

“THE MARRIGE ANALOGY IN THE RAPTURE”

- We defined the rapture as ... a sudden _____ of believers _____
_____ when He _____ at the close of the present age.

I. A Prophetic Promise (John 14:1-3)

II. Jewish Marriage Customs

1. First came the *Betrothal* – this established the _____!
2. Today, as then, the witnesses in marriage are _____, the wedding _____, and the _____ who attend!
3. As a *sign* of their marriage covenant, both would _____ from a cup.

III. Understanding the Analogy

1. Scripture regards the Church to be the _____. (Eph. 5:22-33)

2. In the same manner, as a Jewish bridegroom came seeking a bride for himself, just so, Jesus came 1) to _____ God to man , 2) to be Israel _____, and 3) to be the _____ of the world. Those who respond to Him in faith would also, after his death & resurrection, be part of the _____ of Christ – The Church!

3. If you recall earlier, we noted that a Jewish bridegroom would pay a price to purchase his bride (a _____), just so, Jesus paid the price for our _____. (Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:12, 15)

4. Just as a Jewish groom would return to His father's house for a time to _____ a place for his bride, Jesus has returned to heaven to prepare a place for His _____ – the _____. (John 14:1-3)

*What is Jesus doing today?

5. Just as the taking of the Jewish bride was accomplished by a _____ from the father's house to the bride's house by the groom and his friends, so the _____ of the Church will be as well (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

IV. The Significance of the Analogy

1. Are you _____ the Bride of Christ which is the Church today?

2. If you are part of the Bride of Christ, are you _____ as a bride should be, during this time of separation? Are you _____ & _____, or is life all about you?