

Passage: Revelation 19:1-10

Title: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Summary: In our passage today the glorious "Marriage Supper of the Lamb", where we celebrate being the Bride of Christ, chosen and beloved and cherished and never will we part. And, at the same time we get to be guests and celebrate each other's call of being chosen as the Bride of Christ; only in God's economy could that happen and it is a beautiful celebration and we don't have to wait until we're there to celebrate, for it is already done because of what Christ has done for us on the Cross. So join us as we celebrate a wonderful passage.

Revelation 19:1–10 (NKJV) ¹ After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God!" ² For true and righteous *are* His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her." ³ Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" ⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" ⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" ⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!" ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." ¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.

- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 –The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now ½). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Bowl 1 – Loathsome Sores (16:2)

Bowl 2 – The Seas turn to Blood (16:3)

Bowl 3 – The Fresh waters turn to Blood (16:4)

Bowl 4 – The Sun Scorches the Earth (16:8-9)

Bowl 5 – Darkness Upon the Earth (16:10-11)

Bowl 6 – The River Euphrates is Dried Up (16:12-16)

Bowl 7 – The Great Earthquake (16:17-21)

Glad to Get Past those Things

How glad we are to get past those things to these things in today' passage. Chapters 6-16, the 7 Seals, the 7 Trumpets, and the 7 Bowls which claim over half of the world's population. And then chapter 18-19 takes place after the destruction of Babylon—the political and commercial epicenter of the world, and after Babylon – the One World Religious system which is described as a harlot as it seduces people into a system that leads them away from the True and Living God.. As you read this chapter, that starts with “after these things”, which are the things we studied in chapters 6-18, and as we come to the marriage supper of the Lamb, we can't help but praise God, sing and say Alleluia.

Alleluia – 4 Times

Alleluia is a Hebrew word and it is used 4 times in the New Testament, and all 4 times here in these verse we just read. It means “Praise the Lord”, or “Praise God”.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

So let's break it down verse-by-verse.

(Revelation 19:1 NKJV) After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!"

Verse 1 – After these things - “after these things” – (Greek “meta tauta”). After these things” indicates another vision is being presented. Chapters 17 and 18 deal primarily with the fall of the Babylonish world system. Chapter 19 deals with the final defeat of the Antichrist at the end of the Tribulation in connection with Christ's triumphant return in glory and power. He will bring judgment on the Antichrist and his armies and reign on earth with the believers

This vision is introduced, not by an angel, but by the loud voices of a combined choir in heaven saying or singing a Hallelujah chorus, sung in response to 18:20, the just overthrow of Babylon

Alleluia – 4 Times / Heavenly Language – Universal Word

Alleluia - Alleluia is a Hebrew word and it is used 4 times in the New Testament, and all 4 times here in these verse we just read. It means “Praise the Lord”, or “Praise God”. This word seems to be part of the language of heaven so if you, so if you want a little heaven on earth, here is a word for you to speak. Interestingly, “Amen” and “Alleluia” are the only universally known words. That is, they are understood in every language, by every culture, I can go to Russia, China, France, etc and say Alleluia, and they know what I am saying

We sing Alleluia because:

- Verse 1 – because of the of the glory of God
- Verse 1-5 – because He judges the corrupt religious and political system of the world
- Verse 6 – because He reigns

Salvation belongs to the Lord / He is Only Way – Contrast Rev 17

Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! - These are in the definite article, meaning they're the one, the only, the original, the absolute kingdom power and glory. Notice that Salvation belongs to the Lord, there is no other way, He is the only way, but we praise him and sing Alleluia because He has provided a way. This statement is directed at Revelation 17, the One World Religion where people thought there was another way, their way. Verse 1 makes it clear there is only one way, and that way belongs to the Lord.

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

We Sing Alleluia – because Clothed in Fine Linen / Clean & Bright – No Blemish / Back to Garden

We sing Alleluia because in verse 8 we are clothed in fine linen. All of God's redeemed are clothed in fine linen. The linen is clean and bright and the word bright lends us to see it as if we are clothed in Light (for the Greek word is “lampros” from which we get our word “lamp”), we are pure and unblemished for the light reveals that there is no impurity found within us. We are back to the garden, before the fall, living

as God intended and thus we sing Alleluia. What a comparison to Babylon in chapter 18, as people were clothing themselves in the fine linen of the world but that isn't clean and bright, it only covers and hide their shame and the true nature of their heart that says we will not have this man rule over, we refuse to say Alleluia, Praise God. That linen was destroyed in 1 hour, whereas the linen we are clothed in will never wear out, and last for all eternity; and so we sing Alleluia.

Revelation 19:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Nothing in Material World Compares – Spontaneously Praising Him / In the 7-11

There is nothing in this material world that can fill or compare to this scene, it is how we were created, to long for this scene, to fellowship with our Creator, and when we stand in His presence our hearts will melt in love for Him, and we will naturally and spontaneously praise Him. Ever have those days, times, where you are thinking on Him, reading something, or listening to a worship song, or watched His mighty works and you find yourself just praising Him, naturally and spontaneously. Then you really you are in the 7/11 and the whole store is staring at you.

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

I so needed this passage this week as I looked all things going on in the world, in our Country, I cry oh Lord how long, how much longer, but I praise because He time is set, and He will set all things straight.

Revelation 6:9-11 (NKJV) ⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

(Revelation 19:2 NKJV) "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

(Revelation 19:3 NKJV) Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

Contrast of Babylon / Saints Devoured - God Devours

Look again at the contrast of Babylon. That system devoured the saints of God, but here we see God devouring her, shedding her blood for shedding the blood of the saints.

Smoke Rises Forever / Continually Reminder – World Fading / Dead in Trespasses – yet Escape

Her smoke rises up forever, possibly as a reminder to us of being delivered by God, that for all of eternity we will see this smoke, and it will be a reminder of God's mercy upon us that He called out to us, even when we were dead in our trespasses and sin, and he gave us the wisdom to see the vanity and futility of anything this world could offer us, and we chose and Him, and escaped the wrath that came upon that worldly system. This world system is fading and its all going to burn, in just t hour. I pray you considered last week's study, that you really took inventory and asked yourself where and what things am I investing my time, money, efforts into.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

I don't know how forever never works out in this economy of God I can easily see the smoke rising and the smell of it would be as an incense all through the millennial Kingdom what happens in the new heaven and new earth I'll wait and see what God does with that but I have no problem that somehow someday there's still that fire that burns forever and ever of the destruction of this babylonian religious economic and political system. And I will praise him and I will say Hallelujah because I was totally absorbed in that religious system that was dead and I was totally absorbed and all the selfish self-serving works of the flesh that comes with the physical Babylon and I will see Hallelujah forever to you Jesus for rescuing me from the religious and physical Babylon that would have ended in me rather than smelling the fire of Babylon I would have been enduring the fire of Babylon for all of eternity had it not been for your great salvation and your love for me.

Rejoicing – Yet One Battle Still Remains

I find this ever so interesting to myself in that we are rejoicing we are singing praise God we are raising a Hallelujah because Babylon the harlot has been judged and destroyed and yet was it so interesting there is still one more great battle to come and we'll read it in our next study this battle of Armageddon.

The Devil and all hell is coming, and yet there is a victory party before the battle begins.

You know Christian there's something powerful here for us in that we can rejoice even though there's a battle looming before us we can rejoice when storm clouds are forming we can rejoice when we know there's still another fight to come and we can rejoice because our God is all powerful our God is victorious in every future battle he will still fight for us and he will still win for us even when you go I feel like I'm losing God is saying in the end it will turn in to glory because you let me be God you trusted me even when all was dark and all seemed to be defeat.

Prophecy, and Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy, is forthtelling the Word of God, and often times is is forthtelling the surety of the Word of God before it even comes to pass. Speaking the Word, as surety, is power, and will bring power into a situation where there is still a battle yet to come!

(Revelation 19:4 NKJV) And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

(Revelation 19:5 NKJV) Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

(Revelation 19:6 NKJV) And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

Enemies Defeated – Things as Should Be / No Questioning God

The praise, for God has judged and defeated all enemies and now reigns supremely. Finally all things are as they should be. We are of one heart and one mind, No more questioning of why God, why did you allow this to happen on earth, what was your reasoning? Rather, we are in agreement with all that He has done and we sing Alleluia.

Amen – So Be It / Elders – Mature Ones / Want to be an Elder

Verse 4 – Amen: Amen means “so be it”. The elders—or mature ones—are those who say, “So be it. Praise the Lord.” You can gauge your spiritual maturity on whether you are one that says, “so be it Lord”, or you are one that says, “how could it be it Lord”, “why God, how could, where are you and what are you doing”. Elders, mature ones say “so be it, and on top of that I also say Praise You Lord.

Praise God Small & Great / Lack of Fear and Reverence / Fear – Beginning of Wisdom

Verse 5 - "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" - Notice again there in verse 5, notice the contrast to Babylon. The people on earth both small and great worship the world system but here in heaven, both small and great Praise Him. It says those that fear Him, the word fear means “reverence”. I think there is not only a lack of fear and reverence for God amongst the heathen, but even the church here on earth has lost the fear and reverence for Him. The Bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The division, gossip, habitual sin, flaunting of sin, it all stems from that man has lost the fear of the Lord:

(Proverbs 9:10 NKJV) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Omni (all)

Verse 6 - "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!" – Omni means (all).

God is omni (all) – science (knowing)

Psalm 139:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ O LORD, You have searched me and known me. ² You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. ³ You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

God is omni (all) – presence (everywhere)

Psalm 139:5–9 (NKJV) ⁵ You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. ⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend into

heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

God is omni (all) – Potent (powerful)

Psalm 139:10–14 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me; ¹² Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

And he takes all that knowing he takes all that presence and it takes all of that power and it sums into his thoughts towards us and therefore he is going to use all of that knowledge and power and the presence in our life to accomplish and finish this treasure and masterpiece he calls His Bride:

Psalm 139:17–18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

(Revelation 19:7 NKJV) "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

(Revelation 19:8 NKJV) And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

(Revelation 19:9 NKJV) Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

Marriage of Lamb – Lamb Center of Attention / Bride waiting and Longing For

Not the marriage of the Bride, but of the Lamb. The groom is the center of attention, the Bride is waiting, longing to see the Groom, the Lamb. It's not a list of things to do that prepares us for the Marriage Feast. It's an embracing of what the Lamb has done.

Bride made Ready / What is Righteousness of Saints

The Bride made herself ready. In the Book of Isaiah, we see what "the righteousness of saints" is....

(Isaiah 61:10 NKJV) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Not my Righteousness / We are Robed in His Righteousness

It's not my righteousness that saves me, for Isaiah goes on to say that my righteousness is as filthy rags (64:6). No, it's the robe of righteousness the Lord places around me that affords me entrance to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

(Isaiah 64:6 NKJV) But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

I'm Guest at Yours and You at Mine!

What a glorious passage, the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb", where we celebrate being the Bride of Christ, chosen and beloved and cherished and never will we part. And, at the same time we get to be guests and celebrate each other's call of being chosen as the Bride of Christ; only in God's economy could that happen and it is a beautiful celebration and we don't have to wait until we're there to celebrate, for it is already done because of what Christ has done for us on the Cross.

How Glorious / How about Chronological Order / Jewish Marriage Process

How glorious this Marriage Supper will be. But maybe your mind is asking, wait a minute Ray, you said the book of Revelation is pretty much in chronological order, and if that is so, then why is the bride and this Marriage Supper here in chapter 19, and not back in chapter 4. The answer of that comes through the understanding of the Jewish Marriage process.

Along the Way – See Prophecy / His Great Love for You

Along the way of understanding how this applies to us in terms of the prophecy, the Pre-Tribulation rapture of the church, you'll also see the depth of His love for His Bride.

3 Stages of Jewish Marriage Tradition

The answer lies in an understanding of the Jewish marriage tradition, which comprised three stages.... The Engagement, the Betrothal, the Wedding.

The Engagement

Pre-Arranged by Fathers

Historically, Jewish children would often be engaged by the age of two or three—sometimes before they were even born. That is, families that shared the same values and social standing would say, "If you have a daughter and I have a son, let's agree right now that they will marry each other." You see, the Jewish people looked at marriage as far too important to be left up to the decision-making skills of young adults. So it was up to the father specifically to arrange with other fathers to whom his son or daughter would be engaged.

Scripture – Men chose Own / Ended in Disaster

Scripture does record a few cases when men chose their own brides. But each of these marriages ended in heartache or disaster....

- Against his father's wishes, Esau married an Ishmaelite (Genesis 28:8, 9).
- Jacob fell in love with Rachel at first sight, but ended up working for her for seven years before unknowingly marrying her sister (Genesis 29).
- Samson "loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah" (Judges 16:4).

Since the result of a man choosing his own wife without the directive of his father often resulted in tragedy or difficulty, it became the norm for the father to select his child's spouse.

The Betrothal

Ages 12-15 / Maybe Meet 1st Time / Father of Groom Negotiate the Price

The engagement led to the betrothal—usually between the ages of twelve and fifteen for a young lady. At this point, bride and groom would perhaps meet for the first time, as the father of the groom would negotiate the bride price.

3 Variables

The price would be based upon three variables.

- First, it would be predicated upon the **father's wealth**. If the father of the groom was a rich man, he would pay a high price so as not to look like a cheapskate.
- Second, the price would be determined by the **bride's worth**. If she was attractive or otherwise gifted, her bride price would be higher.
- Thirdly, the price was based upon the **groom's work**. That is, in some cases it was up to the groom to pay the price.... (we see that example in Jacob as he worked for Rachel)

Portion of Money to Bride as Security – In case Widowed or Divorced

A portion of the bride price would go to the bride to use as security in the event she was widowed or divorced.

Remainder Money to Father – For No Family Name – Defense - Business

The remainder of the bride price went to the bride's father in compensation for the fact that, unlike a son, his daughter wouldn't be able to carry on his name, help defend him, or take over the family business.

After Price – Contracted Signed / Bride Groom sip from Cup of Wine / Legally Betrothed

After at least a portion of the bride price was laid upon the table, a contract would be signed to further validate the agreement. Then, the prospective bride and groom would sip from a single cup of wine, at which point they were legally betrothed.

For Next Year – Not Drink of Vine – Nor Live Together / Bride & Dress / Groom & Mansion

For the following year, the couple would not drink of the vine nor live together. The bride would begin to wear a veil, signifying that she was “taken.” She would also begin to prepare her wedding dress, sometimes from material provided by the groom (Ezekiel 16:10). Meanwhile, the groom would begin construction on what is called in Hebrew “a little mansion”—a room built onto his father’s house. When the father decided the preparations were complete, his son, wearing a crown, would be sent off to his wedding (Song of Solomon 3:11).

The Wedding.

Knew not the Day / Mansion Near Complete – Gather Friends

Although the bride didn’t know the exact day of her wedding, she knew it would most likely be in autumn to allow for the completion of harvest, and that it would most likely be on a Wednesday. Wednesday was the day couples got married because Thursday was the day the courts were opened. If it was discovered on her wedding day that the bride was not a virgin, she could easily be divorced the next day. As the preparation of her “little mansion” neared completion, the bride would begin to gather her friends to await the arrival of her groom.

Day of Wedding / Groom & Best Man walk Streets Blowing Trumpet / Bride Meet Him in Street

On the day of his wedding, the groom and his friends—particularly his best man—would walk through the streets with trumpets blaring, taking the most circuitous route to the bride’s house. Already attired in her wedding dress, when the bride heard the sounding of the trumpet, she would arise and receive a blessing from her father. Then she would run out the door to be met by the groom in the streets.

Canopy / Not Vows – But Contract Drawn Up Year Ago

Together, they would make their way to the four-postered canopy under which they would be married. The ceremony itself consisted not of vows, which were Roman and Greek in tradition, but simply a reading of the contract that had been drawn up a year before, along with a blessing.

Procession to Little Mansion / Best man – Spotless Virgin / Celebration for 7 Days

The procession would then continue on to the “little mansion,” where the best man would stand outside the door while the marriage was consummated. Why would he stand outside the door? To wait for word from the groom that the bride was a virgin—as evidenced by a blood-spotted bed-sheet. If the bride were, indeed, a virgin, the wedding celebration would continue for seven days. If not, the guests would go home, and the bride would face either divorce or death by stoning.

7 Days – Only Vacation in Life / Bride Never Seen – Groom Come out to Visit – Bring Food - Gifts

Although seven days spent in an addition to one’s father’s house while friends and family partied just outside the door may not sound like the ideal honeymoon to us, but in the Jewish culture, being waited on for a week was glorious. You see, this would be the only time in their entire lives when the bride and groom would do no labor. Remember, there were no vacations in those days—no holiday cruises, no jets, no Maui. The one and only time people were able to kick back was during their marriage week. During this week, the bride would never be seen. The groom, on the other hand, would occasionally come out and greet the guests before bringing back food and gifts to his bride.

After 7 Days – Bride presented to World

After seven days, the groom would present his bride to his family, friends, and community—at which time the marriage feast would end in a final great celebration

Picture Perfect

Looking again at this process, it becomes a picture-perfect analogy of our Bridegroom’s relationship with us....

The Engagement

Elected by Father for His Son / Mind-boggling

Just as the Jewish father chose whom his child would marry, it's mind-boggling to realize that our heavenly Father elected us to be the bride for His Son (1 Peter 1:2).

(1 Peter 1:2 NKJV) elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

The Betrothal

1.) Fathers Wealth / Proof of Intent Paid the Price

As proof of this intent, He paid the bride price, based first upon His wealth. How rich is God? Neither all the gold in the world nor all of the galaxies in the universe would begin to reflect His wealth. Instead, the "bride price" God paid for us was something of which He had only one: His Son (John 3:16).

(John 3:16 NKJV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2.) Bride's Worth / 6 Cow Woman / Not 6 Cows – Gave Self

Second, the price had to be according to the bride's worth. The story is told of an Arabian man who had one daughter so plain he doubted anyone would ever want to marry her. One day, however, he received word that a man from a distant village was so taken with her that he was coming to see him with bride price in hand. Prepared to take whatever he was offered, imagine the father's surprise when the visitor offered him six cows for his daughter's hand. Six cows! thought the father in amazement. "The highest price ever paid in this village has been three cows!" So it was that the father gave his daughter's hand in marriage. Two years later, the daughter and her husband returned to her home village, where everyone was startled by her exquisite beauty. "How is she so beautiful?" they wondered. The answer was simple: Because her husband saw her as worth six cows, a six-cow beauty is what she became. That's how God views me. I don't understand it, but I rejoice in the fact that God looks at me and says, "I am in love with you so passionately that I'll give everything to bring you into the kingdom in order that you might live with Me forever and ever throughout eternity." To this end, God gave not six cows or even six galaxies—He gave Himself.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

3.) Groom's Work

Third, the bride price was determined by the groom's work. Jesus paid for us with His life. Willing to suffer and endure the pain and shame of the cross.

The Contract – This Word / Not Sip the Cup Again

The bride price paid, just as a contract was signed and a cup of wine shared by the bride and groom in a Jewish betrothal, we hold in our hands the "contract" of the Word of God, along with Jesus' promise that He would not drink of the cup again until He did so with us in the kingdom (Matthew 26:29). And as a bride wore a veil that, although it obscured her vision, signified her relationship with the groom, so at present we see through a glass darkly, but shall one day see our Bridegroom clearly (1 Corinthians 13:12).

(Matthew 26:29 NKJV) "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Our Wedding Dress – Robed in His Righteousness

Like the Jewish bride whose wedding dress was made from material provided by her groom, we are invited to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 13:14) and robe ourselves in His righteousness (Isaiah 61:10).

He is Building the Mansion

Like the groom who added a "little mansion" to his father's house, Jesus went to His Father's house to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).

(John 14:1 NKJV) "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

(John 14:2 NKJV) "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

(John 14:3 NKJV) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

At Appointed Time / Trumpet is Near / Israel – Europe / We are to read Ourselves – Mansion Done

Then, at the time appointed by the Father, the Son, wearing many crowns (Revelation 19:12), will come for us, His bride (Mark 13:32). Like the Jewish bride, we don't know the day or hour of His return, but like her, we know the season (1 Thessalonians 5:1). We understand the place of Israel, the problems in Jerusalem, the coming together of the European Union, One-World Religion, One-World Economy, Mark to buy and Sell. We understand from Bible prophecy that the Lord's coming is near, even at the very door (Mark 13:29). Thus, like the Jewish bride, we ready ourselves for the day we will hear the trumpet and the shout (1 Thessalonians 4:16), before we are caught up to meet the Lord, not on earth, but in the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

The Wedding.

The Virgin Bride / Validation – He made Us Pure

In the context of a Jewish wedding, John's position as "friend of the bridegroom" (John 3:29) and his message of repentance in preparation for the coming Bridegroom (Matthew 3:3) becomes clear.

"Therein lies the problem," you say. "If the marriage is to be validated on my purity, I deserve only divorce or stoning because I sin miserably; I mess up constantly; I fail continually." Good News! The validation of our relationship with our Bridegroom doesn't depend on our sinlessness, but on His. It is the vesture dipped in His blood (Revelation 19:13) that allows us to be presented to Him without spot or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:27):

(Ephesians 5:25 NKJV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

(Ephesians 5:26 NKJV) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

(Ephesians 5:27 NKJV) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Don't have to Clean-up Act

You mean we don't have to clean up our act, do this, or accomplish that? No, Jesus said blessed are those who are simply watching for His coming (Revelation 16:15), blessed are those who realize the price has been paid, the work done. Precious people, that's what true Christianity consists of, marveling at the love of the Father and of the Son for me and for you.

(Revelation 16:15 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

Honeymoon for 7 Years / Then Presented to World

We then are afforded a glorious honeymoon with Him—not for seven days, but for seven years as He serves us, His bride, in heaven (Luke 12:37). At the end of seven years, we come back to earth with Him in the Second Coming (Revelation 19:14) where, at the marriage feast of the Lamb, we are presented as His bride forever and ever. And that is why we see the marriage feast in Revelation 19 rather than in chapter 4. The analogy is perfect.

(Revelation 19:14 NKJV) And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

He Paid the Price / 6 Cow Woman – Beautiful Glorious Bride

Dear friend, if you have said, "Lord, I know I have sinned and failed, but I believe You love me and that You paid the price for me," Rejoice! Be glad! Celebrate! In the Lord's sight, you are a six-cow woman, a beautiful, glorious bride.

Sing Alleluia

When you grasp this passage of Scripture, of course you will sing Alleluia.

(Revelation 19:10 NKJV) And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

John Blown Away / See Fellow Brethren – Fruits of His Labor / Pray that your Experience

At this point, John is so blown away by seeing the bride, that he falls at the feet of the angelic messenger. John is blown away because He sees the fruits of His labors, he sees fellow brothers and sisters, those that He invested in, those that are standing there before the throne partaking in this glorious marriage Supper of the Lamb, those that escaped the wrath to come. I pray that is your Marriage Supper experience.

Cults say Jesus an Angel

"Don't worship me. I'm just a fellow servant," the angel declares. Throughout the Gospels we see people worshiping Jesus....

- Peter fell down and worshiped Him, saying, "Depart from me. I'm a sinful man" (see Luke 5:8).
- Thomas said, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

Yet Jesus never says, "Don't worship Me. I'm just an angel." Therefore, the contention of the Mormon or Jehovah's Witness that Jesus is nothing more than an angel is completely erroneous. Jesus receives worship because He is more than an angel. He is God Incarnate.

Jesus – the spirit of Prophecy

Verse 10 - For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. - one last final note for all of us Jesus is the spirit of prophecy and here we see the fulfillment of prophecy and John is overcome by worship. And here we see a purpose of prophecy it's to lead us into worship to worship him in spirit and truth, we worship him because he's omnipresent he's omnipotent he's omniscient and he's always thinking of us and all these prophecies are the culmination to bring us in to a relationship with him and bring us into intimacy with him. And may I just say if you're arguing over prophecy then there's something wrong because prophecy isn't meant that caused the vision and argument it's meant to bring us into worship

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need