

Revelation Chapter 19: v.7 - 21.

Title: Jesus Christ - The King of Kings & Lord of Lords.

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.” 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.” ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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.” 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. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, 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. ²¹ 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.

Introduction

We now come to the exciting part of Revelation as far as the believer in Christ is concerned.

Today we will learn about the marriage Supper of the Lamb.

We will also be encouraged that Jesus Christ is the mighty ruler and was able to defeat the Beast and his army.

First we need to put this first passage into its context.

All the judgements that we have observed in Revelation so far are what is commonly called the “Tribulation Period”

This is when God pours His wrath out on the unbelieving world.

Before this happens the Church, that is all the believers on the earth at this time, will be suddenly taken to Heaven.

This miracle is often called the “Rapture”.

The word “Rapture” is not used in our English Bibles, but it is used in the first translation into Greek and also used in the Latin translation.

The Bible was first translated into Greek and then into Latin and then into English.

The word used in the English translations is the word “caught up”.

Let us turn to some passages.

John Chapter 14: v. 1-3.

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

1 Thessalonians 4: v. 13-18.

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the

voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words

So the context of the passage on the Marriage Supper of the Lamb takes place when all the believers have been taken to Heaven and are now the bride of Christ.

Although last week I connected the “Praise Meeting” of chapter 19: v. 1-9 with the celebration after the defeat of Babylon, it is also the introduction to the marriage supper of the lamb.

1. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb - v. 7-10.

First of all, please look at v. 7.

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.”

The Marriage is just about to happen between the Lamb and His wife.

What is this all about?

From the Bible we are taught clearly that Jesus is the “Lamb”

Isaiah 53: v.7.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.

John 1: v. 29.

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

Who is His wife, or His bride?

In the Bible there are two brides.

In the Old Testament, God talks about being married to Israel.

Jeremiah 3: v. 14-15.

14 “Return, O backsliding children,” says the LORD; “for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. ¹⁵ And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

We won’t look them up but there are other parts of the Old Testament that reinforce this statement.

(Ezekiel Chapter 16 and Hosea Chapter 2)

There is a sense that God the Father is the bridegroom of Israel.

This is the teaching of the old Testament.

We now come to discover that Jesus Christ is the bridegroom of the Church.

God has not forsaken Israel. They are coming back.

However, the context of the passage concerns Jesus as the Lamb and the Church as the Bride.

We need to read a few passages in the New Testament just to affirm that statement.

2 Corinthians 11: v.2.

2 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.

Ephesians 5: v. 22-33.

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

It is clear from a careful study of these verses that Jesus Christ is the husband and the wife is the Church.

(especially meditate on verse 27)

You may have been to some wonderful Wedding Banquets in the past but this one is going to be the most wonderful welcome to Heaven.

Your marriage to Jesus Christ is not in the sense that we know of a human marriage, but it will have all the characteristics of that.

Although to some of us today, marriage might seem a strange way of illustrating our future with Jesus Christ.

(Metaphor)

It does convey certain truths.

In any good marriage there are four things that are essential.

These four things are also essential in our relationship with Jesus today.

- a) **There must be “love”**. A loveless marriage is a contradiction in terms. Unless we really love Jesus and understand our relationship with Him, then it will not work in the way that it is intended.
Our relationship with Jesus must be motivated by “LOVE”.
- b) **There is intimate communion in a physical marriage**.
It is so intimate that a man and a wife become one flesh. The relationship between a Christian and Jesus Christ must be the closest and most intimate of all relationships.
- c) **There is “Joy”**. **There is nothing like the “Joy” of loving and being “loved”**.
In a human marriage relationship there must be lots of giving and receiving love.
It must never be a one-sided relationship.
Our relationship with Jesus must bring us “Joy”.
If it doesn’t bring us joy then there is something wrong with our relationship.
If we are always asking things from Jesus and never giving to Him, then the relationship can become one-sided and lack the joy that we could obtain if we served Him in some way.
- d) **Finally, in a marriage there must be “fidelity or faithfulness”**.
No marriage can last if either partner is unfaithful to each other. The Christian must be faithful to Jesus Christ as Jesus Christ is faithful to them.

I hope this makes it clear why the Bible uses “Marriage” as a way to help us understand both our relationship with Jesus and the “Marriage Supper” with the Lamb.

In v. 8 we are told that the bride is going to be in fine linen, clean and bright.

This fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

The words “saints” is used in the New Testament for believers.

Ephesians 1: v.1,

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1: v. 1-2.

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When you become a Christian you get a new identity.

Your identity is based upon who you are “In Jesus Christ”.

It is very important that you discover your identity in Christ because this is one area that Satan tries hard to remove from your thinking.

It is a good idea to do your own study of who you are “In Christ” and to review it every couple of months to encourage your faith.

Here are a couple of verses about your identity in Christ.

- a) **Philippians Chapter 3: v.20 tells us that we are citizens of Heaven. Our real home is in Heaven, that is where we belong.**
- b) **Colossians 3: v. 12 tells us that we have been chosen by God to be Holy and that He loves us very much.**
- c) **We are the Light of the world - Ephesians 5: v.8 7 Matt. 5: v.14.**

We leave this section in v.10.

John fell at the feet of the Angel to worship him.

He was rebuked for doing this.

The Angel declared to John that he was his fellow servant.

The Angel insisted that John must **“Worship God Only”**.

It may seem strange for us to see here that John's instinct was to worship the Angelic messenger. (v. 10)

In the early Church there was a tendency to worship Angels.

This was due to the wrong thinking of Judaism.

Between the Old Testament and the New Testament there were lots of Jewish books written by famous Rabbis and Scholars.

These books were not divinely inspired.

They were man made.

In these books Angels became the focus of worship because it was taught that the Angels brought our prayers before God. (Tobit Chapter 13: v. 12-15 7 Dan 6: v. 2)

This is why the Roman Catholic Church who recognise these books as God's word have gone off course and worshipped Mary, rather than Jesus.

There is always a reason why people are distracted and diverted from the truth.

Satan does this, we must beware.

The point is that we must worship God alone, through the precious blood of Jesus who died to take the punishment of ALL of our sins. "Sins in the Past, Sins of the Present and Sins of the future."

We now come to verses 11-21.

The best way of understanding these verses is to ask two questions and answer them. These questions are:

1. Who is the rider on the white horse?
2. What has He come to do and accomplish?

Answer - The rider on the white horse is Jesus, and I will give you 7 reasons for my answer based upon the text.

1. A White horse was used in those days to celebrate victory in war.
Therefore, the rider of this horse is arriving on a victory note. Jesus is coming soon to declare victory over all those people on this earth who oppose Him.
2. White symbolizes the spotless, unblemished holy character of the rider.
Jesus is the only person who can declare that He is holy and spotless in character.
3. The name of the person riding the horse is called "faithful and true"(v.11) In contrast to Satan, Jesus is the only name you can trust.
Many believers have discovered that Jesus is indeed faithful and true. He is returning to this earth to honour His promise from John 14: v.3.

³ **And** if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

4. His eyes were like a flame of fire.

Revelation 1: v.14

¹⁴ **His** head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

Nothing escapes the eyes of Jesus.

Hebrews Chapter 4: v.13.

¹³ **And** there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

In the past those eyes of Jesus had reflected tenderness and joy as He gathered children to Himself.

The eyes of Jesus were also eyes of compassion as he noticed people sick and distressed, like sheep without a shepherd.

Those eyes had reflected forgiveness when Peter was restored to Jesus, after his denial of Jesus 3 times.

Those were the eyes that stood on the Mount of Olives and wept over Jerusalem.

However now, John sees flashing eyes of judgement.

5. On His head were many crowns.

A literal translation of the original Greek is the word “diadema” which refers to a ruler’s crown.

Only people with royal rank and authority wore these crowns.

Notice in v.12 that the rider wore many crowns, not just one crown.

This indicates that the rider collected all the ruler’s crowns.

It was the custom in those days, that when you conquered another country that you would bring home the rulers’ crown.

In this case the rider of the white horse was declaring that He was the sovereign ruler of this earth.

2 Samuel 12: v. 29-30.

²⁹ So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah, fought against it, and took it. ³⁰ Then he took their king’s crown from his head. Its weight was a talent of gold, with precious stones. And it was set on David’s head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance.

Jesus is the only one who has the power and authority to rule over the kings of this earth.

6. The rider’s robe was dipped in blood.

Isaiah Chapter 63: v. 1-4.

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.”

² Why is Your apparel red,
And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

³ “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.

⁴ For the day of vengeance is in My heart,
And the year of My redeemed has come.

It seems strange that the rider of the white horse had a robe dipped in blood before the battle began.

This is not the first battle Jesus has been involved with.

Most commentators see this blood, not as redemption blood but “Battle Blood”.

Behind the scenes of world history Jesus has been fighting for His people.

As we know from Ephesians Chapter 6, behind the physical battle, there is a spiritual battle.

7. The final evidence for Jesus being the rider on the white horse is from v. 13.

His name is called the “Word of God”.

This identifies the rider of the white horse, without any reservation. It is the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1: v.1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1 John 1: v.1.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

Q. What has the rider come to do and accomplish?

The answer is that the rider, JESUS, has come to get involved in the greatest battle that the world will ever experience.

Before the battle an Angel summons all the birds of the air to gather for the greatest feast of their life.

Note:

Every year millions of birds migrate south from Europe to Africa. They fly over the land of Israel on their journey.

The large number of these birds and their migrating patterns have been of special interest to the Israeli government.

Sadly, their interest is not that the government is waiting for this day to happen, but because they pose a threat to the aircraft.

The geographical setting of Israel forms a natural corridor for the birds to fly through.

This makes it easy for us to understand how millions of birds could gather together in one place at one time.

The birds feasting on the dead bodies and the 7 months taken to bury all the dead bodies has been prophesied in Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

Jeremiah 7: v. 33

³³ **The** corpses of this people will be food for the birds of the heaven and for the beasts of the earth. And no one will frighten *them* away.

Ezekiel 39: v.11-13.

¹¹ **“It** will come to pass in that day *that* I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. Therefore they will call *it* the Valley of Hamon Gog. ¹² For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. ¹³ Indeed all the people of the land will be burying, and they will gain renown for it on the day that I am glorified,” says the Lord God.

In v. 19-21 we are told that the rider made war against the beast and the false prophet.

They were cast alive into the lake of fire, burning with brimstone.

The subject of Hell is not preached very much these days.

However, it is a reality for those who do not put their faith and trust in Jesus.

Hell is not a place where people are destroyed. It is a permanent place of punishment.

Jesus offers us **PEACE** in our hearts, but in Hell there is no peace.

Jesus offers us **LOVE**, but there is no love in Hell.

Jesus offers us **LIGHT**, but Hell is only darkness.

Jesus offers us **JOY**, but there is no joy in Hell.

Matthew 13: v. 42.

⁴² **and** will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The rest of the people were killed with the sword that proceeded from the mouth of the rider, that is JESUS.

So all the people of the world were killed, except believers who had refused the mark of the beast.

This has now cleared the way for the 1,000 year reign of Jesus This event is described in Chapter 20 which will be uncovering on the 16th July.

Application and summing up

1. The most important application for us today is to make sure that we are saved from the place the Bible calls Hell.

How can we do that?

Firstly, we need to realise a number of things.

- a) The God who created this world, created the first man for a personal relationship. He then created a woman to help to support that man. He created them perfect and without sin in their lives.

- b) As a result of the disobedience of the first man, God brought a curse on this world and man was separated from his creator God.
- c) God in his love provided a way back to mend that broken relationship. Firstly, it was through the death of animals to provide a covering for our sin. Then finally God send His Son, Jesus Christ to take the punishment we deserve for our sin.
- d) If we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us, then we can be saved from God's wrath and avoid Hell when we die.
You can even put your faith in Jesus today after the service.

2. **The second important application which applies to Christian believers only, is to fully realise that you are in an intimate relationship with Jesus, just like a pure marriage arrangement.**

If you are not enjoying a love relationship with Jesus, and a joy, and an intimate communion and 100% faithfulness in the relationship, then there is something wrong.

You need to put it right today, so that you may enjoy these things in the future.

Go to the Lift sign after the service and pray with someone about it. It is important.

Amen.