

## ***The Marriage Supper of the Lamb***

### **Revelation 19:7-9**

We have gone verse by verse on Wednesday evenings thru chapters 6-18.....13 chapters; 224 verses—describing the horrors of 7 year tribulation period. The last half called the great tribulation because of 3 1/2 years of **carnage** & **calamity** as God pours out His wrath on a blasphemous, Christ rejecting world who rejects worship of the true God & chooses instead to worship the devil incarnate who indwells the Beast--known as *Antichrist*. This evening we break away for earth's judgments & visit a party going on in heaven—actually a celebration---the *marriage supper of the Lamb*.

First part of ch 19 is a song of victory over the destruction of two Babylons--the *religious harlot* and the *commercial whore*. Both called *Babylon the Great*. Both came out of Nimrod's attempt at world domination religiously and politically **Gen 10**. The term '*great*' suggests they are last days systems to outdo anything that has come before them in **religious wretchedness** and **commercial corruption**.

Next we hear the song & sounds of the marriage supper of the Lamb. It's loud & lively w/ everyone present participating. **No** ho-hum disinterested attendees, **no** apathetic-indifferent spectators, **no** bored worshipers. But it's everything we'd expect worship in heaven to be—uninhibited emotion, jarring-vibrating sounds, booming-resonating choruses.

**None** are self conscious or seeking attention for themselves but all eyes are on the Lord of Glory.

*Rev 19:7-9 'Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. And he said to me, 'Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, "These are true words of God.'*

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What's the occasion? Why so happy? Where does the enthusiasm come from & how do you get invited to the party? What we see is God reigning over His redeemed church, purchased by His blood. It is the start of the *marriage supper of the Lamb*.

Marriage is the deepest most intimate of human experiences. **Although some have likened it to a three ring circus, first the engagement ring, then the wedding ring, then comes the suffering. Or in M counselor-- ideal, ordeal, new deal.**

God relates the marriage relationship to Himself & the church. Even deeper than marriage is our union w/ Christ. He typifies these two experiences earthly & heavenly thru out scripture...*this mystery is great but speaking w/ reference to Christ and the church...Eph 5:22..betrothed to one husband even Christ...2 Cor 11:2 Gen 3 'Her desire shall be for her husband'*. God wants us, as His bride, to desire Him.

David was a man after God's own heart because of this very fact. God doesn't choose perfect people but devoted people.

***Ps 42:1,2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God? David's desire was for God, which is what God desires.***

God lamented over Israel, OT bride of Jehovah. ***Jer 2:2...Thus says the LORD, 'I remember concerning you the devotion of your youth, the love of your betrothals, your following after me in the wilderness, thru a land not sown.***

Starting out we see the first bloom of love--No other motive for being together other than to be together. ***But then you left me***...why? Righteous God asks unrighteous people....***what did I do to make you want to leave?***

In the words of another called righteous brothers-but saying they are "not R & are not brothers" ***'you've lost that lovin feeling'***

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In NT the Church is declared to be the Bride & Jesus the Bridegroom. **2 Cor 11:2** *For I am jealous for you w/ a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.*

OT arranged marriage—*‘marriage is too sacred to be left to the whim of a child’*—*Story of family whose son 17 threatened to elope if parents didn’t okay his marriage to his 16 year old girl friend. So family gave in. At wedding when got to part of the ceremony where the boy repeats after the minister ‘With all my worldly goods, I now endow to thee’ the mother turned to the father & whispered ‘There goes juniors bicycle.’*

The father had responsibility of presenting tokens of brides virginity to the future husband Dt 22:15 if it be in question.

**Eph 5:31,32** *For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking w/ reference to Christ and the church.*

In Rev the time arrives for the church, the bride, to be presented to Christ the bridegroom.... Next Jesus presents us to Father

**Jude 24** *Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory w/ exceeding joy.*

‘Father w/ exceeding joy I present to you my spotless bride.’ **You look behind you....**The gown is ***fine linen bright and clean***. OT priest wore linen robes. No wool was allowed. It causes perspiration in daily duties. God doesn’t want our sweat. He wants inspiration not perspiration. Sweat speaks of works righteousness.

Our faultless life is ***imputed***...given by God. Not a garment of our own making-works R

**Is 64:6** ***our personal righteous is as filthy rags in God’s sight. I’ve got hideous looking work clothes—not something to wear to wedding?***

**Phil 3:7-9** *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but **rubbish** in order that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is thru faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith....*

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**Purity challenged**—Satan always does when it comes to our union /w Christ. OT Dt 22:14...she unchaste...Father steps in '**But this is the evidence of my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the garment before the elders of the city...:17**

Ab **believed** God and it was reckoned unto him as **righteousness**. Jn 6:29 Jesus said to them, '**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent**' Rom 10:10 for w/ the heart man **believes**, resulting in **righteousness**...

*Blessed are those who are invited*...oh how happy

**Matt 22:2,3** *The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king, who gave a wedding feast for his son. 'And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come.*

Normal Jewish custom was to send out invitations w/o stating the time of the event. This put the invited guest on alert, in a state of readiness, in anxious anticipation. When preparations were finished the servants were sent out to gather in the guests.

Marriage supper of the Lamb is next event after the rapture in our salvation experience.

**Matt 22:4,5** *'Again he sent out other slaves saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, 'Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen & my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.' But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business,*

Constant appeals go unheeded—whether neglected or rejected the King is snubbed. Such a great event, a great king, a beloved son justifies a great price to be paid by indifferent invited guests.

Doesn't say these were exceptionally **bad** people, just **busy** people.

Too busy for heavens call upon their life—more interested in temporal things than eternal. Neglected their souls for careers, hobbies, business, family...And forfeited eternal life.

MH--'Multitudes perish eternally thru mere carelessness, who have not any direct aversion, but a prevailing indifference, to the matters of their soul & an unconcernedness about them

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Steamship Central America traveling from NY to San Fran...ruptured the hull mid-ocean. Another vessel seeing a distress signal came to the rescue. Capt of rescue ship signaled Central America **'What is wrong?' We're in bad repair, going down, lie by til morning.'** Rescue ship signaled again **'Let me take your people on board now'**. Capt of CA didn't want to transfer passengers at night fearing a mishap, thinking ship would stay afloat til morn, said **'Lie by til morn.'** Again rescue ship **'You better let me take your passengers now.'** **Lie by til morn.'** Came the final reply. 11/2 hours later the lights of CA vanished, the ship sank w/ all passengers aboard because it was thought *they could be saved at a later time.*

***Matt 22:6-10....and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them & killed them. "But the king was enraged & sent his armies, & destroyed those murderers, & set their city on fire. 70AD 'Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 'Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.'*** And those slaves went out into the streets (**street evangelism**), and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled w/ dinner guest. Church

***:11-14 'But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw there a man not dressed in wedding clothes, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here w/o wedding clothes?' And he was speechless. 'Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; In that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 'For many are called, but few are chosen.'***

Marriage Supper of the Lamb is an invitation only event & there is a dress code. He neglected the garment supplied. Our true sinful condition cannot be comprehended until the King appears & contrast is made of those dressed in their own personal goodness.

***Rom 10:3 For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.***

***Is 61:10 I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me w/ garments of salvation, He has wrapped me w/ a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself w/ a garland, and as a bride adorns herself w/ her jewels.***

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Spurgeon 'Power of the Holy Ghost' At present corruption still rests even in the breasts of the regenerate. At present the heart is partially impure. At present there are still lusts & evil imaginations. But, oh! My soul rejoices to know that the day is coming when God shall finish the work which he has begun; & he shall present my soul, not only perfect in Christ, but perfect in the Spirit, w/o spot or blemish, or any such thing. And is it true that this poor depraved heart is to become as holy as that of God? And it is true that this poor spirit, which often cries, 'O, wretched man that I am who shall deliver me from the body of this sin and death!' shall get rid of sin & death? I shall have no evil things to vex my ears, & no unholy thoughts to disturb my peace. Oh happy hour! May it be hastened! Just before I die sanctification will be finished; but not till that moment shall I ever claim perfection in myself. But at that moment when I depart, my spirit shall have its last baptism in the Holy Spirit's fire. It shall be put in the crucible for its last trying in the furnace; & then, free from all dross, & like wedge of pure gold, it shall be presented at the feet of God w/o the least degree of dross or mixture. O glorious hour! O blessed moment!...Oh! to be washed white, clean, pure, perfect! Not an angel more pure than I shall be...pg 128