

Bible Prophecy and the book of Revelation, Lesson 23

Chapter 19

Verse 1 – A response to **Chapter 18:20**.

- ✓ Where are the saints when they rejoice? We have a clear location of them during this time period!
 - ✓ We are ready to be introduced to the third female personage of Revelation: Jews, Harlot, the Bride.
 - ✓ We are at the very end of all the judgments: seal, trumpets and bowls are all finished, and the details and characters of the final 7 years have been paraded across the stage.
 - ✓ Now we await the final act — the 2nd coming of Christ and the battle of Armageddon.
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Verses 1-6 – One of if the not the final incident before Jesus returns is the judgment of religious and commercial Babylon taking place right at the end of the 7 year tribulation.

- ✓ Hallelujah will be the word of day when it is all said and done – how many times prior to this do you suppose “hallelujah” has been voiced in the Revelation? None! How many times in the New Testament? None!!
 - ✓ This is a significant juncture in the progression — it’s done!!
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Verses 7-9 – This is in juxtaposition to the great Harlot — the Spotless Bride of the Lamb.

- ✓ Now they are having the marriage ceremony. Why only now? I thought the church was already wed to Christ. Yes and No
 - ✓ 3 metaphors used to explain the relationship between Christ and us (His church).
 1. Building – Ephesians and 1 Peter – Jesus is the Chief cornerstone, the apostles and their teachings are the foundation of the building, and we are the living stones being used to build God a spiritual house in which to dwell.
 2. Body – Christ is the Head, and we are the many parts – the church is far more than an organization, it is an organism.
 3. Bride – Jesus is the Groom, and we will be joined to and cared for by Him forever.
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- ✓ There are 3 events yet outstanding that are calendared for every single person who is in a relationship with Christ
 1. Transformation – Whether resurrected or changed in the air we will all receive new bodies that will never be subject to time or the curse.
 2. Examination – We will each stand before Christ to give an account of how we lived our Christian lives. We either be rewarded or suffer loss based on that evaluation.
 3. Celebration – aka the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.
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- ✓ Much more of the language of the New Testament refers to this marriage metaphor than we realize, mainly because we are unfamiliar with the ancient Jewish marriage process.
- ✓ We get the first indications of our lack of knowledge concerning this process when we read that when Joseph heard about Mary being pregnant that he had planned to divorce her when in fact they had not come together and did not live together.
 1. Betrothal – This would be similar to engagement for us, but they would take vows at this point and they were legally bound together at this point such that to break it off after this would require a divorce.
 - ✓ Jesus vowed a vow to us to love us and save us, and we reciprocated with a vow and confession of Him as our Savior.
 2. The groom would then go away and build a house for his bride which was usually an addition on to his father's house. The bride may not see him again till the house was finished.
 - ✓ With that in mind, listen to what Jesus says to us, His Bride: **John 14:1-3**

 3. At some point the house is finished and, when it is, the groom will come for the bride, and this could be at any hour of the day or night to bring her to the wedding feast. **Mt. 25:1-6**
 - ✓ Likewise, the Bible teaches that the church (Christ's Bride) should expect His return for her at any time to take her to be with Him.
 - ✓ The groom would lead the bride to her new house where there would be a wedding feast.
 4. Each step of this process would be commemorated with trumpet blowing. A total of 7 trumpets were blown in a formal wedding process...the final trumpet called the bride to the wedding feast was called the "last trump".
 - ✓ **I Corinthians 15:51-52**
 5. He returns with her to his father's house – The wedding ceremony is held followed by wedding feast of 7 days (this is what is taking place here in **Rev.19:7**)

Even more interesting: The Lord's supper is in many ways a dress rehearsal for the wedding supper that is to come: **Mark 14: 23-25**

Verse 8 – "It was given to her" --she did not earn righteousness it was given to her!!

Verse 9 – There is a 3rd group who are at the wedding: Groom (Jesus), Bride (Church), guests (a third category)?

- ✓ Who are they? Parable of the 10 virgins: Groom, Bride, who are the 10 virgins?

Matthew 25:1-13

- ✓ **John 3:29** – John is the best man and not the Groom or the Bride (this third category)

Verse 10 – Why would he tell on himself like this, because his intent is to only tell the truth of what happened no matter what it is.

- ✓ This angel is no Lucifer is he?
 - ✓ John got a little unglued here for obvious reasons.
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