

Marriage Supper Of The Lamb

(Revelation 19:1-10)

Scripture: **Rev. 19:1** After these things I heard, as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;

2 BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER." **3** And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER." **4** And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"

5 And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." **6** And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying,

"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. **7** "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." **8** 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. **9** 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."

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Intro: Revelation 19:1-10 provides a bridge between the horrible judgments of the Tribulation, and the return of Jesus Christ to establish His Millennial Kingdom on this earth. This passage provides a stark contrast between the mourning by Babylon's earthly lovers, and the joyful worship and praise expressed by the redeemed saints in heaven. Whereas the lost peoples of the earth weep and mourn over God's fierce judgment on the great harlot, Babylon, as detailed in chapters 17 and 18, chapter 19 opens with four Hallelujah choruses ascribing praise to God for Babylon's destruction (vv. 1-6). God is further praised and glorified for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (vv. 7-10).

I. The Four Hallelujah Choruses (19:1-6)

A. The Hallelujah of the Great Multitude in Heaven (vv. 1-3)

1 After these things I heard, as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;

The opening words, “After these things” refers to Babylon’s judgment recorded in chapters 17–18. Following Babylon’s destruction there was a call issued in **18:20** for the saints, apostles, and prophets in heaven to rejoice over Babylon’s judgment. The following 4 Hallelujah choruses ascribing praise to God are heaven’s response to this admonition in 18:20.

John hears a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. The great multitude is best understood to be a reference to the Tribulation saints first described in 7:9-12. These are believers who will come to faith in Christ during the Tribulation, and as a consequence, they will be martyred for their faith.

Hallelujah is a term that occurs only 4 times in the entire New Testament. All four occurrences are recorded here in these first 6 verses of Revelation 19 (vv. 1, 3, 4, 6). You may recall from past studies in the Psalms that ***Hallelujah*** is a compound Hebrew word. The first word, *allelu*, is an intensive imperative verb meaning “give praise.” The second word is *Yah* or *Jah*, representing the shortened form of Yahweh. The Psalmist renders it “***Praise ye the LORD.***” **Psalms 146–150** each begin and end with “Hallelujah, Praise ye the LORD!” **Psalms 113–118** comprise a collection of Hallel Psalms, used in connection with Israel’s annual celebration of Passover. Jesus would have sung Psalms 113-118 with His disciples following the Passover meal, before He went out to the Mount of Olives on the night of His death. Jesus is the Lamb of God, whose sacrificial death on the cross at Calvary took away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

The great multitude ascribes praise to God for His salvation and glory and power. These Tribulation saints, who will suffer horribly under Antichrist and his Satanic death squads, will ascribe loud praise to God for rendering righteous judgment on the great harlot Babylon, as stated in v. 2

2 BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for

He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER.”

God’s judgment on Babylon is based on His holy and righteous nature. He cannot be unfair or unjust in judgment. Keep in mind that these who will be judged rejected God’s repeated offers of gracious salvation. He has no choice but to render judgment in keeping with His holy hatred of sin.

In addition, God will avenge the blood of those Antichrist puts to death. While it often appears that the wicked are getting away with sin, the day is fast approaching when God will render judgment. The word avenged is a Greek intensive verb that suggests a complete rendering of divine justice to avenge His people (see Psalm 73).

The great multitude of Tribulation saints ascribe a second Hallelujah to God in verse 3,

3 And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER.”

The smoke rising up from Babylon’s destruction will evoke praise to God forever and ever.

A third Hallelujah ascribing praise to God is delivered by the 24 Elders and the Four Living Creatures, v. 4

B. The Hallelujah of the 24 Elders and Four Living Creature (v. 4)

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!”

When the 24 Elders and Four Living Creatures heard the Hallelujah’s offered up to God by the Tribulation saints, they fall down in worship before God who sits continually on His throne of Glory. This image of falling down before God in worship and adoration emphasizes the eternal sovereignty of God. As noted in Psalm 103:19 “The Lord has established His throne in the heavens; And His sovereignty rules over all.” Every believer needs to acknowledge God’s sovereignty and humbly surrender control over their life to Him. As a loving Father, God knows the good He

has planned for us. We can always trust Him to do what is best in our lives. Unfortunately, many of us reject the Holy Spirit's gentle promptings, and go our own independent way. And as I have learned from experience, it always turns out bad.

C. The Final Hallelujah of the Great Multitude (vv. 5-6)

In verse **5** John hears another voice coming from the throne of God saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."

Most commentators take this to be the voice of an angel. This angelic being calls on all of God's bondservants who fear Him, the small and the great, to join in ascribing perpetual praise to God. In other words, "Sing Hallelujah to the LORD" continually. Ascribe praise to His holy name! To fear God means to acknowledge His holiness, and to bow before Him in humble adoration.

v. 6 In response to the voice issuing from the throne, calling on all of God's bondservants to give praise to our God, John hears the voice of a great multitude as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns."

The final call for praise sets of a chorus of Hallelujah that can only be described as a deafening roar like that emitted by a cascading waterfall or the booming sound produced by mighty peals of thunder. All heaven responds in praise, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns." This is describing the majestic expression of praise from the hearts and mouths of all the redeemed saints of God. Hallelujah! Praise ye the LORD! God possess undisputed majesty and He exercises supreme authority. Our God reigns, let the earth rejoice. These words actually announce and anticipate Christ's second coming to establish His righteous reign upon the earth, to be detailed in 19:11-21.

II. The Marriage Supper Of The Lamb (19:7-10)

In anticipation of Christ's second coming to this earth announcement is made in verses 7-10 that the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and His bride has come.

A. Announcement of the marriage supper (v. 7)

7 “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.”

The marriage supper or feast announced here is not to be confused with the marriage of Christ to His Bride, the Church. The marriage of Christ to His Bride, the Church occurs prior to the Tribulation, when the Bride, the Church, is presented to Christ, the groom, at the Rapture of the Church.

Perhaps a brief review of ancient Oriental wedding customs will provide insight into what John describes here. A marriage in John’s day occurred in three phases: (1) betrothal, (2) presentation, and (3) the marriage feast.

1. The betrothal—Marriage in John’s day was far different than in our modern day. While we Westerners focus attention on the bride, in John’s day the groom was far more important. Today we lavish all the attention on the bride and her bridesmaids, but in biblical times the groom took center stage.

When a believer receives Jesus Christ as Savior he/she becomes a part of the Bride of Christ. The present church age is the betrothal phase, the time when God is calling out a Bride for His Son.

2. The presentation—Stage 2 in the marriage ceremony is the presentation of the bride to her groom. In John’s day the bridegroom, along with his friends, would go to his bride’s house and would escort her back to his father’s home (John 14:1-3).

The rapture and transformation of believers comprising the Church, which takes place when Christ comes for us on the clouds of heaven will consummate the presentation phase of the marriage ceremony. Christ, the groom, will come to collect His Bride, the Church, and escort her back to His Father’s house in heaven.

3. The marriage feast—Stage three of the marriage ceremony will occur when Christ, the groom, returns to this earth with His Bride, the Church, at the end of the Tribulation. At this time, the returning Lord Jesus, the bridegroom, will invite many friends and guests to join Him and His Bride at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

B. Adornment of the bride (v. 8)

8 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.

The fine linen with which the bride will clothe herself is explained as representing the righteous deeds of the saints. In other words, the works or deeds that pass inspection at the evaluation seat of Christ will comprise the believer's bridal gown. Only those works we did in this life for God's glory, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, will survive the purifying fire of Christ's Bema Seat Judgment described in 1 Corinthians 3. Believers are part of the Bride, the Church, because of the righteousness provided us by Christ. The Bride, each believer, is clothed for the wedding in the righteous works they have done for the glory of God. Dr Ryrie says "Righteous acts flow from a righteous character which is entirely of the grace of God."

C. All invited guests will be blessed (v. 9)

9 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."

Take note of the fact that the bride is distinguished from those who are invited to the wedding supper. The invited guests will include redeemed Israelites and saved Gentiles that were martyred during the Tribulation.

D. Angelic rebuke (v. 10)

10 John, overcome by these revelations of the great Hallelujah choruses, and announcement of the marriage supper of the Lamb, fell at the angel's feet to worship him. The angel rebuked John, saying, "Do not do that; for I am a fellow servant of you and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." That is, the very nature or purpose of prophecy is to testify of Jesus Christ and to bring glory to Him alone.

Conclusion: While the marriage of believers to Christ takes place following the Rapture of the Church, when the Church comprised of all born-again believers is presented to Christ; the marriage feast of the Lamb will be celebrated when Christ returns in power and great glory and establishes His glorious kingdom on this earth. Christ's Marriage Supper will be a celebration to end all celebrations.

The only question is, Are you ready? Are you a part of the Bride of Christ? You become a member of the Bride of Christ by asking Jesus Christ to come into your heart. If you have invited Christ into you heart, then the Holy Spirit has clothed you with the righteousness of Christ. As the Bride of Christ, you need to prepare your wedding garment by doing good works for God's glory.

Closing prayer:

Closing song: *Handel's Messiah*