

[1] Revelation 19:1-10 **1** After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “**Hallelujah!** Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, **2** for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” **3** And again they shouted: “**Hallelujah!** The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever¹.” **4** The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God², who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, **Hallelujah!**” **5** Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!” **6** Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “**Hallelujah!** For our Lord God Almighty reigns. **7** Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. **8** Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) **9** Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” **10** At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant³ with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.⁴”

[2] What’s in a wedding? Jewish marriage had three phases:

- 1. The Covenant.** This was signed by the parents. The groom’s family paid the agreed-upon dowry to the bride’s family. This began the “betrothal” —a stronger form of our “engagement”. It lasted about a year, during which time the groom prepared a home for his betrothed (see Jn 14:2-3). Joseph & Mary were ‘betrothed’ when she got pregnant (Mt 1:18-19, Lk 2:5, Mal 2:14).
- 2. The Ceremony.** The bridegroom & his friends went to the bride’s house at midnight, creating a torchlight parade through the streets. She knew the day of his coming, but not the exact time. She & her friends stayed ready to join the procession back to the groom’s home. See Mt 25:1-13 (bride’s friends), Mt 22:2-14 (king’s son). It was a time of joy and laughter (Jer. 7:34; 16:9; 25:10; 33:11 (Mt.9:15; Mk. 2:19; Lk. 5:34).
- 3. The Supper** – like the one in Cana, Jn 2:1-2. It could last a week (Gen 29:27-28; Jud. 14:10-12, 17.) They sang, drank wine, and made merry. It was a huge deal.

[3] The real wedding is that between the Bridegroom (Jesus) and his Bride (the Church).

- 1. The Covenant.** This happens when someone places their faith in Christ (**2 Cor 11:2**). The blood of Christ purifies the Bride (**Eph 5:25-33**) and the Holy Spirit is the seal (signature) of the purchased possession (**2 Cor 1:22, Eph 1:13**). The Church on earth today is “betrothed” to Christ, and, like the wise virgins in the parable, is watching and waiting for the appearance of the Bridegroom.
- 2. The Ceremony.** This happens when Christ comes to claim His bride and take her to the Father’s house - **1 Th. 4:13-18. John 14:2-3** *2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*
- 3. The Supper** John’s vision in Revelation pictures the wedding feast of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and His bride (the Church) in this **third** phase. It takes place in heaven between the rapture and the second coming (during the tribulation on earth). Blessed are those invited (pf tense) to this Supper – **V9**.

[4] Our Response

- **Say ‘Yes’ to Jesus.** Those who **refuse the invitation (Mt 22:2-14)** will not be allowed in, nor will those without wedding garments (fine linen), **Mt 22:11-13**.
- **Prepare for His arrival.** *I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. ~ 2 Cor 11:2.* The Bride is known by her purity and righteous acts (v8). We should not assume we’re part of the Bride if we have no righteous acts! **1 John 3:2, 3** - *But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.*
- **Rejoice, make merry, and celebrate!** V7 says to rejoice and be happy (cp Mt 5:11-12, 1 Pet. 4:12–13). VV6-8 says Heaven sounds like a roaring crowd; rushing water; thunder. **recording**

¹ See 14:11 – the smoke of their torment ascends forever; also 18:18

² Worshiped God – as in 7:11

³ All God’s people and angels are fellow servants – working for the same Lord and towards the same goal. Mt. 18:28ff.; 24:49, Col. 1:7; 4:7, Rev. 6:11.

⁴ Worship of angels is not good – Col 2:18. But it is tempting sometimes. See Rev 22:8-9.

NOTES & SCRIPTURE

Worship of Angels. John was tempted to worship the angelic messenger, but see Col 2:18, Rev 22:8-9. It is the Spirit who speaks the “true words of God” (v9b, 10). So don’t exalt the messenger, no matter how glorious he or she may be. Worship God. **John 15:26-27** **26** “*When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.*” **27** *And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.*

What of Israel? In Matthew 22 v.1-14 He spoke of the parable of the marriage of the king's son. The original invitees refused to come and in fact abused the King, so he killed them and brought in others to his feast. Besides this, OT saints are the friends of the Bridegroom (Jn 3:29). In the OT God is the Bridegroom of Israel (Hos. 2:16; Is. 54:6; Ezek. 16:7ff.); in the NT, Jesus is the Bridegroom of the Church - 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25ff., Rev. 21:2, 9; 22:17. In the Gospels Christ is the Bridegroom - Mark 2:19f.; Matt. 9:15; Luke 5:34f.; John 3:29.

Ephesians 5:25-33. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **28** In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— **30** for we are members of his body. **31** “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” **32** This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. **33** However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.