

## I. Review (Rev. 18-19)

- A. John has been witnessing the judgments of Jesus upon darkness as our Lord begins to transition the earth into the age to come. Phase 1 of this transition is His judgment and destruction of the Harlot Babylon Ideological System along with its capital city.
- B. His judgment of the Harlot causes an unparalleled celebration in heaven as it marks the beginning of the transition of the earth into the age of promise. John sees the mature bride who has made herself ready for the return of the bridegroom.
- C. We see that our destiny is to fully understand, trust, and love Jesus' leadership related to His judgments (19:1-3) and His power that causes all things to work for our good (19:6). We will rejoice in the certain hope that His reign will be openly manifest on earth (19:6), and that we will participate in the marriage of the Lamb. The Bride (you and I) being made ready is a biblical promise and therefore is certain (19:7). It is also highlighted to John that our righteous choices will be honored, and rewarded on that day (19:8).

## II. The Hour of the Wedding Has Come!

- A. John hears three reasons for current humanity's hope as he witnessed the future rejoicing that will come. Jesus will openly manifest His reign on the earth; the marriage of the Lamb will come; and His Bride will be made ready.
  - a. The Marriage Supper Lamb has Come – The theme of the marriage of Jesus the bridegroom and His church the bride is a very familiar truth to the scriptures. (Mat. 9:15, 22:2-14, 25:1-13; Mk 2:19-20; Lk. 5:34-35, 14:15-24; Jn. 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32)
  - b. In Biblical times a marriage involved two major events, the betrothal and the wedding. These were normally separated by a period of time during which the two individuals were considered husband and wife and as such were under the obligations of faithfulness. The wedding began with a procession to the bride's house, which was followed by a return to the house of the groom.
  - c. The reception/wedding supper is firmly seen in the prophetic writings, in the teachings of Jesus, and also foreshadowed in the feasts of God. (Ex. 24:1-18; Jer. 31:11-14; Is. 25:1-12; Zec. 14:1-21; Mat. 22:1-10, 26:29; Lk. 14:16-23, 22:30; Jhn. 2:1-12; Rev. 19:9)

### III. Transition of the earth Phase 2 (Defeat the Antichrist and His Armies)

- A. Phase 1 of Jesus transitioning the earth was not necessarily seen by all the inhabitants of the earth as the Lord used the wicked intentions of 10 national leaders to carry out the Harlot's destruction. However, He is about to come upon the earth in clarity, glory, and power.
  
- B. John sees and highlights Jesus as the Bridegroom King in the final battle of natural history over Jerusalem. The context is Jesus making His royal procession into Jerusalem to destroy the Antichrist. This will be the greatest day in natural history for believers—the day of the Lord. Here we see just as we did at Cavalry Jesus' personality, and how far He will go for the sake of love and justice.
  1. We must understand that all prophetic utterances that speak of the return and initial rule of Jesus give it in the context of a great battle. A literal war where armies are gathered together to destroy Jerusalem and stand against Him at His return. I believe this is critical in our understanding of the final chapters in the book of Revelation. Otherwise, these passages seem very cryptic or at the very least confusing and bizarre.
  
- C. Jesus' beauty will be manifested in great measure to all the nations at His second coming. As we meditate on what He will do at that time, we are able to see His personality behind the events. (Ps. 45; Is. 4:2; Heb. 1:8)
  
- D. In Revelation 19:11-16, the Spirit highlights multiple aspects of Jesus' triumphal 2<sup>nd</sup> coming procession. Each one of these aspects speaks of the great beauty of our Beloved Bridegroom.
  1. Heaven will Open – Every time heaven is open to us there is an unveiling of the person of Jesus Christ. This has been a spiritual reality from the time He was taken up into heaven. Now heaven is open once and for all and the unveiling of Jesus to the inhabitants of the whole earth is now a undeniable physical reality. The kingdom has come on earth as it is in heaven! (Mat. 6:10; Rev. 1:1, 19:10)
  
  2. White Horse - In Biblical times, especially among Israel, most soldiers were foot soldiers. To have a horse in battle was a significant advantage. A horse spoke of honor, of power, and of speed; the color of this horse speaks of victory and purity. Jesus will make His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a white horse as the conquering King, in the context of a military conflict.

3. Faithful and True - He is faithful to fulfill His promises and is true to His loving nature in all that He does. Even in battle, Jesus will be faithful to love, justice, and truth. He keeps all His promises but the particular promise being fulfilled at this hour is the great promise that was given at the onset of redemptive history. (3:20-21; Titus 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:13)
  
4. In Righteousness He Judges and Makes War - He will intervene with judgment in order to put things right. His judgments include establishing new leaders, laws, and policies that will help the poor. The most extreme judgment in history will occur in the largest, most violent battle in history. Jesus will restore order by destroying wicked governments. He does all of this in perfect righteousness. (Ps. 45:6-7; Isa. 11:1-10, 32:1; Jer. 23:5-6)