wants the Church to be “one.” We will be “one”!

Conclusion

The only marriage in heaven takes place between Jesus and the Church (Eph. 5:31-32, Luke 20:27-40). Humans do not *become* God, yet somehow Jesus’ prayer for unity will come to pass. **What a marvelous mystery that still waits to unfold!** (Great word study: *echad, mia, en, eis* <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g1520/niv/mgnt/0-1/>)

4 Crucial Questions

1. What does this teach us about **GOD**?
2. What does this teach us about **PEOPLE**?
3. What command should I **OBEY**?
4. With whom can I **SHARE** this?