

## THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

### Revelation 19:1 - 20:15 | Session 22 | The Marriage Supper, King of Kings, and the Final Judgment

In the book of Revelation, there are seven pairs of visions given to John. The first pair of visions pertains to events that are taking place in Heaven, and the second part of the pair concerns events taking place on Earth. In this session, we will see the last of the seven visions in chapters 19 and 20.

- The First Vision, in Heaven (4:1-5:14).
- The First Vision, on Earth (6:1-7:8)
- The Second Vision, in Heaven (7:9-8:6).
- The Second Vision, on Earth (8:7-11:14).
- The Third Vision, in Heaven (11:15-18).
- The Third Vision, on Earth (11:19).
- The Fourth Vision, in Heaven (12:1-12)
- The Fourth Vision, on Earth (12:13-13:18)
- The Fifth Vision, in Heaven (14:1-5)
- The Fifth Vision, on Earth (14:6-20)
- The Sixth Vision, in Heaven (15:1-8)
- The Sixth Vision, on Earth (16:1-18:24)
- The Seventh Vision, in Heaven (19:1-16)
- The Seventh Vision, on Earth (19:17-20:15)

### THE SEVENTH VISION, IN HEAVEN (19:1-16)

#### The King of Kings and Lord of Lords

The Lake of Fire, Bottomless Pit, and the Final Judgment

#### THE SHOUT FROM HEAVEN

Verse 1 —

**And after these things**, the destruction of the center of power for the Antichrist in Babylon, John **heard a great voice of much<sup>1</sup> people in heaven** rejoicing that Babylon had been destroyed. In session 23, we looked at the historical significance of Babylon, beginning in the book of Genesis, and how that one city has influenced the world. At its destruction, God was avenging the deaths of all the *holy apostles, prophets, and saints* that had been perpetrated by that evil city (Revelation 18:20,24). The people on earth were crying out *woe and were weeping and wailing* 19:19). Now there is rejoicing in Heaven because deliverance and salvation from Satan

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<sup>1</sup> Ever wonder why KJV uses much sometimes instead of many? It is a grammar thing. Use of much is used when the noun is non-countable. Use many if the noun is countable.

have finally come—the multitude in Heaven shout **Alleluia** (Hebrew spelling, Hallelujah). Jesus Christ will rule and reign, and with His coming, God can be praised for salvation, glory, honor, and power!

#### THE GREAT WHORE HAS BEEN JUDGED IN TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Verse 2 —

**For true and righteous are His judgments.** Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 32:34, *“God is the Rock, his work is perfect For all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, Just, and right is He.”* God always decides a case that is proper and fitting. God will judge corruption upon the earth.

#### THE SHOUT FROM HEAVEN IS REPEATED

Verse 3 —

The praise of **Alleluia** is repeated. We should probably not use this word lightly, as it is often used with the execution of God’s judgment. In chapter 6:10, those saints who had been killed for the word of God and the testimony they held asked, *How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?* Now, they are shouting *Alleluia*.

#### THE CREATED BEINGS IN HEAVEN WORSHIP GOD

Verse 4 —

The **Four and twenty elders** (24 elders) and **four beasts** appear again. In chapter 4, session 8, we discussed the 24 elders, and we saw they are not, nor do they represent the Church. The four and twenty elders are created beings (not angels) in heaven, performing a priestly role before the Throne of God. This is the last time they are mentioned, now that judgment has been accomplished, and their role is the worship God, which they do here, along with the **four beasts** (living creatures, see session 8).

#### A VOICE FROM THE THRONE

Verse 5 —

**And a voice came out of the throne.** This voice is compelling those on earth, **saying, Praise our god, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.** *Praise ye the Lord, all ye servants* is a phrase that comes from Psalm 134:1. The second part, *and ye that fear him, both small and great*, is found in Psalm 115:13. Both of the Psalms connect with God’s earthly People, Israel. Therefore, this appears to be a call for the nation of Israel to believe. And I believe they do in verse 6.

#### THE VOICE OF A GREAT MULTITUDE

Verse 6 —

While this vision is in Heaven, John hears the cry of earthly Israel as **the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings.** This great multitude echoes the truth of God and Jesus Christ, **saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.** This is the fulfillment of Revelation 11:15 when the seventh angel sounded his trumpet and the cry from heaven went out, *The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he (Christ the Lord) shall reign for ever and ever.*

When Jesus was on earth, He warned Israel that He would not return until they recognized who He was. Until that time, their (Israel's) *house is left unto them desolate (Matthew 23:38)*. But He told them that He would come to reign when they, as a nation, recognized Him. "For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye say Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord (Matthew 23:39). This is the time when Jesus Christ will be honored.

## THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB | THE WIFE IS MADE READY

Verse 7 —

The **marriage of the Lamb** and the **marriage supper of the Lamb** (vs. 9) are nearly always taken to mean the Church as the Bride and the Lamb (Jesus Christ) as the Groom. The latter is correct. Jesus is the groom, but the Church is not the Bride. Christians have usurped the marriage of the Lamb!

This idea that the Church is the bride of Christ has come to us via theology, not the Bible. As the adage goes, repeat something long enough, and people will believe it. To say the Church is not the Bride of Jesus Christ is so antithetical to what Christians believe that when the claim is made, it comes across as heresy. *Of course, the Church is the Bride of Christ!* They scream. People will turn against you if you challenge them on the issue.

Some of you believe the Church is the bride, and you might be tempted to stop reading these notes (or hitting the unsubscribe button if watching online). Yet, if you try to prove from *Scripture that the Church is the Bride*, you will come up short—because the claim is never made. It will only be found in commentaries.

It would be hard to find a commentary that says otherwise. Nearly every evangelical commentary will claim that the Church is the Bride. Because of that, we have ignorantly gone along with it. We have not been like the good "Bereans" who *sought the Scriptures to see if it is true*. It does not matter if 1,000 commentaries say the Church is the Bride and zero commentaries say otherwise. On this topic, the 1,000 commentaries are incorrect. Commentaries are not the word of God, and the Church is not the Bride of Jesus Christ. I will let that sink in and come back to it in a moment.

Revelation 19:7 begins with the phrase, **Let us be glad and rejoice**. The rejoicing flows from the fact that Israel has believed in the Messiah Jesus. Israel has finally cried out, "*Hosanna, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord*" (Mark 11:10). This is His second coming, which will take place at the end of the Seven-Year Tribulation, and now **the marriage of the Lamb is come**. It has taken seven years, but **the wife has finally made herself ready**. It has taken all the judgments (the trumpets, thunders, woes, and vials) of the seven years to convince Israel, break her stubborn will, and welcome her Messiah.

If we make this **marriage of the Lamb** about the Body of Christ or the Church, we will have missed the significance of Jesus's statement in the passage already cited above. Jesus, speaking to Israel in Matthew 23:38,39 states,

*"Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord."*

Because the **marriage of the Lamb is come**, we can assume Israel has done what Jesus said they must do. They have repented and believed in Jesus as the Messiah. Repentance was a requirement for Israel, not for those of us in the dispensation of grace.

We should remember the purpose of the Tribulation: From the start, the purpose is to break the stubborn will of the Jews (the holy people). This purpose was prophesied in Daniel 12:5-7. *“When he shall have accomplished to scatter (break) the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.”*

Therefore, the **marriage of the Lamb** is about the relationship between God and Israel, not the Church. This has been our premise throughout the entire book of Revelation. It is all about Israel—This has been the Time of Jacob’s Trouble (Jeremiah 30:7), not the time of trouble for the Church.

The identity of the Church was given by the Apostle Paul. His letters overflow with the Church’s description. WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST, and Christ is the Head of the Body. Does it make logical sense that the Body of Christ is married to Christ? Can Christ marry Himself?

Marriage relationship allusions to God with Israel are prevalent in Scripture. Isaiah 5:5, *For thy Maker, is thine husband...; Isaiah 62:4,5, But thou shalt be called Hephzibah (my delight in her), and the land Beulah (Married); Hosea 2:16,19, And in that day, saith the LORD, that thou shalt call me Ishi (my husband); Jeremiah 3:14, Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you...*

*Ah, but pastor, those verses are from the Old Testament, and they are about Israel and God. Israel is the wife of God the Father, but the Church is the wife of God the Son.*

Nowhere do we find that in Scripture.

REVELATION 21:2, 9-21

Let me show you several passages from the New Testament in which people twist to make the bride the Church. The first is in Revelation. As we have seen throughout the book of Revelation, it explains itself. Thankfully, the Bride is identified in Revelation, and guess what? It is not the Church (Revelation 21:2, 9-21).

*“I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”* Now we are getting somewhere! Here in this passage is the exact definition:

*“And he carried me away in the spirit to a **great city, the holy Jerusalem...**”*

The Revelation passage describes the city. It is the beautiful bride. The bride is the **holy Jerusalem** (Israel). However, there are individuals who strongly believe that the bride mentioned in this passage symbolizes the Church. They go to great lengths to defend this interpretation by asserting that the holy city implies a connection to us. They say, *after the Rapture, that’s where we will have been living.*

That is a gigantic speculation, that even if it were true, it is never implied, nor does John refer to the Church. To make a doctrine of the Bride being the church according to this passage would be flawed.

Like flat-earthers, the naysayers keep pressing with more *gotcha* passages: *What about Ephesians 5:23-32? There it claims that the Church is the bride!*

## EPHESIANS 5:23-32

The Ephesians 5 passage is the primary proof text for many who say the Church is the Bride of Christ. But there is a problem: The passage never says that the Church is the Bride. Paul could have simply cleared up the whole controversy for us by writing in BOLD letters,

### **THE CHURCH IS THE BRIDE**

But he doesn't, nor does he allude to it.

Instead, he focuses on Jesus, and who Jesus is. Paul states clearly in Ephesian 5:23 that Jesus is the head of the church and that he is the Savior of the body.

To claim the Church is the bride and Christ is the husband in Ephesians 5, we must also acknowledge that as Christ is the husband of the Church and the Savior, then we would need to be consistent and call the earthly husband the Savior of the wife. I've not heard anyone teach that. It is conveniently skipped.

A misreading of the passage is why people get mixed up. The Ephesians 5 passage is not comparing the church to marriage, rather it compares marriage to the church insofar that it is not two bodies, but one body. Paul is looking back to Ephesians 3, where he reveals the mystery of Jew and Gentile as one body, with Christ as the head. The point of Ephesians 5:

### *The Church is to be one in Christ.*

In fact, in Ephesians 5:32, Paul states, "This is a great mystery: but I speak of Christ and the church." He is not speaking of Christ and the bride.

## 2 CORINTHIANS 11:2

There is another New Testament passage often misunderstood as referring to the church as the Bride. It comes from an analogy given by Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:2, where he says, "*I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a pure virgin to Christ.*" Paul is talking about purity within the church. Lack of purity has been the problem among the Corinthians. The illustration is that Paul desires the Corinthians to be pure and fully devoted to Christ, just as an engaged woman would be to her fiancé.

If we interpret this *illustration* as a doctrine, i.e., as the Bride being the Church, then we would have to say that Paul is the Church's father. Paul calls the Corinthians his "sons" and says, "In Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel." But he doesn't claim to be the *father of the Church*. It seems like a big jump to make Paul the father of the body of Christ based on his illustration in 1 Corinthians 4:14,15.

To make this a doctrine of the Church being the Bride is to ignore all the other clear teachings that we have already seen. In fact, in verse one, Paul warns the Corinthians that what he is about to say is "folly." He is giving an illustration, not a doctrine.

A general rule of interpretation:

*Do not make a doctrine out of a historical event or an illustration.*

In the Revelation passage, 19:7, **And his wife hath made herself ready. Hath made** this is in the *active tense*—*the wife is the one who had readied herself*. How can this be the Church? We have not made ourselves ready. We were made ready by receiving a gift; by grace through faith, not of **ourselves**. We are complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10), and we are perfect in Christ Jesus (Colossians 1:28). Today, in the body of Christ, we have a perfect standing before God, and our standing is in grace.

The entire belief system of the Church being the Bride was fabricated first by the Catholic Church, and even after the Reformation, it remained as a doctrine in evangelicalism. The concept is read into the Scripture and is incorrect and should be handily rejected.

#### THE RIGHTEOUS WORKS OF THE BRIDE

Verse 8,9 —

**The righteousness of the saints** is further proof that the church, or the body of Christ, is not the bride. For the Church, Jesus Christ is our righteousness,

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made (passive) unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:30).

For the Jewish saints in the Tribulation, it is their works of the Law and their belief in the Messiah that are their righteousness (works-based, not grace).

The proper garments for Israel to gather for the *marriage of the Lamb* are their righteousness (Matthew 22:1-14). All are based on righteous acts of having a pure wedding garment.

**Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.** Some Jewish people rejected the call, but there will be a Jewish remnant of the last day who are chosen.

#### JOHN REALIZES WHAT HAS JUST HAPPENED

Verse 10 —

John comes to a realization that this is the moment of Israel's belief and the return of the Messiah He cannot contain himself and he falls at the feet of the messenger. The angel giving John this vision refused to be worshipped when John **fell at his feet**. He said, **See thou do it not: I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren...worship God.** I'm only the messenger. It is Jesus who is the **spirit of the prophecy** (that is of the book of Revelation).

#### THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

Verse 11-16 —

**And I saw heaven opened.** Even though he is not named, we see all the attributes of Jesus Christ coming forth in all his glory. He is **Faithful** in His promises and **true** to execute all His judgments. **And in righteousness, he**

**doth judge and make war** which will be the defeat of the nations Antichrist and his armies and the False Prophet (vis.19-21).

His judgment is shown in His **eyes as a flame of fire** and that He is the King where **on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no man knew, but He Himself**, so there is no need to try to figure the name out; we see what He is called in verse 13.

**And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood**, which refers to Isaiah 63:1-6 describing the same Faithful and True coming up from Edom to conquer. We know exactly who He is by the statement in verse 13, and his **name is called The Word of God**. He is not coming to do His work as Savior to save His people from their sins but as the Righteous Judge who avenges them on their enemies.

#### THE ARMIES OF HEAVEN

Verse 14—

Who are **the armies which were in heaven that followed Him upon white horses**? The book of Jude says *the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all...*

There is nowhere we read this is the Church or the body of Christ that has been raptured, although that is a popular interpretation. The word **saints** means (holy ones). From various Scripture passages that we will not have time to look at here, "Saints" refer to 1) Holy angels. 2) Jews who believed in the Messiah.

Why not take these **armies** at face value and make them angelic armies coming with Christ? Certainly, there are massive amounts of angels at His disposal. Revelation 5:11 says *ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands*. On the night Jesus was betrayed, He said, *Do you think that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?* (Matthew 26:53).

We should not read ourselves into this passage. I can tell you firsthand that my wife Carol does not want to be involved in any war or ride a horse into battle. We should conclude that Jesus has an army with Him and that they are supernatural. We might even consider these could be the same army unleashed in chapters 9:13-17.

#### THE KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS

Verses 15,16—

Judgment has been committed to Him. This is the fulfillment of Psalm 2, where the nations raged and will be struck down. The word **rod** is the same word as the *shepherd's staff*. All governments will be put in their place and settled forever under the rulership of the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

## THE SEVENTH VISION, ON EARTH (19:17-20:15)

#### ANOTHER GREAT SUPPER

Verse 17,18 —

This is the announcement by **an angel standing in the sun** declaring the destruction of the Beast (antichrist) and his confederacy. The grand announcement goes forth. **Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God**. The enemy is going to be devoured. The announcement is given as a fair warning before the battle even begins.

## THE PRESUMPTUOUSNESS OF MAN

Verse 19 —

The Antichrist and all the **kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse and against his army.** The ridiculous nature of leaders of nations appears here. Man today believes he can defeat the forces of creation (e.g., climate change). How presumptuous and futile are Man's attempts!

## THE LAKE OF FIRE

Verse 20 —

A shot is never fired, and **the beast was taken, and with him, the false prophet.** There is no second chance, no mercy, no grace, only judgment. **These were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**

## SATAN'S ARMIES SLAIN

Verse 21—

With the leaders captured and judged the Lord single-handedly slays the **remnant** of Satan's armies.

## Chapter 20

## THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

Verses 1,2—

Some chains can bind men, and there is also a great chain that can bind the Devil. Keep in mind that all of this is literal. A literal war, a literal antichrist, a literal false prophet, a literal lake of fire, a literal angel, a literal key, a literal bottomless pit, a literal chain, a literal Devil who will be bound for a thousand years. Now the instigator of them all, Satan, must be dealt with.

## ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF INCARCERATION

Verse 3—

The **thousand years** is the time of the millennium when Jesus Christ will rule and reign on earth. Satan will be bound for that period **till the thousand years shall be fulfilled: and after that, he must be loosed for a little season.**

## RESURRECTION OF THE JUST

Verses 4-6—

**And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them.** Who are *they and them*? Likely Jesus and His twelve disciples. See Matthew 19:28. The **first** resurrection is not the rapture. It is likely the resurrection of the just that Jesus spoke of in Luke 14:14. The **second death** is likely the lake of fire.

## SATAN LOOSED AFTER 1,000 YEARS

Verses 7-9—

**And when the thousand years expire, Satan shall be loosed out of prison.** Why is he loosed? We are not told. Notice he doesn't escape; he is set free. Perhaps the reason is to give those who survived the Tribulation and



entered the Millennium the freedom to choose themselves. Those people will have come into the Kingdom and had children, and their children will reproduce, and so on for a thousand years. Like Adam and Eve in the garden, they will be free to follow Christ or Satan. Those people will have lived in an environment similar to the Garden of Eden, but they would still possess sinful hearts. They will one day be allowed to choose sin and follow Satan or continue following the King of kings.

**Even after a thousand years of imprisonment, Satan will still go out to deceive the nations.** These nations will comprise people, families, and leaders who came through the Tribulation. With their sinful nature, they will neglect their *duty* to go to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts. The prophet Zechariah prophesies about this (Zechariah 14:16-19).

The final battle will be futile for all involved in this rebellion of Satan. What weapons they will use is unknown since in the Millennium, no weapons of warfare are allowed (Micah 4:3). And **fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.**

#### SATAN CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE

Verse 10—

It is at this point that **the devil that deceived them** is done forever and **is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone**, the same place the antichrist and false prophet were cast (19:20). Notice that the lake of fire, or Hell is not annihilation, but eternal conscious torment, day and night, forever (Revelation 14:11).

#### THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

Verses 11-15—

**A great white throne** is the throne of divine justice, perhaps blinding in its whiteness. Since no human figure is seen here, I assume that seated on this throne is the universe's Creator, King, and Judge. "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen." (1 Timothy 6:16).

We have to take these verses at face value. There will be a judgment for every person who is not in Christ. It will be eternal torment, likely for the soul, as in the account of the rich and Lazarus in Luke 16:23. The Bible has given fair warning to all, but sadly, many people ignore, scoff, and dismiss it as a book of fairy tales. One day these naysayers will stand before the Great White Throne. How could a God of love send someone to such a horrible fate in retaliation for a few years of sin and rebellion on earth? They forget or are unaware that God had already suffered all these pangs of Hell Himself, in substitution for them, when Christ died on the cross. Christ suffered as the sinless One made sin for us. Why did He do that? To deliver mankind from the awful separation from God, which is the essence of Hell, to deliver them from suffering eternally from that same separation.

But they did not desire Him nor His love nor His presence. They preferred to continue in their sins, independent of God and His will. Whether we can fully understand the ways of God or not, there is no excuse for rejecting the clear teachings of Christ. Jesus Christ is not only the Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16) and

the Judge of all men (John 5:22) but is the only man who has conquered death Himself. When He warns of everlasting fire, outer darkness, and the undying worm, we can be sure He is telling us things as they are. <sup>2</sup>

The most tragic and foolish mistake one could ever make would be to ignore His warnings and reject His word. *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Romans 6:23.

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<sup>2</sup> Morris, Henry M. The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times. Tyndale, 1983.