

The Kingdom of God #8: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

The book of Revelation is undeniably a difficult book to understand in portions, and it has inspired a large number of varying and often contradictory interpretations. It is meant to be understood however, and kept (1:3). The most difficult portions are probably chapters 4-18, which are largely focused on a time of great and terrible judgments on the earth, generally referred to as “the Tribulation”, a 7-year period spoken of repeatedly in both OT and NT, featuring the tyrannical and idolatrous world-rulership of “the Antichrist and his “false prophet”, inspired and directed by Satan.

Rev. 1:19 gives an overall structure or outline of the book - “Write the things which thou hast seen (chapter 1), and the things which are (chapters 2 and 3), and the things which shall be hereafter (chapters 4-22). “

For now we are going to skip to the end, chapters 19-22, which appears to take place at the end of the Tribulation.

Outline of Rev. 19-22

1. 19:1-5 – Rejoicing in heaven at the fall of “the great whore” (chapters 17-18)
2. 19:6-10 – the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
3. 19:11-21 – the Second Coming of Christ in victorious battle against the forces of Antichrist
4. 20:1-6 – the Millennium
5. 20:7-10 – Satan’s final rebellion
6. 20:11-15 – the Great White Throne Judgment
7. 21:1 – 22:6 – the “eternal state” (new heavens and new earth, the new Jerusalem)
8. 22:7-21 – concluding warnings, promises, and remarks

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

The Bible frequently uses the metaphor of marriage to describe God’s relationship with His people.

Isa. 54:5 – For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; the God of the whole earth shall he be called. (also 6-8)

Jer. 3:14 – Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: . . . (3:13-17)

Hos. 2:16-23 – will call God “Ishi” (my husband), not “Baali” (my idol-lord) . . . And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord.

Mt. 22:1-14 – the parable of the marriage of the king’s son

Mt. 25:1-13 – the parable of the wise and foolish virgins waiting for the bridegroom

2 Cor. 11:2 – I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

There will be an actual supper to celebrate the marriage of Christ to His bride, all true believers.

- By the context (19:1-10) and by the nature and number of attendees, it is apparent that it is in heaven.
- It would not seem proper to have the marriage if there are still Christian believers on earth, so the implication is that the rapture and resurrection of believers has already taken place.
- It is the marriage supper of the Lamb – He purchased a bride at the cost of his own life and blood.
 - Ac. 20:28 - ...feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood
 - Tit. 2:14 – (Jesus Christ) gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.
 - 1 P. 1:18-19 – redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, the spotless Lamb
- His wife hath made herself ready – not just a salvation experience, but being wholly consecrated to Him and allowing the Spirit to cleanse us from sin. For example, being free from the sins of Rev. 21:8.
- She is clothed in fine linen, clean and white (i.e., righteousness)
 - Ps. 132:16 – I will clothe her priests with salvation
 - Isa. 61:10 – he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom ... and a bride ...
 - Zech. 3:4 -... Take away the filthy garments from him ... Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.
 - The saints in heaven are consistently said to be clothed in white garments of fine and clean linen “which is the righteousness of the saints” (Rev. 3:4-5, 3:18, 4:4, 7:9-14, 19:8, 14)