



A Review of the Major Events in the Last Days
Part Eight

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

You must be divorced from your sin or you cannot be married to Christ!
- C.H. Spurgeon

I. Jewish Wedding History

1. There were three major parts to the Jewish Wedding Feast

- A. The Wedding Contract (Betrothal)** - Wedding customs, in the time of Christ, included a document signed by the parents of the bride and the bridegroom. Additionally, this contract was signed by the parents of the bridegroom and the bridegroom himself would pay a dowry (down payment) to the bride, or her parents, for the cost of getting the bride ready for the wedding (as the bride was the groom's responsibility at betrothal). The betrothal period in Jewish History would today be called the engagement. The groom would go and prepare a home for the new couple to live in, and then return for his bride.
- B. The Parade** - The bridegroom, accompanied by his male friends, went to the house of the bride at night, once two things were done: (1) The home would be readied; (2) The Father of the Bride would set the wedding date. This parade would be by torchlight through the streets. Such a parade might be surprise to the bride. She would only know approximately when the parade would come, but not the exact time. She would be ready with her maidens for this 'coming.' They would then all join the parade and end up at the bridegroom's home and then on to the temple area for the wedding vows. (Such a custom is the basis of the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. Insight: We have to be ready for the coming of the bridegroom.) Interestingly, once the wedding took place,

the couple would go to the marriage chamber and consummate the relationship. They would then have no contact with the parents for one year (unless there was a death of a parent) to focus on their relationship with God.

- C. The Marriage Supper Itself** - During the time of Jesus, the marriage supper itself would go on for days as illustrated by the wedding at Cana in John 2:1-2. The events described by Jesus in Revelation 19:7-10 describe this third phase of the wedding feast, called The Marriage Supper of the Lamb. John hasn't skipped the first two phases of the wedding feast customs as they have already happened. The first phase was completed on earth, when each individual Christian placed his or her faith in Jesus Christ. The dowry, in this case, was paid by the bridegroom's parent (God the Father) because of the blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the Bride's behalf. The Church is betrothed to Christ much the same way as the wise virgin in the parable of Matthew 25:1ff. All Christians should be watching and waiting for the appearance of the Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus (2 Timothy 4:8). The second phase pictures Christ coming to claim His bride and take the Church to the Father's house—*think rapture*. The Marriage Supper follows as the third and final step and is a glorious celebration of all who are in Christ Jesus.

- 2. The Schedule** – The Marriage Supper of the Lamb follows the Judgement Seat of Christ, where believers are rewarded for the good deeds they did that affected eternity. (While all hell is breaking loose on Earth, during The Seven Year Tribulation, the saved from all time will be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.)
- 3. The Invitation** - As the angel told John to write, "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9). The marriage supper of the Lamb is a glorious celebration of all who are in Christ—*only they are invited!*

II. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Revelation 19:7–10, NASB - *7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he [The angel speaking on behalf of God] said to me, "These are true words of God." 10 Then I fell at his [the angel's] feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

What Happens at The Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

1. Magnificent Music is Heard.

Revelation 19:1-6, NIV - *After these things, I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments... Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"*

G. F. Handel used this chapter as the basis for “The Hallelujah Chorus.” There will be a new “Hallelujah Chorus.” John the Apostle says Alleluia! (“Hallelujah”) four times in verses 1-6. *Halle* means ‘praise.’ *Lu* means ‘Let us.’ *Jah* means ‘Jehovah.’ Every time you say, “Hallelujah,” you’re saying, “Praise the Lord.” It could literally be translated, “Let us praise the name of Jehovah.” “Hallelujah” is used many times in the OT but only here in the NT. It’s as if God saved it just for this event. (More later on Handel’s “The Hallelujah Chorus” cf., next panel.)

2. The Beautiful Bride—The Church—is presented.

Revelation 19:7–10, NASB - *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”*

How has the Bride been ‘made ready?’

Redemption – At the moment of salvation when God saved you. (Betrothal)

Rapture – When God came for and changed you—eternally. (Marriage)

Reward – At the Judgment Seat of Christ (Consummation), just before the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, we receive rewards according to the deeds of righteousness we’ve done. Our white linen garments represent the righteous acts of the saints. Now, our reward—*being with God forever!* (Consummation—all of this leading to celebration!)

3. The Glorified Groom—Jesus Christ—is worshipped.

Revelation 19:6–7, NLT - *“Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: ‘Praise the Lord! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself for Him.’*

This wedding doesn’t center around the bride, as it does in our culture. Here, the wedding centers around the Groom, the Lord Jesus. When an angel directs John the Apostle to write all of this down for us, the angel is so glorious, so radiant and majestic, John makes a mistake: “And I fell at his feet to worship him” (v. 10). The angel corrects John: “Only one is to be worshipped.”



2 Timothy 4:5–8, NIV - *“But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*

Matthew 22:2–3, NIV - *“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.”*



The Hallelujah Chorus

We know the HALLELUJAH CHORUS well, but it actually has four stanzas:

All the words are based on scriptures from Revelation 11:15 and Revelation 19:6, 16.

Stanza 1—Redemption of the Saints: “*And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in Heaven, saying, ‘Hallelujah; salvation and glory, and honor, and power unto the Lord our God’ ...for He shall reign forever and ever, Hallelujah!*”

That which was begun at Calvary now comes to full consummation.

Stanza 2—Retribution upon the Sinner: “*For true and righteous are His judgments...*”

The saints praise God for making all things right. His justice has prevailed for the persecuted church. He has taken vengeance upon those who’ve persecuted believers throughout the ages. If you look for judgment in this world, you’ll not find it. But one day we will say, “*Hallelujah—God has made it right*”—the retribution of God over Satan, Christ over Antichrist, the Holy Spirit over the false prophet.

Stanza 3—Relationship of the Saved: “*And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, ‘Amen! Alleluia!’*”

What is our relationship to Him? He is *our* God. Not “the” God, but “*The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not want.*” Not “a good shepherd” or “a great shepherd.”

He is, but He is *my* shepherd. I am His and He is mine.

Stanza 4—Reign of the Savior: “*And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude.... ‘Alleluia! For the Lord God omnipotent reigns.’*”

And with these words, *The Marriage Supper of the Lamb* begins. It begins when a roar from this multitude crescendos like the tumultuous sound of rushing water combined with “*mighty thundering’s.*” It will be like standing under Niagara Falls in a powerful thunderstorm. Jesus, once despised, rejected, spat upon, now reigns—King of kings and Lord of lords. Every knee shall bow; every tongue will confess and proclaim that He is Lord of all—these shouts of praise reverberate throughout the earth, Hell and Heaven.

Source: Adapted from the Message by the late, Dr. Adrian Rogers, titled, “*Are you ready for the Marriage Supper?*” and Handel’s Messiah.