

Revelation 19:9

- God's blessed calling is being proclaimed in today's text. It is the call of the gospel and the call of the wedding feast in heaven. Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb. These are the true Words of God. It is a blessed Word proclaimed to the church and the saints who are the bride of the Lamb. That is, it is a message that is proclaimed to you and me. On the other hand, we must remember that judgment and curses are being proclaimed to those who are not invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.

- In Revelation 17-18, the great prostitute who points to this world and the sinners will eventually perish. However, the bride of the Lamb will be prepared for this heavenly wedding feast and will stand at the wedding feast wearing bright and clean linen clothes. We are the brides of Jesus who are preparing and living for the wedding feast in heaven. The eternal marriage covenant has already been fulfilled with the blood of Jesus, and we are preparing ourselves and waiting until Jesus, the bridegroom, comes to take us up and let us participate in the wedding feast in heaven. That is our calling in the church age now.

- Today, we are going to take a closer look at the wedding feast we will eventually enjoy with Jesus in heaven. Above all, the reality of the wedding feast in heaven is the fellowship of love where we eat and drink at a table with Jesus, as bride and groom. And in the fellowship of love where we eat and drink with Jesus, joy, gratitude, and satisfaction abound. The Bible continues to show this as the reality of the kingdom of God, the reality of the Messianic kingdom, and the eternal reality of the kingdom of heaven. But what is the food of the wedding feast that we will eat and drink together at the table of Jesus? The food at the feast is presented as bread and wine, and we first need to look back at what it meant in the Old Testament.

- Ps.104:15, "and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine and bread to strengthen man's heart."

- Here, we see wine to gladden the heart of man, and bread to strengthen man's heart. So, the wine shows joy, and the bread shows strength.

- Jud.9:13, "But the vine said to them, 'Shall I leave my wine that cheers God and men and go hold sway over the trees?'"

- Here, the joy of fellowship between God and man is expressed by drinking wine. And in many other verses, bread is used as an expression to indicate fullness or satisfaction. Therefore, the reality of fellowship by eating and drinking bread and wine is joy and satisfaction. This shows the reality of fellowship of joy and satisfaction shared with God by eating and drinking at a table. And that joy and satisfaction give strength to the people of God. In this way, the blessed reality of the kingdom of God is seen.

- Jer.31:10-13, ""Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.' 11 For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. 13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow."

- This is the blessed reality of the people: God will redeem and bring them to the kingdom of God. God will give true joy, satisfaction, and comfort to His people, and He shows that reality as the reality of the feast and the reality of eating and drinking. And among the realities of these feasts, He declares the reality of the kingdom of heaven as the reality of the happiest and most enjoyable wedding feast. The reality of this feast of

the kingdom of God is a feast that God and his people enjoy together. The same is true of the wedding feast in heaven in today's text. It is a feast that God the Redeemer and his redeemed people enjoy together as one. The food at the feast is important, but even more important is enjoying the person you associate with at the feast. Even in the Old Testament, there was a time when the reality of this wedding feast was witnessed in advance as types and shadows. This is the old covenant that God made with the people of Israel.

- Jer.31:31-33, "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

- In the Old Covenant, God made a covenant of marriage to become the husband of his people, the Israelites, who will become His bride, allowing them to enjoy the reality of the wedding feast. The Israelites broke this covenant by committing spiritual adultery. Therefore, they could not share the fellowship of true joy and satisfaction with God. But God promises a new covenant that will never be broken again. He will make an eternal marriage covenant and promises an eternal wedding feast. For the eternal covenant, he will save his people from all their sins and call them the holy wives of God, so that they can live in a fellowship of perfect joy and satisfaction through the eternal wedding feast with God.

- Jesus will accomplish heavenly salvation in this way. We can see in Exodus that this old covenant was the covenant of marriage and the reality of the wedding feast. Let's go to Exodus 24:1-3.

- Ex.24:1-3, "Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. 2 Moses alone shall come near to the Lord, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him." 3 Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.""

- God called his people to go up Mount Sinai, where God's glory had descended. In the Old Testament, not all the people could go up, only Moses and the 70 elders went up as representatives, and the rest of the people were gathered in front of Mount Sinai. At that time, when Moses proclaimed the law of God, the people swore obedience to it, and the covenant of marriage was fulfilled. In other words, the bride vows to fully love and obey God, the true groom. And please see the next verses.

- Ex.24:4-8, "And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. 6 And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. 7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." 8 And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.""

- With the vow of the bride Israel, a sacrifice is offered and the blood is sprinkled to make the marriage covenant. God calls the bloodshed at that time the blood of the covenant. And when the people again swore obedience, the marriage covenant was made. However, if you look closely, this marriage covenant was not yet a perfect covenant. Even Moses, the mediator of the covenant, was not perfect. The sacrifice of sacrifice was not perfect. The blood of the covenant that was shed at that time was not perfect. And the obedience and vows of the people were not perfect. So, the old covenant was not yet perfect, and the relationship between

God and the people in the marriage covenant was not perfect, but it was a covenant that pointed and testified in advance of the new covenant to come. But what happened after the marriage covenant was made? A feast takes place. This is the reality of the wedding feast.

- Ex.24:9-11, "Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, 10 and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. 11 And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank."

- All the Israelites could not come to God's presence, but on behalf of the people, Moses, the priests, and the 70 elders went up to the mountain where the glory of God was present, saw God's glory, and ate and drank with God. That is, they shared a fellowship of joy and satisfaction with God. This is the reality of a wedding feast where a marriage covenant is made and a feast is held. How happy and delighted they must have been. They probably didn't want to come down the mountain. But, as I said, it's still not perfect. Moses and his priests and the 70 elders could not continue to stay on Mount Sinai. They couldn't continue to enjoy the fellowship of joy and satisfaction in eating and drinking with God. And the people had to look at this from afar, and sooner or later they would break this marriage covenant with God and be destroyed.

- The reality of the marriage covenant and the wedding feast on Mt. Sinai was a foreshadowing and a shadow, and it pointed to the reality of the marriage covenant and the wedding feast of the new covenant to be made in heaven. When Jesus comes as the true covenant mediator in the future, a covenant that cannot be broken again will be made. The eternal sin offering will be made with the blood of Jesus, not the blood of animals, and the perfect blood of Jesus will be shed as the blood of the covenant, and Jesus will take the place of his people by making an oath in perfect obedience to death on their place, and he will make a perfect marriage covenant with his saved people, and they will live in the presence of Jesus and eat and drink with him for eternity, sharing the fellowship of eternal joy and satisfaction. In other words, it is the reality of the eternal wedding feast where all the people of God will eat and drink with God. There are verses in the Old Testament that promise this in advance.

- Isa.25:6-9, "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

- God promised that in the future, He would save His people from all sins and death and hold a feast in God's mountain, heaven, so that God and His people would live in communion in eternal joy and satisfaction.

- Isa.65:13-14, "Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; behold, my servants shall rejoice, but you shall be put to shame; 14 behold, my servants shall sing for gladness of heart, but you shall cry out for pain of heart and shall wail for breaking of spirit."

- And now, the time has come when this marriage covenant and the reality of the wedding feast will be fully fulfilled on the cross of Jesus, at the sacrament that Jesus gave before his death.

- Matt.26:26-28, "Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave

it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the [a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

- In Exodus 24, when the blood of the sacrifice is sprinkled, the blood is called the blood of the covenant. Jesus also says that the blood he will shed is the blood of the covenant. If we go to Luke 22, it says that it is the blood of the new covenant.

- Lk.22:19-20, "And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

- So at this sacrament, Jesus makes a new covenant, a new marriage covenant. As Jesus was offered as an eternal sin offering, the perfect blood of Jesus was shed, and Jesus swore in obedience to the point of death in our place. The new covenant cannot be broken again. The marriage covenant of heaven was made. And now, on the day when Jesus, the bridegroom, shed his blood on the cross, fulfilled this covenant of marriage of heaven, and ascended to heaven after the resurrection to prepare our place in heaven, he will take the bride church of Jesus to heaven and open a wedding feast. We will eat and drink together at the table of Jesus, and share eternal joy, satisfaction, and fellowship of joy.

- Dear saints, it is this sacrament that allows us to taste and enjoy the reality of the heavenly wedding feast in advance. It is a fellowship where we eat and drink with Jesus at a table. What is the food of this heavenly fellowship? Wine that rejoices in our hearts and bread that strengthens our hearts. Why do the bread and wine strengthen and rejoice in our hearts? Because it is the bread and wine that signify and seal the flesh and blood of Jesus. Because Jesus' flesh was torn and His blood was shed so that we can be saved from all sins and death and share the fellowship of joy and satisfaction with Jesus.

- In this blessed place, all those who repent and believe in Jesus are called the bride of Jesus and share the fellowship of love. Because we are the bride of Jesus who made the covenant of marriage with Him, we are called to the fellowship of the wedding feast. Brothers and sisters, with what kind of heart should we come to this Communion table? In the presence of Jesus, who loved us and saved us even to the point of giving His life, He calls us to the fellowship of love, eating, and drinking with Him. The sinners of the world are not called to this fellowship. They will not enjoy the joy of fellowship with Jesus but will live outside the kingdom of God in eternal shame, sorrow, and pain. Only the saints whom Jesus loved and saved are called and given fellowship. There is no better place than this.

- Shouldn't we be overflowing with joy and satisfaction because of Jesus who embraces us and shares fellowship with us? That was what God wanted. It is to share the fellowship of love that is united with us for eternity and to live in joy and satisfaction. Christianity is fellowship. Fellowship with Jesus is the heavenly blessing we enjoy. Therefore, we live in longing for the day when he will also come to pick us up and make us part of the eternal wedding feast.

- Until that day, I hope that the fellowship we share with the Lord through this worship service and the Lord's Supper will become our joy, satisfaction, and thanksgiving. May the bread and wine of this sacrament, which signifies and seals the flesh and blood of the Lord until that day, be our joy, our satisfaction, our strength. May the Lord be our joy, our satisfaction, our strength. I hope that you will put more effort into fellowship with the Lord through the Word, prayer, and worship. The bridegroom Jesus who loves us is with us right now. He shares the fellowship of love with us. And he says I will come again soon. I will come again soon and will receive you to myself, that where I am, you may be also. And in today's text, he says, "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb, for this is the true word of God." Amen.