

# -The Marriage Supper of the Lamb-

## **OPENING**

Our previous study examined the fall and destruction of Economic Babylon, which was the money system of the New World Order under the leadership of the Antichrist and when it came to an end during the Tribulation. The Bible warns us not to “love not the world, neither the things that are in the world” (1 John 2:15-17), not to compromise, and not to fall to its tempting system of greed. Hang in there! The reason is because it will be worth it for the believer.... Christ is coming soon!

And now, we come to some very exciting sections in Revelation because we now see the climax of the prophecy: the return of Christ to establish His earthly Kingdom. The first part of Chapter 19 now shifts the focus from the earth where it has been (since chapter 6) to heaven. The first 10 verses talk about an exciting event that takes place in heaven called the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Let's look at this more closely:

## **DISCOVER – A Marriage & A Supper**

### **A. THE SCENE OF WORSHIP - Read Revelation 19:1-6**

\*Where is scene of worship taking place? Verse 1 tells us this occurs in heaven.

\*What are they saying? Hallelujah, salvation, glory, honour, power, be unto the Lord our God.

\*Who are these people doing the worshipping? It appears that this scene incorporates believers, OT saints, Church age saints, the Tribulation saints, and together they join this great chorus proclaiming, “Hallelujah!”

\*Who are the 24 elders and the four beasts? The 24 elders are representative of the church. The four beasts are special angelic beings that are created to frequently worship God.

\*What are they rejoicing over? They are rejoicing over God's true and righteous judgements, and how the great Harlot is now being judged. Throughout the history of the world, the saints of God have longed for the day of judgement to come and justice to come to the world. This is because Godly people love righteousness and hate sin, for righteousness honours God and sin mocks Him. And Jesus, the Messiah, was bringing justice and righteousness to the world.... Now this time had come...v6-The Lord God Almighty reigns!

### **B. THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB - Read Revelation 19:7-10**

This subject is greatly misunderstood because it is almost neglected in preaching today. The main source of information concerning this event is found in this text (vv.7-10). To put it simply, a marriage will take place between the church and the Lord Jesus Christ, and then there will be a heavenly feast.

Jesus often dwelled on weddings and marriage suppers:

John 2:1-11 – Jesus attended the Wedding at Cana

Matthew 25:1-13 – The Parable of the 10 Virgins – speaks about the preparation for the coming of the bridegroom.

Matthew 11:1-14 – The Parable of the Wedding Feast – speaks how the king sent out servants to invite people to the marriage event.

**Who is the Bridegroom?** This is none other than “the king’s son” of Matthew 22, the Lord Jesus Himself. John the Baptist introduced Jesus as “the Lamb of God” (John 1:29). And he then introduces Jesus as the Bridegroom (3:28-29).

**Who is the Bride?** A very important section is Ephesians 5:22-32. Paul addresses husbands and wives and likens their relationship to Christ and the church.... That of a bride and bridegroom. When a person received Jesus Christ, they become a member of His Church, and automatically becomes engaged, or betrothed, to Christ. This betrothal is finalised at the marriage of the Lamb in heaven. The Bride is all Christians who have trusted in Christ during the age of grace, from the day of Pentecost to the Rapture of the Church. This is collectively made up of the resurrected and changed members of God’s true church throughout the generations

There are 3 parts to Biblical wedding customs in the time of Christ and this helps us understand what is going on:

1. **Betrothal**..... this involved a marriage contract between the parents of the bride and the bridegroom. The parents of the bridegroom would pay a dowry to the bride or her parents and this began the betrothal period. A period of waiting began, getting ready for marriage. The Bride was separated from the Bridegroom during this period. For us, Christ has paid the price to redeem us with his very own blood (Acts 20:28). We now wait for Him to come for us in this engagement period (2 Cor. 11:2).
2. **Presentation/Ceremony**... this part occurred at a later time, often around midnight, when the groom would come and “abduct” his bride-to-be from her house and take her to his father’s house where the ceremony would take place and the marriage consummated. For us, this takes place at the Rapture of the Church when Christ snatches us and we are presented to Him and officially married (John 14:1-6).
3. **Marriage Supper**... this was a celebration period that went for seven days. Jesus and the Church will spend possibly seven years, like the ancient seven days, in a marriage supper. This appears to take place during the seven year Tribulation period. Just as wine was drunk at the Wedding Feast in Cana, Jesus will drink it in celebration with us at this Wedding Feast (Matt. 26:29). There will be guests at this wedding who are not the Bride...who might they be? They are the friends of the Bride and Bridegroom as John the Baptist point to.... the OT saints and the Tribulation saints will be guests. This doesn’t mean that they are inferior to the Church, but that this is a special blessing for the Church. The Guests have promises and relationships to God that we don’t share also.

**How does the Bride Make Herself Ready?** Just like Esther in the Old Testament, she was given a 12 month period to prepare herself along with many things that would assist her. Remember that the Holy Spirit has been given to the Church to help her prepare and get ready for Christ. We regularly should take stock of our personal faith to see if we are truly serving Christ (2 Cor. 13:5). We must walk worthy of Him who called us and not be side-tracked from preparing for this wonderful occasion. Walk in holiness (separated from this world) knowing who you belong to (Eph 4:1, 1 Thess 4:1).

## **CLOSING THOUGHT:**

**The preparation of the Bride must occur BEFORE the arrival of the Bridegroom here on earth.** How are you preparing yourself for your marriage to the Lamb?

Don't allow Satan to divert us from our preparation if we wish to be included in this most wonderful of weddings as part of the Bride of Christ.