

## THE FAMILY OF GOD

### I. THE COMPOSITION OF THE FAMILY OF GOD:

- A. There Are at Least six Different Terms for *the Family of God* that Are Used in the Bible:
1. It is called “the Household of Faith” in Galatians 6:10.
  2. It is called “the Household of God” in Ephesians 2:19.
  3. It is called “the Whole Family in Heaven and Earth” in Ephesians 3:15.
  4. It is called “the House of Christ” in Hebrews 3:6.
  5. It is called “the House of God” in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:17.
  6. It is called “the General Assembly and Church of the First Born” in Hebrews 12:23.
- B. The Term “the Family of God” Is not Found in the Bible. However, this Term Is Used to Indicate all the Saved People from Adam to the End of the “Millennium.”
1. Saved Gentiles before the Law (Exo 20), from Adam to Moses (Heb 11:1-7).
  2. Saved Hebrews before the Law (Jews descended from Abraham, through Isaac and Jacob), from Abraham to Moses (Gen 17:1-7, 19-21; 28:1-4).
  3. Saved Hebrews (Jews) under the Law, from Moses to John the Baptist (Exo 3:15-18; Luke 16:16), also called “friends of the Bridegroom (John 3:29).
  4. Saved Gentiles under the Law of Conscience, from Moses to the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 2:11-16).
  5. Saved People (both Jews and Gentiles) of the present Church Age, from the crucifixion of Christ to the “rapture” (Eph 2:11-19).
  6. Saved Hebrews (Jews) of the Tribulation Period, from the *rapture* to the Second Coming of Christ (Mat 25:1-30; Rev 7:1-4; 14:1-6).
  7. Saved Gentiles of the Tribulation Period, from the *rapture* to the Second Coming of Christ (Rev 7:9-14).
  8. Saved Hebrews (Jews) of the *Millennium*, from the Second Coming of Christ to the Great White Throne Judgment (Isa 65:8-10, 18-25; Mat 25:31-46; Rev 20:11-15).
  9. Saved Gentiles of the *Millennium*, from the Second Coming of Christ to the Great White Throne Judgment (Mat 25:31-46; Acts 15:16-17; Rev 20:11-15; 22:14).

## II. THE TERM “SON OF GOD” DEFINED.

- A. The Term “the Son of God” Is Used in the Bible to Describe some of the Members of the Family of God.
1. The Lord Jesus Christ is called “the only begotten Son of God” in John 3:16
  2. Adam is called “the Son of God” in Luke 3:38 because he was directly created by God Himself.
  3. The Hebrews as a nation (the Israelites) are called God’s son in Exodus 4:22-23.
  4. Church Age believers become “Sons of God” when they receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-10; John 1:12; 1 John 3:1-2).
- B. Angels Are also Called “Sons of God” in Job 1:6 and 2:1 because They also Were directly Created by God Himself (Job 38:4-7).

## III. THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH DEFINED.

- A. All Believers in the present Church Age, from the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ (Heb 9:13-17) to the *Rapture* (1 Thes 4:13-17), Make up the New Testament Church.
1. The word “church” in the New Testament does not refer to a building, but to a gathering of Church Age believers (Acts 8:1-3; Col 4:15; 1 Cor 16:19; Rom 16:3-5).
  2. The word *church* is also used to refer to all the groups of believers (churches) in a certain city (Rev 2:1 & 7).
- B. The New Testament Church Is the Body of Christ (all Church Age Believers) (Col 1:24).
1. The Body of Christ is made up of only those who are in Jesus Christ (Church Age Saints) (Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27; Phil 1:1).
  2. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church (the Body of Christ) (Eph 5:23; 1:22-23).
- C. The Relationship of Jesus Christ and the New Testament Church Is **Like** (a type of; a parallel to; a figure of) the Husband and Wife Relationship between Adam and Eve in the Old Testament (Eph 5:22-32).
1. Adam is a type of Christ in the Bible (1 Cor 15:45-47), whose life parallels that of the life of Christ (Rom 5:12-19).
  2. Eve is a type of the New Testament Church.
    - a. As Eve was a part of Adam’s body (Gen 2:21-23), so is the Church a part of Christ’s Body (Eph 5:30-31).

- b. As Adam willingly died for his bride Eve (Gen 2:16-17; 3:1-6; 1 Tim 2:13-14), so Christ died for His bride the Church (Rom 5:8; Eph 5:25).
- D. The New Testament Church (the Body of Christ) Is the Bride of Jesus Christ.
1. The New Testament Church is referred to as a chaste (pure) **virgin** in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:1-2 and as a **wife** in Revelation 19:7.
  2. The New Testament Church is also referred to as a “Holy City” in Revelation 21:9-10 because New Jerusalem will be the dwelling place of the Bride of Christ after the *Millennium* (John 14:1-3).
  3. The Holy City (New Jerusalem) is given the characteristics of the Bride of Christ, who will live in the Holy City for all eternity.
    - a. The city is prepared **as** a bride for Jesus Christ (Rev 21:2; 19:7-8). The word “as” indicates that the city is a type of, or figure of, the Bride (Mark 13:34).
    - b. The city has no temple because Jesus Christ (the Lamb) and His Bride (the Body of Christ) are the temple of the city (Rev 21:21-22; 1 Cor 3:16-17).
  4. The Bride is telling lost people to come to Jesus Christ in Revelation 22:17.
    - a. The Bride (the Bride of Rev 21:9-10) can not be a physical (literal or actual) city because a city cannot speak, but the people inside of it can (Jer 14:2; Mat 23:37; Isa 14:31).
    - b. In Revelation 22:17 the use of the present tense “say” shows that the Bride (the people of the city) is presently (now) telling the lost to come to Jesus Christ.

#### IV. THE WEDDING CEREMONY AND THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (the Lamb) AND HIS BRIDE (the New Testament Church).

- A. The **Wedding Ceremony** Joins Jesus Christ to His Bride (Rev 19:7-9).
1. This ceremony will take place in heaven after Christ comes **for** His saints at the *rapture* of the New Testament Church (1 Thes 4:13-17), after which the Bride will be made ready for the marriage ceremony (Eph 5:25-27) at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 3:9-15).
  2. This ceremony will take place before Christ returns at the Second Coming **with all** His saints (Jude v.14; 1 Thes 3:13).
  3. There may be a banquet in heaven just for the wedding party (Song 2:4).
- B. The **Marriage Supper** of Jesus Christ and His Bride (Rev 19:7-9).
1. This supper will take place on the earth after Christ returns from the wedding ceremony (Luke 12:35-40; Mat 25:1-13).

2. Some of the guests who are invited to the supper will not attend the marriage ceremony and banquet in heaven because they are on the earth going through the Tribulation Period (Mat 22:2-14).
3. Those who will be at the marriage ceremony are:
  - a. **The Father of the Bridegroom**, God the Father (Mark 1:1; 2 John v.3).
  - b. **The Father's Wife**, national Israel (Isa 62:1-5; Hos 2:14-20).
  - c. **The Bridegroom**, Jesus Christ (Psa 19:1-5; Mat 9:14-15; John 3:25-29).
  - d. **The Bridegroom's Bride**, the New Testament Church (Rom 7:4; 2 Cor 11:2; Rev 19:7-9).
  - e. **The Friends of the Bridegroom**, saved Jews under the Law (Luke 16:16; John 3:29).
  - f. **The Bridegroom's Concubines**, saved people before the Law (Gen 12:1-3; 20:1-6; Luke 13:28-30) and saved Gentiles during the Law (2 Kgs 5:15-19; Dan 4:34-37; 6:25-27; Rev 2:11-16).
  - g. **The Virgin Companions of the Bride**, saved Tribulation Period Jews (Psa 45:6-14; Mat 25:1-13; Rev 7:1-4; 14:1-4).
  - h. **The Marriage Guests**, saved Tribulation Period Gentiles (Song 6:8-9; Mat 22:2-10; Rev 7:9-14).
4. The millennial saints are part of "the Family of God" but do not show up until after the marriage ceremony in heaven is over.