

Revelation 19:6-10 (New International Version)

6Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

7Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.

8Fine linen, bright and clean,

was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

9Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God."

10At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB- ARE WE READY?

INTRODUCTION-

We have been looking at the Book of Revelation which was the revelation that John was given on the island of Patmos regarding what was to happen which so far has included :

- 1) Letters sent to the 7 churches which represented different church ages with different issues (Chapters 2+3) where we are currently in the church age of Laodicea where we are neither hot nor cold
- 2) Throne and scroll and lamb (Chapters 4+5) with throne in heaven being central with awesome beauty and majesty with rainbow signifying God's mercy and 24 elders represent 12 tribes of Israel and 12 apostles symbolising Jew and Gentile believers and 4 living creatures representing qualities of God with majesty and power for lion and faithfulness for ox and intelligence for man and sovereignty for eagle and eyes indicating all seeing, Scroll which only Lamb who was Christ could open which contained judgements

- 3) 7 seals (Chapters 6+7) where symbolic with (1) white horse where white usually represent Christ where rider being Holy Spirit then (2) red horse being bloodshed and (3) black horse being famine then (4) pale horse with death then (5) martyrs which may be those of the tribulation then (6) earthquake and 144,000 sealed
- 4) (7) 7 trumpets where still a chance to repent (Chapters 8+9) affecting (1) earth then (2) sea with creatures then (3) waters and man then (4) light then with 3 woes (5) locusts with women's hair and lion's teeth torture or 5 months but not Christians then (6) horses and riders kill with plagues
- 5) Mighty angel being Christ and scroll with mercy and judgement and 2 witnesses representing Jewish and Gentile Christian (Chapters 10+11) and (7) heaven
- 6) Woman representing faithful remnant and child representing Christ and Dragon being the devil and Beast representing government systems and choosing mark and reaping with judgement (Chapters 12-14)
- 7) 7 bowls of wrath where God's wrath concluded where judgements where no longer a chance to repent (Chapters 15+16) (1) sores then (2) sea to blood then (3) water to blood then (4) sun burn then (5) darkness then (6) Armageddon then (7) earthquake -judgements concluded with sea of glass representing Holy Spirit with songs of deliverance
- 8) Great prostitute claiming to worship God but not and Beast being political system or organisation- Babylon the great with fall of religious and commercial Babylon (Chapters 17+18)

We now come to Chapter 19:6-10 which is a time of rejoicing with the wedding of the Lamb. According to Chuck Missler, it is the climax when Jesus comes to earth

So as this passage is about the wedding of the Lamb, what do we think of when we think about a wedding? Do we think of wedding invitations, flowers, beautiful clothes- wedding outfit, gifts, party, reception, dancing, celebrations, vows, service, expense? There is a lot of aspects within a wedding. It takes a lot of planning, a lot of preparations. A lot of thinking and organisation goes into a wedding. Who is to be invited? What sort of vows will we have? What shall we wear? How should we prepare our hair? What shall we eat? Are we ready for the wedding? Are we ready for the marriage?

PROPOSITION

We need to be ready for the return of Christ

INTERROGATIVE SENTENCE

How do we prepare ourselves?

TRANSITIONAL SENTENCE

According to Revelation 19, we need to prepare ourselves by wearing fine linen which were given to us which were the righteous acts

MAIN DIVISIONS AND TRANSITIONS

1) Wedding announcement-

With the announcement of a wedding, there is great rejoicing.

(6Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

7Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.)

In Chapter 19 verse 6, it says "Hallelujah For our Lord God Almighty reigns.". Hallelujah is a Hebrew word for praise God. Hallelujah occurs 24 times in Psalms and 4 times in the New Testament being in Revelation 19. There was great rejoicing for the wedding of the Lamb and the bride was ready. Who was rejoicing? It sounded like a multitude!! What celebrations! What rejoicing.

Who is the Lamb? As we have already seen in our study so far, the Lamb is Christ. In the Old Testament, lamb were used as a sacrifice to God for the sinner. Christ sacrificed himself for us on the cross and He is called the Lamb.

Who is the Bride? Israel is portrayed as the wife of Yahweh. In Ezekiel, Israel is portrayed as a harlot. In Hosea, God's love for us is shown as with Hosea who loved his wife despite her adultery so we are loved though unattractive. In Ephesians 5:25-27, it says "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless," (Ephesians 5:25-27 NIV. According to Ray Steadman, though the term "bride" is not employed, it seems to be descriptive of our Lord's bridegroom relationship with the church. So we, the church are the bride. It includes all the glorified and redeemed saints of all ages. Some consider both Israel and Gentile Christians

With the approaching of a wedding, we need to prepare ourselves.

2) Wedding Preparations

(7Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.

8Fine linen, bright and clean,

was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.))

In Verse 7, it says that "the bride has made herself ready," and in verse 8, it says that fine linen which were the righteous acts of the saints were given for her to wear. Does this mean that to get ourselves ready, we need wear fine linen- that is, do righteous acts? It says that the fine linen were given to us but it also says " the bride has made herself ready," It indicates that it is a gift and not earned. What do we have to do? We need to accept what God has done and follow Him and His word. Are we ready? What does our lives look like? Our lifestyle? In Matthew 25, it speaks about the virgins and the bridegroom and how some were ready and some were not?

(The Parable of the Ten Virgins

1"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.6"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'7"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out. 9" 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11"Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us! 12"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' 13"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.)

What will it be like for us? Think of our lives and lifestyles. What will God say when He sees us ?

We do our righteous deeds, and therefore it is fitting that heaven cry out: "The Bride has made herself ready." But we do not do them in our own strength. They are a gift from God—prepared before the foundation of the world that we might walk in them (Ephesians 2:10). And therefore it is even more fitting that heaven cry out, "Give God the glory."

Having prepared, then the wedding begins.

3) Wedding

What is the wedding? What is the purpose of a wedding? Is it not the vows? With a wedding, it is a special occasion where there is joy and celebration with the most beautiful clothes and gifts and food- always something to look forward to but what is the most important thing of a wedding? It is the covenant- the marriage covenant which is for the rest of one's life. The everlasting covenant made between the bride and the bridegroom? The church and Christ. What is this covenant? The covenant spoken of in the Old Testament was between God and Israel and many times they turned away and it is likened to that of the wife committing adultery. In Genesis, God made a covenant with Abraham and all his descendants which was renewed with Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai. This covenant we are entering into in Revelation is between us and Christ. It is an everlasting covenant. It is a permanent commitment. With us the marriage covenant- connected to Christ is to be forever. There will be such joy

According to John Piper, all of redemptive history for thousands of years has been aiming at this one thing; the final union of the Son of God and the people of God in glory forever and ever.

With a wedding, there is usually a meal. In this case in Revelation, it is a supper.

Wedding supper

9Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God."

This is the first of 2 suppers in Revelation 19. Blessed are those invited. In Matthew 8:11, Jesus says: "many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast [the wedding feast] with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven." Thus, Old Testament saints are part of the bride as well. It is a great honor to be invited to this wedding feast. According to John Piper, this invitation is the gospel which goes out to all men and women everywhere, in every age, inviting them to the wedding feast of the Lamb to be part of the bride of Christ. This links with the parable told by Jesus in Matthew 22 where a great king made a wedding banquet for his son and sent invitations out to certain ones but they refused to come which according to John Piper seems to refer to the nation Israel who rejected Christ and so refused to come to the banquet hall. The king sent his messengers out into all the highways and byways, and he appealed to anyone, good or bad, to come to the wedding feast, (Matthew 22:2-14). When many came he gave them wedding garments that they might be suitably clothed for the feast. This is clearly a picture of the great event we have before us here.

The Spirit of God has been calling men and women throughout the Christian centuries, and before that in Old Testament times, and now even through the tribulation period, inviting them to come and join this wonderful scene of the wedding supper of the Lamb. What a privilege it will be to see the great Bridegroom himself, and to be a part of his beloved bride, to share in the intimacy of fellowship with the Lord Jesus! Each individual member of that bride will be able to feel that the Lord himself is their peculiar possession.

It is almost impossible to describe adequately the beauty of this scene and to make it real to our hearts. What a wonderful, blessed thing it is to be invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!

So incredible is it that the angel adds, "These are the true words of God."

10At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

John is so moved by this that he falls down to worship the angel and is immediately rebuked. The angel says, "No, do not do that. I am merely another servant of the King. I am like you, one of those who bear the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!" And how do you do that? The very spirit of prophecy itself tells us how, for the angel adds, "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." All prophecy points only to Jesus. It is not designed to give us a calendar of the last days, though some read it like that. No, the spirit, the essence, of prophecy is to bear witness to Jesus. He is the central figure of all Scripture. It is not events which we are to focus on, but the One who brings them to pass, the Lord Jesus himself. Thus we are instructed here by the angel to focus our attention upon him. Worship but should not worship another person- only God.

According to John Piper, all the people of God are called to be filled with the Spirit of prophecy (Acts 2:17f.), and the Spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus (Revelation 19:10)—the testimony that Jesus is the Lord of the universe and that means Lord over every area of life.

CONCLUSION-

According to Revelations 19:6-10, we need to prepare ourselves by focussing on God and do what he wants us to do