

REVELATION 19:1-10

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 19 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

We are coming down to the wire where **“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”** Revelation 11:15.

We await that day.

Now, in our studies so far, we have seen the judgment of God being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world.

With the seven seal judgments we saw that a fourth of the earth’s population was destroyed.

Then in the trumpet judgments we saw more destruction unleashed where a third of the earth’s population is now destroyed.

And by the time we get to the bowl judgments we see that the wrath of God is complete, in fact we read that **“It is done!”**

Nothing that man held onto is left anymore, and that which he has rejected has judged him, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We saw the destruction of religious Babylon.

We saw the destruction of commercial Babylon.

And now we are coming to the destruction of the political empire of the Antichrist, it will come crashing to the ground.

What is left?

The things of God will be left when God gets done shaking the heaven and the earth.

That is what Paul said in Hebrews 12:25-29, **“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”**

And we are coming to Jesus Christ returning and putting down the rebellion of man, who is trying to fight against Him!

Now, as we move into the first part of Revelation chapter 19, we see a break in the judgment as the scene shifts from earth to heaven.

And as we have seen heaven, it is filled with worship, the worship of God.

And from there we move to the marriage supper of the Lamb and then we will see the Lord return with His bride, the church, to put down the rebellion of man at the battle of Armageddon, and then to establish His Kingdom here on the earth, as I have said.

Make no mistake about it, rebellion is a big part of the last days, and it will continue to grow and grow until the Lord returns.

Let me show you what I mean, what is happening in our day. We are told,

In Rolling Stone, Chris Heath discusses religion with megamovie star Brad Pitt:

There is one subject he refers to time and time again, and that is religion. “I would call it oppression,” he says, “because it stifles any kind of personal individual freedom. I dealt with a lot of that, and my family would diametrically disagree with me on all of that.”

It’s only when we later drift into an unlikely debate about one of the New Testament parables that I realize just how different a kind of God Pitt grew up with. To him, the parable of the Prodigal Son is an authoritarian tale told to keep people in line.

“This,” he explains, “is a story which says if you go out and try to find your own voice and find what works for you and what makes sense for you, then you are going to be destroyed and you will be humbled and you will not be alive again until you come home to the father’s ways.”

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That is what rebellion is all about. Doing what you think is right and ignoring what God has said in His Word. God does not oppress us; He sets us free from the bondage of sin that man is in!

And here’s the thing. God is not going to do things to hurt us or deprive us of that which is good. He does what is best just like a loving parent.

But man thinks he knows what is best and thus, they negate God and do their own thing and you can read in Romans chapter 1 how God will give them over to their lusts, men lying with men and women with women. God will give them over to a debased mind.

And that is exactly what we see today, and it is getting worse. But that rebellion will come to an end. The age of God's grace will come to an end and man will be judged for his wickedness as he stands in his own righteousness, which is like filthy rags before God!

Maybe you heard the story of a little girl who was listening to a song *"Train Up a Child."*

The little girl asked her mom what *"train up"* means.

So the mom explained to her that it means teaching your children about God and what is right and what is wrong.

After listening to her mom, she asked her, *"Are you and daddy training me up?"*

And the mom said to her daughter, *"We are trying to do that honey."*

And, at that point the little girl turned away from her mom, looking at the stereo and muttered, *"We'll see about that!"*

That truly is man today but remember, the dark night of man's rebellion has finally come to an end and the glorious new day of Christ's reign has come. They will not get away with anything!

Now I was going to try and get through Revelation chapter 19 in one study, but there is so much here I don't want to rush through it. I want us to understand what is taking place here. So we will break this chapter into two studies.

The first study we are going to be looking at is this great feast with the Lord, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Next time we will look at another feast that is born out of the carnage of the Battle of Armageddon.

And the question you need to ask yourself is this, *“Would you rather have dinner with the Lord or be dinner for the birds of the earth?”*

Kind of harsh but it is the reality. And thus, over the next two studies we will see these two meals being prepared, and the choice is yours in which meal you will partake of.

With that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in Revelation chapter 19, beginning in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

REVELATION 19

VERSE 1

Here again we see this Greek phrase, *META TAUTA* or **“After these things.”** In fact, we see that phrase some four times in the book of Revelation and they are at the beginning of Revelation chapters 4, 7, 18 and 19.

And specifically here in Revelation chapter 19 it refers to the things spoken of in Revelation chapter 18, as commercial Babylon is destroyed and we are told, **“They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’ Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”**

As the earth dwellers are lamenting for all that they lost the heavens are rejoicing at what God is doing, restoring order you might say, righting the wrongs that have been done!

And here in Revelation chapter 19 we see a few different groups of people shouting out praises unto the Lord.

We have seen that in our study of Revelation, that heaven is a place of worship.

Now, for some, that is very disturbing. Why is that?

Because worship to them is boring. It is that fill time before the message is given. It is a way to set your watch by so you can enter the church service as the message begins.

And the other point in regard to worship being wrong is that many see it as how it moves them, what it does for them.

Let me say this. Worship is not about you. Never has been and never will be. And if that is what worship is to you, you are wrong because worship is all about the Lord.

And our worship is born out of a relationship, and you can usually tell how a relationship is going by the words that are spoken about another, the actions that are done unto them.

For instance, your spouse. Do you have to force yourself to say nice things about him or her? I hope not! Do you have to force yourself to come home at night from work? I hope not!

Within a marriage relationship there is love, and that love is manifested in the things we do and the things we say!

When I was in Russia I would use the What's App to talk with Julie because it was free to use and we could see each other. And one of the other pastors who was with me said that he was listening to what we were saying to each other, and he could tell how much we love each other. He was blessed to see that kind of love. And I am blessed to have a wife who loves me that much!

The same is true with our relationship with the Lord. We are so in love with Him that we want to tell people. We are so in love with Him that if we had pictures of Him in our wallet, we would show everyone!

And I guess we do have pictures of Him, it is called the Bible, the Word of God!

You see, if you can't worship God here on this earth, what makes you think you are going to love to worship Him in heaven?

I love to worship God through music, through song, besides many other ways.

And even though my voice may not sound good, by the time it gets to the ears of God it is perfect, He has a great sound board! He can make any voice sound good, and God tells us to ***“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord”*** and I think that my singing qualifies for that! (Psalm 66:1, 81:1, 100:1)

You see, the key, of course, is your heart. King David had a heart of worship towards God, and it was manifested in his life. He wrote many Psalms, brought the ark of God back to Jerusalem. May we have a heart like David in regard to the worship of God. May God put those new songs in our hearts, and like David, desire the presence of God or the ark of God back in our life, in a sense.

Now John tells us that this first group of people in heaven that are worshiping the Lord is **“a great multitude.”**

Who are these people?

I believe they are the Tribulation Saints that have been martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ during the Tribulation Period.

The reason I say that is in Revelation 7:9-10 we are told **“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”**

And if you are still unsure who this great multitude are, look at Revelation 7:14-17, “... ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

So this first group of people that are worshiping the Lord are the Tribulation Saints who have been martyred for their faith in Christ during the Tribulation Period, as I have said.

Let me deal with this for a minute, the word “hallelujah.” The word hallelujah occurs frequently in the Book of Psalms but occurs only four times in the N.T. all of them in the first six verses of chapter 19 and is reserved for the final victory of Jesus over His enemies.

We see this in Psalm 104:35 where we are told, “May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord! [hallelujah]”

Keep in mind that the word “ALLELUIA” or “HALLELUJAH” comes from two Greek words: *HALLEL* which means “*praise*” and *JAH* which is a contraction of the name *YAHWEH OR JEHOVAH*.

So the literal interpretation of this word is “*PRAISE THE LORD!*”

Not just empty words, but from the heart.

Now why are they shouting this out?

As we read on, we will see.

VERSES 2-3

Listen again to how this opens up, **“For true and righteous are His judgments . . .”**

Revelation 19:2.

That is so important for us to understand. When God judges He does so with all fairness. He does not respond in anger like we do. But man will get exactly what he deserves, not more and not less.

In Psalm 9:8 we are told, **“He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.”**

And we see this praise born out of that fact that God has not only saved them out of their sin by His mighty hand, but He is also going to pour out His judgment upon those who have rebelled against Him, those who have put His people to death. And their judgment will be eternal!

Again, there are those who feel that God is not fair. That if He is a loving God that He would never do that.

Yes, God is a God of love, but He is also righteous, just, holy, pure and that means He can't ignore sin because that would make Him unrighteous.

Maybe you are still not convinced. If you are not convinced, then place yourself in this situation. You are in a courtroom and there in the courtroom is the person who has killed your family.

There is no question that he is guilty of the crime, all the evidence points to that fact. He even admits to doing it.

And as the judge makes his ruling he says, ***“I realize that you are guilty of this crime.***

But I am the love judge and thus, I am letting you go!”

How would you feel about that?

Not good, to say the least!

Did the judge make his rule in a righteous manner?

No, it was an unrighteous judgment!

If we are upset about this, then why are we upset with God for what He is doing?

I think J. Vernon McGee spells it out for us as he wrote, ***“If you don’t think what God is doing is right, it is because you, not God, are wrong . . . God will be righteous in judging the great harlot.”***

Exactly!

Then how can God forgive me of my sins? Does He ignore them?

Not at all for that would make Him unrighteous.

Then what does He do?

God becomes flesh in order to pay in full the penalty for my sins, for your sins. That means the debt has been paid, the penalty for my sins, for your sins has been paid in full, and we can’t be charged for them.

God does not ignore our sins, He paid for them with His blood!

But again, when we look at the judgments of God, they do seem brutal, severe. And I think the reason some feel that way is because they are looking at these things from an earthly perspective.

You see, as these people stand before the Lord in heaven, they see His judgment as true, as righteous, because they have a heavenly perspective of the situation.

God is holy, He is perfect, and when man, unrighteous man is before Him, God's actions are seen as perfect, as just.

And I don't think we need to ask the question, "*Why Lord is your judgment so brutal?*" but we do need to ask, "*Why Lord are you so patient and longsuffering with us?*"

Some look at the patience of God as God approving of their actions. That is totally wrong!

Others see it as God not caring. That is totally wrong!

While still, others feel that God can't do anything about it, He is not able to intervene, and again that is totally wrong!

If God is patient, if He is longsuffering, and He is, why?

Peter tells us in II Peter 3:9, "**The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**"

Do you understand that?

Do you see God's tremendous love for us?

I hope so! God's desire is for all to come to Him and receive the free gift of life that is found only in His Son, Jesus Christ. If you refuse that gift, then you will be judged, and it will be a righteous judgment, you will only get what you deserve!

For almost 2,000 years now God has been patient and longsuffering, and like in the days of Noah, the time is almost up, His righteous judgment is about to be poured out. You might say, it is beginning to rain!

In the world today, do we see righteousness and justice flowing forth?

I think we can clearly say that we don't!

Let me share this perspective with you. We are told,

We have reached a stalemate in every field of human engagement, personally, socially, educationally, economically, ecologically and globally.

We worked with all the systems we could devise and ascertained that there is no single system or plan remaining that could steer us confidently into a bright future.

We have entered a deadlock with no vision of a better future motivating us, and also nothing to goad us forward from behind either.

- bit.ly/3J5VXw6

That is pretty gloom and doom, but he is right. Man, apart from God is doomed!

This article was written by Dr. Michael Laitman and his web site is called – *To Change the World – Change Man!*

When I first read that I thought, *“How crazy that is. Changing man, foolishness!”*

But isn't that what needs to happen?

Of course it is. Not by worldly ways, but by the new birth, by Jesus Christ changing the man or woman inwardly and what God has done on the inside will manifest itself outwardly.

That is our only hope! That is the only thing that will change this world – **JESUS CHRIST!**

And the Scriptures do speak of this world becoming darker and darker before the Lord returns and I believe we are seeing that happen before our eyes right now. Good is evil and evil is good!

But this wickedness, this immorality, this unrighteousness will not continue on forever. The Lord is coming back, and He will deal with the wicked and He will set up His Kingdom on this earth and rule and reign for one-thousand years!

Listen to what we are told in Isaiah 9:6-7, **“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”**

This is speaking of the Kingdom Age where Jesus Christ will rule and reign. It is a time when righteousness will fill the land! He will order it and establish it with judgment and justice and we long for that day!

Also, in Jeremiah 23:5-6 we are told, **“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’”**

Once again this is speaking of the Kingdom Age and righteousness will fill this land. That is why these Tribulation Saints are worshiping the Lord. He has dealt with those who persecuted them, murdered them and the destruction of the most powerful empire in human history has come to an end.

The rebellion of man has come to an end. The rebellion that began in the Garden of Eden is over. No more injustice, unrighteousness, false religion, depravity, or any other garbage. Just - ***RIGHTEOUSNESS!***

VERSE 4

Remember what I have said about heaven, that it is filled with the worship of God! That is exactly what we are seeing once again. I guess you can say that if you had to describe heaven with one word, it would be – ***WORSHIP!***

And in this verse here in Revelation we see two more groups of people shouting with a loud voice, “**Praise the Lord!**” or “**Alleluia!**”

The first group are the twenty-four elders, and as we looked at this group back in Revelation chapter 4, we said they represented the church from the time of Pentecost until the rapture of the church, all those believers in Jesus.

The other group are the four living creatures that we also looked at in Revelation chapter 4, as they too are around the throne of God, worshiping the Lord.

And these two groups of people are shouting out “**Amen! Alleluia!**” or “**So be it! Praise the Lord!**”

In other words, let the sovereign God fulfill His plan and purpose to establish His Kingdom here on earth, just as it is in heaven!

This is a different group of people worshiping the Lord than we read about in Revelation 19:1-3. Those were the Tribulation Saints and here we see the Church and the four living creatures worshiping the Lord! Again, heaven is filled with the worship of God!

Ray Stedman wrote the following regarding the fact that here in Revelation 19:1 we see the word “**Alleluia**” mentioned. This is what he wrote,

I mentioned at the time that this is the first appearance of the word “Hallelujah” in Revelation.

But even more remarkably, this is the first appearance of the word “Hallelujah” in the whole New Testament!

There are many Hallelujahs in the Psalms, and indeed in much of the Old Testament, but it is rather striking that there is no mention of anyone in the New Testament singing “Hallelujah” until this remarkable scene in Revelation 19.

Here, at last, heaven breaks into praise and rejoicing over the judgment of Mystery Babylon the Great, the harlot church which claimed to be the queen, the true wife of the Lamb of God. She is destroyed by God himself just before the appearance of Christ. Now this great chorus comes to a crescendo to announce the true bride of Christ.

- bit.ly/34NoyHq

VERSES 5-6

As this voice from the throne of God sounds forth calling for the worship of God, what do you think is going to happen?

Worship is going to break forth and that is what we see. All of heaven is praising the all-powerful God.

I can't imagine how loud this will be, but our ears will be able to handle it, as all of the heavenly host, all the servants of God, all who fear God, will shout unto God with a voice of praise.

It is like the *“Hallelujah Chorus”* from Handel's Messiah, only turned way, way up!

VERSES 7-9

Make no mistake about it, marriage feasts or celebrations are a wonderful, joyous time with much activity, fellowship and eating!

I know what a joy it was for me almost some 43 years ago as I saw my wife coming down the aisle towards me, she was the most beautiful person in that whole building!

And then the celebration afterwards, I couldn't imagine it could get any better, it was an Italian wedding! That was until I became a Christian and was introduced to what the Bible calls the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!

You see, as believers, we are called a chaste virgin and we are awaiting our wedding day and the feast that follows as our bridegroom, Jesus Christ, comes for His bride, the church, you and me!

Remember what Paul said in II Corinthians 11:2, **“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.”**

And Paul's point was that he feared they had left Jesus and were following a false Jesus or committing spiritual adultery! We are to follow Jesus fully!

Marriage is one of the institutions that God has set up and it is a picture as well as Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:32, **“This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”**

In other words, our relationship with our spouse is likened to Jesus' relationship with us. He is the bridegroom, and we are the bride, the church, who He is coming back for!

Now I want to take a minute and look at the three phases of a Jewish wedding, what took place during the time of Jesus and, as you will see, it is what we are waiting for as well.

First there was the *marriage contract or engagement*.

The marriage contract or engagement was usually arranged by the parents when the children were very young and sometimes even before they were born because they felt that a decision like this could not be left for someone without the skills. They felt that children did not have the wisdom to make that decision.

So as the contract was set, all that was left was for these young children to grow up and be introduced to each other.

The next stage in the marriage was the *betrothal*.

As they grew up and it was time for them to be legally married, they would enter a phase known as the betrothal period.

At this point the bride (usually between the ages of twelve and fifteen) and groom would come together to meet, perhaps for the first time, as the father of the groom would negotiate the dowry also known as the "*bride price*" with the father of the bride.

During this period of time they were legally married but they have not consummated their marriage physically yet.

And during this year long period of time she would prepare her dress and he would prepare a home for them to live in, alongside his father's house.

The bride did not know the day or the hour her husband would call on her, so she waited in anticipation, always being ready, listening for the sound of a trumpet.

You see, she did know the season, usually after the harvest but not the day or the hour!

This period of time could last anywhere from a year to eighteen months as he was preparing this place for them to live in. And as they separated, he would tell her, ***“I’m going to go and prepare a place for us, but I will be back to get you and then we will never be apart again.”***

Here is the interesting thing. When he was done, he did not have the right to say it was time to go and get his bride.

Only the father could do that, he would tell his son he could go and claim his bride.

And that brings us to the ***bridegroom cometh!***

This phase of the Jewish wedding was the formal occasion when the bridegroom came to take his bride home and consummate the marriage.

And with trumpets blaring the groom and his friends would come to the bride’s house, and she would put on her wedding dress, rise and receive a blessing from her father, and run out to meet her groom in the streets as he came for her.

This couple would then make their way to the Huppah or a four posted canopy from which they would be married under. And here they would read the contract which their parents put together and then a blessing.

Then this group of people would follow the couple to their new mansion or home, and the best man would stand outside the door while the marriage was consummated, and he waited to see if the bride was a virgin.

If she was a virgin, the wedding celebration would last another seven days. If she wasn’t, there would be either a divorce or the women would be stoned to death!

I know, that is very interesting but what does that have to do with us today? As you will see, and you probably are already seeing, it has a lot to do with what we are waiting for.

You see, in a spiritual sense, we see this same relationship between the Lord and His bride, the church.

Let me show you what I mean.

First, we have the *marriage contract or the engagement*.

God has chosen us, predestined us into the family of God before the foundations of the world were established. In John 15:16 we are told, **“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”**

God has done this for each of us! (See also II Timothy 1:8-9).

Yes, it is our choice to receive Christ or reject Him, but the Father knew all along who would come to the faith.

Next is the *betrothal*.

It is the Holy Spirit who is drawing us to Christ, and when we come to that saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, we are given the Holy Spirit as an engagement ring or a down payment for the contract of marriage that has been made.

We read of this in Ephesians 1:13-14, where Paul says, **“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”**

And lastly, we see the *bridegroom cometh!*

This is what we are waiting for as the next step is the bridegroom coming for His bride, we call it the rapture of the church.

It is a time when the Lord will come for us and bring us into the new mansions, the new homes that He has prepared for us, for our spirit and soul to dwell in.

We see Jesus speak of this in John 14:2-3, where we read, **“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. 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.”**

Notice in the Father’s house this takes place, and it is here we will receive our new bodies for our spirit and soul to dwell in, eternal bodies.

You see, these bodies we now dwell in are just tents, temporary dwelling places, but God is preparing an eternal dwelling place for us, He calls them mansions!

And understand we don’t know the day or the hour that the Lord is going to return, but we do know the season!

Thus, we must be prepared, we need to keep looking up for our redemption draws near.

The Lord is coming back for His bride, you and me! And it is then we will join in on this joyous feast, the marriage supper of the Lamb, which seems to come at the end of the Tribulation Period, and I believe it will take place on the earth and possibly last the entire millennial reign of Christ. I will deal with that a little more in a minute.

Now what takes place after the rapture of the church is the judgment seat of Christ or the *BEMA* seat, where the believers will be rewarded for the work that they have done.

Paul tells us back in II Corinthians 5:9-10, **“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”**

God will put our works through the fire, we don't lose our salvation, but if our works are done out of the wrong motivation, with a wrong heart, the works will be burned up, you will lose that reward. (See also I Corinthians 3:10-15).

Now our garments, the brides dress, is always of great importance.

When I saw my wife standing in her wedding dress, I was speechless.

And here too we are seen in a wedding dress, and once again it is the talk of the town.

First of all, we are saved by faith, it is the Lord's righteousness that has been imputed to us, we don't stand in our own righteousness which is like filthy rags.

It is as Isaiah 61:10 tells us, "**I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**"

And yet, here in Revelation we read, "**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.**" Revelation 19:8.

Then what is this all about?

I believe John is speaking of the things we have done that prove we are saved. The good works don't save us, they are just the evidence showing we are saved! And thus, our wedding dress will contain the rewards of our faithful service to the Lord! And thus, on to the marriage supper!

As I have said, I believe that the marriage supper of the Lamb is not limited to a day or two days or even seven years, but I believe that it will stretch out throughout the thousand-year reign of Christ and will be consummated with the new heavens and the new earth.

Yes, the marriage of the Lamb will take place in heaven, but the marriage supper will take place upon the earth.

It is as J. Vernon McGee tells us, ***“The marriage supper is evidently the Millennium. You talk about a long supper - this is going to be a long one! At the end of the Millennium the church is still seen as the bride. Imagine a honeymoon which lasts one thousand years! Yet that is only the beginning. What joy! What ecstasy! The angel puts God’s seal on this scene: “These are the true words of God.”***

Now some see this happening in heaven for seven years, this marriage supper of the Lamb, but I lean more to this extending throughout the Millennial reign of Christ.

Warren Wiersbe sums this up for us like this. He wrote,

The bride, of course, is the church (2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:22-33); and Jesus Christ, the Lamb, is the Bridegroom (John 3:29).

At a wedding, it is customary to focus attention on the bride; but in this case, it is the Bridegroom who receives the honor! “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him.”

“What did the bride wear?” is the usual question asked after a wedding. The Lamb’s bride is dressed “in the righteous acts of the saints” (literal translation).

When the bride arrived in heaven at the judgment Seat of Christ, she was not at all beautiful (in fact, she was covered with spots, wrinkles, and blemishes according to Paul in Eph 5:27); but now she is radiant in her glory. She has “made herself ready” for the public ceremony.

Jewish weddings in that day were quite unlike weddings in the Western world. First, there was an engagement, usually made by the parents when the prospective bride and groom were quite young. This engagement was binding and could be broken only by a form of divorce. Any unfaithfulness during the engagement was considered adultery.

When the public ceremony was to be enacted, the groom would go to the bride's house and claim her for himself. He would take her to his home for the wedding supper, and all the guests would join the happy couple. This feast could last as long as a week.

Today, the church is "engaged" to Jesus Christ; and we love Him even though we have not seen Him (1 Peter 1:8).

One day, He will return and take His bride to heaven (John 14:1-6; 1 Thess 4:13-18). At the Judgment Seat of Christ, her works will be judged and all her spots and blemishes removed.

This being completed, the church will be ready to return to earth with her Bridegroom at the close of the Tribulation to reign with Him in glory (see Luke 13:29; Matt 8:11).

Some students believe that the entire Kingdom Age will be the "marriage supper."

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, pp. 1076-1077

Now I do need to touch on this for a minute. Remember what Revelation 19:9 said,

"Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

Here is my question to you. ***"Who are "those" referring to?"***

This is not the bride, the church because we are not invited to the wedding because it is our wedding.

So who is this group of people?

One writer put it like this, ***"The recipients of this blessing are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. That they are invited guests marks them as a distinct group from the church, since a bride would hardly be invited to her own wedding."***

In other words, these guests are the Old Testament believers. We see that spoken of in Matthew 8:11 and Luke 13:28, that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are part of the Kingdom and in Luke it also mentions prophets.

These are the heroes of faith that we read about in Hebrews chapter 11; they are part of these guests that come to the wedding.

And John the Baptist will be a guest, as he was the greatest of all Old Testament believers and he described himself as the friend of the bridegroom. Which would make him an invited guest. (Matthew 11:11, John 3:29)

And there is one more group, all the Tribulation saints, glorified and still alive on earth and those who have been martyred for their faith, will enter into the Millennial Kingdom, they will be guests.

So we have seen a lot in this chapter so far and many wonder why we can be so sure that these things are true?

Because the angel tells John “**These are the true sayings of God.**” Revelation 19:9. In other words, you can take that to the bank!

VERSE 10

We must understand this, God alone is to be worshiped! We are not to worship any other person, place or thing. Not any saint, not Mary, nor anyone except the Lord!

And for John, you can understand his excitement, he is overwhelmed by all that he has been told by this angel and he bows before him to worship him.

Yes, John makes that mistake, but he is quickly corrected. May we not forget that!

Now some like to say Jesus is not God, and thus He is not to be worshiped for the Scriptures tell us we are only to worship God.

Now there are many Scriptures that I can give you to show you that Jesus is God, but I will only share one, that should be sufficient.

In Hebrews 1:6 we are told, **“But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: ‘Let all the angels of God worship Him.’”**

Why are the angels worshiping Jesus?

Because He is God! Simple enough!

Now why is prophecy so important?

One person put it like this, the importance of prophecy. He wrote, *“Some people think that the purpose of prophecy is to open a window on the future. But no, the spirit and essence of prophecy is to bear witness to Jesus. He is the central figure of all Scripture - and of all history. We are not to focus our attention on future events but on the One who will bring them to pass. Our focus of worship is the Lord.”*

I think that is so important for us to understand. I realize that some get upset because I don't deal with COVID, I am not saying where I stand on it, and the reason is simple. It has nothing to do with Jesus.

Now some may argue that it is preparing us for what is coming and ultimately Jesus. That may be true, but if I am spending my time teaching you the Word of God instead of showing you videos from this expert and that expert, am I cheating you on something?

Absolutely not and keep in mind that the Bible is some 25% to 33% prophetic in nature and thus, as I teach the Word of God I am going to be dealing with prophecy.

And, again, it is all about – **JESUS!** It is all about Him!

Walvoord put it like this, *“This means that prophecy at its very heart is designed to unfold the beauty and loveliness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

May we not forget that by getting so caught up in the things of this world that we miss Jesus. Remember, Revelation is the – **REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST!**

The Psalmist said, **“Then I said, ‘Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.’”** Psalm 40:7.

And in John 5:39-40 Jesus said, **“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”**

And finally, in I John 5:10 we are told, **“He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.”**

If you believe Jesus, repented of your sins, you have life.

If you reject Jesus, you make Him a liar because the Scriptures testify that He is the way, He is the truth, and He is the life, and without Him you will never get to heaven.

That is the whole point of the illustration that Jesus gave of the kingdom of heaven being likened to a marriage supper that a king gave for his son. And he sent out invitations and some refused to come, others were busy and still others ruffed up and killed the king’s servants.

So the king sent more of his servants out to the highways and byways to compel people to come to this feast.

And in Matthew 22:11-14 we read, **“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”**

The garments here are given to us by Christ, by receiving Him into our lives.

You see, without Him we can't attend the feast and the consequences for not coming with the proper attire on is being cast into outer darkness, eternally separated from God.

But you don't have to travel down that road. It is your choice.

You see, you can either enter into this meal with the Lord, this marriage supper of the Lamb, or as we shall see next time, you will become dinner for the birds of the earth as the Lord returns to set up His Kingdom here on this earth.

Which meal do you want to partake of?

The choice is yours!