

“THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB”

Revelation 19:1-10

Theme: The consummation of our relationship with Christ will occur at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

I. THE PRELUDE TO THE MARRIAGE – *19:1-6*

A. *The Riddance of the False Bride* – *vv. 1-2*

1. This section begins with the notable *“After these things...”* phrase – indicating the fact that we are entering a new vision – that the subject is changing.
2. From chapters 6-18, we have seen the description of the Tribulation Period from the point of view of an earth-dweller.
3. Now, things change, we see through the eyes of heaven – like we did in chapters 4-5.
4. Satan’s rivalry with God found seed among the ungodly on the earth – producing a greatly adulterous, false religious, system of humanism that will ultimately face the destruction in judgment by God at the end of the Tribulation – cp. *Revelation 17-18*
5. The destruction of Babylon, the capital of the Beast’s kingdom marks the end of the Great Tribulation.
6. On the earth, we saw that the lamentation of the ungodly at the total and irreversible destruction of Satan rule and authority.
7. However, as our view shifts to heaven, we see an eruption of unrestrained praise – *“...I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ‘Hallelujah!’”*
8. As soon as the imposter was routed and judged, the *“great multitude in heaven”* realized that the day of celebration of the removal of the false bride was possible.
 - a. We are not informed as to the identity of this “great multitude in heaven” – but we do understand that it is not the church (the bride of Christ) or the Cherubim – cp. *v. 4*
 - b. Thus, we are left to understand that they are most likely the Old Testament saints – those who are invited to witness the marriage of Christ Jesus and His Bride – the church.
9. Their rejoicing is specifically tied to Christ having put down the false rival to the people of God – *“... Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; because His judgments are true and righteous, for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her*

immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.”

10. *“Salvation”* here does not refer to justification or even sanctification, but to the final aspect of redemption – glorification.
11. He receives *“glory and power”* because He has faithfully brought to pass all that He had promised – in both the delivery of the saints safely to glory and the destruction of the godless in judgment – *“His judgments are true and righteous...”*
12. The finality of the victory of Christ Jesus is stated – *“And a second time they said, Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.”*

B. *The Response of the True Bride – v. 3-6*

1. The Old Testament saints are exuberant in their adoration of Christ for His ultimate victory over the ages old enemy of the people of God; and, for the fact that nothing stands in the way of the consummation of His relationship with the Church.
2. As a result, the church joins the anthem – *“And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, ‘Amen. Hallelujah!’”*
3. No one is more thrilled at the development that the church which has been in heaven awaiting the consummation of their marriage to Christ Jesus.
4. With the Old Testament saints leading the worship, added to which the church (*“twenty-four elders”*) and the angels (*“the four living creatures”*) join the anthem – we are told that a universal call goes out for everyone to worship – *“And a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.’”*
5. We are not told to whom the *“voice [that] came from the throne”* belongs – but since it refers to God as *“our God”* – it is likely an angel.
6. Here you see the intense unity of interest that exists between the distinct peoples of God – the angels, Old Testament/Tribulational saints, and the Church all rejoice in the glory given to God for the fulfillment of His Word.
7. Thus, we see a universal chorus of saints and angels worshiping God – *“Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.’”*
8. This is the first time that *“Hallelujah”* is mentioned in the New Testament – and it is reserved for a time when there is a need for a superlative word of adoration.

II. THE PREPARATION FOR THE MARRIAGE – 19:7-8

A. *The Process of Marriage – v. 7*

1. The worship of God was not offered only because of the faithfulness of God in judging the wicked rival to the people of God, but for the reality of God's faithfulness to the Church.
2. The worship continues – *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”*
3. The single greatest event in the biblical world was the marriage of a man and woman – an extensively elaborate and prolonged celebration.
4. The wedding celebration was basically solemnized via three stages:
 - a. The first stage was “Engagement” or “Betrothal” and was typically arranged between the two sets of parents, or between the bride's parents and the groom wherein the groom would provide a promissory gift called a dowry to the bride's parents which would obligate both parties to the marriage.
 - b. The second stage was “Ceremony” or “Presentation” and was typically executed as the groom came and took his bride to his home where the vows and celebration would occur.
 - c. The final stage was the “Feast” or “Reception” during which guests would enjoy the hospitality of the Groom & his family and would last for a long while depending on the wealth and social status of the groom's family.
5. The church's engagement to Christ Jesus was accomplished in eternity past as the Father promised the Son a redeemed bride and wrote their names in the Book of Life and is realized as each one comes to personal faith in Christ as Savior – cp. *2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27*
6. The second stage when the groom comes and takes His bride to his home and presents her to the Father occurs at the Rapture of the church – *John 14:1-3; Mark 2:19-20*
7. The final stage is what is in view here in our text – *“the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”*

B. *The Preparation of the Bride – v. 8*

1. The bride's great blessing is the ability to prepare herself – to *“make herself ready”* through the mercy and enabling grace of God through the work of Christ Jesus Himself.
2. We are told that Jesus is the one who readies His bride – cp. Ephesians 5:25-27
3. However, there is also the role that the bride herself plays in readying herself – *“It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”*

4. This is not a reference to the righteousness of Christ – the very robes in which the saints are wrapped upon their justification – cp. [Romans 5:19; 2 Corinthians 5:21](#)
5. This is the outworking of righteousness that occurs in the life of the believer as they are able to be conformed to the image of Christ Jesus Himself – cp. [Philippians 2:12-13; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15](#)

III. THE PROTOCOL AT THE MARRIAGE – 19:9-10

A. *The Edifying of the Guests* – v. 9

1. The blessing of this celebration is not limited to the church – the Old Testament & Tribulation saints are also blessed – *“Then he said to me, Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’”*
2. Those devoted to the glory of God will truly rejoice in the fulfillment of God’s purposes for redemption – John 3:29
3. *“Blessed”* here means “happy,” “joyous,” “fulfilled” – and describes the joy of the OT saints at the marriage of Christ Jesus to the Church.
4. Despite the fact that this is a curious finale – the reality of God’s infinite wisdom in selecting Israel as His covenant people is equaled by the selection of the Church as the Bride of Christ – *“And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’”*
5. There are no second-class citizens in the Kingdom of God – even as the OT saints rejoice in the honor of the marriage of Christ & the church, the church will rejoice in the honor of the Jews in the Millennium.
6. We also realize that as God’s purposes for redemption are brought to completion, the distinction between His earthly subjects diminish – cp. [Revelation 21:1-2](#).

B. *The Exaltation of the Groom* – v. 10

1. Unlike most modern weddings where the bride is the focus, in this marriage it is the Groom who is glorious – *“Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’”*
2. The reason for this prophecy was so that Jesus would be exalted – it is “the Revelation of Jesus Christ” – cp. [Revelation 1:1](#)