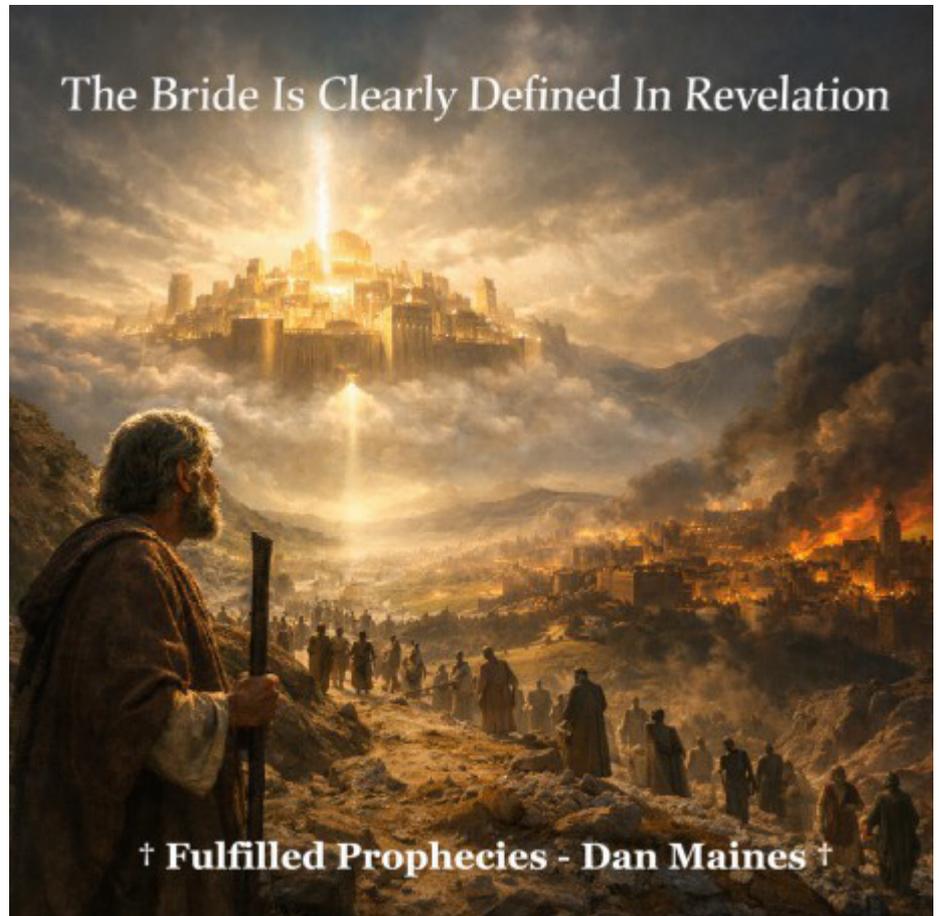


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The Bride Is Clearly Defined In Revelation



By Dan Maines

The Bride Is Clearly Defined In Revelation

Introduction

† The 144,000 are never called the bride anywhere in Revelation. The text defines the bride clearly.

† Revelation 21:9-10 says, Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

† The angel does not show John 144,000 men. He shows him

the holy city, Jerusalem. The bride is identified as a city.

† In Revelation 14 the 144,000 are called first fruits to God and to the Lamb. First fruits are not the entire harvest. First fruits represent a beginning portion. That language points to a remnant.

† The contrast is between two cities, not between heaven and earth, and not between 144,000 individuals and the rest of believers.

† The 144,000 are a sealed remnant described as first fruits. The bride is the New Jerusalem. The identity of the bride is defined by the text itself.

Revelation 21:2

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

† The New Jerusalem, the great city and The Bride is one. There is no separate entity.

† The city is prepared as a bride. The imagery defines covenant identity, not a limited numerical group.

Revelation 21:9-10

Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb. And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

† The angel says he'll show John the bride. What does he show him? The holy city, Jerusalem. That's the Bride.

† Revelation 17:18 says the woman is the great city.

† Revelation 21:9-10 says the bride is the holy city.

† The contrast is city to city.

Revelation 14:4

These are the ones who have not been defiled with women, for they have kept themselves chaste. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These have been purchased from among mankind as first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

† In Revelation 14 the 144,000 are called first fruits to God and to the Lamb.

† First fruits are not the entire harvest.

† First fruits represent a beginning portion.

† That language points to a remnant.

† That is symbolic purity language.

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.

† Paul uses the same imagery.

† Virgin language describes covenant faithfulness.

Revelation 20:4

And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God.

† Revelation 20 also does not identify the bride as 144,000.

† Souls are seen reigning.

† This is covenant vindication language.

Revelation 17:18

The woman whom you saw is the great city.

† Revelation defines both women.

† The identity of the bride is defined by the text itself.

Hebrews 12:22-23

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven.

† Believers are said to have come to the heavenly Jerusalem.

† The city represents the covenant people of God.

† This strengthens the identification of the bride as covenant community, not a limited number.

Galatians 4:26

But the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother.

† That is identity language.

† The Jerusalem above is described in familial covenant terms.

† This aligns with the bride being the holy city.

Revelation 19:7-8

Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has prepared herself. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

† The bride is connected with the righteous acts of the saints.

† This shows corporate covenant identity.

† The bride language encompasses the covenant people, not a sealed numeric remnant alone.

Historical References

† Irenaeus described the covenant people gathered into one in Christ.

† Tertullian spoke of believers as the chaste Bride in covenant faithfulness.

† Eusebius recorded the destruction of Jerusalem as fulfillment of Christ's words.

† Josephus recorded the fall of the great city.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We let the text define its own symbols.

† We do not redefine the bride when Revelation defines her clearly.

† We are covenant people, not defined by numerical speculation.

† The bride is the holy city.

† The identity of the bride is defined by the text itself.

Q & A Appendix

Q Are the 144,000 ever called the bride anywhere in Revelation?

A No. The text never calls the 144,000 the bride. The bride is identified as the holy city in Revelation 21:9-10.

Q What are the 144,000 called?

A They are called first fruits to God and to the Lamb in Revelation 14:4.

Q What is the bride identified as?

A The holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, Revelation 21:9-10.

Q Does Scripture connect believers to the heavenly Jerusalem?

A Yes. Hebrews 12:22-23 and Galatians 4:26 connect covenant believers to the heavenly Jerusalem.

Q Are we the bride today?

A The bride is identified as the holy city, the New Jerusalem, Revelation 21:9-10. Hebrews 12:22 says believers have come to the heavenly Jerusalem. If we are in Christ, we belong to that covenant city. The bride is not a separate physical structure, it represents the covenant people of God.

Q Did the 144,000 become the bride as well?

A The 144,000 are called first fruits to God and to the Lamb in Revelation 14:4. First fruits are a beginning portion, not the entire harvest. Revelation never calls the 144,000 the bride. The bride is defined as the holy city in Revelation 21:9-10. The 144,000 were part of the redeemed covenant people, but the text defines the bride as the New Jerusalem, not as a numbered remnant.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Revelation 21:2; Revelation 21:9-10; Revelation 14:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 20:4; Revelation 17:18; Hebrews 12:22-23; Galatians 4:26; Revelation 19:7-8

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Tertullian, On Modesty; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Josephus, War of the Jews

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