

REVELATION

Marriage Supper of
the Lamb

(Revelation 19:7~9)

Ephesians 5:25-27: Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Revelation 19:7-9: "Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

As we go throughout our lives, we should aim to live a pure life before God.

1. Weddings in Biblical times brought great joy and celebration.



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A. Weddings typically began with an engagement period.

- ❖ Weddings were often arranged by parents, even when the children were young.
- ❖ The official engagement began when the bride-price was paid.
- ❖ Jacob worked for Laban in order to marry Rachel and Leah.

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A. Weddings typically began with an engagement period.

- ❖ Once engagement was officially begun, the couple was considered legally married, so a divorce was required for separation.
- ❖ In Matthew 1, Joseph and Mary were in this stage of engagement.
- ❖ What was the “bride-price” that Christ paid for the church?

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B. The public ceremony began when the groom went to the bride's house to take her to the wedding.

- ❖ During the engagement period, the groom would typically work on building a house for them, often adding on to his own parents' house.
- ❖ The bride would wait at her house until the groom came, but she would not know exactly when he was coming.

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B. The public ceremony began when the groom went to the bride's house to take her to the wedding.

❖ John 14:2-3: In my Father's house are **many rooms**. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

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C. After going to her house, the groom would take the bride to the wedding feast.

❖ This feast could last for up to a week.

❖ In Judges 14, the wedding feast for Samson and his Philistine bride lasted for a week.



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C. After going to her house, the groom would take the bride to the wedding feast.

- ❖ In the parable of Matthew 25, the ten virgins are waiting with their lamps for the groom to come.
- ❖ This parable pictures the guests instead of the bride, but the main point is still to be ready for the wedding feast.

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C. After going to her house, the groom would take the bride to the wedding feast.

- ❖ At the conclusion of the wedding feast, the actual wedding ceremony would take place.
- ❖ Vows would be exchanged, and the bride and groom would begin their married life together.

2. The identity of the bride

A. The bride clearly points to the New Testament church.

❖ Ephesians 5 tells us that Christ desires to have a holy and pure bride, and that is the picture we see in Revelation 19.

2. The identity of the bride

B. Where do Old Testament believers fit into this picture?

1. Some believe the bride includes all believers from throughout history.

❖ They often point to Old Testament passages that refer to Israel as the wife of God.

❖ When the Old Testament speaks of Israel as the wife of God, it is pointing out her unfaithfulness by turning to other false gods.

2. The identity of the bride

B. Where do Old Testament believers fit into this picture?

2. Some believe the wedding guests at the feast point to Old Testament believers.

❖ Revelation 19:9: And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”

2. The identity of the bride

B. Where do Old Testament believers fit into this picture?

2. Some believe the wedding guests at the feast point to Old Testament believers.

❖ John 3:29-30: The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. He must increase, but I must decrease.

2. The identity of the bride

B. Where do Old Testament believers fit into this picture?

2. Some believe the wedding guests at the feast point to Old Testament believers.

❖ Matthew 11:11, 13: Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he . . . For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John.

2. The identity of the bride

C. Either way, the main point is that those who are at this feast are blessed.

- ❖ This is a time of great celebration in heaven when Christ has fulfilled His promise to bring believers to heaven.
- ❖ Luke 10:20: Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

3. The bride is clothed in righteousness.

- ❖ Revelation 19:7-8: “Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

3. The bride is clothed in righteousness.

A. Scripture uses the idea of putting on clothing to represent righteousness.

- ❖ Sometimes the picture points to Christ's righteousness given to us in salvation (Philippians 3).
- ❖ At other times, the picture of being clothed in righteousness points to the practical right things we are called to live out (Ephesians 4).

3. The bride is clothed in righteousness.

B. This passage points to a tension in Scripture.

1. On one hand, God has given the bride the ability to live out righteous deeds.

❖ We are not sanctified in our own strength; we need God's help.

3. The bride is clothed in righteousness.

B. This passage points to a tension in Scripture.

2. On the other hand, the bride clothes herself.

- ❖ Revelation 19:7 also says the bride has made herself ready.
- ❖ All throughout Scripture, God tells us how to live and gives us commands to obey.

4. Revelation 17-19 draws a sharp contrast between the impure woman and the pure bride.

- ❖ The impure woman in Revelation 17 was dressed extravagantly in purple and scarlet with gold, jewels, and pearls.
- ❖ The pure bride is clothed in clean and white clothing.
- ❖ The great contrast between the two women points to their contrasting eternal destinies.

4. Revelation 17-19 draws a sharp contrast between the impure woman and the pure bride.

- ❖ Revelation 18:22-23: And the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more, and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and **the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more**, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- These realities should give us peace in our lives.
- John 14:1-3: **Let not your hearts be troubled.** Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- We should seek God's goal of being conformed to the image of Christ.
- Philippians 2:12-13: Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- As we go throughout our lives, we should aim to live a pure life before God.

NEXT TIME:

REVELATION 19:11-16

- The Appearance
of Christ