

## ***Session 9 The Bride's Response to the Marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19)***

### **I. THE GREAT CELEBRATION AROUND THRONE (REV. 19:1-7)**

- A. John saw a multitude celebrating the judgment of Babylon (Rev. 19:1) and anticipating the marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7). The great multitude includes the saints (Rev. 7:9; 19:5-6).

<sup>1</sup>...***a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory...belong to the Lord...***

<sup>2</sup>***For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot...”*** <sup>7</sup>***“For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”*** (Rev. 19:1-2, 7)

- B. We gain understanding of how the Lord wants the redeemed to think and respond in this age by seeing the way the Spirit will inspire the mindset and response of the Bride on the wedding day.

- C. The Spirit's primary agenda in the end times is to help the Bride to be “ready” for the wedding by inspiring believers to voluntarily embrace the first commandment as the first priority in their lives.

<sup>37</sup>***“You shall love the LORD...with all your heart...”*** <sup>38</sup>***This is the first and great commandment.”*** (Mt. 22:37-38)

- D. The Spirit will establish the first commandment in first place in the Church as He reveals the beauty of Jesus as the Bridegroom King and the spiritual identity of the redeemed as a “cherished Bride.”

<sup>17</sup>***And the Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!”... (Rev. 22:17)***

- E. There is nothing wiser or more important for us than to prepare our hearts to grow in loyal love.

<sup>41</sup>...***“Martha, you are worried and troubled [offended] about many things. <sup>42</sup>But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away...”*** (Lk. 10:41-42)

- F. In the end times, the kingdom will be like wise virgins with oil going out to meet the Bridegroom.

<sup>1</sup>***“Then the kingdom...shall be likened to ten virgins who...went out to meet the Bridegroom...”*** <sup>3</sup>***Those who were foolish...took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took oil... (Mt. 25:1-4)***

### **II. THE CONTEXT: THE END-TIME CONFLICT BETWEEN THE BRIDE AND THE HARLOT**

- A. The two most evil expressions of the kingdom of darkness in history will emerge across the nations in the end times—the Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17-18) and the Antichrist's empire (Rev. 13).

- B. The Harlot will have two expressions of evil operating on a global level—*religious and economic networks*. Scripture does not give a precise identification of the Harlot nor how she will operate.

- C. Revelation 17-18 describes the Harlot's relationship with the Antichrist and two phrases of her fall. The first phase of her fall relates to her worldwide religious networks of toleration (Rev. 17). This occurs at the hands of the ten kings at the beginning of the Great Tribulation (17:16). The second phase of her fall is God destroying her global *economic networks* at the end (Rev. 18:8).

- D. Satan's strategy is to attack the Bride's love for Jesus through immorality, martyrdom, and offense. He knows that her love will be hindered if she *engages in immorality*, is *overcome by fear of persecution*, or is *offended at His leadership*, especially at His intensified end-time judgments.
- E. The Harlot is a counterfeit bride promoting a counterfeit justice fueled by a counterfeit love (lust). The Harlot will promote *immorality*, inflict *martyrdom*, and oppose *Jesus' leadership* (Rev. 19:2).
- F. The Harlot will be supported by the most powerful leaders on earth (kings, merchants, etc.).  
<sup>1</sup>*"...the judgment of the great harlot...<sup>2</sup>with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication"  
<sup>6</sup>*I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and...the martyrs of Jesus. (Rev. 17:1-6)*  
<sup>3</sup>*For all the nations have drunk of the wine of...her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich..." (Rev. 18:3)**
- G. **Unprecedented judgment:** Jesus will dash the infrastructures of the nations because Babylon's evil will permeate their legal, educational, financial, and social infrastructures.  
<sup>9</sup>*You shall break them [nations] with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces... (Ps. 2:9)*  
<sup>26</sup>*The nations...<sup>27</sup>shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels... (Rev. 2:26-27)*

### III. REMOVING THE HINDRANCES TO GROWING IN LOVE

- A. God's judgments are released to remove all that hinders love. The Lord uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating their free will.
- B. **F-O-L-D:** Jesus exhorted His people to engage with Him and His Word to be empowered to overcome *fear* (Lk. 21:26), *offense* (Mt. 24:10), *lust* (Lk. 21:34-35), and *deception* (Mt. 24:11).
- C. The Bride will grow in love only by cultivating a spirit of trust with obedience to Jesus' leadership. In the end times, the Spirit will give increased understanding of God's judgment so that the Church will not be fearful, offended, or deceived related to His leadership and His judgments (Jer. 23:20).  
<sup>20</sup>*The anger of the LORD [judgments] will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts [plans] of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)*
- D. The most offensive issue in the Bible to a humanistic mindset is the truth about God's judgments. There will be controversy in the nations related to God's end-time judgments. *All in heaven* will rejoice as God's judgments destroy the Harlot (Rev. 18:20), yet *many on the earth* will weep and blaspheme God with anger because of His judgments (Rev. 18:9-11; cf. 11:18; 16:9, 11, 21).  
<sup>9</sup>*The kings of the earth...will weep...<sup>10</sup>saying, "...your [Harlot Babylon] judgment has come."  
<sup>11</sup>*And the merchants of the earth will weep...over her... <sup>20</sup>*Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!" (Rev. 18:9-11, 20)***
- E. Satan deceives many by convincing them that God's judgments contradict His love. The enemy uses this lie to lure some away from the authority of Scripture, convincing them that their humanistic ideas about God's love and salvation are superior to those found in Scripture.

- F. Once they have the confidence to dismiss the parts of God's Word that speak about His judgments, then they find it easier to challenge the authority of the Scriptures in other areas. Later, some will accept the heresy of universalism that says all paths lead to God and, thus, will no longer believe that Jesus' death provided the *only* way of salvation (Jn. 14:6). Thus, they fall away from the faith.
- G. The greatest tragedy in Church history is the end-time falling (2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; cf. see Heb. 3:12; 6:4-6; 10:26-31, 39; Jas. 5:19-20; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; 3:17).
- <sup>3</sup>***...that Day [Jesus' coming] will not come unless the falling away comes first... (2 Thes. 2:3)***
- <sup>1</sup>***Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith... (1 Tim. 4:1)***

#### IV. THE BRIDE'S RESPONSE TO JESUS' LEADERSHIP (REV. 19:1-7)

- A. The first thing the Bride expresses on this Day is her agreement with Jesus' leadership (Rev. 19:1). She trusts His leadership. This is a deep expression of the Bride's admiration and love for Jesus. The great Harlot will promote *immorality* and *martyrdom* and oppose *Jesus' leadership* especially related to His judgments to stop immorality and oppression and to avenge the martyrs (Rev. 19:2).
- <sup>1</sup>***...a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! <sup>2</sup>For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; He has avenged on her the blood of His servants..." <sup>3</sup>They said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever..." (Rev. 19:1-3)***
- B. ***True and righteous:*** Jesus' judgments are seen as true and righteous, not cruel and unfair. They never contradict love, and they result in magnifying His salvation, glory, honor, and power.
- C. ***Salvation:*** God's judgments promote His salvation purposes. The end-time revival and judgments reveal His righteousness—the Church will be purified, and millions will be saved.
- When Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants...will learn righteousness. (Isa. 26:9)***
- D. ***Glory:*** All will glory or boast in the loving leadership of Jesus when they see His judgments.
- <sup>21</sup>***"I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment... <sup>22</sup>So the house of Israel shall know that I am...their God from that day forward...* (Ezek. 39:21-22)**
- E. ***Honor:*** Jesus' judgments will cause the nations to honor Him with their love and obedience.
- F. ***Power:*** Jesus will be openly seen by all as the King who has total power over every government.
- G. ***Forever:*** She agrees with His eternal judgment (19:3) and rejects the deception of universalism.
- H. The elders and the living creatures (governmental leaders of heaven) agree with God's leadership. They are overwhelmed seeing the fulfillment of God's promises to Jesus. He promised Jesus an earthly inheritance (Ps. 2:8-9) for it is not good for man to be alone (Gen. 2:18; Eph. 5:32).
- <sup>4</sup>***And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" (Rev. 19:4)***

**V. THE BRIDE'S RESPONSE: TO BE GLAD AND REJOICE (REV. 19:5-7)**

- A. John gave three reasons for the redeemed to rejoice with certainty (Rev. 19:6-7): God will openly manifest His reign on the earth; the marriage of the Lamb has come; and His Bride is prepared.
- <sup>5</sup>A voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants..." <sup>6</sup>I heard...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! <sup>7</sup>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." (Rev. 19:5-7)*
- B. **Many waters and mighty thunderings:** The Bride's voice will mirror the glory of God's voice, which is like many waters (Rev. 1:15) and mighty thunder (Rev. 4:5). Her corporate voice will sound "like God" for the saints will be in deep unity with His leadership and with one another.
- C. **Lord God Omnipotent reigns:** Jesus will openly display His leadership over every nation. We rejoice now because He is omnipotent and causes all things to work for our good (Rom. 8:28).
- <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good to those who love God... (Rom. 8:28)*
- D. **Marriage of the Lamb:** This glorious day is the sure destiny of the redeemed. Our dignity is seen in Jesus desiring us to be His Bride. We rejoice that we will participate in the marriage of the Lamb.
- E. **Made herself ready:** John emphasized the role of the individual believer's free will to choose obedience in cooperating with God's grace. We must choose voluntarily to obey God. It is certain that the corporate Bride will be prepared. It is not guaranteed for individuals. Each makes decisions for righteousness on a daily basis to be responsive, so as to be equally yoked to Jesus in love.
- <sup>7</sup>...His wife has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup>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. (Rev. 19:7-8)*
- F. **It was granted:** God's grace is seen in granting the Bride rewards for her small acts of obedience.
- G. **Clean and bright linen:** The purity that she chooses will be openly demonstrated in her garments. Her clothing being bright speaks of their supernatural qualities of God's glory and light.
- H. **Righteous acts of the saints:** The saints will receive garments which reflect their righteous choices. The Bride will "wear" her love. Jesus will reward our small choices for righteousness. It matters what we do in the face of temptation, difficulty, mistreatment, disappointment, and boredom. We *make ourselves ready* by agreeing with Him in our character, understanding, and service.
- I. **Summary:** We are to trust Jesus' leadership related to His judgments (19:1-3) and to trust that His power will cause all things to work for our good (19:6). We rejoice that His reign will be openly manifest on earth (19:6), that we will participate in the marriage of the Lamb, that the Bride being made ready is certain (19:7), and that our righteous choices will be honored on that day (19:8). We are to make ourselves ready by agreeing with Him in our character, understanding, and service.