

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*  
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

# The Ultimate in Marriages

Revelation 19:1-8



After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,<sup>2</sup> for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”<sup>3</sup> Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”<sup>4</sup> And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!”<sup>5</sup> And from the throne came a voice saying, “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”<sup>6</sup> Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;<sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.





# Revelation 19:1-2

- After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

**“Hallelujah!**

**Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,**

**Hallelujah or Alleluja  
literally means:**

**Praise the  
Lord!**



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**Salvation in this situation  
probably has very  
specific application to  
being saved from  
Babylon.**



**If one wonders if God is just to  
destroy the earth in judgment after  
judgment?**

**If one wonders what right has God  
to kill and destroy?**

**If one wonders if God is a monster  
arbitrarily inflicting judgment?**



# Revelation 19:2



- **for his judgments are true and just;**

**God is NOT a monster—  
His judgments are  
TRUE and JUST.**

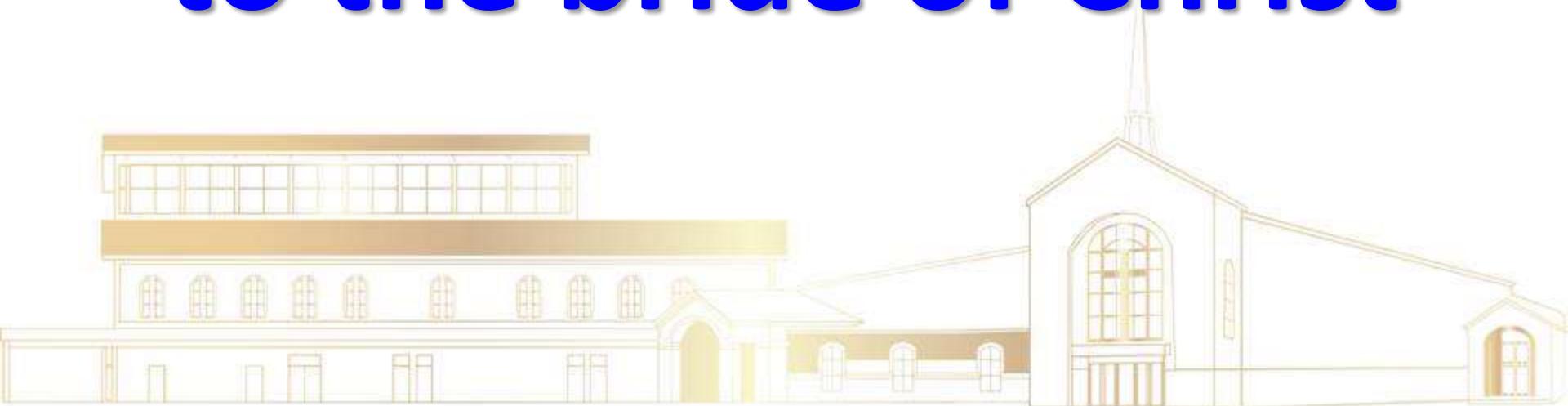


# Revelation 19:2

•**for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”**

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**She is the great  
prostitute in contrast  
to the bride of Christ**



# The Tale of Two Women and Two Cities

<b>Chapters 14, 16, 17, 18</b>	<b>Chapters 19, 21, 22</b>
<b>Great Prostitute</b>	<b>Bride of Christ</b>
<b>Clothed purple and scarlet</b>	<b>Clothed fine linen, bright and pure</b>
<b>City of man</b>	<b>City of God</b>
<b>Babylon</b>	<b>New Jerusalem</b>
<b>Earth Dwellers</b>	<b>Elect of God</b>
<b>Sinful &amp; Wicked</b>	<b>Holy &amp; Righteous</b>
<b>Kings of the Earth</b>	<b>King of Kings, Lord of Lords</b>
<b>Destroyed from heaven</b>	<b>Coming down from heaven</b>
<b>Built by Man</b>	<b>Built by God</b>

**Babylon must be judged for corrupting the world and Babylon must be judged for her persecution and culpability in the death of believers in the one true and living God and His Christ.**

**Remember Babylon is a moniker; she is the world where the earth dwellers live in rebellion to their Creator.**





# Revelation 19:3

- Once more they cried out,  
“Hallelujah!
- The smoke from her goes up  
forever and ever.”

**The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.**

**This is figurative language to magnify**

**“Hallelujah!”**

**We know the smoke does not go up forever and ever because God creates a new heaven and new earth.**

**Babylon is destroyed, burnt up, and utterly eliminated.**





# Revelation 19:4

- And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying,

**“Amen. Hallelujah!”**



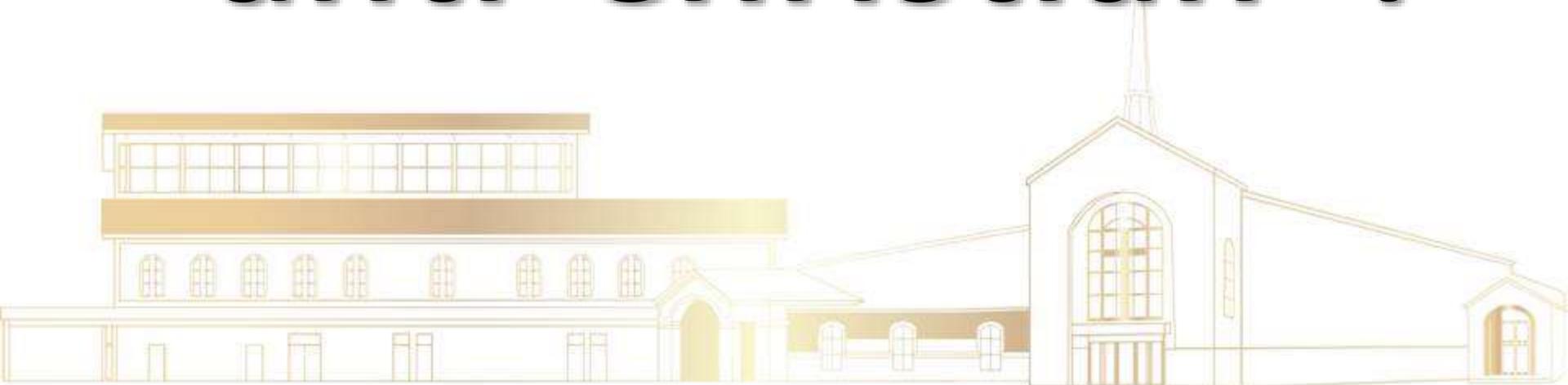
# Revelation 19:5

• And from the throne came a voice saying, “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”

This voice is probably the Lamb of God—God’s Son.

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**Does all this rejoicing  
over judgment seem  
“anti-Christian”?**





**What about rejoicing in  
the destruction of Hitler  
and the Nazi party?**

**Was that anti-Christian?**



**On this side of eternity we pray that each and every sinner will repent.**

**On the other side of eternity we rejoice in the reality that their sin is NOT going without punishment. Justice is served.**

**The murders, the immoral, the kidnappers, the sorcerers, the idolaters, thieves, drunkards, the terrorists, the greedy, those who practice homosexually, and all liars will all have their part in the lake of fire.**





# Revelation 19:6

•Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.



# Revelation 19:7

- Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

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# **Marriage is a Big Deal in the Bible**



**Consider the reality that Bible opens with God presenting a bride to the first Adam and the Bible closes with God presenting a bride to the last Adam—the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Is this an accident?**

**Are we reading something into the story that isn't there?**



# Genesis 2:22

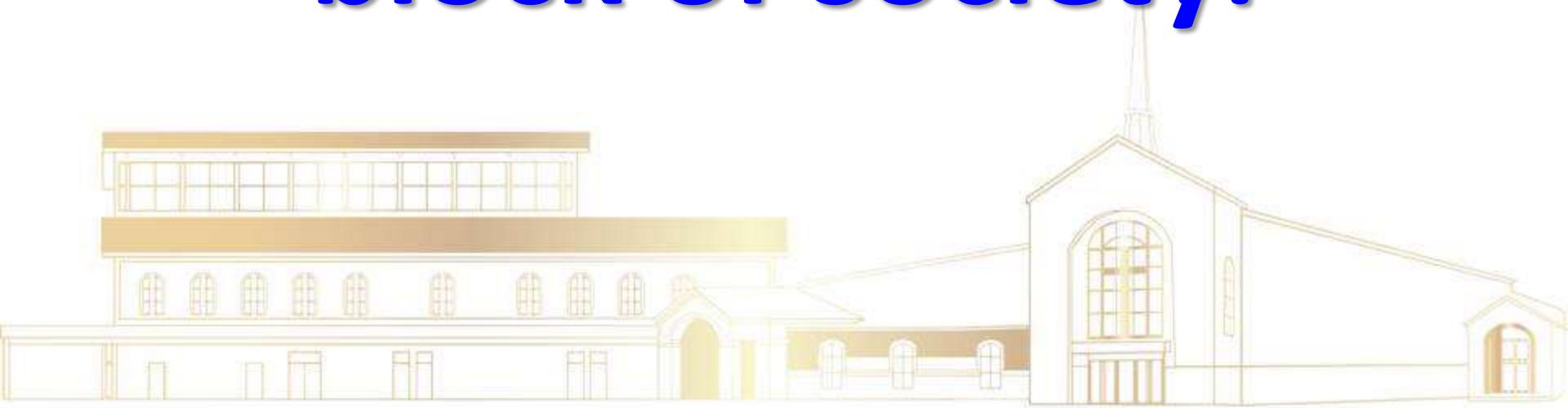
- And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and **brought her to the man.**

1967 - 2017



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**Marriage is the  
fundamental building  
block of society.**



# Three facts (and all NOT good).

- 1. Fewer Christians are getting married (and staying married).**
- 2. Christians are waiting longer to get married.**
- 3. Christians are having fewer children.**



# Genesis 2:24

- Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to **his wife**, and they shall become one flesh.

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**Genesis presents marriage as one man and one woman united in a covenant relationship of commitment before God and humanity.**

**The words hold fast remind of the permanency of marriage.**



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**Turn to  
Matthew 19:4ff**



## Matthew 19:4–6

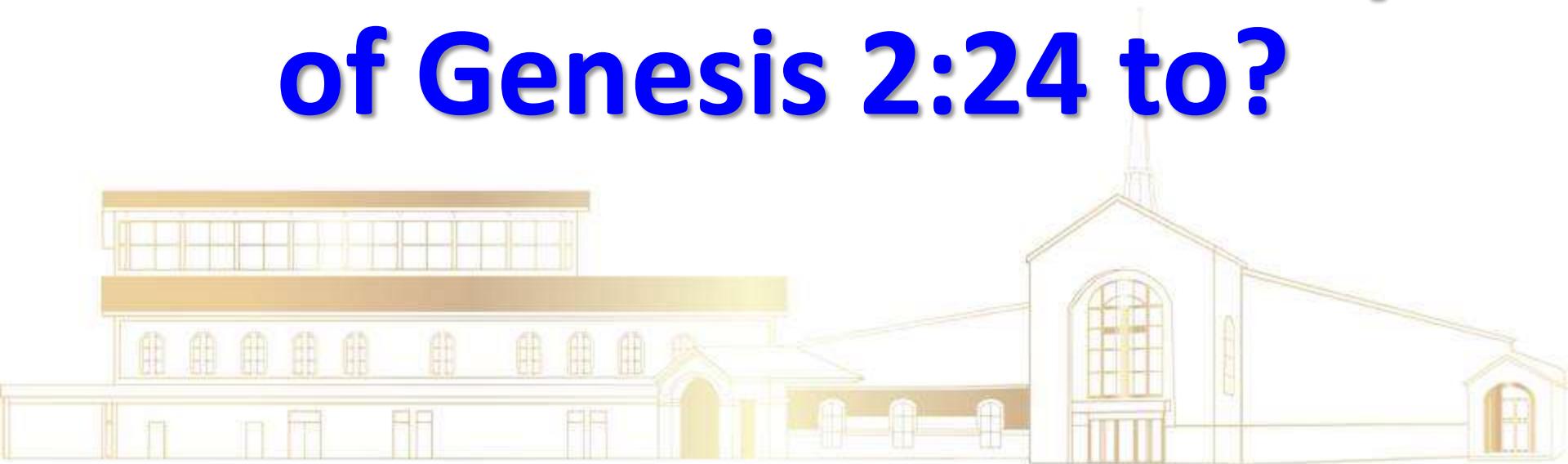
He answered, “Have you not read **that he who created them** from the beginning made them male and female,<sup>5</sup> and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”



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## Notice

**Who does Jesus  
attribute the authorship  
of Genesis 2:24 to?**



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**According to Jesus God  
defined marriage as 1  
man and 1 woman  
becoming 1 flesh.**



**Babylon has ignored God's  
definition of marriage.**

**Babylon has rebelled against God's  
restriction of intimacy to marriage.**

**Babylon has redefined marriage.**



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Look @  
Genesis 12:17ff



# Genesis 12:17-18

- But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.
- So Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?”

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Look at God protecting the sanctity of holy matrimony. God is protecting it in Genesis 12:17 and the church is abandoning it in 2019.



# Leviticus 20:10

- “If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

1967 - 2017



# **Two realities should be of great concern to the church:**

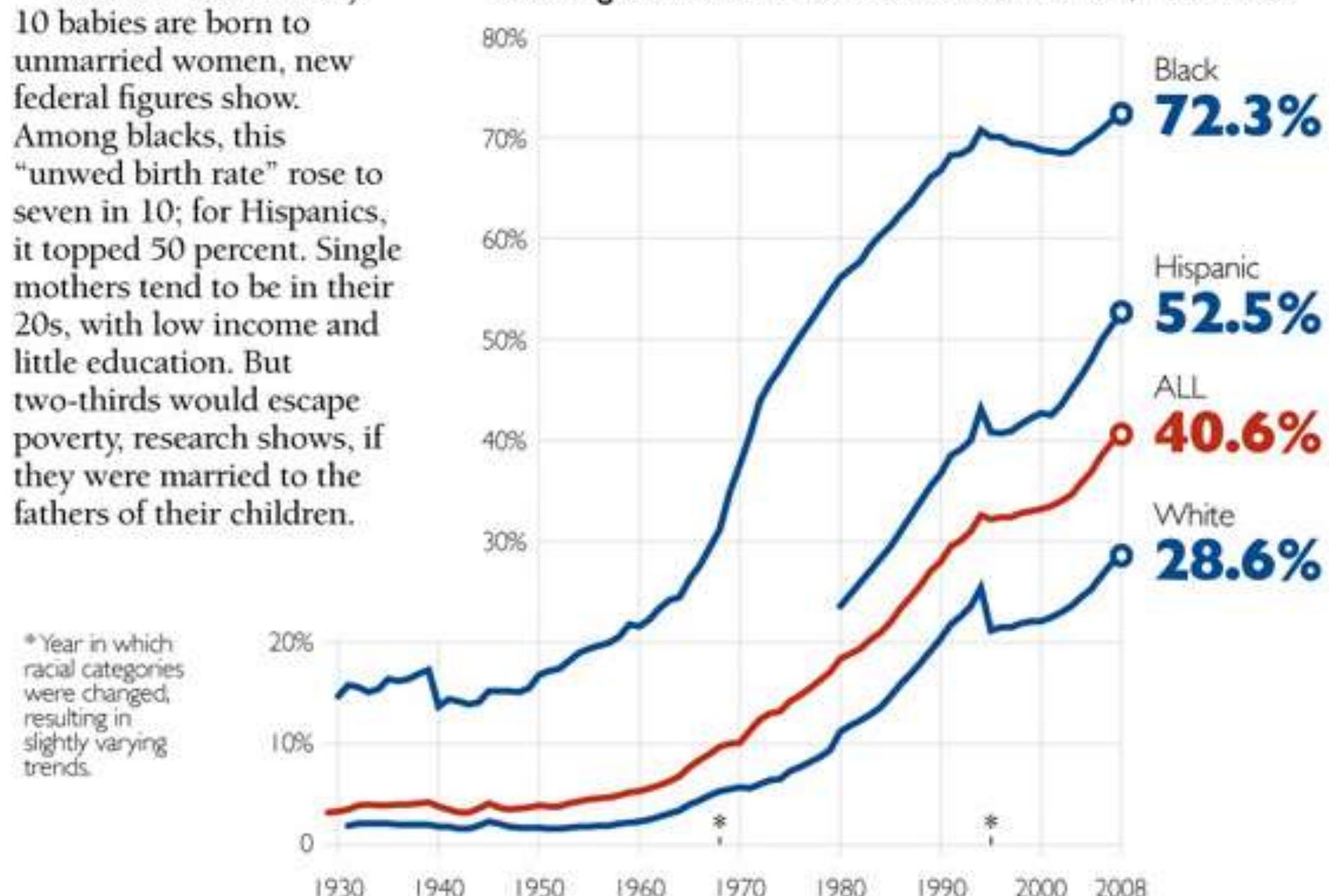
- 1. Fewer adults are getting married than ever before.**
- 2. More children are being conceived and born out of wedlock than ever before.**



# Warning: Married fathers an endangered species

A record four of every 10 babies are born to unmarried women, new federal figures show. Among blacks, this “unwed birth rate” rose to seven in 10; for Hispanics, it topped 50 percent. Single mothers tend to be in their 20s, with low income and little education. But two-thirds would escape poverty, research shows, if they were married to the fathers of their children.

Percentage Of Children Born To Unwed Women, 1929–2008



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**this is a love thy  
neighbor issue**



# Babylon is influencing the church:

- Fewer in the church are marrying.
- Some denominations are letting Babylon define marriage for them.
- God's elect are routinely marrying earth dwellers with little or no concern.



**Are you wondering  
why we are talking  
about this from  
Revelation 19?**





# Revelation 19:7

- Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

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**God chose marriage as  
the institution to  
portray His relationship  
to His people**



**Since God chose marriage as the institution to portray His relationship to His people shouldn't we His people hold marriage in the highest regard and esteem.**

**We must guard against letting Babylon influence our understanding and perspective on marriage.**



# From the Church of England 1789 US Book of Common Prayer

*At the day and time appointed for Solemnization of Matrimony, the Persons to be married shall come into the body of the Church, or shall be ready in some proper house, with their friends and neighbours; and there standing together, the Man on the right hand, and the Woman on the left, the Minister shall say,*



**DEARLY beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this company, to join together this Man and this Woman in holy Matrimony; which is [an honourable estate, instituted of God in the time of man's innocency, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church: which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence and first miracle that he wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is]\* commended of Saint Paul to be honourable among all men: and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. If any man can show just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.**



# In the OT

- Israel is presented as the bride and wife of Jehovah
- Is 49:18, 50:1, 54:5, 62:4-5; Jer 2:2, 32, 3:20, Ezek 16; Hos. 1:1-3:5
- In these passages marriage covenant language is used and Israel's faithlessness is described as whoring and adultery



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**Let Me Show You**

**Malachi 2:14ff**



## Malachi 2:14–16 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> ...the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though **she is your companion and your wife by covenant.** <sup>15</sup> Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? **Godly offspring.** So guard yourselves in your spirit, and **let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.** <sup>16</sup> “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. **So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”**



## In the NT

- Jesus makes much about marriage in multiple situations and scenarios
- Paul magnifies marriage in the mystery of Christ and the church
- John presents the union of God's people with their Lord and Savior as the ultimate of marriages with the greatest of celebrations!



# Matthew 19:6-7

- What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”
- They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?”

1967 - 2017



# Matthew 19:8-9

- He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. <sup>9</sup> And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

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# **Jesus Performs His First Miracle at a Wedding**



# John 2:1-2

- On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

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**In John 4 Jesus calls out a woman who is not married and living in sin.**

**Marriage is NOT a social construct that can be modified as society evolves.**

**In the same way that gender is NOT a social construct.**



# John 4:16–18

- Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

1967 - 2017



# In John 8, Jesus emphasizes:

- 1. The importance of marriage as the one place where intimacy is not sinful.**
- 2. The truth that fornication, sexual immorality and adultery is sin.**
- 3. The reality that this sin can be forgiven.**
- 4. The expectation that the sin does not continue.**



# John 8:10-11

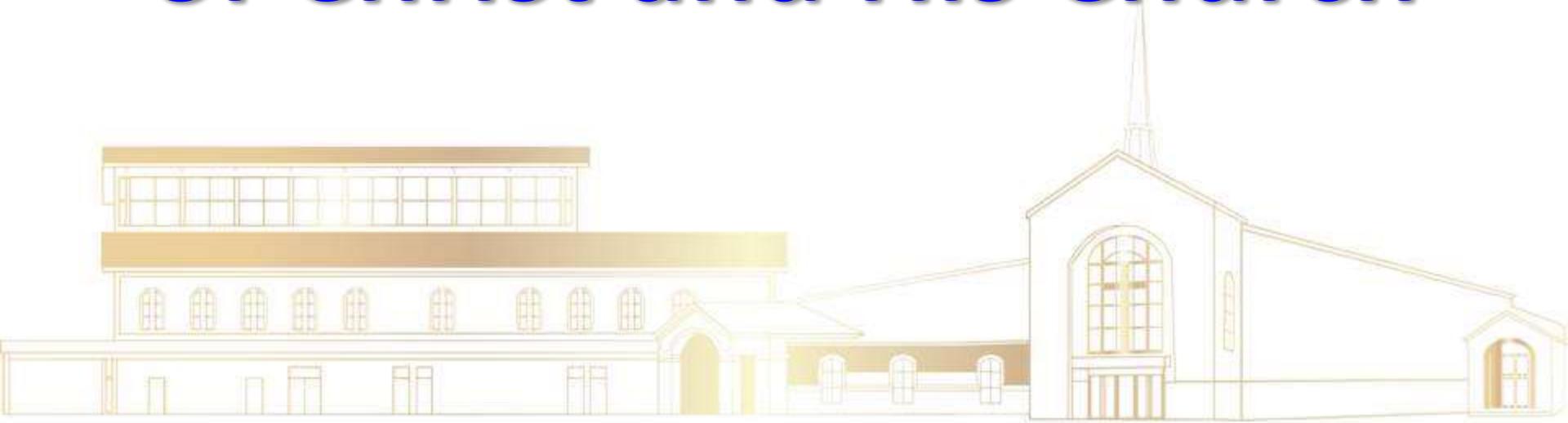
- Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”
- She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “**Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.**”

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**Paul teaches that  
marriage is the picture  
of Christ and His Church**



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Turn to  
Ephesians 5  
v. 22-32



**Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> **Now as the church submits to Christ**, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. <sup>25</sup> **Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,** <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, **just as Christ does the church,** <sup>30</sup> **because we are members of his body.** <sup>31</sup> “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> **This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**



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**The Marriage Supper  
is the fulfillment of  
Ephesians 5:27**



**It is common and popular among some end times teachers to create a distinction between Israel and the church.**

**We must be very careful in how that distinction is communicated.**

**There isn't two peoples of God.**

**The saints clothed in fine linen are all those who have been redeemed pre-cross and post-cross. All saints of God are united into one glorious body and collectively being presented to Christ as the bride.**



**Both the OT and NT use the words saint or saints to refer to the true believers in the one true and living God and His Christ.**

**While each saints' understanding of God, His Christ, and the gospel may have been different as the revelation of God and the gospel progressed through the course of time **what was not different was the requirement to live by faith.****



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# The Writer of Hebrews Speaks to Marriage



# Hebrews 13:4

- Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

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**When someone sleeps with another man's wife or when someone sleeps with another woman's husband he or she is NOT honoring marriage.**

**This is why adultery is a sin unto death according to the Mosaic law.**

## **Leviticus 20:10**

**“If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.**



# The Bible teaches:

**1. God is the author and Definer of Marriage.**



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2. Marriage is the first institution God created as the building block of human society.



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- 4. Marriage is the ultimate picture of the love relationship between Christ and His Church and God and His people.**



# The Bible teaches:

- 1. God is the author and Definer of Marriage.**
- 2. Marriage is the first institution God created as the building block of human society.**
- 3. Marriage is the one place where intimacy is holy and God-glorifying.**
- 4. Marriage is the ultimate picture of the love relationship between Christ and His Church and God and His people.**

**5. Marriage is for life.**





**Listen to these words spoken at the royal wedding of Prince William and Kate.**



**First, it was ordained for the increase of mankind according to the will of God and that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord and to the praise of his holy name.**

**Secondly, it was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections implanted by God should be hallowed and directed right that those who are called of God to this holy estate should continue therein in pureness of living.**

**Thirdly, it was ordained for the mutual society, help and comfort that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.**



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# **4 Things We Must Do to show Marriage Matters**



**1. We must celebrate and promote the union of one man and one woman young or old.**



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- 2. We must guard and protect the sanctity and definition of marriage.**



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- 3. We must create a culture whereby getting married is what God's people do.**



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- 2. We must guard and protect the sanctity and definition of marriage.**
- 3. We must create a culture whereby getting married is what God's people do.**
- 4. Our marriages must picture the relationship between Christ and the church.**

