

XI.2. Lambs to Rams: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

(The following is taken from “Unlocking the Revelation”).

Usually in a marriage ceremony the bride takes front and center. The focus is on her beauty and on how she is dressed in contrast to her bridesmaids. In this scene, although the bride is the focus, the Groom (*the Lamb*) stands out in prominence.

Rev 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.

- many waters- It is the voice of both the dead and the living saints in chorus (*not 12:10*).

- mighty thunderings- loud.

- Although God has always reigned, the fall of Jerusalem declared it (*17:17*). The reign also has to do with the victory of the Gospel.

- Omnipotent-

G3841 παντοκράτωρ pantokratōr *pan-tok-rat'-ore*

From G3956 and G2904; the ***all ruling***, that is, God (as **absolute** and **universal sovereign**): - **Almighty**, Omnipotent. (*Emp. added*)

- reigneth- the One(s) Who reign(s) consist(s) of Father, Son and Holy Spirit (*1:4, 5*).

God-(*4:11*) Father and Son-(*5:12, 13*) the Lamb-(*17:14*) Christ-(*19:16*)

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Rev 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.

- Babylon (*Jerusalem*) “is fallen” in 14:8 (i.e., “the end of Jerusalem and the Jewish state, and the removal of Judaism as the greatest obstacle to the expansion of Christianity from the path of the church”- Wallace). The Groom is Christ, His wife being His church who made herself ready (since Pentecost) via obedience to the ordinance of baptism: 6:11; Gal 3:27. In Mat 9:15 Jesus referred to His disciples as “the children of the bridegroom”, i.e., groomsmen. They were, as groomsmen do for the groom, making ready for the then coming marriage of the kingdom/church/wife of the Lamb which transpired on Pentecost (*Mat 6:10*). The church is here called Christ’s wife because she has existed since Pentecost; her preparation via “the washing of regeneration” (*Titus 3:5*). This marriage has to do with those being “added to the church daily such as should be saved” (*Act 2:41, 47*). This is the reason no one could number the “great multitude” of 7:9 (*how can you tally a number that is still being added to?*). See also 21:2, 9.

“The marriage union of Christ and the church is not a single act or thing. Every union of a believer with Christ in baptism is marriage to Christ, and is representative of the whole relation. This marriage occurs every time one is baptized into Christ, and therefore always in process and is continuous.”- Wallace

Read Mat 22:1-10; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:31-32.

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Rev 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.

- Mat 22:11-14; Rom 7:4- staying with the theme of martyrdom, as in 6:11 and 7:14, the bride here is **being** prepared by her adornment in fine linen.

- righteousness of the saints- overcoming the accuser “by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony” (12:11) since “all our [own] righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isa 64:6). This is the purity of New Jerusalem as opposed to the iniquities of the harlot (*Old Jerusalem- Rev 17*). Adam tried covering his nakedness with “fig leaves” but only through a sacrifice “did the LORD God make coats of skins, and [clothe] them” (*Gen 3:7, 21*), thus covering their shame (*see 1 Pet 3:21*). The same was done through the blood of Jesus (“*our Passover Lamb*”- 1 Cor 5:7).

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Rev 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.

- Those who are bidden to the marriage, and who respond to the invitation, are the fortunate ones (*unlike those who refused in Jesus’ parable concerning the same event found in Lk 14:16-24*).

Luk 14:16 Then said [Jesus] unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. 18 And they all with one *consent* began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. 21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being

angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. 22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. 23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

- How are we called to the supper? The invitation comes through the message of the Gospel: 2 Thes 2:13-14. We are married to Christ the moment we obey the Gospel through the immersion process (*Titus 3:5*).

- But that calling can fall on deaf ears.

2Pe 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure (*Gk.949- stable: -firm, steadfast*): for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

- John is assured of this beatitude (*blessing*) that God is true to His word (20:6).

XI.2. Questions

1. When will the marriage supper of the Lamb and His church occur? a) when Jesus returns to claim His bride the church; b) after the Judgment; c) each time a lost soul has been obedient to the righteous ordinance of baptism.
2. What is considered the “righteousness of the saints” a) filthy rags; b) overcoming the accuser; c) our works.
3. Who is the great harlot of Revelation 17? a) Rome; b) Bethlehem; c) Jerusalem.
4. What did Adam and Eve try to hide their nakedness with? a) fig leaves; b) animal skins c) wool.
5. In Luke 14 when the certain man made a great supper, what was the response of those who were bidden? a) they were all in attendance; b) they sent gifts; c) they all began to make excuses.
6. How are we called to the marriage supper of the Lamb? a) through the message of the Gospel; b) through a still small voice; c) individually through the miraculous calling of the Holy Spirit.
7. Can this calling fall on deaf ears? a) yes; b) no; c) not possible.
8. True or false: It is possible to fall if a Christian gives diligence to make his calling and election sure. a) true; b) false; c) the text does not say.

