

LIFE AFTER LIFE: "A Marriage Made in Heaven"

INTRODUCTION

- **Revelation 19:1-10** describes the **royal wedding** between Jesus and His bride, the church.

Three Key Future Events:

1. The Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
2. The Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)
3. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:1-10)

- The Bible **begins** and **ends** with a wedding: every marriage has to have the wedding of Christ and His church in mind (Ephesians 5:32).

THE COMPONENT PARTS OF THE ROYAL WEDDING (REVEALTION 19:1-10)

1. The **PRELUDE** (v.1-5)
 - We note that **worship is the heartbeat of heaven** ("14 songs in Heaven" – Robert Coleman).
 - This is the only time in all of the New Testament where the word "*Hallelujah*" occurs – an echo of the Hallel Psalms (Psalms 113-118).
 - This passage should inform our worship now: **Defiance** ("we will not be part of Babylon") and **Devotion** ("we will be devoted to Jesus Christ").

2. The **WEDDING** (v.6-8)
 - This passage describes "a Niagara of praise" (v.6): "*like the roar of many waters*".
 - Verse 7 – "*Let us rejoice and exult and give him glory*": This is the moment according to Ephesians 5:27 where Jesus presents to himself the church without spot or wrinkle.

4 Stages of a Jewish Wedding:

- The **Selection**: Marriage was arranged in those days and the Father would choose a bride.
- The **Betrothal**: Something like engagement but more binding: a contract was signed.
- The **Presentation**: There is a processional where the bridegroom takes the bride home.
- **The Marriage Supper** or **The Marriage Feast**.

3. The **DRESS CODE** (v.8)
 - "The fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.": this is talking about practical righteousness, not positional righteousness.

"Has it ever occurred to you that at the marriage of the bride to the Lamb, each of us will be wearing the garment of our own making?" (Lehman Strauss)

4. The **GUEST LIST** (v.9)
 - This is the **Fourth Beatitude** out of **Seven Beatitudes** in the book of Revelation: "*Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.*"
 - Old Testament Saints and Tribulation Saints join at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

5. The **BRIDEGROOM** (v.10)
 - John is chastised for incorrectly worshipping an angel. The sin of idolatry is worshipping Jesus as something less than He is (Revelation 22:8-9).

Sermon Application Questions

November 24, 2019

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

“Corporate worship. . . is the declaration in the midst of Babylon that we will not be drawn into her harlotries, because we have found in God the satisfaction of our souls. . . worship is an open declaration to all the powers of heaven and to all of Babylon that we will not prostitute our minds or our hearts or our bodies to the allurements of the world. Though we may live in Babylon, we will not be captive to Babylonian ways.” (John Piper)

Pastor Philip taught us that worship is an act of **defiance**: a declaration that “we will not be captive to Babylonian ways”.

What was your reaction to this teaching? How should this truth inform the way that we worship Christ today?

2

Lehman Strauss has written, “Has it ever occurred to you that at the marriage of the bride to the Lamb, each of us will be wearing the garment of our own making?”

Think about this statement in light of **Revelation 19:8** – “*for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.*”

How does this truth cause us to evaluate the **gifts** and **opportunities** and **talents** and **circumstances** that we need to fulfill for the glory of Christ?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week’s sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

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 things, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:31-33

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

2 Corinthians 11:2-3

For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Revelation 22:8-9

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

Read Revelation 18:1-19:10 as one unit of thought. Consider the observation of J. Vernon McGee as you read this passage:

2

“[Revelation 19:1-10] marks a dramatic change in the tone of Revelation. The destruction of Babylon, the capital of the Beast’s kingdom, marks the end of the Great Tribulation. The somber gives way to song. The transfer is from darkness to light, from black to white, from dreary days of judgment to bright days of blessing. . . It is the bridge between the Great Tribulation and the Millennium.”

How does the truth of Revelation 19:1-10 **give hope** to a saint who is weary of this world?

How would you use this passage to minister to a saint who is struggling?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Pastor Philip taught us that there were **four stages** in a typical Jewish wedding (review sermon notes above).

Among these four stages, the church is currently in the “**betrotal**” stage.

1

Consider this truth in light of Paul’s statement in 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 – *“For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”*

How can you cultivate a **sincere and pure devotion to Christ** this week?

What are some **current threats** to your sincere and pure devotion to Christ?

2

“There is a real danger that unless we see Jesus in the pages of Revelation, we will worship him as he walked on the earth yesterday and not as he reigns in heaven today. . . We need the book of Revelation to save us from the sin of idolatry – from worshipping Jesus as someone less than he really is.” (Phil Moore, *Straight to the Heart of Revelation*)

Write out a personal prayer expressing your worship of the Lord Jesus Christ.
