

Part 5 The Bride's Response on the Wedding Day (Rev. 19:1-10)

I. GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN (REV. 19:7)

- A. The Father's ultimate purpose for creation is to provide a family for Himself and a Bride for His Son as His eternal companion to reign with Him forever. The guiding principle of the Father's activity throughout history has been to raise up a prepared Bride for His worthy Son. The end-time conflict is between the harlot and the Bride. The harlot will seem to grow strong for a short season. God uses the pressures caused by the harlot to prepare His Bride to replace the harlot.

⁷For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready...⁹Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb! (Rev. 19:7-9)

- B. She is prepared in character, understanding, and power. One generation will be prepared or ready as His Bride to keep the prophecy of Revelation. This passage gives us insight into this process.

⁷Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book... (Rev. 22:7)

1. **Character**: preparation of our heart in loyal love that obeys the commands of Jesus
2. **Understanding**: preparation of our mind for the unique dynamics of the end times in order to engage in Jesus' action plan without being deceived (harlot Babylon) or offended (at Jesus' leadership), to love Jesus, to release His power, and to be faithful witnesses
3. **Power**: preparation of our ministry to move in the power of the Holy Spirit by prayer

- C. The Bride will be prepared to participate with Jesus as she keeps the book of Revelation.

- 1). **Obey it**: Perseverance in Jesus' commands with mature character and love
- 2). **Say it**: Proclamation of Jesus' message with deep understanding
- 3). **Pray it**: The release of Jesus' power in ministry partnership with Him

- D. One of the most offensive and troubling issues at the end of the age will be the truth of God's judgments. If people misunderstand His judgments, they will be more vulnerable to yield to fear, offense, confusion, compromise, and deception. Revelation 19:1-10 gives insight into the judgments so people do not lose perspective in seeing God's love and wisdom in the unique end-time events. God uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating anyone's free will in training the future rulers of the earth.

²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)

- E. The four sources of pressure on earth are God, the Devil, sinful man, and fallen creation.

- 1). God loves therefore, He shakes the nations (Heb. 12:26). We are to submit to God.
- 2). Satan rages therefore, he attacks the nations. We are to resist the Devil
- 3). Man sins therefore, he defiles the nations and harms people. We are to repent of sin.
- 4). Creation groans, and troubles the nations. We are to work to restore and cleanse creation.

II. THE BRIDE'S FIRST RESPONSE: AGREEMENT WITH GOD'S JUDGMENTS (REV. 19:1-4)

¹After 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! ²For 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." ³Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" (Rev. 19:1-3)

- A. **After these things:** This gathering occurs immediately after God judges Babylon (Rev. 17-18).
- B. **Great multitude in heaven:** We see this multitude three times in Revelation (Rev. 7:9; 19:1, 6). An angel defined the multitude as the great end-time harvest from all nations (Rev. 7:9, 14).
- C. **Alleluia:** All four uses of alleluia in the New Testament are in this context (Rev. 19:1, 3, 4, 6). It is a Hebrew word which literally means "praise the Lord." This fulfills the angel's call to rejoice (Rev. 18:20). Agreement with God's judgments is the most difficult area of agreement. She agrees with His temporal judgments (Rev. 19:2) and His eternal judgments (Rev. 19:3).
- D. **Belong:** Four virtues (v. 1) are ascribed to Jesus by all in heaven in context to His judgments. These give us insight into Jesus' heart, reasons and motives for judgment, and its fruit. We wrestle now with these truths to come to agreement with Jesus before the wedding day.
- E. **Salvation:** God's judgments always fulfill His larger salvation purposes and never hinder or contradict them. Salvation includes the deliverance of the nations from oppression and corruption and the full restoration of His people, the nations, and the earth itself to all that Jesus died to accomplish. Jesus will fully answer the cry for justice for all the nations (Lk. 18:7-8) as all ungodly governments are replaced. All will see the relationship of judgment to salvation.
- F. **Glory:** All will boast in Jesus with loving delight and trust (Ps. 105:3; 43:4). His judgments will direct the nations to greater understanding of His glory, love, wisdom, and power. Jesus will be the magnificent obsession of all in the nations being preeminent in their minds and affections. The fame of Jesus' name will cover the earth as the fruit of His judgments. The saints will boldly proclaim that Jesus is responsible for judging the harlot. His judgments bring glory to Him.
- G. **Honor:** To honor Jesus means to obey and serve His agenda for the nations. Paul spoke of honoring parents with respectful obedience towards them (Eph 6:1-2). All nations will honor Jesus by obeying His commands. Jesus will be the most obeyed, respected, and listened to person in all the nations. He will be the most talked about and emulated role model on earth. To honor means to publicly esteem to show obedience and respect to one with superior standing.
- H. **Power:** Jesus will have the governmental leadership over all the nations as He is acknowledged as the source of power behind judging and removing the harlot and the Antichrist's empire. The theme of His power will be developed more as all see Him as the omnipotent God (Rev. 19:6).

- I. **True and righteous:** His judgments are true to love and wisdom. They never contradict them. All will ascribe that His judgments were wise or effective in removing all that hinders love. His judgments are righteous or right. They are never too severe or too lenient. They are never too late or too early. His judgments will lead to love filling the earth.
- J. **Corruption and oppression:** The two reasons emphasized for God's judgment are to remove corruption and oppression. Jesus will pour out His vengeance on oppressors for the persecution of the saints. The harlot will seem to look good, but she will be filthy and corrupt (Rev. 17:4).
- K. **Forever:** The Bride even agrees with God's eternal judgments (Rev. 14:9-11; 20:11-15). His temporal judgments are sent to awaken people so that they escape the wrath to come (Lk. 3:7).
- L. **Elders and living creatures:** The governmental leaders in heaven will respond in the same way. They are overwhelmed at seeing the fulfillment of God's promises made through His prophets.
⁴And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" (Rev. 19:4)

III. THE BRIDE'S SECOND RESPONSE: PRAISE WITH GLADNESS (REV. 19:5-8)

⁵A voice...from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants..." ⁶The voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!" ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." ⁸To her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:5-8)

- A. **The Lord God Omnipotent reigns:** The power and grace of God is magnified in all God's work. The confession of God's omnipotence and thus, ability to overrule everything for our good brings great strength to God's people now and throughout the Great Tribulation (Rom. 8:28).
- B. **For the marriage of the Lamb has come:** It is a common view to see the marriage supper of the Lamb as beginning right after the rapture of the Church and continuing for the 1,000 years of the millennial kingdom. The timing of the marriage supper is not made explicit in Revelation. Why? Possibly because it is not an event that happens in one moment, but over a long period of time.
- C. **Made herself ready:** John emphasized the role of the individual believer's free will to choose obedience in cooperating with God's grace. The Bride must voluntarily choose to obey God.
- D. **The fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints:** Individual responses will be honored as Jesus rewards His people. Rewards declare how Jesus feels about the way we lived and loved Him. The saints are rewarded with garments that reflect their righteous choices (Rev. 19:7-8; 11:18; 22:12; 2 Tim. 4:1, 8; Isa. 40:10; 62:11). She will wear her rewards forever in her garments. It matters what we do each step of the way in the face of temptation, difficulty, and even boredom.

- E. **Arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright:** The Bride will be beautified with glorious garments. Raptured believers will be quickly evaluated and rewarded at the time Jesus returns (Mt. 16:27; Rev. 11:15, 18; 22:12; Isa. 40:10; 62:11). The saints have their heavenly garments by the time that they are with Jesus at the conclusion of the Armageddon campaign (Rev. 19:11-21).
¹⁴The armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him... (Rev. 19:14)
- F. **To her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen:** God's grace is emphasized in that He grants that the Bride be given fine linen as a reward for our small and weak acts of obedience.
- G. **Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory:** We are to rejoice with gladness even now in anticipation of our great wedding day (Song 1:4; Isa. 61:10; Jn. 3:29). This is in contrast to fear, despair, and compromise that tempt us. These truths will fill our hearts with gladness.
- H. **Great multitude, as the sound of many waters and mighty thunderings:** The Bride's corporate voice expresses the glory of God's voice like many waters (Rev. 1:15) and thunder (Rev. 4:5).

IV. JOHN'S COMMISSION: A PICTURE OF THE FORERUNNER MINISTRY

⁹Then 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."¹⁰And 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." (Rev. 19:9-10)

- A. **The marriage supper of the Lamb:** In Israel, the marriage supper was the final phase of the betrothal process leading up to the consummation of the marriage. Isaiah described this supper (Isa. 25:6-10). Jesus hosts a feast for all nations on the mountain that He destroys His enemies.
⁶In this mountain the LORD will make for all people a feast of choice pieces...⁷He will destroy on this mountain...the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces... (Isa. 25:6-8)
- B. **Blessed:** The ultimate blessing of any human is to be there. This is the point of life.
- C. **I fell at his feet:** John was overwhelmed by such truths as they became so personal to him.
- D. **Write:** John was commissioned to make known the truth about the marriage of the Lamb.
- E. **The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy:** The spirit or purpose of prophecy is to make known the testimony of Jesus. His testimony involves what He thinks, feels, and does in the past, present, and future. It includes His work of creation, redemption, and the administration of history. The spirit of prophecy is here defined in context to the revelation of the marriage supper. A significant purpose of prophecy is to reveal the truth of the Bridegroom God to the redeemed that we walk in extravagant love for Jesus. This is one of the tests of the true spirit of prophecy.