

MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

SCOPE: This lesson details the Marriage of the Lamb. It explains the meaning and symbolism of this event. When we refer to the Marriage, we shall also include the Supper as well.

Rev 19:7-9

7 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." 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. 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." NKJV

- There is coming a marriage that will be unlike any marriage ever seen nor recorded. It is not just any two people nor entities.
- This goes beyond Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:18-25), Isaac and Rebekah (Gen. 24:59-67), Jacob and Rachel (Gen. 29:21-25), Ruth (Ruth 4).
- It goes beyond all these movie star and athlete marriages that are so extravagant.
- It's going to be eternal union between THE LAMB and HIS BRIDE.

WHEN WILL THIS MARRIAGE OCCUR?

- Revelation is a unique book in that it is one of the few that are written in a chronological order.
- This marriage is discussed in the first half of Revelation chapter 19. The saints are in heaven and it happens prior to the second coming of Christ.
- Immediately following the Marriage, the Bible says that Jesus comes to earth along with the saints behind him (2nd Coming).
- Chapter 20 explains how the devil is bound for 1,000 years and cast into the bottomless pit. So this event falls between the judgment Seat of Christ and the Second Coming.

WHO IS THE LAMB (BRIDEGROOM)?

There is no doubt that Jesus is the LAMB.

John 1:29, 36

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! NKJV

36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" NKJV

Acts 8:32-35

32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." 34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. NKJV

Luke 5:33-35

Then they said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but Yours eat and drink?" 34 And He said to them, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? 35 But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days." NKJV

WHO IS THE BRIDE?

The bride of God was the People of Israel. There are many scriptures that support this. The Bible says that He came to His own and His own received Him not. (John 1:10-11). The Bible compares the people of Israel to a harlot. (Ezekiel 16:35)

The people who have been baptized in the name of Jesus and saved during the time of Grace are the ones that make up the Bride.

2 Cor. 11:2

2 I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. For I promised you as a pure bride to one husband, Christ. NLT

THE LORD IS COMING FOR A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE

Rev. 19:7-8

7 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." 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. NKJV

The fine linen represents the just actions of the saints- Your just deeds and works for the kingdom of God.

The color white represents purity. God is coming for a holy church. Clean cups inside and out.

Eph 5:27

27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. NKJV

God is not coming for an ugly church. It has to be beautiful, clean, pure, chaste.

Matt 23:25-28

25 "How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! You are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy — full of greed and self-indulgence! 26 Blind Pharisees! First wash the inside of the cup, and then the outside will become clean, too.

27 "How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs — beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. 28 You try to look like upright people outwardly, but inside your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness. NLT

THE CHURCH NEEDS TO HOLD ON TO IT'S WHITE LINEN**Rev. 16:15**

15 "Take note: I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! Blessed are all who are watching for me, who keep their robes ready so they will not need to walk naked and ashamed." NLT

- We need to keep our garments. We need to keep our holiness. Don't let the devil strip us naked.
- Don't stop working for God and fighting for Him. That is your part of your clothing. Don't take it off nor let yourself be stripped.
- When the devil attacks people, one interesting thing he does is strip them of their clothes.

Examples:

Luke 8:26-30

"And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. [27] And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. [28] When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. [29] [For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.] [30] And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him." KJV

Acts 19:13-15

"Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. [14] And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. [15] And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? [16] And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." KJV

Genesis 39:12

"And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out." KJV

HOW IS THE MARRIAGE GOING TO BE?

In Biblical times, marriages were performed in 3 stages:

STAGE 1: BETROTHAL STAGE

Part 1- Find The Bride

- The father of the groom would sign a legal enactment before the proper judge pledging his son to a chosen girl. This was done when the couple was very young and sometimes even before birth. (Gen. 4:19, 6:2, 12:19, 24:67; Ex. 2:1). Sometimes the parents consulted with their children to see if they approved of the choice of mates being made for them. In New Testament times, Jewish leaders established a minimum age at which a marriage contract can be drawn up. The age was 13 for boys and 12 for girls (Youngblood)
- Love. In those times romance before marriage played a minor role. Teenagers did not marry the person they loved, they loved the mate they married.

Part 2- Dowry

- The next part of the betrothal stage was the giving of a dowry. A dowry is a gift or price for the Bride. This dowry sealed the marriage agreement. The bride price was not always paid in cash. It might be given in the form of clothing (Judges 14:8-20) or some other valuable item. Jacob gave Laban his service of 14 years. The most gruesome one was one demanded by Saul who asked David for physical proof that he had killed 100 philistines (1 Sam. 18:25).
- Jesus did not pay with money either but something more valuable than that. He paid with his blood. (1 Pet. 1:18-19, 1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- They were not paying for the bride, just expressing the worth of the Bride. What is the worth of the church is the Lord gave a sack of potatoes for us? How about an oil of myrrh? How about His Life!? That is how much we are valued in God's eyes. We are his special treasure (Ex. 19:5-6)
- The dowry also acted in form of compensation for the bride's father in his effort of training her and preserving her till her marriage. It was also for compensation for the loss of her service experienced by her departure from home.
- The length of this betrothal varied. Some people married the same day, but others had time elapse between the betrothal and marriage. Some people allowed a year elapse.
- During this time, the groom would begin making preparations for his marriage. He goes home and begins preparing a place in his fathers house for his bride.
- Jesus said "In my father's house are many mansions, I go a prepare a place for you..." (John 14) During this time, the wife prepares herself for the married life.

STAGE 2: THE WEDDING/PRESENTATION STAGE

- The day of the wedding, the groom and his friends would dress in their finest clothes and went to the home of the bride. In like manner, Jesus will be coming to the brides temporary home and taking her away to his house. Their friends sang and danced all the way back to the grooms house. There shall be much rejoicing in heaven.
- The bride would be presented to the Groom by the Groom's father. In this case, we shall be presented to the Lord Jesus when we get to heaven.
- It is said that the father of the Groom would present the bride to His Son. The Father of the groom would take the hand of the bride and put it in the hand of his son. This makes two believe that the Father and the Son are two separate persons. Where is the Holy Ghost in all this if they are all equal in importance. The following scripture will tell us that they are not separate.

Eph. 5:25-27

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church (His bride) and gave himself for it (His dowry), that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that *He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot of wrinkle or any such thing, but that it should be holy and without blemish.*"

- The bride was adorned with jewels and beautiful clothing (Psalms 45:13-15, Isa. 49:18) but it the Groom is always the center of attention. (Jesus shall be the center of attention.
- The bride was to stay at the Groom's house for the rest of her life. Praise God!
- Marriage supper of the Lamb is this particular stage.

STAGE 3: THE CELEBRATION STAGE.

- After the private marriage service was completed, the public marriage supper would begin. This usually lasted 1-2 weeks. This was determined by the wealth of the Father.
- It is believed that this celebration will take place during the Millennium period. It will be a celebration of 1000 years. (Willmingtons Guide to the Bible, pp. 830)
- Many guest would be invited to this celebration. It was in such a celebration that Jesus turned the water into wine.
- It is believed that the guests are the gentile nation that has been saved before Pentecost and after the rapture. It is also believed that the group would also include all saved Israelites everywhere. (Willmingtons Guide to the Bible, pp. 830)
- Music and dancing were major parts of the celebration. This going to be a time of rejoicing.

Romans 14:17

“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” KJV

OTHER SCRIPTURES THAT HELP DESCRIBE THIS MARRIAGE

The Bible is not specific in details of this event. But the Gospels do present some parables that might give us an idea of how it might be.

Eph 5:31-33

31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. NKJV

Matthew 22:1-14

“And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, [2] The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, [3] And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. [4] Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. [5] But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: [6] And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. [7] But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. [8] Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. [9] Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. [10] So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

[11] And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: [12] And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. [13] Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [14] For many are called, but few are chosen.” KJV

Other Reference Scriptures:

See also Luke 14:15-24

Ephes. 1:4

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:” KJV