

Bible Study Class

Date: 2/7/13

Text: Revelation 19: 1 – 10

Title: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Introduction:

Revelation chapters 19 and 20 bring the climax of the Book of Revelation: the return of Christ to establish His earthly Kingdom. The first five verses of chapter 19 show heaven's response to the judgment of the harlot – Babylon.

The multitude in heaven praises God for judging the great whore (Babylon, the harlot) and avenging the blood of the martyrs (Rev 7:9-17).

The word Alleluia is the Greek equivalent of Hallelujah, and it means ***"Praise Yahweh" or "Praise the Lord"*** (Psalms 106; 111-113; 117;135; 146-150).

The eternal smoke symbolizes the permanence of Babylon's destruction (Isaiah 34:8-10).

Amen derives from a Hebrew word meaning "to be firm," and may be translated "truly" or "so be it."

This chapter is one of the most dramatic in the entire Bible. In it the Church, the Bride of Christ, is the guest of honor at the marriage of the Lamb in heaven (v.1-10) and returns with Christ in His triumphal Second Coming (v.11-21). It is the only chapter in the New Testament where this word "Alleluia" is found, and it appears four times. The people (Rev 7:9) mentioned here are distinct from the other beings in heaven, for they are singing a song that includes mention of salvation. This scene incorporates believers-the Old Testament saints, the Church age saints, and the Tribulation saints. Together they join this great chorus proclaiming. "Alleluia!"

19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

In the last chapter, we saw the terrible destruction of commercial and political Babylon. Now the scene totally changes to heaven. We hear the voices of the redeemed. This "great voice" here is because of the number of people speaking. It is not the magnitude of each voice. These words of praise here are focused on the Lord Jesus Christ. The redeemed are the ones who are praising. There are not enough adjectives in the dictionary to say enough about what Jesus has purchased for us all.

The marriage of the Lamb and the marriage supper of the Lamb "in heaven" (19:6-9) are evidence of the Church being in heaven prior to the return of Christ to earth. Christ is the Bridegroom at the marriage and His Church is the Bride. The word "church" appears nineteen times in Revelation 1-3, and does not appear again until Revelation 22:16 – this is emphasizing the absence of the Church from the earth during the judgments of Rev. 4-18.

19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

It appears that those who were redeemed were looking on from heaven and approving of the destruction of Babel, because the Messiah was bringing justice and righteousness to the world.

There is a reassuring tone here telling the Lord that He was justified in His judgment. They have long waited for the time when God's justice would triumph. Now that time had come.

19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

This is saying that this judgment is permanent and is similar to the language that God used in Gen. 19 verse 28. This is just a statement telling us that Babylon will never be built again.

This destruction of the last, most powerful empire in history marks the end of man's day. The rebellion that had begun in the Garden of Eden is finally ended. Never again will there be more false religions, worldly philosophy, injustice or unrighteousness. Then entire sorry results of human depravity will finally be vanquished.

19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

These twenty-four elders are actually representative of the church as we learnt in earlier chapters.

The four beasts are the cherubim as described in Rev. 4 verse 6. They are exalted order of angelic beings. Their job is to guard the heavenly throne and lead in worship and adoration of God. "Full of eyes" means nothing escapes their attention.

Together, these two groups add their voices to the angles previously described.

19:5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

The speaker isn't identified but is probably an angel and refers to God as our God. His instructions are to praise God. The small and the great mean everyone which includes all human categories and distinctions. All redeemed are told to praise God.

19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

The great multitude here are the faithful. When they begin to praise God, the volume would be so great as to sound like "mighty thunderings".

This name used here, pertaining to our Lord is the only place in the Bible where the word "omnipotent" occurs. Omnipotent means **almighty: having unlimited power**. When you couple

that with "**Lord**", which means **supreme in authority**, and "**God**", which means **supreme deity**; you have an overwhelming understanding of Who this is.

Then we look at "reigneth". This has no time element attached. It means continually reigns.

At this point the evil world system has been completely destroyed and God's kingdom has come into its fullness.

19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

The marriage of the Lamb: The wife or bride of Christ is the church (Matt. 22:2-14; John 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph 5:25-32). And the marriage is the eternal union of the church with Christ following the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:17). The fine linen, clean and white, represents the righteousness of the church, which has now been judged and purified at the judgment seat of Christ (1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:10).

In ancient times, a marriage was the single greatest celebration and social event in the biblical world. Preparations and celebrations were much more elaborate than those of today. And they also lasted much longer.

They were in three distinct stages which first involved the betrothal or engagement. This was an arrangement by both sets of parents, was legally binding and could only be broken by divorce. Then there was a time of preparation as the groom prepared for his bride.

Second was the presentation which was a time of festivities just before the actual ceremony. Those festivities could last up to a week and sometimes even more depending on the economic or social status of the bride and groom.

Lastly was the wedding ceremony during which time the vows were exchanged.

The same imagery of a wedding picture's the Lord's relationship with His Church.

19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

The fine linen the bride is clothed in represents the righteous acts of the saints.

These robes have been made white by the blood of the Lamb. This "righteousness" was not ours until we received the Lord Jesus into our lives and took on His righteousness. Our own righteousness had been as filthy rags, but Jesus replaced the filth with His righteousness.

Just like, as many other places in the Bible, "her" does not mean just women, it is the bride. All believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are the bride of Christ, whether they are male or female.

Few things about the "fine linen" - In the tabernacle in the wilderness, the High priest wore a very ornamented robe with a breastplate of all sorts of jewels when he represented God to the people; but when he went into the Holy of Holies, he wore pure white linen.

So we see that all of the fineries of the world mean nothing to God. This tells us something about our approach to God. Salvation is simple. It is not complicated, just bare all to God. He knows all there is about us already. We do not have to pretend to be something we are not. He accepts us plain and simple.

19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

The marriage supper of the Lamb represents the millennial kingdom of Christ, which will take place on earth following the return of Christ (20:4; Matt. 25:1-13; Luke 14:15-24).

Let's talk about the Jewish marriage – it consists of three major elements: (1) the betrothal; (2) the presentation; and (3) the marriage feast (supper)

Figuratively, with reference to the church,

1. The betrothal takes place on earth during the church age;
2. The presentation will take place in heaven following the Rapture (v.7); and
3. The marriage feast will take place on earth following Christ's return with the church.

19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See [thou do it] not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

John here was so awed by all of this that he fell at this angel's feet from verse 5 to worship him. Then the angel quickly tells John not to worship him. Only God is to be worshiped (22: v.8, 9; Acts 10: v.25, 26).

The "testimony of Jesus" is what the whole Bible is about. Without Jesus, there would be no salvation. The Old Testament points forward to Jesus, beginning in Genesis. The New Testament is the "last will and testament" of Jesus, and to receive our inheritance, we must read the will.

If you preach on prophecy, you are bringing the testimony of Jesus. If you understand the testimony of Jesus, then you must preach and prophecy so that others may live. This testimony here is not Jesus giving it, but we believers who testify of the Lord.

References:

- The Holy Bible: KJV
- http: www.discoverrevelation.com