

**Book of Revelation, part 46**  
*The Between Chapters 3 & 4 The Bema*

- I.** Summary of Rapture: page 31.
- II.** Arranged marriage during biblical times.
  - 1. Contract between the parents.
  - 2. Ceremonial cleansing of the bride at her home.
  - 3. Groom goes to bride's home and brings her back to his father's home.
  - 4. Both go into the bridal chamber where the marriage is consummated.
  - 5. The marriage is followed by a marriage feast.
- III.** This human union—established by God (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:5-6; Eph. 5:31).
  - 1. Pictures the future relationship of the Christ to Church.
  - 2. Was a mystery (Eph. 5:25-32).
- IV.** The marriage of Christ to the Church.
  - 1. Contract made by the Father in Eternity past (Eph. 1:3-4).
  - 2. Ceremonial cleansing prior to entry before the throne of God (Eph. 5:26).
    - 1) Glorified body—soul and body saved—unloosed.
    - 2) Bema.
  - 3. Groom takes the bride to His Father's home (1 Thes. 3:13).
  - 4. The Groom and bride are secluded—bridal chamber—for the last half of the Tribulation (Rev. 11:19).
  - 5. The marriage is consummated (Rev. 19:7-9).
  - 6. The marriage celebrated at the marriage feast (Rev. 19:17-19).
- V.** The victors' crowns awarded after the Bema, before formal seating on thrones.
  - 1. After the Bema since they are already *"laid up"* (2 Tim. 2:8) and thus will not be fire-evaluated at the Bema.
  - 2. Occurs before sitting on thrones (Rev. 4:4).
- VI.** The Crowns, symbolizing victory not ruling.
  - 1. The crown of self-control of one's body (1 Cor. 9:25).
  - 2. The crown of leading a person to Christ (1 Thes. 2:19 cf. 1:5-6).
  - 3. The crown of righteousness—loving His coming (2 Tim. 2:8).
  - 4. The crown of life (Jam. 1:12; Rev. 2:10).
  - 5. The shepherd's crown (1 Pet. 5:1-5).