

Part 12 The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:1-10)

I. GOD’S MISSION STATEMENT: TO PROVIDE AN ETERNAL COMPANION FOR JESUS

⁶I heard...the voice of a great multitude...saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸To her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹He said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” (Rev. 19:6-9)

A. Marriage of the Lamb – God's eternal purpose for His creation is to provide a family for Himself and an equally yoked bride for His Son as His eternal companion (Jesus’ inheritance).

⁹The LORD’s portion [reward] is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance. (Deut. 32:9)

¹⁷ That the...Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of...revelation...¹that you may know [experience]...what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...(Eph. 1:17-18)

B. His wife has made herself ready (prepared) – to walk in mature voluntary love and holiness. God has zeal in this hour to train and purify the Church on the earth as a Bride that is fully ready. This is glorious and terrifying that God would be zealous in His commitment to see that we are ready.

C. He granted her to be arrayed in fine linen—these are distinctive wedding garments that are given individually to each believer according to their behavior (acts of obedience). All saints receive the robe of righteousness because of Jesus’ death on the cross (2 Cor. 5:21; Isa. 61:10).

¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10)

⁴¹There is one glory of the sun...another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴²So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41-42)

D. The Bride’s garments will be comprised of different elements: glory, fabric, color, fragrance, etc.

E. A bride chooses her wedding garments with great care and love. This is different from the way that she chooses her other clothing. We will resist the temptation to sin (compromise), to quit (lose heart), to neglect diligence (laziness) because of love for Jesus as our Bridegroom God.

F. The wedding garments that we will possess forever are being formed now by our obedience that is done in the spirit of love. We are making choices now that we will literally wear forever. What we do now has impact far beyond our natural lives. Our choices before the wedding are preparation for the life of the redeemed after the wedding.

G. Lord God Omnipotent – God is praised for releasing His power to prepare the Church (v. 6).

II. THE CHURCH WILL BE FILLED WITH GLORY AT THE SECOND COMING (EPH. 5:26-29)

²⁶That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle...but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸Husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies...²⁹No one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church... (Eph. 5:26-29)

- A. In this passage, Paul gives us key details and defines what it means for the Church to be made ready at the time of the second coming. The Church will be so filled with glory, sanctified and cleansed, that she will not have *spots or wrinkles* (her garments reflecting her actions) or *blemishes* (her skin reflecting her inner life). The Church's mind, emotions, and actions will be radically cleansed while on earth before Jesus' coming. This is glorious and terrifying because the Church worldwide is far from walking in purity in this hour. What will make the difference?
- B. How will this glory be released in the Church? The causes of pressure on a compromising believer are 3-fold. They include Satan's rage, man's sin and God's zeal to discipline us for our good (Heb. 12:5-11). However, the means of grace that God prefers to use to cleanse the Church is His Word (v. 26) and prayer (Rev. 22:17), as we understand that we are cherished by Jesus; i.e., the Church must feed on portions of the Word that reveal His tender emotions for Her.
- C. God will release great grace on our private times in the Word as well as raising up vessels who will sing and proclaim His Word in great power so as to help transform the Church.
- D. Prayer, fasting, meditation on the Word, and obedience position our heart before God to freely receive. These activities do not earn us God's favor. *Analogy*: we put our cold heart before the bonfire of God's presence by seeking Him in the Word, in spirit and truth.
- E. We give our heart to God and receive from Him as we read Scripture in a way that creates an active dialogue in our heart with God. Scripture gives us the "conversational material" in our prayer life. We pray truths back to Him that exhort us *to believe* His Word by *thanking God* for such truths and by *asking God to reveal* them to us. We dialogue with God by praying truths back to Him that exhort us *to obey* His Word and by *committing ourselves to obey God* in the specific way set forth in a passage. As you pray-read the Scripture, make simple declarations of your resolve to obey the Word and *ask God to empower you to obey* particular truths.

III. THE NECESSARY 3-FOLD CRY OF THE BRIDE'S INTERCESSION

¹⁷The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"...²⁰He...says, "Surely I am coming..." (Rev. 22:17, 20)

- A. This age will end with a worshipping and praying Church in a bridal identity. This passage is the most significant, most comprehensive, and clearest end-time prophecy. It reveals to us what the Spirit is saying and doing. The Church, in unity with the Spirit, will be **anointed** with power, **engaged** in intercession, **established** in her bridal identity, and **effective** in the harvest.

- B. The 3-fold cry for God to come in power (Holy Spirit breakthrough).
1. ***Come NEAR US in intimacy*** (renewal or personal encounter): touch my heart
 2. ***Come TO US in revival*** (historic visitation of the Holy Spirit): touch our city with signs, wonders and apostolic authority until we see the habitation of the Lord established
 3. ***Come FOR US in the sky*** (second coming of Jesus): touch the earth
- C. God delegated the earth to the authority or domain of the human race (Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 116:15).
- ¹⁶***The heavens, are the LORD's...the earth He has given to the children of men. (Ps. 115:16)***
- ²⁶***Let Us make man in Our image...let them have dominion over...all the earth... (Gen. 1:26)***
- ⁷***You have crowned him [man] with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands.*** ⁸***You have put all things in subjection under his feet...He [God] left nothing that is not put under him. (Heb. 2:7-8)***
- D. Each person has a specific sphere of authority or domain entrusted to them by God that includes their inner man, ministry, finances, family relationships, and the geographic area they live in, etc.
- ³²***He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. (Prov. 16:32)***
- ¹³***We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us--a sphere which includes you.*** ¹⁴***For we are not overextending ourselves...as though our authority did not extend to you... (2 Cor. 10:13-14)***
- The kingdom...is like a man [Jesus] traveling to a far country [heaven], who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.*** ¹⁵***To one he gave five talents... (Mt. 25:14-15)***
- ¹²***A certain nobleman [Jesus] went into a far country...¹³So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, "Do business till I come." (Lk. 19:12-13)***
- E. Prayer is a covenantal way in which we open the windows to that which is under our domain (heart, circumstances, geographic area, etc.). Our prayers invite the Holy Spirit on a covenantal basis to come into the areas that are under our domain (inwardly and outwardly). Prayer provides the covenantal tracks on which the Spirit works. He comes in the measure that He is invited. The key of David and the keys of the kingdom operate by covenant with justice before God's court.
- F. The Bride will prepare a place for the coming of the Lord to dwell individually, corporately, and geographically, as she invites Jesus to come near us, to us, and for us (Ps. 132:1-5).
- ²***How he [David] swore to the LORD...,⁴"I will not give sleep to my eyes...⁵until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." (Ps. 132:1-5)***

IV. THE EXHORTATION TO ACQUIRE WEDDING GARMENTS

- A. We can buy white garments or acquire them in the ways that the grace of God teaches. They declare the measure of our love for Jesus in this life. Jesus wants to give us more white garments.
¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire...and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness [lack of garments] may not be revealed... (Rev. 3:18)
- B. Some will suffer the loss of their rewards while keeping their salvation.
¹⁴If anyone's work...endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. (1 Cor. 3:14-15)
⁸Look to yourselves, that we [you; NAS, NIV, RSV] do not lose those things we [you; NIV, RSV] worked for, but that we [you; NAS, NIV, RSV] may receive a full reward. (2 Jn. 8)
- C. God will wipe away all tears and sorrow after the millennial kingdom is completed.
¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth...there was no sea. ³I heard a loud voice...saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men...⁴God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying...no more pain..." (Rev. 21:1-4)
- D. Jesus exhorted us to watch (pray) as the way to keep our garments in the end-time pressures. We can keep our garments, however, some will lose the garments that they could have had.
¹⁵Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame. (Rev. 16:15)
- E. Believers can defile their testimony and lose some of their wedding garments by compromise.
⁴You have a few...in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments. (Rev. 3:4-5)
- F. John exhorts us to "now" abide in Jesus so we do not draw back in the shame of denying our faith at the second coming of Jesus.
²⁸Now...abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed [not shrink away from Him in shame; NAS, RSV] before Him at His coming. (1 Jn. 2:28)
- G. There will be people on earth at the second coming who will seek to celebrate the wedding banquet. "Friend" is the same term that Jesus used with Judas (Mt. 26:50). To bind him is to take him prisoner and cast him into darkness (lake of fire).
²The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for His Son. ³He sent out His servants to call those who were invited to the wedding...⁴saying, "Tell those who are invited, 'I have prepared my dinner...all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'..."¹¹When the king came in...he saw a man who did not have on a wedding garment.¹²He said to him, "Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?" He was speechless.¹³The King said, "Bind him...and cast him into outer darkness..." (Mt. 22:2-4, 11-14)