

"The Return of Jesus Christ"

Part 3

Revelation 19

Introduction: It has been 3 weeks since we have been in our study of Revelation and therefore we need a short review in order to grasp onto the context this morning.

We were recently looking at Revelation 19 which is a chapter that takes us from the darkness of judgment into the glorious light of the return of Jesus Christ to set up His Kingdom here on earth. This chapter opens with heavenly praise as the inhabitants of heaven understand the judgments are over and the Kingdom is about to be set up.

- I. **God is praised for salvation.**
- II. **God is praised for judgment.**
- III. **God is praised because He reigns.**
- IV. **God is praised for the marriage of the Lamb.**

Notice Revelation 19:7

The last time we were together we looked at how the Jewish wedding pictures the plan of God for the church.

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.

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.

In the same way Jesus came to earth and He paid the price for the bride. He died on the cross and His blood was the payment. He announced that He was establishing a New Covenant and His blood would ratify that covenant.

Matthew 26:26-28

²⁶ And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

²⁷ *And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;*

²⁸ *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

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.

John 14:2-3

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.*

4. Return to the father's house.

Once the groom claimed his bride they would return to the father's house where the wedding guests were assembled.

This will take place when the rapture takes place and the wedding guests in heaven will be the Old Testament saints.

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.

This will take place with the church in the events which we shall see in this chapter when the sky breaks open and Jesus returns to the earth with His bride.

I. The Apparel of the Bride

Notice Revelation 19:7-8

Here in verse 8 we see that the church is arrayed in fine linen clean and white and then we are told this is the RIGHTEOUSNESS of the saints. Now the idea here is that this is the RIGHTEOUSNESSES of the saints. Let me explain what this means.

When we rest our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ and we are saved we are covered in righteousness.

Before we are saved we have no righteousness of our own.

Romans 3:10

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

¹² *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

There is nothing righteous about us before salvation and there is nothing good in us before salvation.

Romans 7:18

¹⁸ *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

But when we are saved we are then made righteous.

Romans 3:22-24

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

When we are saved we are justified and that means that God removes our sins from our account and He imputes the righteousness of Jesus Christ to our account. So, we are given His righteousness. BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT IS REFERRED TO HERE IN REVELATION 19.

In Revelation 19:9 the Bible is speaking of the righteous acts of the saints. Let me show you another verse.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

It is these works that will make up the garments of the church. But there is more here to be considered.

Notice Revelation 19:7 again.

Here we see that the church will have made herself ready. Let me now show you something that is going to happen after the rapture.

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

All of the works of the believers will be tried by fire and when that Judgment Seat of Christ is over all that will be left will be those works that are pure. This will be the RIGHTEOUSNESSES of the saints which will make up our apparel.

Once the works are exposed to fire those that were done with the wrong motives and for the wrong reasons will be burned up and only the pure works will be left.

II. The Wedding Guests

Notice Revelation 19:9

This is the 4th pronouncement of blessing in the book of Revelation. There are 7 total.

Revelation 1:3a

³ **Blessed** is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein:

Revelation 14:13a

¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, **Blessed** are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth:

Revelation 16:15

¹⁵ Behold, I come as a thief. **Blessed** is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

The verse before us is the 4th blessing. This is a book of blessings. Here we see that those who are called or invited to the marriage supper are blessed.

But who are these invited guests? It cannot be the bride for the bride is someone who sends out invitations. Nor can it be the groom for he does the same.

Let me answer the question of who they are by looking at a few verses.

In Matthew 8 Jesus had a conversation with a Roman centurion and we can gather some insight from that conversation.

Matthew 8:10-12

¹⁰ *When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*

¹¹ *And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.*

¹² *But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

The children of the kingdom are the Jews who refused the invitation and so the invitation was extended to all the nations.

The invited guests that are blessed here are all those who have excepted the invitation. These will be made up of two groups.

1. **All the Old Testament saints.**

That would be people like Adam, Eve, Noah, Moses, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah and so on. These people will be resurrected at the end of the Great Tribulation and will enter the Kingdom with glorified bodies.

The believers who were alive from the day of Pentecost until the rapture are part of the bride. But those who died before Pentecost will be the wedding guests.

Let me show you what John the Baptist said.

John 3:27-29

²⁷ *John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.*

²⁸ *Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.*

²⁹ *He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.*

John would die before Pentecost and therefore he was not part of the bride, but he will be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

2. **All those who will be saved during the Tribulation.**

Revelation 20:4-6

⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

⁵ *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

⁶ *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

All the Old Testament Saints will be resurrected and be there as well as all the Tribulation Saints both who died and who survived. Some will be there with glorified bodies and some with natural bodies. There will be Jews and Gentiles at the wedding Supper.

Conclusion:

Can you just imagine what that gathering will be like? Have you ever attended a large wedding reception and you sit around and try to figure out who they are or who he is and how is he related and so on? At the Great Wedding Supper of the Lamb we will see all the Old Testament Saints. This celebration will last for 1000 years!

Remember the wedding picture? There is a wedding and then the consummation followed by the reception and then eventually they all go home.

Revelation 21:1-5

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

² *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

³ *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

And we will live happily ever after!