

## **Revelation 19:6-10; The Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

Scripture: Revelation 19:6-10

### **Introduction:**

We have considered the devastating fall of Babylon, and both the response of the world and the response of heaven to her fall. The world is utterly broken and full of mourning, because their whole livelihood, sustenance and hope were fixed in Babylon. And heaven rejoices because, in the fall of Babylon, God's glory is vindicated (no longer will the whore draw the attention of God's creatures away from God and toward herself), and those whose blood has been shed by the whore (the prophets, apostles and saints) have finally been vindicated.

This morning, before moving on to see the destruction of the two beasts and the dragon, we are given one final response of joy to the fall of Babylon, which calls the people of God to look forward in anticipation, to the great Wedding Supper of the Lamb, which is finally arriving. Babylon's fall not only brings about vindication, but it also ushers the people of God into that great celebration, which we have longed for, the great Marriage Feast of the Lamb, where Christ, the Bridegroom, will celebrate His victorious union with His Bride, the church. To be sure, this feast actually takes place after the beasts and the dragon are cast into hell (chapter 21), but the fall of Babylon brings the reality right to the horizon. It is the first major step that will quickly lead to the glorious event.

### **I. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (vs. 6-10)**

1) Verse 6: Perhaps, in response to the call of verse 5, all of the people of God, in heaven and on earth, respond with a mighty thundering voice (with the sound of a large waterfall crashing down on the river below), "Alleluia ('Praise the Lord')! For the Lord Omnipotent reigns!" The fall of Babylon; the fall of that wicked, materialistic world system, which deceived the world and detracted all attention away from the glory of God and toward itself, is now gone. The Kingdom of God; that kingdom, which began in the hearts of the people of God, which they lived out of, being in the world but not of the world, while the whore was alive and well, has

now visibly erupted on the scene of history! God's reign is now to be visibly realized! His Kingdom and all of its glory will rise out of the ashes of the fallen, destroyed whore, as that Kingdom, which alone is to last forever and ever and ever. It is the Kingdom of God, the Creator and rightful owner of all things!

"For, the Omnipotent"; the all powerful; the almighty; the all sovereign Ruler of heaven and earth, has emerged as the One who reigns forever and ever! No longer will there be a moment where His sovereign reign is ignored or unrealized. The once denied, shunned, neglected, ignored and even hated Creator, steps in, in the destruction of Babylon, to say, as it were, "This is all Mine and My will has been done!"

2) Verse 7: The glorious shout of victory and excitement continues, "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready!"

The great Marriage Supper of the Lamb has arrived; the Scroll given to the Lamb, who alone was worthy to open it, has found its fulfillment; let us be glad and rejoice and give God glory for bringing about the fulfillment of His glorious and gracious promises! Though we are undeserving, God has redeemed us and made us a glorious Bride; Babylon is destroyed, and the Bride, who was once fearlessly attacked by the whore, has prevailed, and she is now ready to celebrate her Marriage Supper with the Lamb, who purchased, protected, prospered and vindicated her!

3) Verse 8: "And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

Here, we are told that the Bride is arrayed in clean, bright and fine linen, which is the "righteous acts of the saints." Are we then to assume that we are somehow justified by our works? Does not this contradict the whole notion that we are clothed in the robes of righteousness, given us by Christ? Not at all. Remember, the general context of Revelation is dealing with the issue of "perseverance" and "standing firm in Christ." It is written to the seven churches of Asia, most of which, were already compromising in very significant ways. And so, the point here is to emphasize that fruit, which comes from our justification in Christ. In this context, the linen robes, are the visible results of our confirmed faith in Christ, namely, the

righteous acts that we do, not *unto* our justification, but *because of* our justification. We are always only justified by the shed blood of the Lamb, but that justification, in this imagery, is confirmed by the readiness of the Bride. We are ready, because we have persevered to the end; we have not compromised with the whore; we have stood firm in our faith, and all of these, along with our righteous works, done in Christ, are visualized as a glorious, bright, white, linen garment here. Again, this analogy goes very well with the general call of Revelation to overcome in Christ. Consider the contrast in the warning given in Revelation 16:15, and notice the emphasis on our obedience. [Note as well: It was *granted* them...]

4) Verse 9: "Then he said to me, 'Write: Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' And he said to me, 'These are the true sayings of God.'"

In view of a collapsing, dying, fading, soon to be utterly destroyed world system, the glorious hope of the saints comes to view, the celebratory wedding feast of the Lamb. And all of those who are invited to that feast; all of those who are washed in the blood of Christ, bearing the marks of that washing, in their own perseverance and overcoming; all of those who resist the temptations of the whore and stand firm against the physical threats of the beasts, are truly blessed! For, they will enjoy eternal fellowship with God and His Christ! No accomplishment in this world; no amount of power gained or wealth earned; no level of success could ever remotely compare to the joy that will be experienced by those who are called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!

And none of this is a pipe dream! Everything spoken about, concerning the finality and (3) judgment of this world system, and the glorious end of the saints, is absolute truth! For, these are the sayings *not* of man, but of God! God omnipotent; God omniscient; God eternal; God all sovereign; God Creator; God, whose will cannot and will not ever be thwarted!

5) [Read verse 10]

Seeing these visions of the fall of Babylon, and hearing the loud cry of the glorious wedding feast to be celebrated by the people of God, overwhelms John to the point that he falls down on his knees before the angel, as if to prescribe worship to him. The message is so glorious and powerful that John is sadly tempted to worship the messenger, forgetting that he is only a bearer of the message, and not the Author. And so, the angel rebukes John, reminding

him that he is only a fellow servant like John. All who bear the testimony of Jesus will have something glorious to proclaim, and must be careful not to become the object of worship because of the message. And so, the angel commands, "Worship God!" He is the Author and fulfiller of these great and glorious things. I am just a mouthpiece that is called to proclaim them. "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." The message of the Gospel; the message of God, belongs to God and no other. Far be it from any who are trusted with it; far be it from any who are gifted by the Spirit to proclaim the message...to rob God of that glory, by allowing people to attribute the glory of the message to the messenger!

### **Conclusive Thoughts**

1) Are you one of the "blessed?" Are you caught up in the luxuries and idols of this world or are you a stranger in this world; a pilgrim, looking forward to the great Marriage Supper of the Lamb? Where are your affections set? Are you seated in heaven with Christ or are you married to the whore of Babylon? Where is your treasure...for, that is where your heart is. Are you one of the "blessed?"

2) Note again, the danger of ever worshiping the message bearer, simply because they bear the message. We have to be careful with religious icons and preacher favorites...etc. Worship God!

3) Brethren, be encouraged....whatever you are going through or will go through, keep anticipating the great day of glory coming, when we sup with our Blessed Lord and Savior. Then, none of your present problems will matter. The road to glory is very, very difficult, which is why we are given words like "persevere, stand fast, overcome, press-on, resist, endure...etc." But the end is so near, and it is eternal! At the wedding feast, we will see and be like Christ! It will be a celebration leading into unending joy and glory!

AMEN!!!