

"The Return of Jesus Christ"

Part 2

Revelation 19

Introduction: Last week in our study we stepped into Revelation 19 which is a transitional chapter. In the previous chapters we have been looking at the Seal, Trumpet and the Vial Judgments that will come upon the face of the earth during the 7-year Tribulation period. In those chapters we were permitted to see the spiritual darkness that will accompany those judgments. We were able to see the destruction of the world religious system which has existed since Genesis 11 and we were able to see the destruction of the world's COMMERCIAL SYSTEM which will be the capital of the Anti-Christ's kingdom.

Then as we come to chapter 19 we step from the darkness into the light. It is in this chapter that we see the event that all the world is waiting for and that is the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom. When I say the "world" is waiting for this event I am not talking about all the people of the world for many will be caught completely unprepared. I am however talking about CREATION.

Romans 8:20-22

²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Last week in our study we looked at the praise in the first six verses and we talked about how the curse will be lifted in the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Isaiah gives us a look at some of the conditions of the Kingdom.

Isaiah 11:6-9

⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

⁹ *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Now, before we get to today there is something that I need to explain so that you have the proper understanding of what we have been looking at.

We see the events and the JUDGMENTS of the Tribulation as something that is yet future and we see them as literal JUDGMENTS.

But there are those who teach the events of Revelation have already happened. In other words, they teach the JUDGMENTS all occurred in the past. This teaching is known as **PRETERISM**. There are really two kinds of **PRETERISM**:

1. **Mild or Partial** - *They teach that most of the prophecies of Revelation were fulfilled in either the fall of Jerusalem (A.D. 70) or the fall of the Roman Empire (A.D. 476), but the Second Coming of Christ is yet future.*
2. **Full or Extreme** - *They teach that all the prophecies of Revelation are already fulfilled, that we are currently living spiritually in the "new heavens and new earth" and denies a future bodily return of Jesus.*

What is the motivation behind this method of interpretation?

1. *A desire to move the time of tribulation described by the book of Revelation from the future into the past. This removes a major stumbling block to the view of Dominion Theology as embraced by Christian reconstructionists that all the world's institutions will eventually come under the sway of Christianity through the worldwide spread and progression of the gospel.*
2. *A desire to reinterpret the many passages in both OT and NT which speak of a future time of restoration and blessing involving the nation Israel as applying to the Church. Israel's rejection of Messiah Jesus is seen as an irrecoverable error necessitating the replacement of Israel by the Church as the spiritual inheritor of previous promises to Israel.*

The Danger of Preterism.

There are several dangers, but I will point out two that are major.

1. **It takes away God's ability to foretell of future events. Listen to the words of Tenney:**

"Preterism removes the capstone of God's written revelation. The last book of the Bible no longer includes information covering the entire sway of history through the physical Second Coming of Christ, but has largely spent its significance as a historical document

concerning events over 1900 years ago involving Rome and Israel. All that remains is a hazy notion that somehow the eternal state must be what we are experiencing on earth now."

2. **It is a teaching used by Satan to deceive those who will be left behind during the Tribulation. They will accept the lies of the Anti-Christ when he promises that things are going to get better.** Listen to Tenney's words on this thought:

"It is our conviction that Preterism is helping to lay the groundwork to undermine the predictions of the book of Revelation so that a future apostate Church lacks an understanding of the anti-Christ role it occupies prior to His return."

Let us now get to where we are going today. Last week we looked at the praise of heaven in Revelation 19:1-6 and we considered 3 points of praise:

- I. **God is praised for salvation.**
- II. **God is praised for judgment.**
- III. **God is praised because He reigns.**

This now brings us to the next point of praise.

- IV. **God is praised for the marriage of the Lamb.**

Notice Revelation 19:7-8

This marriage and everything connected with the Bride and Jesus Christ is all based upon the Jewish wedding. This is what I want to share with you today. The picture which we shall see will help us connect many verses in the Bible.

1. **The Betrothal and the establishment of the marriage covenant.**

In Jesus day this would take place when the bridegroom would take the initiative and he would travel from his father's house to the home of the prospective bride where he would negotiate with the father of the young woman to determine the price that was to be paid to purchase her. Once the bridegroom paid the purchase price, the marriage covenant was established, and the young woman and the man were considered to be husband and wife.

Matthew 1:18-19

¹⁸ *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

¹⁹ *Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.*

From this moment on the bride was declared to be consecrated or sanctified/set apart exclusively for her bridegroom.

Now as a symbol of the marriage covenant that had been established the groom and the bride drank from a cup of wine over which the betrothal benediction had been pronounced.

2. Preparation of a dwelling place.

The groom would leave his bride and he would go back to his father's house and it would be there that he would prepare a place for his bride and himself to live. He was usually gone for a period of 12 months. During this time the bride would prepare herself for the married life while the groom prepared the house.

3. The return of the bridegroom.

When the living place was prepared the groom would usually return at night for his bride. The groom, best man, and other male escorts left the groom's father's house and conducted a torch-light procession to the home of the bride. Although the bride was expecting her groom she did not know the exact time he would return. He would however announce his return with a loud shout, which forewarned his bride to prepare for his coming.

4. Return to the father's house.

After the groom received his bride, together with her female attendants, the enlarged wedding party returned from the bride's home to the groom's father's house where the wedding guests had assembled.

5. The consummation of the marriage.

Shortly after their arrival at the father's house the bride and the groom were escorted by other members of the wedding party into the bridal chamber. Prior to entering the bridal chamber, the bride remained veiled so that no one could see her face. While all others waited outside the bride and the groom entered the bridal chamber alone. There in the privacy of that place they entered into a physical union for the first time, thereby consummating the marriage that had been covenanted approximately one year earlier.

After the marriage was consummated, the groom came out of the bridal chamber and announced the consummation of the marriage to the wedding party members waiting outside. The wedding party then went to the wedding guests to announce the consummation and they all then remained at the father's house for the next seven days celebrating with a great wedding feast.

The groom however went back to his bride in the bridal chamber and remained hidden for seven days. After the seven days they both came out and her veil was removed so that all could see who she was.

A. **The Picture within the Jewish Wedding.**

1. **God the Father and His wife had a son.**

The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and He has come from the Nation of Israel.

Israel is the wife of God. This is exactly why the church cannot replace Israel for God would then be taking His daughter-in-law.

Jeremiah 3:14

*¹⁴ Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for **I am married unto you**: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:*

2. **Jesus left His Father's house to come to earth.**

Just as the Jewish groom took the initiative so Jesus willingly came to the earth which is the home of the bride for several purposes.

- a. He came to obtain a church, pay the price for her, and to establish a covenant just as the Jewish groom would seek out a bride and then establish a marriage covenant.

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

²³ For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

*²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the **new testament in my blood**: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*

The blood of Jesus Christ was the price that He had to pay for us.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

*²⁰ For **ye are bought with a price**: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

1 Peter 1:18-19

¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

3. We are now set apart exclusively for Jesus Christ.

The Jewish bride was set apart once the groom paid the price for her. She belonged to him and she was set apart solely as his. In the same way we that know Jesus Christ as Savior are set apart/sanctified exclusively for Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:25-27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Hebrews 10:10

¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

4. We are to drink of the Lord's Table periodically as a reminder of the New Covenant we are now part of.

The Jewish bride and the groom would drink of the cup of wine as a symbol the marriage covenant had been established so we are to drink of the Lord's Table as a reminder that Christ died to pay the price for us and the Lord's Table is symbolic of what He did for us.

1 Corinthians 11:24-25

²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

5. Jesus has returned to His Father's house to prepare a place for His church.

The Jewish groom would go back to his father's house after the covenant was established and there he would prepare a place for his bride.

In the same way Jesus was resurrected and has ascended to His Father and it is there that He is preparing a place for His bride.

John 14:1-2

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² *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.***

We are now in a period of separation from the Bridegroom.

6. Jesus is coming to gather His bride.

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² *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.*

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.***

Just as the Jewish groom did not know the time so it is with us. We do not know the day or the hour but just as the Jewish groom came with a shout so will Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶ *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven **with a shout**, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

¹⁷ *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Just as the Jewish groom was accompanied by male escorts Jesus will come surrounded by an angelic host.

7. There will be wedding guests waiting in heaven.

Just as there were wedding guests of the Jewish wedding waiting for the bride and the groom at the groom's father's house, so the Old Testament saints will make up the wedding party in heaven waiting for our arrival.

8. We, who are the Bride will be revealed after the Tribulation.

The Jewish bride and groom were hidden for 7 days in the bridal chamber and then she came out unveiled so to we will be hid in heaven and after 7 years of Tribulation we will be revealed to the world when we return with our Savior. This is the very event we find in this chapter.

Conclusion: This is what we have to look forward to and much more.