

BIBLE STUDY REFERENCE LIST - CHAPTER 4
The Mystery of The New Testament Church as the Bride of Christ

INTRODUCTION

Quick reference Bible studies for the 12 Mysteries are essential for two purposes: defending the gospel against skeptics, and teaching Christians reasons they should hope in the Word of God. This book's length naturally begs for a quick reference guide for Biblical proof "*the mystery of God*"¹ has been finished, or revealed.

Below you'll find Bible study references for **Chapter 4** only. References for remaining chapters are available for free at www.pastorjessesmith.com/12mysteriesbook. You can also reach me via email, jesse.smith11@sbcglobal.net, or text 330-929-2037.

As Christians, we must verbally defend our faith. Twice Paul says he was set for the defense of the gospel in Philippians 1:7 and 17. In Greek, "defence" means "verbal defence, speech in defence, a reasoned statement or argument." The same Greek word for "defence" is also translated as "answer" in Peter's first epistle: "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*"² You can be ready to share the truth with any inquirer.

Ministers especially must faithfully test all beliefs. Paul commands us to "*Prove all things*" in 1 Thessalonians 5:21. Prove means "to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals" in the Greek. Since the Bible is our Absolute, all revelations are proven true by the pure words of Scripture alone.

Paul's message to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 is: "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" Acts 17:11 labels the Bereans as a noble group because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify Paul's preaching.

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4TH MYSTERY: NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Revelation: The bride of Christ is the true church who submits to all of Jesus' commands now with a promised position to rule and reign with her Husband in the Millennium.

Jesus is called Husband and His true followers called wife or bride:

Mark 2:19-20 John the Baptist calls Jesus the *bridegroom*

John 3:28-31 John the Baptist says Jesus is the bridegroom Who has a bride

Mat. 22:1-14 the King's Son parable places Jesus as the espoused Son Who awaits believers who will accept the Father's invitation to His wedding

Mat. 25:1-15 the Ten Virgins parable likens Jesus as the Bridegroom Whose imminent coming catches five wise virgins fully prepared for His wedding

¹ Revelation 10:7

² 1 Peter 3:15

Luke 14:15-24 the Great Supper parable portrays Christ as the bridegroom of a great marriage supper, which speaks of the “*marriage supper of the Lamb*” from Revelation 19:9
Rev. 22:17 the bride is speaking with the Holy Spirit inviting thirsty souls to come and drink of the Water of Life freely: *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come*
Rev. 21:2-3 *the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband*

You’ll know Jesus’ bride by her actions, as every church group is known by their fruits:

Mat. 7:20, 12:33 *by their fruits ye shall know them*

1 Thes. 5:21 *prove all things*

1 John 4:1 *try the spirits whether they are of God*

John 16:13 *the Spirit of truth...will guide you into all truth*

God’s search for a bride in Israel, then the world:

Deu. 4:37, 7:8 God handpicked Israel *because he loved thy fathers*

Ezek. 16:1-63 God symbolizes covenant with Israel as man and woman’s marriage covenant

Jer. 3:8, 14, 20 22 God divorces backsliding Israel but offers forgiveness

Hosea 3:1-5 God uses Hosea’s marriage to adulterous Gomer as a type of He and Israel

Isa. 54:5 God is Israel’s Husband: *thy Maker is thine husband*

Isaiah 62:4-5 the Millennium is Beulah land, or married land for Jesus and Israel

Mat. 27:25 Israel rejects Jesus, accepts the guilt of His blood to upon their kindred

Acts 15:14 God visits *the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name*, like a husband takes a wife for his name

Rev. 3:12 Jesus will give His bride His new name, like a natural wife takes the husband’s name

The apostolic blueprint for becoming a bride member:

2 Cor. 11:2 you are espoused, or engaged, to Christ when you receive an anointed preacher

Rom. 7:4 you’re spiritually married to Christ—not physically married until the rapture

1 Thes. 4:16-17 once at the rapture meeting in the air, you will *ever be with the Lord*

1 Cor. 13:12 once *face to face* with Jesus we’re physically married to Him

Phil. 3:20-21 once we have a body *fashioned like His glorious body*, we’re physically married to Him

Acts 2:41-47 3,000 souls are espoused to Christ through His anointed preacher, Peter; then they assemble often for teaching, worship, and helping each other with physical needs

Acts 26:18 Jesus charges Paul to preach and save sinners by calling them out of darkness and into the light of forgiveness

Phil. 3:8 Paul compares his previous life to dung compared to being a Christian

1 Tim. 1:13-16 Paul says his dramatic life change into a Christian is a pattern for all

Acts 14:21-23 Paul’s blueprint for gaining believers, or bride members—preach salvation, spend time teaching, then ordain elders before leaving them

Titus 1:6-9, 1 Tim. 3:1-13 Paul leaves elder requirements for Titus and Timothy to follow

Titus 1:5 Paul charges Titus to set churches in order by ordaining elders in every city

2 Tim. 2:1-2 Paul taught Timothy to instruct faithful men (elders) who could teach others

The unchanging gospel blueprint:

Gal. 1:6-12 Paul twice curses anyone who changes the gospel revelation Jesus gave to him

1 Cor. 4:17 Paul taught the same revelation to every church

Acts 20:27 Paul taught the whole counsel of God to Ephesus

Eph. 4:5, Jude 3 the *one faith* must be earnestly fought for

1 Tim. 6:13-14 Paul charged Timothy to keep every Word of God

Phil. 3:17-19 Paul wept over men who lived contrary to his teachings and example

2 Tim. 2:16-18 Paul said false doctrine destroys faith like gangrene, a flesh eating disease

Matt. 24:35 Jesus says His Words will never pass away

Prov. 30:5-6 every Word of God is pure, we must not add to or take away from His Word

Rev. 22:18-19 plagues added to those who add to God's Word; names taken off Book of Life for those who take away God's Words

Rom. 3:4 *let God be true, but every man a liar*—God's Word is always right

The bride's submissive character to every Word of Christ:

Eph. 5:22-33 Paul uses the husband and wife imagery to express five attributes Christ desires in His bride, or church

Ezek. 16:7, Acts 7:38 Israel is called a woman and church; woman represents a church

Eph. 5:23, John 1:1 attribute #1: Christ is the one and only head of the church, and He is the true revelation of the Word, the Bible

Mat. 15:3, 8-9 like the Pharisees, most churches are NOT headed up by the Bible, but man-made creeds, bylaws, and traditions that contradict Jesus' revelation He gave to Paul

If Christ is the head of a church, believers will follow these 10 Bible-based teachings:

Rom. 1:26-32, 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 1 Tim. 1:10-11 homosexuality is abominable, yet many churches promote it

Rom. 7:1-3, 1 Cor. 6:9-10 adulterers and fornicators are condemned, yet many churches promote remarriage and support cohabitation before marriage

2 Kings 16:3, Ezek. 16:21, Rev. 21:8 abortion is murder, yet many churches promote it

1 Cor. 14:34-36, 1 Tim. 2:11-15 women preachers are forbidden, yet many churches promote them

Rom. 14:21, 1 Cor. 3:17, 6:19-20, 8:13 substance abuse, drunkenness are condemned, yet many churches promote them

1 Thes. 5:22 viewing sinful TV shows and movies is condemned, yet many churches promote it

1 Cor. 11:1-16 women are forbidden from cutting their hair, yet many churches promote it

Mat. 7:21-23 false conversions are rampant, yet many churches promote them

1 Tim. 2:9 sexy clothing is condemned, yet many churches allow it

Eph. 5:24 attribute #2: Jesus' bride-church is submissive in all the Word

Mat. 4:4 Jesus says true live if living by every Word of God

1 John 5:3-4 obedience is not grievous, but love-based

1 Pet. 1:14-16 be obedient children of God; be holy for God is holy

Eph. 5:26 attribute #3: Jesus' bride submits to the washing of the Word

1 Pet. 1:22 you're purified in *obeying the truth through the Spirit*

Acts 22:16 Paul's sins were washed away at his repentance

Rev. 1:5, 7:14 overcoming sin in the midst of persecution and temptation is being washed in Jesus' blood

1 Cor. 1:18 preaching is the power of God unto salvation

Eph. 4:8-13 Jesus' 5 preaching gifts perfect His church, His bride

Titus 3:5 *the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost* comes after repentance

Eph. 4:22-32 repentance is renewing the mind

Eph. 5:31 attribute #4: the bride is joined, or glued, to Christ

1 Thes. 5:17 prayer *without ceasing* is being joined to Christ

Heb. 10:24-25 believers physically gathering together more is being joined to Christ

Eph. 5:33 attribute #5: an attitude of reverence toward Christ

1 Pet. 3:4 natural wives have a meek and quiet spirit; Jesus' bride has the same towards His Word

Judging Christian groups and denominations by their fruits:

Mat. 24:4 Jesus: *Take heed that no man deceive you*

John 7:24 Jesus: *Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment*

Phil. 1:9-10 Paul prays for saints to grow in love and *all judgment*

Heb. 5:12-14 mature Christians skillfully discern or judge between good and evil; baby Christians refuse to judge right and wrong

Luke 6:46 bride churches will do what the Word says: *why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"*

Along with the 10 Bible-based teachings above, here's 5 more the bride will keep:

Acts 2:38, 8:16, 10:48, 19:5, 22:16 water baptisms are performed as full immersions in water calling upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ—not in the titles, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Mat. 11:29, Mark 4:26-28, John 17:17, 20:22, Acts 1:5 believers are taught to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost in their souls—the third work of grace after justification and sanctification

Job 13:8, Isa. 43:11, 44:6-8, Col. 1:15, Heb. 1:3 God is known as one Person—not three persons.

The Trinity dogma is wrong. God says He is the only God and there was no one beside Him

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the express image of His Person

Deut. 22:5 men and women wear separate garments because cross dressing (transgender movement) is an abomination to God; this means men only will wear pants and women will abstain from wearing men's garments (pants, even if they're labeled women's pants) and wear modest skirts and dresses

Mark 16:16-18, 1 Cor. 12:1-11 supernatural power currently operates all nine gifts of the Holy Ghost

Judging Christian groups and denominations by their fruits continued:

2 Thes. 2:3 this is the time of the *falling away*, or apostasy, of churches from truth; Catholics, Baptists, Lutherans, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Mormons all reject most or all of these 15 Bible teachings, proving they have fallen away from Bible truth

2 Chron. 16:9, John 4:23-24, Acts 10:35 God searches the world for true worshippers who fear Him

Rev. 18:4 God is calling out His children from Mother Harlot Catholicism and her daughter Protestant churches

John 16:13 those with the Holy Ghost will be guided into all truth, taught in bride churches

Matthew 7:20-23, 25:1-13 the three kinds of Christians are wise (Holy Ghost filled), foolish (free from idolatry but not filled with the Holy Ghost), and workers of iniquity (sin-loving imposters who can perform miracles but are not real Christians, etc.)

Jesus' bride foreshadowed by 7 Old Testament women:

Sarah:

Gen. 21:1-8 God visits Sarah and Abraham, making their old bodies again fertile

Rom. 4:9, 1 Cor. 15:51-52 God transformed Abraham and Sarah's bodies from death to life to bring forth the promised son as a type of the body change He'll do for the Gentile church in order to receive the Promised Son, Jesus, at the rapture

Luke 17:28-30 Jesus prophesied His second coming, which includes a body change for the rapture, will take place when the world is in a Sodomite condition as it was when Sarah experienced her body change

Rebekah:

Gen. 24:1-67 Rebekah types the bride's spiritual espousal and heavenly marriage to Christ the Bridegroom

1 Thes. 4:17 Isaac meeting Rebekah in the field—not his house—types Jesus meeting the Gentile bride in the air at the rapture, and not in His heavenly home, the throne of God in heaven

Asenath:

Gen. 45:1-15, Rev. 14:1 Joseph put out everyone from his presence as he revealed his identity to his brothers, typing Jesus leaving His raptured, Gentile church in heaven as He reveals Himself to the 144,000 Jewish remnant on Mount Zion

Rahab:

Jos. 6:5, 1 Thes. 4:16 Gentile Rahab saved by Israel's shout and trump just as the Gentile bride raptured by Christ's shout, voice, and trump

Jos. 2:12-21, Mat. 25:1-13, Eph. 4:30 Rahab's scarlet cord was a public token for her deliverance just as the baptism of the Holy Ghost is the believer's token, or seal, for the rapture, symbolized by oil

Samson's Philistine wife:

Jud. 14:1-20 Samson's Gentile wife types Jesus taking a Gentile wife

Jud. 14:3, 1 Thes. 4:1-2, Heb. 13:15-16 Samson's wife pleased him, as Jesus' bride pleases Him
Jud. 14:5-9, Acts 2:23, 1 Pet. 2:2-3, Rev. 10:10 slain lion represents God delivering Jesus, the
Lion of the Tribe of Judah, to be slain before the Gentile marriage; the honey in the carcass
represents the spiritual treasures and delicious tasting revelations gained from Jesus' death
Jud. 14:10-20, Luke 21:24, Rev. 10:7-11 the riddle during the seven day feast types Jesus' Seven
Church Ages and its revelation types the mysteries of God being finished and taken around the
world now

Ruth:

Ruth 1:1-22, Rom. 7:4 Ruth, the Gentile Moabitess, types Jesus' Gentile bride, who was
formerly married to the law and barren, but after the death of the law she is married to Christ,
typed by Boaz

Ruth 1:22, 1 Cor. 5:7-8 Ruth's arrival in Israel at barley harvest represents Gentile Christians
coming to faith in Christ by experiencing the spiritual blessings of His death (Passover), burial
(Unleavened Bread), and resurrection (Firstfruits)

Ruth 4:9-10, Acts 20:28 Boaz redeeming Naomi and gaining Ruth types Jesus shedding His
blood on the cross in order to purchase both Jew (Naomi) and Gentile (Ruth)

Esther:

Est. 1:9-22, Isa. 50:1, Jer. 3:8 Xerxes divorcing Vashti types God divorcing Israel

Est. 2:2, 2 Cor. 11:2 Esther was a virgin typing Jesus' spiritually virgin bride

Est. 2:10, Rom. 2:29 Esther being a secret Jew (thought to be a Gentile) types Gentile Christians
who have the inward, or spiritual circumcision of the Holy Ghost baptism

Est. 3:7-15, Rev. 13:11-18, 1 Thes. 5:3 Haman's plot to kill all Jews types the very end of the
Times of the Gentiles wherein true Christianity is outlawed and punishable by death

Est. 5:1, Rom. 5:2, 13:14, Rev. 1:6, 5:10 Esther's praying, fasting, and royal apparel type Jesus'
bride interceding as spiritual kings and priests to heaven for deliverance before the rapture

Est. 5:3-8, Joel 2:23 Esther's two wine banquets type the Gentile bride's former and latter rains
Ps. 16:11, Acts 2:4-1, 4:31 wine represents the joy and boldness God's Spirit brings to the
believer

Is. 25:6-8, 1 Cor. 15:51-54 Paul and Isaiah represent the rapture, or latter rain, as a wine banquet

Mat. 22:1-14 wicked Haman's removal from the wine banquet types the man removed from the
king's wedding supper

Dan. 12:1, Rev. 14:1-5 complete Jewish victory in Shushan types the complete victory of the
144,000 Jewish believers during the Tribulation; though the Antichrist and nations will come
against her, Jesus will physically come to protect and save His covenant people whose names are
on the Book of Life

The Shulamite from Song of Solomon:

Song of Sol. 3:9-11, 6:13 Solomon named as husband, Shulamite named as wife

Song of Sol. 1:8, 2:2, 6:9 the Shulamite is Solomon's only wife, his lily among thorns, the fairest
among women

Song of Sol. 1:5 the Jewish Shulamite's dark skin resembles the Ishmaelite *tents of Kedar*, showing her spiritual symbolism to the one church composed of Jew and Gentile
Song of Sol. 1:7, 3:1-4, Eph. 4:30, 1 Thes. 5:23, 1 Pet. 1:22 the Shulamite loves Solomon in her soul, a type of the Holy Spirit as a seal upon a believer's soul
Song of Sol. 8:6, Est. 8:8, Rom. 5:5, Eph. 4:30 the couple's love is best described as a seal upon their hearts, stronger even than death, typing the New Testament's permanent seal of the Holy Ghost in a believer's soul
Song of Sol. 8:14, Rev. 22:20 the book ends with the wife urging Solomon to return quickly like a speedy gazelle running down a mountain, just as the Bible ends with John saying "amen" to Jesus' quick return

The Proverbs 31 Woman types Jesus' bride:

Prov. 31:10, 29 the Proverbs 31 Woman is invaluable, singled out and exalted above all women
Eph. 5:27, 1 Thes. 4:17, Rev. 7:9-17 Christ's bride is heaven's one invaluable, blameless, blood-washed wife

Prov. 1:20-23, 31:29, John 1:14, Rom. 8:29 the Proverbs 31 Woman is the culmination and embodiment of the Book of Proverbs, just as Christ's bride is the conformed to His own image, the embodiment of the Word made flesh

Prov. 31:10-31 this section is an acrostic poem, meaning the Proverbs 31 Woman is an A-Z, completely wise woman, just as Christ is the Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:8, 11, 21:6, 22:13)
1 Cor. 1:8, 1 Thes. 5:23 a Christian's entire being—body, spirit, soul—is foretold to be preserved blameless unto the day of the Lord Jesus Christ

Prov. 31:1-9, Rom. 5:17, Rev. 1:6, 5:10 the beginning of the chapter offers wisdom to a future king and believers are spiritual kings and priests unto God who reign in life by Christ Jesus

Prov. 31:28, Rev. 20:6 after much labor, the Proverbs 31 Woman is called blessed, just as Christ's bride is called *blessed and holy* after the rapture, or first resurrection