

The Bride of the Lamb

and other mixed metaphors...



One of the great things about 'apocalyptic' as a literary device is the ease with which you can jump between metaphors.

Here we have the 'Bride' introduced in chapter 19 as an image of the purity of the people of God and in chapter 21 the same image is used of the New Creation.

The 'Lamb' was first mentioned in chapter 5 as a symbol for Jesus. When he was introduced, we were told to expect a conquering lion but instead we see a sacrificial lamb.

So is Jesus a lion or a lamb? He's both.

This is the great paradox of the New Testament, that Jesus' great conquest was through his humiliating death.

That's the beauty of the mixed metaphors used throughout the book. Be careful not to push the imagery too far!