

The Great Marriage

How Will It All End? This has been mankind's major question for centuries.

Look what happens immediately after the fall of the "Antichrist's Kingdom" and before the battle of Har-Megiddo.

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; ² BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER." ³ And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER." ⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" ⁵ And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bondservants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns." ⁷ "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." ⁸ And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:1-8)

Often when people think about the end of times there is an assumption that the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will happen AFTER the battle, but the battle of Har-Megiddo come until the 11th verse of this chapter.

In our western culture when a man marries a woman that woman becomes his wife at the end of the marriage ceremony.

But in the Hebrew culture, the woman was called the man's "wife" when they were **engaged**, and she became his bride **at the end of the marriage ceremony**.

The man is called "husband" **before and after** the marriage ceremony and the engaged parties are spoken of as being married, even though they are only engaged.

That is why we read, for example in Matt. 1:19 that Joseph is referred to as Mary's "husband", even though they had not yet married.

The marriage feast happened before the actual wedding ceremony ... sometimes as much as a week earlier.

We saw last week that when Babylon, the city of the religion of antichrist fell, the command was given to "Rejoice over her!" **Revelation 19 is heaven's response to that command.**

But the Battle of Armageddon has happened! ... Christ's victory has always been guaranteed!

The Great Tribulation comes to an end in this chapter and God chooses the picture of a marriage to illustrate that glorious moment when we become one with the Lord.

One day Jesus told a parable about the marriage of the Lamb and gave this admonition in **Matthew 25:13** "*Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*"

The shout recorded in **Matthew 25:6** "*...Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him*" is the call to the marriage supper.

Today I'd like to look at four truths about this great marriage of the Lord as we consider this great day and anticipate this wonderful time.

1. The Music will be Magnificent.

Stanza One: Hallelujah salvation and glory belong to God. They are saying "hallelujah" because that which was begun at Calvary has now been completed.

Stanza Two: Hallelujah, He has judged and avenged. The Lord's judgments are true and righteous and He has made everything right.

Stanza Three: Hallelujah He is our God.

Stanza Four: Hallelujah our Lord God reigns!

2. The bride will be Beautiful.

(Rev 19:7-8 NASB) ⁷ "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." ⁸ And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

The bride has prepared herself and been prepared for the wedding.

just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

²⁶ So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. (Eph. 5:25-27)

God will judge the false church, and now the true church will be presented to the Lord Jesus Christ. Right now, the church is only betrothed to Jesus; we are not yet married to Him.

The apostle Paul said in II Corinthians 11:2 *For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.*

The true church is the dearest object in all the universe to our Lord and Savior.

Do you want to be loved like only Christ can love you? Then you have to be part of the bride.

3. The Guests will be Glad.

(Rev 19:9 NASB) Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

More people than the bride will be present at this great marriage. These "non bride" saints will be those redeemed of all the ages who were saved before and after the church age. The Old Testament saints will be guests at this great marriage.

John the Baptist called himself a friend of the bridegroom. He was a friend, not the bride. Listen to what Jesus himself said in Matthew 11:11 *"Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

There is a sense in which the church is especially privileged.

At the wedding feast of Cana Jesus performed His first miracle by turning water into wine. The mater of the ceremonies said, *"Every man at the beginning sets forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now."*

4. The Groom will be Glorified.

(Rev 19:10 NASB) Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Unlike our weddings this one doesn't center on the bride it centers on the groom.

But who is this that John is worshiping? **It is not Jesus but the angel who is sent out to welcome the guests.**

Did John do the right thing? **No.**

The bible tells us plainly that there is one God and no one else is to be worshipped but God.

Do you know what the spirit of prophecy is? It is Jesus Christ.

So many people get overly concerned about the meaning of the "third toe on the left foot of some beast." Every detail is inspired and important, but don't miss the spirit of prophecy. If you read Revelation and don't come to know and love Jesus more—you've missed it.

How do we learn about Jesus Christ? Simply put—the Holy Spirit persuades us. *In Genesis 24 we read the story of Abraham's plan to get a bride for his son Isaac. Abraham sent his chief servant to get a bride for Isaac. Abraham was immensely wealthy, so he also gave his servant jewels and gold and silver to give to the bride.*

Do you remember what the servant said? He said, "How will I know who is the right one?"

The Holy Spirit brought Rebekah to him and confirmed that she was the one. This servant had to persuade Rebekah to leave her family and home to marry a man she had never met. That took some persuasion! And she went. Why?

Genesis 24:50-51 says, ⁵⁰ *Then Laban and Bethuel replied, "The matter comes from the LORD; so, we cannot speak to you bad or good. ⁵¹ "Here is Rebekah before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken."*

When Rebekah made her decision, Abraham's servant gave her the gifts. **Imagine the scene.** Abraham's entourage of travelers are on their way back to Canaan, and the servant looks over at Rebekah and sees her chin quivering a little, and tears in her eyes, maybe she is having second thoughts.

The servant stops the train of travelers and opens the box of jewels to place a necklace around her neck. "This is from Isaac," he says. "You will love him. He is wonderful." After a while, the scene perhaps repeats itself. The servant puts a ring on her finger and says, "Isaac wants you to have this. Isaac is so great and so wonderful. You will love him."

Isaac is a picture of Jesus, Abraham a picture of God the Father, and the chief servant is a picture of the Holy Spirit sent to bring the bride to Christ. When you give your heart to Christ there are times when doubts, fears, and anxiety will inevitably come. But when they do, the Holy Spirit will take a jewel from Jesus and give it to you. "You are going to love Jesus." He will say, "He died for you to have an inheritance with Him in glory.

1 Peter 1:8 says, "*Although you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.*"

Do you know why I love Jesus? Because of the **Holy Spirit of Prophecy**.

Your bible says in Genesis 24:63 in this account of Isaac getting a bride: *⁶³ Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming. Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel.*

When Rebecca finally arrived in Canaan, she had no difficulty recognizing her groom. And when Jesus comes, every child of His will have no difficulty recognizing Him.

In 1873 Horatio Gates Spafford wrote these timeless words in the hymn "It is well with my Soul."

And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

(Rev 19:11 NASB) And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

*A young man was learning to fly a single-engine airplane, and it was time to do the landing phase of his instruction. The instructor said, "Are you ready to go down?" He said, "Let's do it." So the plane began to descend. The instructor looked over at the young man, and he was cool and calm. There wasn't a sign of nervousness about him—no sweaty palms or biting of his lip. The instructor thought this boy will make a great pilot. The plane descended, and suddenly it hit the ground with a thud, bounced fifty feet in the air, hit the ground again and bounced off the runway where it finally stopped. The instructor said, "Son I have been teaching for a long time, and I believe that is the worst landing ever done by a student pilot." He replied, "Me? I thought you were landing the airplane!" Sometimes you have to wonder who is in control of this crazy world. **This is the answer:** God is in control, no matter what is happening or what we think.*