

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Week 4 – The Marriage of the Lamb & Marriage Supper of the Lamb
February 6, 2018

Rev. 19:6-16 - 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!”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.”¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.¹⁴ And the armies in heaven clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

The Marriage of the Lamb and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb are two different events occurring at two separate locations. The Bible mentions both the Marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7) and the Marriage Supper (Revelation 19:9). I believe that the marriage will take place in Heaven during the Tribulation after the judgment seat of Christ, while the marriage supper will take place on earth during the Millennium, after Jesus' triumphant return and the bride's return with Him.

Chuck Swindoll - “Jesus didn't come to earth to establish a new religion. He came to restore a broken relationship. He came to make the primary – primary again: to love God and enjoy Him forever.” Think of Jesus' ministry on earth. Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana. It was so appropo that Jesus' first miracle occurred at a wedding in Cana, in the Galilee. In Jewish thought, from an historical and cultural perspective, the bridal couple on their marriage day symbolizes the union of God with Israel! The union of God with Israel is wrapped up in God's covenant with Israel. Consider the following passages:

Deut. 7:6-8 - God is speaking to Israel... *For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure...⁷ The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;⁸ but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers*

God brought Israel to Himself:

Ex. 19:3-4 - *And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.*

God's language of love to Israel:

Eze. 16:8 - *When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you (protection is noted) and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD.*

Scripture teaches that God is the husband of Israel:

Jer. 3:1 - *They say, 'If a man divorces his wife, and she goes from him and becomes another man's, may he return to her again?'*

Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you (Israel/Judah) have played the harlot with many lovers; yet return to Me, says the LORD.

Isa. 54:5a – *God is speaking to Israel - For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name;*

Israel rebelled and became an adulterous wife!

Eze. 16:32 – *God is speaking to Israel - You are an adulterous wife, who takes strangers instead of her husband.*

God called out to Israel in her adulterous condition:

Jer. 3:14 – *'Return, O backsliding children,' says the LORD; 'for I am married to you.'*

At the wedding in Cana, Jesus, Who is God, sanctifies marriage...marriage which is at the core of God's covenant with Israel. At the wedding at Cana, Jesus blessed the celebration with His presence and with supplying the best wine when they had run out of wine! The marriage relationship in Scripture speaks to JOY. Jer. 33:10-11 – During Judah's exile in Babylon, the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem were desolate. God speaks of a future time when ¹¹ *the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who will say: "Praise the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, for His mercy endures forever"*

In the miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana we see Jesus declaring that He is indeed the Messiahship. The prophets wrote that when the Messiah comes to rule and reign from Jerusalem in the Millennial Kingdom, wine will flow liberally (Isa. 25:6; Jer. 31:12; Hosea 14:7). What a perfect miracle to begin His ministry!

The verbiage "bride of Christ" is not in Scripture! The label, however, helps us to understand further what it means to belong to God. Scripture which speaks to the marriage relationship between the Church and Jesus:

Rev. 19:7 - *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.*

II Cor. 11:2 – Paul is speaking to the Corinthian believers. Some of those whom Paul led to faith in Christ in Corinth have begun to follow false teachers and to look down upon their spiritual father, Paul. Thus, Paul tells them, *For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

Eph. 5:25-27 - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ 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.* The Church's relationship to Christ is likened to the relationship between a husband and his wife.

Eph. 1:4 – *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,* God the Father through Christ, God the Son, the Bridegroom, has lovingly chosen the church to be His bride.

I Pet. 1:18-19 - *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.* The dowry price for the bride: Jesus' blood! Jesus has sacrificially given Himself for the Church.

At the last Passover Seder in the upper room in Jerusalem the night before Jesus went to the cross, He told His disciples...

John 14:1-3 - *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² 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.*

³ *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.*” Jesus spoke of the Jewish wedding feast.

For us to fully comprehend what is happening in Revelation 19:6-9, and for us to understand Jesus' words at the Passover Seder, it's necessary to understand the Jewish wedding feast.

JEWISH WEDDING FEAST:

- The Father of the Bridegroom negotiates a price for the bride.
 - Isa. 53:10 (NASV) - *But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering*
 - The negotiation between the Father and the Son, the Bridegroom, was the plan to sacrifice His only Son, Whom He loved...if His Son, Jesus, would offer Himself as a guilt offering on behalf of sinners. The blood of Jesus was the bride-price (the dowry)
- The bridegroom travels to the bride's house.
 - Emmanuel, God in the flesh/God with us, would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah (Micah 5:2).
- The betrothal of the bride and bridegroom. The bridegroom offered his bride a cup of wine. If she accepted the cup, the betrothal contract was entered into and it was binding. It could only be broken by death or divorce. The betrothed couple were considered to be husband and wife. Any violation of the relationship was considered

adultery and punishable by death. Mary and Joseph were betrothed when she became pregnant with Jesus (Matt. 1:18). Joseph, not initially knowing this was of the Lord, planned to “send her away,” which meant to give her a bill of divorce. This is how sacred the betrothal was in Jewish culture. The betrothal period was normally one year for virgins (to ensure the woman was not with child) and one month for widows.

- The bridegroom would leave the bride’s home and return to his father’s home. The bridegroom would speak these words to the bride before his departure: “Let not your heart be troubled, I go to prepare a place for you...and, I will come again.” With the drinking of the cup of wine, the bridegroom said, “I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you I will receive you unto myself that where I am you may be also.” The bridegroom returned to his father’s house to construct rooms on the house for his intended family.
 - Note the two comings on the part of the bridegroom!
- From that moment the bride was declared sanctified or set apart.
- The bride did not know the exact day or hour the bridegroom would return. She needed to be prepared at all times.
- The bridegroom added onto his father’s home – bridal chamber (John 14:1).
- When the betrothal period was complete, the bride and groom were officially joined as husband and wife at a presentation ceremony. The presentation ceremony would occur when the father of the groom told his son, “Go, son, and get your bride and bring her home!” This ceremony would typically be held in the evening. At the father’s command, the bridegroom and the groomsmen (John 3:29 – John was a friend of the Bridegroom, Jesus) would travel to the bride’s home in a torchlight procession. The Bridegroom himself didn’t know the exact time. (Note Matt. 24:36 - of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only)
- The bride would be beckoned from the street by a shout (I Thess. 4:16 - *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout*)
- The marriage ceremony consisted primarily in the “taking” of the bride.
- The Bridegroom and bride went into the bridal chamber to consummate the marriage (Judges 14:12).
- When the marriage was consummated, there was a seven day marriage celebration during which time the bride remained hidden in the bridal chamber
- At the end of the seven days, the Bridegroom brought his bride out for all to see. Could the seven days equate to the seven years in heaven during which time the Tribulation will occur on earth. The presentation is seen as the bride accompanies the Bridegroom to earth (Rev. 19:6-8).

God the Father negotiated the price for redemption (Isa. 53:10). The bride-price was the blood of Jesus. The Church is currently in the betrothal stage of God’s schedule for the marriage of the Lamb. We are waiting for Jesus to come and take us to the Father’s house. We must be prepared for His any moment return in the rapture keeping ourselves pure and unstained from the world. We are engaged in serving Him faithfully and with the correct motives. We are being conformed to the image of the Son (Rom. 8:29).

As part of our betrothal, the Father has given every believer in Christ the indwelling Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14) as our dowry. Because we are betrothed to Christ and have the dowry of the Holy Spirit, our salvation is absolutely secure! Jesus, our Bridegroom will never violate His betrothal, and the Father will never take back His dowry. A long period of time has transpired between the betrothal period and the fetching of the bride. We do not know how long this betrothal will last. As we await our Bridegroom, like a virtuous bride, we are to keep ourselves spiritually pure and undefiled as the betrothed couple were considered to be husband and wife. Any violation of the relationship was considered adultery and punishable by death. As believers, we are assured that Jesus will come to fetch His bride and bring her to His home. This will occur at the rapture of the Church.

At the appointed time, God the Father will tell His Son, "Go get your bride and bring her home!" We are waiting!

I Thess. 4:16-18 – ...the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 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. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The marriage ceremony will take place in heaven prior to the physical Second Coming of Christ at the end of the Tribulation.

Rev. 19:6-8 – 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! 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.

We need to know that the wife/the Church, which is comprised of all those in the body of Christ since Pentecost, during the Church Age, participates in the marriage of the Lamb. We need to know that the wife/Church makes herself ready by clothing "herself in the fine linen bright and clean," which is said to be "the righteous acts of the saints." This statement means that before the Second Coming, the Church is in heaven and has already gone through the judgment seat of Christ - where Church Age believers are to be evaluated for their faithfulness to Christ during this present age (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10).

Rev. 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses." Thus, having been newly married to the Lamb, the bride begins her role in history of reigning with Jesus by accompanying Him, her new husband, in the heavenly accent from heaven on white horses.

Following the marriage ceremony is the marriage feast.

Rev. 19:9 – Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"

The marriage feast will include many guests. The guests will include the OT saints and the Tribulation saints who have died, both of whom will be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation. The Tribulation saints also include all the Jewish people who come to faith in Jesus at the end of the Tribulation (Zech. 12:10) who have not died and who will go into the Millennial Kingdom with natural bodies, as well as the Gentiles who come to faith in Jesus during the Tribulation, who survive the Tribulation...will go into the Millennial Kingdom with natural bodies.

Rev. 19:9 - declares, "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." It cannot refer to anyone in heaven since the church (the bride) is the only resurrected entity in heaven. However, after the Second Coming when believers from other ages will be resurrected (Dan. 12:2) along with tribulation saints, both mortal and resurrected ones (Rev. 20:4), these will be the invited guests who will be at this celebration supper on earth.

It appears that the marriage supper of the Lamb begins the Millennial Kingdom.

There are NT passages which speak of banqueting in the Kingdom.

Matt. 8:11 - *And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.* Here is a beautiful picture of the redeemed of the ages (from Adam to John the Baptist) sitting down with Jesus in the Kingdom and enjoying a meal together.

Luke 13:28-29 – Jesus is speaking to those who will seek to enter the Kingdom and will be told by the Lord, *I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.* *There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.* ²⁹ *They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.* (Included in this group to whom Jesus spoke were the Jewish religious leaders who thought they were in league with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the prophets)

Luke 22:16-18, 29-30 – *... for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.* ¹⁷ *Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves;* ¹⁸ *for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.'* ... *And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me,* ³⁰ *that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'* Jesus will not be celebrating His marriage supper until He descends to the earth at His Second Coming with His bride. The next time He eats and drinks will be at the coming of the Kingdom which Jesus will establish on earth after His Second Coming.

QUESTIONS

What did you learn from this lesson and how is it impacting you?

Why is it important?

How is marriage a major theme throughout Scripture?

STRONGLY SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread the handout and the Bible references.

Jot down observations and questions (this could be for a later study).

Share this lesson with others.

Write a tract regarding the marriage of the Lamb.

Prepare an invitation to the wedding that you may give to someone who has not as yet come to faith in Jesus. AND, you can leave an invitation to the wedding that you can leave in your home prior to the rapture – for those who may find it following the rapture!

Are you working on your journal concerning preparing for the judgment seat of Christ?

Read week 5's handout when you receive it.