

Chapter 19

'The Marriage of the Lamb' & 'Battle of Armageddon'

We now come to one of the great prophetic events recorded in Scripture - the 'Second Coming of Christ to Earth'. The chapter opens with heavenly shouts of 'Hallelujah', and ends with the opening of the 'mouth of hell' to receive the ungodly.

- Two 'Great Suppers' are mentioned: (1) 'Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and (2) the Cannibalistic Feast of carrion (dead and putrefying flesh) after the Battle of Armageddon.
- 'After these things' (v.1). After the destruction of 'Mystery Babylon' (apostate world religious system) and 'Literal Babylon' (world economic system) recorded in Rev.17,18 - John hears the voices of a great multitude in heaven shouting 'Alleluia' (mentioned four times in the N.T., and all in the first six verses of this chapter).
- In Rev.18:20, at destruction of literal Babylon, all heaven was told to 'Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy Apostles and Prophets; for God hath avenged you on her'. Here, in v.1, we hear the rejoicing.
- There are two 'Hallelujah Choruses':
 - A. Heaven's joyous celebration over the destruction of Mystery Babylon, the Harlot Church (vs.1-5).
 - B. The announcement of the 'Marriage of the Lamb' to His bride (vs.6-8).
- When the 'Seventh Trumpet' sounded (Rev.11:15), a great voice exclaimed, 'The kingdoms of this world is become our Lord's and his Christ'. **Note:** This speaks of the sovereignty, the rulership, and the kingly dominion (government) of the world. Think about it: For some 2000 years the saints have prayed: 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven' (Matt.6:10). Now, the time has come, and there is much rejoicing. All has been fulfilled. Christ is prepared to rule His kingdom.

I. 'The Marriage of the Lamb is come' (v.7). Notice: It does not say the 'Marriage of the Bride', but the 'Marriage of the Lamb'. This wonderful event is not so much the consummation of the hopes of the bride, but that of God's plan for His Son, arranged before the foundation of the world.

- 'His wife hath made herself ready' (v.7). She is arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, which is the righteousness of saints. Remember, 'All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags' (Isa.64:6). Too, the 'wedding garment' is used but once. Afterwards, we will be clothed with the righteousness of Christ throughout eternity.
- Questions concerning the 'Marriage of the Lamb':
 - A. Where does this 'marriage' take place? (According to v.1, it takes place in heaven.)
 - B. When does it take place? (After the saints have appeared before the 'judgment seat of Christ' for rewards, and after the destruction of both 'Mystery' and 'Literal Babylon', as mentioned in v.1 above.)
 - C. Who is the 'bridegroom'? (Christ the 'Lamb', our Savior.) In Jn.3:29, John the Baptist spoke of Christ as the bridegroom, and of himself as 'the friend of the bridegroom'.
 - D. Who is the 'bride'? There are many and varied opinions.
 - a. Israel, because she is called 'wife' in Rev.19:7. And in the O.T., God calls Himself the husband of Israel (Isa.54:5).

- b. 144,000 Jews that were sealed in Rev.7.
 - c. She is composed of all the saints from Abel until the church is raptured.
 - d. A certain denomination. (Not sure of which denomination that might be.)
 - e. A portion of the N.T. Church; those baptized in the Holy Ghost.
 - f. Dake says, 'the holy city, new Jerusalem' (which is 'prepared as a bride adorned for her husband') is actually the 'bride' (Rev.21:9,10). And all who go to live in the holy city make up the bride, which includes the O.T. saints, the N.T. church, the 144,000 sealed Jewish evangelists of Rev.7, and those saved during the 7-year tribulation.
 - g. The 'Christian Church', which includes all believers from Day of Pentecost until they are caught out at the rapture. (I agree.)
- E. What is the 'marriage supper'?
- a. Some believe it to be the 'millennium'.
 - b. It is the 'feast', or 'wedding reception', that follows after the marriage has been solemnized. What might be served remains unknown.
- F. Who are the guests?
- a. Some believe O.T. saints, including John the Baptist.
 - b. The multitude saved during the tribulation, after the Church was caught out. This includes the 144,000 sealed Jews of Rev.7.

Note: There will be great honor and blessing for those called to the supper. Too, angels will be present, but not as guests. They will be spectators.

- John fell at the feet of the angelic messenger to worship him, but was told, 'See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant' (v.10). To many, this proves the messenger was a redeemed man rather than an angel.
- Pulpit Commentary says, 'John was so overwhelmed with the tremendous character of the revelation just made to him, that in his humility he pays undue reverence to the angel who had communicated it to him. This reverence may not have been exactly of the nature of that which he would render to God; but it is evident, from the reproof of the angel, that it was more than could be becomingly and safely paid to a created being'.

II. The Second Coming of Christ to earth (vs.11,12).

- The white horse, on which He rides, is the animal of warfare. When Jesus was on earth He rode into Jerusalem upon an ass, which, though an animal of kings, denoted peace, not war' (McGee).
- In Rev.6:2, the Antichrist is riding a white horse symbolically in his efforts to take over the world. But he will fail in his efforts. Here, Jesus rides a white horse as He who is 'Faithful and True', coming to judge and make war. But, unlike Antichrist, Jesus will not fail.

III. Battle of Armageddon - takes place immediately upon the Lord's return to earth. This has been discussed in Chapter 14.

- Since Jesus is 'The Word of God', He will speak, and the nations of the world will be smitten. **Note:** It will definitely not be prolonged; nor will it be some type of limited nuclear warfare, as some have suggested.
- Jesus Christ will be the Commander-in-Chief of all the heavenly armies. His vesture will not only be dipped in blood, but on it will be the title 'KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS'.

- When He came the first time, He was ridiculed, rejected, laughed at, spit upon, beaten, and crucified. But when He comes the second time without sin unto salvation, it will be to judge the nations, to establish truth and justice, and to make war against evil. And He will be 'victorious'!
- This is the event for which the faithful of all generations have waited.

IV. Doom of the Beast and of the False Prophet (v.20).

- Inasmuch as the Antichrist and False Prophet are mortal men, some believe they will be killed at Armageddon and then be resurrected and cast into the eternal 'lake of fire'. (They base their belief on Dan.7:11) (I disagree.) **Note:** Dan.7:12 mentions 'the rest of the beasts'. This speaks of the 10 kings that make up the 7th anti-God and anti-Jewish world kingdom, represented in Nebuchadnezzar's dream of Dan.2:42 by ten toes.
- According to v.20, 'These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone'.