The Bride Is Ready

Read Revelation 21

As the final book of the Bible nears its close, how is the consummation of the entire plan of salvation described? What is the clearest, most beautiful picture God gives us of our full, eternal union with Him?

I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:2, NASB)

It is time for the wedding, for the beginning of an eternal, fruitful, joyful oneness with God. All of God's ardent courting of His people, all that we have seen throughout our picture of *God Our Husband*, now comes together:

- Human marriage, now shown to be only a foretaste of our deeper, more permanent union with Christ
- God's tender love for us, even when we were so unlovely
- All the passionate love songs we have shared
- All His fervent promises
- All our unfaithfulness
- All His faithfulness
- Ruth and Boaz, a foreshadowing of Christ our Kinsman-Redeemer
- The first coming of Christ and His sacrifice of Himself for the bride He loves
- The Holy Spirit, our downpayment on our full union with Christ

The courtship is completed. The bride is ready.

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." (Revelation 19:7, NASB)

John can only relay the very beginning of the blessings about to unfold. God Himself will now live forever among His people. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. No more death, mourning, crying, or pain. All those first things have passed away. Everything is new!

The ceremony, then the feasting and rejoicing, then an eternity of love and joy—it's all about to begin. Keep yourself ready, alert, and watching. Keep your love for Him warm and alive. Stay faithful to Him.

Listen & Sing: Christ and His Bride (from LNWhymns.com)