

Part 6 The Marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19:5-10)

I. THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB

- A. The Father’s ultimate purpose for creation is to provide a family for Himself and a Bride for His Son—an 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.

⁷Give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)

- B. God’s glory will be manifest in bringing to pass the wedding that He determined from ages past. His plan includes raising up a Bride who makes herself ready by voluntarily choosing to love Jesus. It is all about a wedding. We were created so that God could express more love—not be more powerful or gain more servants to pay more attention to Him. He is so happy and secure in Himself and wants to share Himself with others so that they can experience His love and glory.

- C. Most of the Puritans who wrote on living for the glory of God neglected the relationship of God’s glory to the revelation of the marriage of the Lamb, when the redeemed from all history will be united in a deep relationship with Jesus and in partnering with Him in ruling the earth. A more complete presentation of living for God’s glory must include the significance of the Bride.

⁶...made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ...⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:6-7)

- D. Isaiah was given a significant revelation that our creator is our husband. God’s primary purpose of creation was for more relationship, not for a greater show of His power and superiority.

⁵For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. (Isa. 54:5)

- E. ***Review:*** The Bride’s first response on the wedding day is to express her agreement with God’s judgments. The multitude celebrated the judgment of Babylon and the marriage of the Lamb.

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...” (Rev. 19:1-2)

1. ***After these things:*** This gathering will occur immediately after Babylon is judged (Rev. 17-18)—after the seventh bowl (Rev. 16:19) and the rapture of the Church. The redeemed from all of history will gather in heaven. Since this occurs after the judgment of Babylon and the rapture of the Church, the veil between the natural and heavenly realm will be lifted (Isa. 25:7). The raptured saints will see both the earthly and heavenly realms. I think of this position as the “great amphitheatre in the sky.”

2. **Alleluia:** The first issue on the wedding day is the Bride proclaiming her agreement with Jesus in His judgments—this is the area where it is most difficult to agree with Jesus.

II. THE BRIDE’S SECOND RESPONSE: PRAISE WITH GLADNESS (REV. 19:5-7)

⁵A voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!” ⁶And 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! The Lord God Omnipotent reigns...the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” (Rev. 19:5-7)

A. John gives three reasons to be glad. First, that God is going to openly manifest His reign over all the earth. Second, that the marriage of the Lamb has come. Third, that His Bride is prepared.

1. **God reigns:** At Jesus’ coming, God will openly manifest His authority over every nation on earth. In other words, Jesus will take over the government of every nation.
2. **The marriage:** Jesus desires to reign in partnership with His people (Jn. 17:24; 14:2-3). He will rule with His eternal partner. This will finally be openly manifested on the earth.
3. **Made ready:** The Bride is responsive and He will reward her for it. His rewards show how He feels about how she loved and obeyed Him. Forever, our love will be evident in our garments. This is the glory of a marriage that is equally yoked in love (2 Cor. 6:14).

B. **The setting:** It will be a unique day. The rapture occurs just before, bringing together for the first time all God’s servants (with resurrected bodies) from all history. Each will be granted glorious responsibilities as the heavenly and earthly realms are connected in a dynamic way (Eph. 1:10).

1. **All His servants:** All the redeemed from history are directed to praise God in this unique moment. All saints and angels are to lay aside their specific tasks. The voice emphasizes that all are to cease whatever else they are doing to praise God together for three reasons.
2. **This is the day:** John describes the holy convocation that celebrates the historic day when God begins to reign openly on the earth, when He celebrates His marriage to His eternal companion who is ready. It will be a unique day on the earth, a day that the Lord made.

²²The stone [Jesus] which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone...

²⁴This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it...²⁶Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! (Ps. 118:22-26)

⁶In that day that there will be no light... ⁷It shall be one day [unique] which is known to the LORD-- neither day nor night...⁹The LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—“The LORD is one [unique],” and His name one. (Zech. 14:6-9)

¹¹On the day of his [King’s] wedding, the day of the gladness of his heart. (Song 3:11)

3. Many glorious things will begin on that day: the New Jerusalem will descend to earth, Jesus' throne of glory will be established in Jerusalem, the knowledge of the glory of God will begin to fill the earth (Hab. 2:14), and the garden of Eden conditions will be restored.
- C. **Great multitude, as the sound of many waters and mighty thunderings:** The Bride's corporate voice will express the glory of God's voice like many waters (Rev. 1:15) and thunder (Rev. 4:5). The Holy Spirit will so powerfully anoint this declaration with such a measure of glory that the saints will sound like God. They will be in complete unity with God and with each other as they declare the historical breakthroughs of the gospel in a corporate way.
- D. **Praise our God:** The Father designed the plan to send Jesus to earth to establish God's will on earth as it is in heaven (Mt. 6:10). He sent Jesus to die so that sinful people could become His Bride. He sent the Spirit to enable the Bride to be ready by voluntarily choosing to love and obey Jesus with all her heart. Only the Father could have come up with such a glorious story line.
- ⁵...Saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants..." ⁶I 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! 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." (Rev. 19:5-7)**
- E. **The 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. In Revelation, God's reign points to Jesus' millennial reign from Jerusalem (Rev. 11:15; 12:10; 19:6; 20:4-6). God reigns now in heaven, but His reign will not be fully manifest on the earth in all nations until Jesus returns. The announcement of God's reign (v. 6) anticipates the start of the Millennium. With Babylon's destruction, all that remains to be done is to judge the Antichrist and bind Satan.
- ¹⁰Now...the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come... (Rev. 12:10)**
- ¹⁵The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord... (Rev. 11:15)**
- F. **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). These truths can fill our hearts with gladness in this age, in contrast to fear, despair, and compromise that tempt us.
- G. **The marriage of the Lamb has come:** The marriage ceremony is not described in Scripture. It seemingly occurs at the time of the rapture, when Jesus returns in the sky in great glory.
- ²⁹The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven...³⁰All the tribes of the earth...will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect...from one end of heaven to the other. (Mt. 24:29-31)**

- H. **Made herself ready:** 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. There is no substitute for our obedience. No one can do this for us. It is certain that the corporate Bride will be prepared. It is not guaranteed for individuals. Each must decide on a daily basis. The Bride makes herself ready as she comes into agreement with Jesus in every area of her life.
- Character:** Preparation of our **heart** in loyal love that obeys the commands of Jesus.
- Understanding:** Preparation of our **mind** to engage in the unique end-time dynamics.
- Power:** Preparation of our **ministry** to move in the power of the Holy Spirit by prayer.

III. THE BRIDE'S REWARDS (REV. 19:7-8)

⁷And His wife has made herself ready. ⁸And 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)

- A. **To her it was granted:** God's grace is emphasized in that He grants that the Bride be given fine linen as a reward for her small and weak acts of obedience.
- B. **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.
- C. **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 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... (Rev. 19:14)

IV. THE MARRIAGE SUPPER

⁹Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb! (Rev. 19:9)

- A. The most commonly agreed upon opinion is that the wedding supper begins at the Millennium and continues for 1,000 years. The feast takes place on earth, yet with heavenly dimensions. It is announced as a parenthetical section, but never described. Like the rapture, the timing of the marriage supper is not clearly described in Revelation, possibly because both continue over a long time. The two most common views of being called (invited) to the marriage supper are: 1) all the saints being called; 2) those with natural bodies living in the Millennium being called.

- B. The Jewish marriage customs involved three stages. The first stage was the ***etrothal***, when the parents agreed to a marriage contract for their children. A dowry was paid to the father of the bride, making the couple legally married (Mt. 1:18-19). Between the betrothal and the wedding ceremony was a period of time to demonstrate the bride's chastity. The second stage involved a ***procession to the wedding ceremony***. The groom went to the bride's home to take her to his home, where the marriage was consummated. The third stage was the ***wedding feast***, lasting seven days. These three stages can be seen in Christ's relationship to the Church. The first stage (betrothal) pertains to the cross, where the dowry price was paid and where individuals are born again and then live to demonstrate their purity (2 Cor. 11:2-3). The second stage (procession) takes place at the rapture, when the Lamb will take His bride to His Father's home to be united to Him forever. The third stage is the marriage supper of the Lamb in the millennial kingdom.
- C. ***Blessed***: The ultimate blessing for any human is to be there. This is the point of life.

V. MORE ON THE MARRIAGE SUPPER

- A. Insights into the marriage supper of the Lamb can be found in Ex. 24:10-11, when Moses and the 70 elders of Israel ate a meal with God after the marriage covenant was first established (Jer. 2:2). David and Isaiah prophesied of events that will include the marriage supper (Ps. 22:22-31; Isa. 25:5-10). David's coronation feast gives us insight into the great feast that will take place after the great King defeats all his enemies in Jerusalem (1 Chr. 12:38-40).
- B. The bread from heaven (manna) and the miraculous water from the rock (Ex. 16:1-17:7; Num. 11:7-9; 20:2-13) give us a prophetic picture. Paul wrote of them as being spiritual food and drink that point to feasting on Jesus (1 Cor. 10:1-4). Jesus gave insights into the Messianic banquet by doing miracles related to food (Mt. 14:13-21; 15:32-39; Jn. 2:1-11; 6:1-15).
- C. The kingdom is compared to a great banquet (Mt. 22:1-10; Lk. 14:16-24), when the Gentiles come to sit at table with Abraham in the kingdom (Mt. 8:11-12; Lk. 13:28-29). The Passover meal and the Last Supper passages have eschatological overtones, thus giving us some insight into the marriage supper of the Lamb (Mt. 26:26-29; Lk. 22:18-19; 24:30-35; 1 Cor. 11:23-24).
- D. Isaiah gives us insights into the marriage supper of the Lamb (Isa. 25:6-10). Jesus will host a feast for all nations on the very mountain where He destroys His enemies (Isa. 25:10). Isaiah 24 looks at worldwide judgment and destruction. Isaiah 25 looks at kingdom blessing.

⁵The song of the terrible ones will be diminished. ⁶In this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow...⁷He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸He will swallow up death forever...will wipe away tears from all faces...⁹We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation. ¹⁰For on this mountain the hand of the LORD will rest, and Moab shall be trampled down under Him... (Isa. 25:5-10)

- E. Psalm 22 is a Messianic psalm, using events in David's life to predict events in Jesus' life. The ultimate manifestation of David's prophecy in Psalm 22:22-31 will occur at the marriage supper of the Lamb. Jesus will pay His vow before the great assembly (v. 25).
- 22I will declare Your name...in the midst of the assembly I will praise You. 23You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and fear Him, all you offspring of Israel...25My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him. 26The poor shall eat and...those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever! 27All the ends of the world shall...turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. 28The kingdom is the LORD's, and He rules over the nations. 29All the prosperous of the earth shall eat and worship... (Ps. 22:22-29)***
- F. Psalm 22 describes Jesus' crucifixion, with His bones out of joint, extreme perspiration due to suffering, His heart failing (v. 14), exhausted, parched with thirst (v. 15), and with His hands and feet pierced (v. 16; Jn. 20:20). We see Jesus' cry in being forsaken (v.1; Mt. 27:46), His humiliating treatment (vv. 6-8, 12-13, 16-17; Mt. 27:39-44), and the casting of lots for His clothing (v. 18; Mt. 27:35). The Pharisees used this psalm against Jesus (Mt. 27:35; Jn. 19:24).
- G. God hosted a meal for Moses and the 70 elders of Israel, who represent all the redeemed.
- 10They saw the God of Israel. There was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. 11But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank. (Ex. 24:10-11)***
- H. David was a prototype of the Messiah. His royal coronation banquet had Messianic overtones (1 Chr. 12:38-40). The leaders of Israel gathered the warriors together to celebrate their new king. The nations brought gifts and all Israel was filled with joy (v. 40), reflecting the marriage feast.
- 38All these men of war...came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king. 39And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking...40Those who were near to them...were bringing food on donkeys and camels...provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly, for there was joy in Israel. (1 Chr. 12:38-40)***
- I. The great supper of God is an invitation for the vultures to feed themselves on the dead bodies of the men who will be killed in the battle of Jerusalem, ending the Armageddon campaign (Rev. 19:17-21). Ezekiel prophesied the destruction of armies invading Israel (Ezek. 39:17-29).
- 17I saw an angel...and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people...both small and great." (Rev. 19:17-18)***
- 17Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field: "Assemble yourselves and come; gather together...My sacrificial meal...on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and***

drink blood. ¹⁸You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, drink the blood of the princes...¹⁹You shall eat fat till you are full, and drink blood till you are drunk, at My sacrificial meal...²⁰You shall be filled at My table with...all the men of war..." (Ezek. 39:17-20)

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

⁹He said to me, "Write: "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb...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...Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev. 19:9-10)

- A. **Write**: John was commissioned to make known the truth about the marriage of the Lamb. This is foundational to the forerunner ministry.
- B. **The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**: The spirit (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 creation, redemption, and His administration of history. The spirit of prophecy is defined in relation to the marriage supper. A significant purpose of prophecy is to reveal the truth of the Bridegroom God to the redeemed, that we might walk in extravagant love for Jesus. It is one of the tests of the true spirit of prophecy. The desire of those who minister in the spirit of a friend of the Bridegroom is: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (Jn. 3:30).