

Revelation 19
The Marriage Supper
Bible Study Notes

*'And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: The kingdom of heaven is like **a certain King** who arranged **a marriage for his Son**'*

Matthew 22:1,2

In our last study notes on **Revelation 17 & 18**, we looked at the fall of **Babylon**, which is comprised of the 3-fold alliance of the 'Great Harlot', the 'False Prophet' and the 'Kings of the earth', i.e., The fallen systems of Christianity uniting with the state (government), led by the system of Roman Catholicism in conjunction with Apostate Protestantism and the leaders of this world.

We noticed that **Revelation 17** covers the fall of the 'religio-political' aspect of Babylon, whereas **Revelation 18** dealt more with the commercial and financial aspect of Babylon.

In this study we will notice that **Revelation 19** is split into two parts, namely: **vs.1-9** which deals with the 144,000 praising the Lord for His judgement upon Babylon as well as the 'marriage supper of the Lamb' and **vs.11-21** which goes back in time to the first part of the chapter, to focus on the deliverance of God's people, both the 144,000 and the 'dead in Christ' at the Second Coming of Jesus, as well as the destruction of the wicked at the battle of Armageddon.

It will also be helpful for the reader to note that **Revelation 19:1-9** is also paralleled with **Revelation 14:1-5**, **Revelation 7:9-12** and **Revelation 15:2-4**. These three passages must all be read together to get a broader understanding of the context.

Commentary on vs. 1-9

vs.1-2

*'After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honour and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are **His judgments**, because **He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.**'*

Continuing the subject of **Revelation 18**, the apostle here introduces the song of triumph [the *song of Moses & the Lamb*, **Revelation 15:3-4**] which the redeemed saints strike up on their harps when they behold the complete destruction of the system of great Babylon, which is in opposition to God and His true worship. This destruction takes place, and this song is sung in connection with the Second Coming of Christ at the beginning of the thousand years, **Revelation 19:11-21**, **Revelation 20:2,7**.

*'This great multitude is composed of **the end time generation** [144,000] who have lived without an intercessor during the outpouring of the seven last plagues. At this point they have been delivered from the harlot and they stand victorious in heaven. **As we see in verse 2, the multitude is praising God because the Babylonian harlot has been judged and the spilt blood of the martyrs has been avenged.** This proves that the events of Revelation 19:1-9 occur after the events of Revelation 19:11-21 and not before.'* **Pastor Stephen Bhor**

Speaking of the great multitude John declares:

*'And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the **victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name [the great multitude]**, standing on the sea of glass, **having harps of God**. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ... Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For **Your judgments have been manifested.**' **Revelation 15:2-4***

*'After these things I looked, and behold, **a great multitude** which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!**"' **Revelation 7:9-10***

Notice the similarities between **Revelation 19:1**, **Revelation 15:2-4** and **Revelation 7:9-10**. The Apostle John here is referring to the same group of people in each case, the 144,000, that end time faithful generation who shall be alive when Christ returns.

The Harlot has been judged and God has avenged the blood of His servants which was shed by her. (Compare **Revelation 6:9-11; 17:6; 18:20, 24; Daniel 7:21, 25; 11:44**)

vs.3-4

*'Again, they [the 144,000] said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up **forever and ever!**" And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"*

Here we see that the smoke of Babylon shall '*rise up **forever and ever***'. This is the same description we see of Satan at his destruction when he is cast into the lake of fire & brimstone, where it is said that he '*shall be tormented day and night **forever and ever.***' **Revelation 20:10**

The same word in the original Greek is used here **AION**.

Does this entail that both the smoke of Babylon as well as the destruction of satan and all the wicked shall continue '**forever and ever**'?

No, we are not to understand this to mean that these events shall be continuous, the wicked and the devil shall not be burning **forever and ever**, day and night.

Says the prophet Malachi, '*For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly **will be stubble**. And the day which is coming shall **burn them up**,*' Says the LORD of hosts, "**That will leave them neither root nor branch.**' **Malachi 4:1**

Satan is the root; his followers are the branches.

Ezekiel is also in harmony with this. Speaking of the destruction of satan he says:

*'Therefore, will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and **I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth** in the sight of all them that behold thee...'* **Ezekiel 28:18**

Also, Isaiah tells us that a new heavens and a new earth shall be created and all shall be made new.

'For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me,' says the LORD...' **Isaiah 66:22**

So then, Scripture is quite consistent when it says that all the wicked shall perish and there shall be a new creation. Therefore, we must then understand that the wicked as well as the devil shall not be burning **forever and ever**, in our contemporary sense of understanding the term to mean *into eternity*.

In the Hebrew mindset, the phrase **forever and ever** refers to **the consequences** of something or some event. Just as we are told in **Jude 1:7**, that Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities suffered the vengeance of **eternal fire** at the hands of God so, the Harlot of Babylon and all the wicked who united with her shall be destroyed and shall suffer the vengeance of **eternal fire**. That is, the consequence for the unrepentant's wickedness and satan's and his follower's rebellion, is that they shall be destroyed **forever and ever**, never to rise again. The punishment for their sins is an eternal destruction, never to rise again.

vs.5-6

*'Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "**Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!**" And I heard, as it were, **the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"***

Those who have been redeemed from among men are admonished to lift up their voices in adoration and praises to the Creator. Their voices sound like the sound of many rushing waters and mighty thunderings. In their praises to the Creator their sing a new song before His great white throne, a song no man could learn but those who gained the victory over the beast and his mark and over his name and over the number of his name. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God and of the Lamb, a song of deliverance from their oppressors. **Revelation 14:2,3; Revelation 15:2,3; Revelation 20:11; Exodus 15:1-21**

vs.7-8

*'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.'* 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.'**

From the Old Testament to the New Testament, those in a covenant relationship with God have always been referred to as **a faithful bride**. We see in the Old Testament that the nation of Israel [**the Old Testament Church**], when it was in apostasy and turned to idolatry was referred to as a *prostitute/harlot*. When Israel was not in apostasy but faithfully seeking God then she was referred to as *'a comely and delicate woman.'* **Jeremiah 6:2**

In the New Testament we see that God's Church is referred to as His Bride clothed with the sun having a crown of twelve stars on her head and in addition to this, the Church which is rife in apostasy and idolatry is referred to as a harlot, who is decked in gold and precious stones, clothed in purple and scarlet.

Revelation 12 & 17; Ephesians 5:25-32

Therefore, at the Second Coming of Jesus, the marriage between Jesus and His faithful, redeemed Church has now been completed. Those righteous saints from Adam down to the very last repentant sinner have received their reward of eternal life through Christ Jesus and shall be clothed in fine, white linen. This linen symbolises the purity, holiness and righteousness of the redeemed Church which was imputed to them by Christ Jesus.

Leviticus 16:4, 6:10; Zechariah 3:3-5.

Christ has now married His faithful Church.

'I have likened the daughter of Zion to a lovely and delicate woman' **Jeremiah 6:2**

'I will betroth [engage] you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy, I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the LORD'

Hosea 2:19-20

'For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.' **2nd Corinthians 11:2**

For even more vivid imagery on the Church in both its pure state and its apostate state, read the entire chapter of **Ezekiel 16** and see how God describes the nation of Israel.

vs.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."*

The full number of the kingdom of heaven has been made up. Says the prophet Zechariah about the last days:

'And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die [the wicked], but one-third shall be left in it [the faithful saints].

I will bring the one-third through the fire [tribulation], Will refine them as silver is refined [purified], And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name [worship], And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people' [the Bride of Christ]; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God [Christ, the Bridegroom].' "

Zechariah 13:8-9

Again, it is recorded in the Book of Luke the following:

*'Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God [at the marriage supper of the Lamb]!' **Luke 14:15***

*'The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king [the FATHER] who arranged a marriage for his son [the SON]...' **Matthew 22:2***

In order for us to take part in the marriage supper, we must be married to Christ in Spirit and in truth. We must, by God's grace, pass through the fire of affliction, that we may be purified and made spotless. Our sins must be

forgiven, and we must be washed by the cleansing blood of the Lamb. Our names must be found in the Lamb's Book of Life who was slain from the foundations of the world.

We must have gotten victory over the beast and his mark, over his name and over the number of his name and then, and only then, will we receive the righteous linen garments that will qualify us to partake of the marriage supper.

*'But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw **a man there who did not have on a wedding garment**. So, he said to him, 'Friend, **how did you come in here without a wedding garment?**' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

*"For many are called, but few are chosen." **Matthew 22:11-14***

vs.10

*'And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "**See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."***

We see here that John attempted to bow down to worship the angel who was giving the message to him, however, immediately, the angel condemns this because just like John and all of us who profess the name of Christ, the angels are also worshippers of the one true God. We are all His created beings.

This plainly condemns the practice of those who worship the saints and the angels, as we see in the Roman Catholic system as well as in other protestant denominations. Worship belongs to the one true God and Him only.

Says the first angel, "*Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and **worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.**" **Revelation 14:7***

We are to worship God for He is the one true God, and the creator of the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

We see that the Remnant Church in the last days, of which the dragon shall be wroth with and seek to destroy, shall possess the testimony of Jesus Christ. They are those who keep and obey all the commandments of God and have the spirit of Prophecy among them.

*'And the dragon was wroth with the woman and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, **which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**' **Revelation 12:17***

Commentary on vs. 11-21

vs.11-14

*'Now I saw **heaven opened**, and behold, a **white horse**. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and **in righteousness He judges and makes war**. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were **many crowns**. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. **He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood**, and **His name is called The Word of God**. And **the armies in heaven**, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, **followed Him on white horses**.'*

It is at this part in the chapter, that John goes back to the time before the great multitude in Heaven are redeemed and are celebrating their deliverance, to the actual time of their deliverance and the destruction of the wicked.

*'The heavens depart as a scroll when it is rolled together', **Revelation 6:14**, and The Son of Man is seen in the clouds coming in great glory and power. The time of retribution has come, and each man shall receive his reward, the righteous to everlasting life and the wicked to eternal destruction.*

*In righteousness Christ executes His judgements upon those who are alive at His Second Coming. He is not coming again to bear the sins of the world but to save His people who have been faithful unto Him, both the dead in Christ, and the righteous who are "alive and remain". **Hebrews 9:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17***

*He comes also with the multitude of His angels 'to execute judgement upon all' and all the 'ungodly' shall perish, while the saints shall be translated into their new immortal & incorruptible bodies 'to meet the Lord in the air' and ever 'be with the Lord'. **Jude 1:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53***

*His angels 'shall gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.' **Matthew 24:31***

*The many golden crowns upon His head shows His dominion, for 'the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever.' **Revelation 11:15; Psalm 132:18***

In the day of His vengeance, He shall slay the wicked and His robe will be as one dipped in blood. He shall tread down the wicked and make them drunk in His fury and will bring down their strength to the earth.

Notice what the prophet Isaiah under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says about the destruction of the wicked at the 2nd Coming of Jesus.

*'Who is this who comes from Edom, with **dyed garments** from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?—*

"I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

Why is Your apparel red and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

"I have trodden the winepress alone and from the peoples no one was with Me.

For I have trodden them in My anger and trampled them in My fury.

Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes.

*For the day of vengeance is in My heart and the year of My redeemed has come.' **Isaiah 63:1-4***

And again, the prophet Joel speaks thus about the same event.

*'And the LORD shall utter his voice before **his army**, for **his camp is very great**:*

For he is strong that executeth his word, for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible and who can abide it?

Joel 2:11

See also **Zephaniah 1:14-18**.

vs.15-16

'Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.'

The wicked shall be destroyed with a 'sharp sword' which shall proceed out of the mouth of the Messiah.

That sword is 'the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.' **Ephesians 6:17**

As He spoke in the beginning and the world came into existence, so shall He speak and the wicked shall be destroyed.

'Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' **Psalms 2:8-9**

The angel shall thrust his sickle into the field of the world and shall gather all the wicked. As the farmer gathers the clusters of the grapes and throws them into the winepress so shall the wicked be thrown into the winepress of the wrath of God, where the winepress shall be trampled outside of the city. The faithful saints shall make up the New Jerusalem, the City of God. All those found outside of the city shall perish. **Revelation 14:19-20; Matthew 13:38; Revelation 22:14-15**

Jesus is soon to come again, not as 'the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world' **John 1:29**, but as the '**KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**'

vs.17-18

'Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

This verse is a direct parallel to that in **Ezekiel 39:17-19** where we see that at the destruction of the wicked, all the birds of the air shall feast on their flesh. It shall be a great sacrifice; they shall eat them till they are full, all them that are not clothed in the clean linen garments but rather are clothed in 'filthy garments', and 'strange apparel.'

Zechariah 3:3-5; Zephaniah 1:8

At this point the birds are only gathered to the angel for the supper. It will not have its fulfilment until the wicked are destroyed.

vs.19

'And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.'

In **Revelation 16:13-14** we see that satan's evil angels will go out to deceive the masses and by this deception, they shall reject the message of salvation and by implication they shall wonder after the beast and shall receive its mark. They are thus fully gathered on the side of the enemy to take part in the battle of Armageddon, which occurs at the 2nd Coming of Christ.

They shall all be of one mind for they are all '*gathered together*' which here denotes a '**oneness**' or a '**union**'.

In **Revelation 19:19**, we see the actual fulfilment of the battle of Armageddon. Those who have remained faithful unto death in Christ Jesus shall be protected as God protected His people during the plagues of Egypt but those who have rejected salvation in Christ and were persecuting God's people during the time of Great Tribulation shall be utterly laid waste. This battle is not one in which the wicked have even a chance of victory for by the word of God, they shall perish, for '*out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword that with it, He shall smite the nations.*' **verse 15**

vs.20-21

*'Then **the beast** was captured, and with him **the false prophet** who worked signs **in his presence [on his behalf]**, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. **These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.** And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.'*

The wicked are now destroyed; first **the beast** (*the Roman Catholic system led by the Pope of Rome*) and **the false prophet** (*the apostate leaders & ministers in the fallen churches*). They have led the entire world into darkness and have deceived all of the nations into worshipping the dragon, which is satan.

'So, they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast...' **Revelation 13:4**

We see in **Revelation 20:14**, that **the lake of fire** is reserved for the second death after the period of 1000 years, however, because of the grave wickedness of the beast and the false prophet, their destruction does not come after the 1000 years, but immediately at the Second Coming.

Next the rest of the wicked shall perish by the sword, which proceeds out of the mouth of Christ, that is, His word.

He shall speak and they shall perish and the fowls of the air which were gathered to the angel in **verse 17-18**, shall now feed on their flesh at the great sacrifice.

The cry of the wicked shall be great in that day, they shall hide themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains but to no avail. **Revelation 6:15-16**

The great day of God's wrath has come and who shall be able to stand? **Revelation 6:17** Only those who have made a covenant with God through His Son Jesus Christ. Only those who have, by God's grace gotten victory over sin and are found with no guile in their mouth, they shall be without fault before the throne of God. They have allowed God to write His Law upon their hearts and their minds in total surrender to Him and have been transformed into His character through His Son, Jesus Christ. **Revelation 14:5; Hebrews 8:10**

They have gotten the victory over the beast, over his image, over his mark and over the number of his name and they shall receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to them that love Him. **Revelation 15:2; James 1:12**

It is now at this time that the events of **Revelation 19:1-9** take place.

The harvest of the earth is soon to take place, the wheat shall be gathered into the barn and the tares shall be garnered into bundles to be burned in the fire.

Brethren, which side will you be found on in the great day of His wrath?

By God's grace, let us be found on the side of the righteous. Turn ye from your evil ways and live.

*'Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: **turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?'***

Ezekiel 33:11

