

## ***Session 8 The Marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19:1-8)***

### **I. THE GREAT CELEBRATION AROUND THRONE (REV. 19:1-4)**

- A. The Bride's first response on that Day is to express agreement with God's judgments (Rev. 19:1-4). The multitude will celebrate the judgment of Babylon (Rev. 19:1-4) and the marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19:5-10). The Holy Spirit will emphasize these two realities in the end times.

***<sup>1</sup>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! <sup>2</sup>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."<sup>3</sup> Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"...<sup>7</sup>For the marriage of the Lamb has come.... (Rev. 19:1-3, 7)***

- B. ***After these things***: This gathering occurs immediately after Babylon is judged (Rev. 18), which happens after the seventh bowl (Rev. 16:19). The redeemed from all history will be gathered together in the sky under an open heaven. Since this occurs after the rapture, the veil between heaven and earth will be lifted (Isa. 25:7). I think of the saints in a "great amphitheater in the sky."

***<sup>7</sup>And He will destroy...the surface of the covering cast over all people and the veil that is spread over all nations. (Isa. 25:7)***

- C. ***Great multitude in heaven***: The redeemed from all history will gather in heaven.

- D. ***Alleluia***: The first issue on the wedding day is the Bride proclaiming her agreement with Jesus in His judgments— this is the area where many struggle to agree with Jesus.

- E. One of the most offensive issues to a humanistic mindset is the truth of God's judgments. If people misunderstand His judgments, they will be more vulnerable to fear, offense, and deception.

***<sup>20</sup>The 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)***

- F. Many will gain insight into God's love and righteousness through His end-time judgment events. God's temporal judgments stir people up to walk with God and thus avoid eternal wrath.

***When Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. (Isa. 26:9)***

- G. 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.

- H. ***Forever***: The Bride agrees with His temporal judgments (19:2) and His eternal judgments (19:3). The nations will weep (Rev. 18:9-11), but all in heaven will rejoice (Rev. 18:20).

- I. Four virtues of God’s leadership will be recognized by all in heaven in context to His judgments (19:1). They will give the saints greater understanding of His glory, love, wisdom, and power, providing insight into His motives, purposes, and the fruit of His end-time judgments.
- <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!” (Rev. 19:2-3)***
1. ***True and righteous***: His judgments are true to love and wisdom, never contradicting them. All will agree that His judgments were wise or effective in removing all that hinders love.
    - a. His judgments are righteous—they are right.
    - b. They are never too severe nor too lenient. They are never too late nor too early.
  2. ***Corruption and oppression***: The two reasons emphasized for God’s judgment are to remove the corruption of immorality and the oppression of those being killed for their faith.
  3. ***Salvation***: God’s judgments promote His salvation purposes and do not contradict them.
  4. ***Glory***: All will glory or boast in the loving leadership of Jesus when they see His judgments.
  5. ***Honor***: Jesus’ judgments will cause the nations to honor Him with their obedience.
  6. ***Power***: Jesus will have leadership over all the nations. He will be acknowledged as the source of power behind judging and removing the Harlot and the Antichrist’s empire.
  7. ***Forever***: The Bride will agree with His eternal judgments (Rev. 14:9-11; 20:11-15). The Lord’s temporal judgments are meant to awaken people so they may escape eternal wrath.
- J. The elders and the living creatures (the governmental leaders in heaven) agree with God’s leadership. They are overwhelmed at seeing the fulfillment of God’s prophetic promises.
- <sup>4</sup>And 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)***

## II. THE BRIDE PRAISES GOD WITH GLADNESS (REV. 19:5-7)

- A. John gave three reasons for the saints to praise God with gladness (Rev. 19:5-7): God will openly manifest His reign over all the earth; the marriage of the Lamb has come; and His Bride is prepared. The Spirit will highlight these three themes here to fill God’s people with gladness.
- <sup>5</sup>A voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants... <sup>6</sup>I heard...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! <sup>7</sup>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.” (Rev. 19:5-7)***

- B. **The setting:** John described the first gathering of all the saints to celebrate on this unique day. The rapture will bring together all of God’s servants (with resurrected bodies) from all history.
- C. **All His servants:** All the saints and angels will be directed to lay aside their tasks to praise God together in this unique moment. They are to cease whatever they are doing to praise God together.
- D. **Sound of many waters and mighty thunderings:** The Bride’s corporate voice will express the glory of God’s voice, which is like many waters (Rev. 1:15) and mighty thunder (Rev. 4:5). Her corporate voice will sound “like God” for they will be in unity with God’s leadership and with each other.
- E. **Lord God Omnipotent reigns:** God will openly manifest His authority over every nation on earth. At His return, Jesus will take over the government of every nation. The saints’ confession is that the Lord God is omnipotent and therefore causes all things to work together for their good (Rom. 8:28).  
<sup>28</sup>*We know that all things work together for good to those who love God... (Rom. 8:28)*  
<sup>28</sup>*We know that all things work together for good to those who love God... (Rom. 8:28)*
- F. John describes the holy convocation that celebrates the historic day when He begins to reign openly on the earth and celebrates His marriage. This unique day is referred to as “the day the Lord made” (Ps. 118:24).  
<sup>22</sup>*The stone [Jesus]...the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone...<sup>24</sup>This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it...<sup>26</sup>*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! (Ps. 118:22-26)*  
<sup>11</sup>*On the day of his [King’s] wedding, the day of the gladness of his heart. (Song 3:11)**
1. Many glorious things will begin—the New Jerusalem will descend to earth, Jesus’ throne of glory will be established in Jerusalem, the knowledge of God will begin to fill the earth (Hab. 2:14), and the garden-of-Eden conditions will be restored.
  2. The end-time Church will be responsive, being equally yoked to Jesus in love.
  3. The first commandment will be restored to first place in the body of Christ worldwide.
- G. **The marriage of the Lamb has come:** The marriage ceremony is not described in Scripture. It occurs in context to time of the rapture, when Jesus rewards the saints (Rev. 11:15-18).  
<sup>15</sup>*Then the seventh angel sounded... loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ...”<sup>16</sup>*And the twenty-four elders...fell on their faces...<sup>17</sup>saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty... because You have taken Your great power and reigned.<sup>18</sup>...and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints...” (Rev. 11:15-18)**
- H. **The Lamb:** The Bridegroom is identified as the Lamb. The wedding is not referred to as “the marriage of the Creator,” or “the marriage of the Lord,” or “the marriage of the King.” The title “Lamb” draws attention to the fact that “Christ loved the Church and gave Himself up for her” (Eph. 5:25).

### III. THE PREPARED BRIDE IS REWARDED (REV. 19:7-8)

- A. The end-time Bride will be very responsive to Jesus, and He will reward her for it. Our love will be evident in our garments. John emphasizes 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.

*<sup>7</sup>And His wife has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup>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. (Rev. 19:7-8)*

- B. *To her it was granted:* God's grace is emphasized as He grants the Bride to be given fine linen as a reward for her small and weak acts of obedience. It is certain that the corporate Bride will be prepared. It is not guaranteed for individuals. Each must decide on a daily basis.

- C. The Bride makes herself ready as she comes into agreement with Jesus in every area of her life.

1. *Character:* Preparation of our *heart* in loyal love that obeys the commands of Jesus.

2. *Understanding:* Preparation of our *mind* to engage in the unique end-time dynamics.

3. *Power:* Preparation of our *ministry* to move in the power of the Holy Spirit by prayer.

- D. *Righteous acts of the saints:* The saints are rewarded with garments which reflect their righteous choices (Rev. 19:7-8; 11:18; 22:12).

1. The Bride will wear her love forever displayed in her garments.

2. It matters what we do each step of the way in the face of temptation, difficulty, and even boredom. Individual responses will be honored as Jesus rewards His people.

- E. *Arrayed in clean and bright linen:* Raptured believers will be quickly evaluated and rewarded at the time Jesus returns (Mt. 16:27; Rev. 11:15, 18; 22:12). The saints have their heavenly garments by the time they are with Jesus at the conclusion of the Armageddon campaign (Rev. 19:11-21).

*<sup>14</sup>The armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean... (Rev. 19:14)*

1. *Clean:* The purity that she walked in will be openly demonstrated in her garments.

2. *Bright:* This speaks of clothing with the supernatural qualities of God's glory and light.

- F. *Keep the prophecy:* One generation of believers will be prepared to "keep" the prophecy of the book of Revelation.

*<sup>7</sup>Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book... (Rev. 22:7)*

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