

REVELATION 19:1-10

I. MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

A. PREPARATION

1. SCRIPTURE
2. PARAPHRASE
3. HEAVENLY SCENE
4. HEAVENLY ANNOUNCEMENT
5. HEAVENLY WEDDING ATTENDANTS

B. BRIDE OF CHRIST

1. CHURCH AGE BELIEVERS
2. ORDER OF EVENTS
3. A MARRIAGE TRULY MADE IN HEAVEN
4. EVENTS ON EARTH
5. SUMMARY
6. SONG

REVELATION 19:1-10



OPENING PRAYER

We will take our usual moments of silence to prepare for Bible study, then I will pray out loud.

Father, guide us, now as we open Your Word to consider the things You want to teach us. May we allow Your Spirit to open our understanding as we examine the most beautiful and important wedding ever celebrated. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

REVIEW

Vocabulary

Babylon: *a literal city of the past; a literal city in Iraq, today. Here, the name symbolizes an evil, religious city controlling the world wide religious system (the scarlet beast) during the Tribulation. It does not necessarily refer to modern Babylon even though that city is being restored to magnificence, today as Scripture clearly predicts. It is possible two separate cities are involved: one the center for the great apostate, religious system and the other the center for the system of commerce, social life and politics.*

The character of literal Babylon: *reflects the evil character of the city controlling Satan's phony religious system and the evil character of the commercial system connected to that religious system. Power, wealth, pleasure and self indulgence are perceived as the means of achieving happiness.*

Summary

An evil religious system dominates the world during the Tribulation. God allows evil to come to full development but true to His righteous character, He judges both systems and those who participate in their activities. Scripture says commercial Babylon is "laid to waste" in one hour. Those who became wealthy and influential because of Babylon, mourn the loss of their power (James 5:1; Zephaniah 1:11-18), but heaven rejoices in her judgment (Revelation 19:20). Jesus Christ controls history, He protects His people and knows when judgment is required. The world's pleasures last for a season. God's blessings are eternal. God warns His people to "come out" of such evil systems for their own good.

I. MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

A. PREPARATION

1. SCRIPTURE

REVELATION 19:1-6 After these things I heard as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God because His judgments are true and righteous, for He has judged the great harlot (*the city and the great counterfeit religion she controls*) who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and has avenged the blood of His bond-servants (*those she helped murder during the Tribulation*) on her." And a second time they said, "Hallelujah, her smoke rises up forever and ever." And the twenty-four elders (*special angels from Chapter 4*) and the four living creatures (*high ranking, seraph angels*) fell down and worshipped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" And a voice came from the throne saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants (*Church Age believers*), you who fear Him, the small and the great (*all kinds of believers*)." And I heard, as it were the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters (*Gentile nations*) and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns (*Christ is on His throne*).



2. PARAPHRASE

Following the report of the destruction of religious and commercial Babylon, John, hears a large crowd praising the Lord. The heavenly Halleluiahs chorus becomes one strong voice praising God Almighty in three important areas.

First, they are grateful that God is supreme; that all glory and power belong to Him and that He has devised such a perfect plan for salvation..

Second, they praise God because of His perfect judgment of the harlot (*that counterfeit pretending to be the bride of Christ, who corrupts the whole earth and leads men into spiritual immorality*). They are grateful that God answered the prayers of the martyrs under the altar who begged for vengeance against the harlot because she was involved in their murders.

Does it not seem that this is another description of the scene in REVELATION 7:11-17, where the great multitude praises God for avenging their murders? New details were added in Chapter 18. More are added in this Chapter.



Third, they praise the Lord because the smoke rising from the destruction of the false system supported by the harlot is so great it will be remembered

forever (Revelation 17:1). They agree that the destruction of the false system should be recognized as just throughout eternity. Heaven expresses approval of God's judgment of God rejecters: twenty-four elders and four living creatures fall down and worship God, praising Him and proclaiming "We fully approve of Your judgment on Babylon!"

A voice from the throne prompts martyrs in heaven (ordinary people and world leaders: those brutally murdered during the Tribulation), who respect, honor and trust Jesus Christ (believers) to praise and worship God.

John hears the large, heavenly chorus proclaim with a united voice as loud and awesome as a great waterfall combined with mighty thunder, saying, "Praise God, for the Lord, our God, the Almighty, reigns."



PSALM 97:1 The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands be glad.

3. HEAVENLY SCENE

REVELATION 19 is a scene in heaven at the end of the Tribulation. All heavenly participants look forward to a great event. It is time for the marriage of the Lamb. The bride has been made ready. Where does the wedding take place? Who is the Bridegroom? Who is the bride? Who are the wedding guests?



Evaluation of Church Age believers takes place in heaven while the Tribulation plays out on earth.

a. Diagram #1 *Explain the following chart. Allow questions and discussion. Read both Scriptures connected with heaven.*

7 -YEAR TRIBULATION

HEAVEN

Church Age believers receive awards at the Bema Seat in heaven.
IT TAKES 7 YEARS. I Cor. 3:11– 15; I Cor. 9:24-25

God pours His wrath onto earth to purify His creation.
IT TAKES 7 YEARS. Revelation Chapters 6 - 19

EARTH



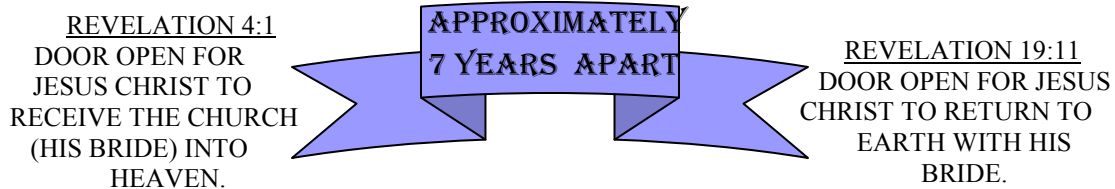
take her to His Father's home (**JOHN 14:1-3**).

3) Seven years elapse between these two open doors and two distinct purposes exist. One is a heavenly purpose concerning the Church: the preparation of the bride for the Marriage. The other (earthly) purpose includes two goals: purification of Jehovah God's unfaithful wife (the nation of Israel) and purification of earth in preparation for Christ's Kingdom.



Display symbols for the door at the Rapture and the door for Christ's Return. Both the Church and Israel must be prepared for the perfection of the Millennium by the time of the open door in Revelation 19:11.

TWO DOORS IN HEAVEN SERVING TWO DIFFERENT PURPOSES.



4) During the seven years between the two doors, the bride is prepared for the heavenly wedding. At the same time earth is purified for Christ's return and reign. Notice **Satan is removed from heaven** before the heavenly wedding occurs. Only believers may attend. Notice, also that **Satan is removed from earth** before the earthly wedding feast takes place. Only believers attend. The Millennium will begin with all believers. God accomplishes both the heavenly and the earthly purposes. Chapter 19 adds fresh details concerning both.

4. HEAVENLY ANNOUNCEMENT

a. Memory verse.

REVELATION 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give the glory to Him (*Jesus Christ*): for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready.



b. Paraphrase.

All Church Age believers are encouraged to express happiness and be exceedingly joyful knowing Jesus Christ has fulfilled the heavenly purpose of protecting and preparing His bride for the most magnificent wedding of all ages.

c. Explanation.

Marriage is important to God. God the Father performs the ceremony of the final and most glorious wedding in history. He also performed the first marriage ceremony in the Garden of Eden and Christ's first miracle was performed at a marriage. This may be the final marriage ceremony for Church Age believers as there is no marriage in heaven. It is fitting that God perform this heavenly ceremony.

5. HEAVENLY WEDDING ATTENDANTS

(As the participants at the wedding ceremony and the Marriage Supper are listed, notice that elders and living creatures are there and the bride is there at the same time. The Church is the bride of the Lamb. 24 Elders cannot represent the Church.)



a. Six categories are in attendance.

- 1) God is in the heavenly scene.
- 2) Angels are there (two groups: 24 elders and 4 living creatures).
- 3) John the Baptizer seems to be there as the best man (he died before the crucifixion and is part of Israel).

JOHN 3:28, 29 *(John the Baptist is speaking)* **You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, "I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him. He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom (*best man?*), who stands and hears Him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. And so this joy of mine has been made full."**



4) The apostle, John is there as part of the Church. It seems Tribulation saints who died and are resurrected at Stage 3 are there, both groups: 1) those crying for vengeance and 2) those murdered later—(verse 6). They are the Groom's friends. If deceased Tribulation saints are there, O.T. saints must be there, too. They must be in resurrection bodies.

5) The Bridegroom is there. He is the Lord Jesus Christ, "who loves (with a present love that continues forever) the bride and gave Himself (in the past: a reference to his death on the cross) for her". He cannot be omitted from any report of the wedding for He is the Groom. The wedding centers around Him.

6) His bride (The Church), resurrected at the Rapture, is there.



Remind students of the four stages of the First Resurrection. Those at the 2nd stage of the first resurrection are the bride. That's us! The third stage of the first resurrection occurs at the end of the Tribulation, evidently in time for the wedding. This would account for Tribulation martyrs (vs. 6), the two witnesses and John the Baptizer's presence. All attendants are redeemed.

b. Only believers attend the ceremony and the celebrations. It is interesting to note the cessation of Satan's access to heaven in the middle of the Tribulation (Rev. 12:9). He certainly could not attend the festivities. He is kicked out before they begin.

EVERYTHING IS READY
FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB.

B. BRIDE OF CHRIST

1. CHURCH AGE BELIEVERS

a. Our heavenly Bridegroom has not returned for us, but we eagerly anticipate His shout, the voice of the archangel and the sound of God's trumpet. The bride's preparation begins at that time.

b. The bride is pure and righteous. She wears her glorious wedding gown and the decorations awarded at the Bema Seat in contrast to the earthly decorations of purple, scarlet and gaudy jewels worn by the harlot. The true bride is magnificent in her simplicity, because of the clean, white purity provided by her Bridegroom. She is part of His glory!



REVELATION 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Believers receive Christ's righteousness at salvation. The fine linen, here, speaks of works performed by the believer while filled with the Spirit: Divine good works that survive the fire at the evaluation (Bema Seat) and are rewarded. Christ performed those works through willing, humble believers, subordinate stewards and bond-servants, who were faithful to the master. (Display "Survival of Fire" visuals if desired.)



Chart covering the Bema Seat is in teacher's appendix if teacher desires to teach more on the subject at this time.

A beautiful music tape-film "Beloved Thief, A Musical Love Story.", Words

and Music by Zola Levitt is Available through Zola Levitt Ministries, Inc., P.O. Box 12268, Dallas, Texas, 75225, presenting the sequence of a Jewish Wedding.



b. Bride prepared.

1) The bride is dressed and ready after seven years of preparation.

All Church Age believers (the bride) receive resurrection bodies (provided by Jesus Christ) at the Rapture, before the Tribulation, and the bride receives further decorations (also from Jesus Christ) during the seven years she spends in heaven at the Bema seat.

IT TAKES SEVEN YEARS TO OUTFIT THE BRIDE FULLY AND COMPLETELY (THE # 7, AGAIN!).

AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION THE BRIDE WEARS FINE, WHITE LINEN GARMENTS AND GLORIOUS ADDITIONAL DECORATIONS...ALL PROVIDED BY HER GROOM.

2) Only Church Age believers possess resurrection bodies during the Tribulation (Stage 2 of the first resurrection). Old Testament and Tribulation saints receive resurrection bodies at the end of the Tribulation (Stage 3 of the First Resurrection) and it seems they attend the Marriage and Supper in heaven. They definitely attend the Marriage feast on earth.

REVELATION 19:9, 10 And He (an angel) said to me (John), "Write 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he (the angel) said to me (John), "These are true words of God." And I (John) fell at his (the angel's) feet to worship him. And 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. (John is told not to worship angels. Only God is worthy of worship.) For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."



3) REVELATION 19:9-10 records words of happiness and praise from the great multitude attending the heavenly ceremony. The multitude is joyful. They understand the bride is prepared because she trusted her Bridegroom for her preparation. (Tribulation martyrs seem to be at the wedding ceremony. They would have been resurrected at the end of the Tribulation.) These details are difficult to pin down. When the bride and Bridegroom return to earth a marriage feast, more magnificent than any earthly feast, follows. The



separation of the sheep and goats and Satan's removal to the abyss both take place before the Millennium begins. God removes unbelievers and cleanses earth before the Millennium and the wedding feast officially begin.



Lewis Sperry Chafer says, "Distinction is called for at this point between the marriage supper which is in heaven and celebrated before Christ returns, and the marriage feast (Matt.25, R.V.; Luke 12:37) which is on the earth after His return." Chafer, Lewis Sperry, D.D., Litt. D., Th.D., "Systematic Theology", Dallas Seminary Press, Dallas, Volume IV, p. 396. (Look up and read to class.)

d. Title symbolism.

1) The title "Bride of Christ" reflects the love Christ has for His Church.

CHRIST LOVES HIS CHURCH WITH PERFECT LOVE.

2) Christ has chosen the Church as His bride and He is responsible for her. The engagement lasts over 2000 years. Jesus Christ won His bride's love through His actions (He gave His life to save her), through His love letters (His Word, the Bible) and through His elaborate gifts.

3) Christ guarantees His bride's purity and she reflects His glory. Following the festivities there is a 1,000 year honeymoon. The bride lives with Jesus Christ forever in a superb bridal chamber inside His Father's mansion named heaven.

THE BRIDE'S DESCRIPTION
APPLIES TO THE CHURCH.

EPHESIANS 1:4 Just as He (God, the Father) chose us (believers in Jesus Christ in the Church Age) in Him (in Christ) before the foundation of the world (due to His foreknowledge), that we should be holy and blameless (righteous) before Him.



EPHESIANS 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself up for her that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word (God, through His Word, cleanses the bride). That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless (the bride should be righteous and without sin: Justification). Christ presents the bride to Himself, then to His Father).

e. Bridegroom.

Just as God took Adam's rib while he was in a deep sleep to form his bride (Eve), the formation of the bride of Christ is the result of Christ's deep sleep of death. Christ died on the cross so that His bride might be formed and made righteous. He completes Himself by receiving her back at the Marriage ceremony.

EPHESIANS 5:30-32 For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.



Eve was taken from Adam. She originated "FROM" Adam.

She had nothing except what she received from Adam.

*There is nothing in us, the Church, except what we receive from our Bridegroom!
"Because she's part of me" ... "therefore a man will leave his father and his mother
and shall "cleave" unto his wife...the unity between a man and a woman is
because, in the beginning, the two were one.*

*Christ gave His life. God planned it that way. The Heavenly Bridegroom pours out
His life that His bride might live and then He receives her back that He might
complete Himself.*

*God took Eve from Adam's side...not from his foot that he might trample on her...
not from his head that he might rule over her, but from the circle of Adam's arm
close to his heart that he might
love and protect her above all others. What an extraordinary relationship!*

2. ORDER OF EVENTS

a. Read in order: DANIEL 2:35-45 (use the "Image From Daniel" visual to help explain. Show the image begins after Assyrian and Egyptian domination of Israel before she even became a Nation, bringing the total of empires dominating Israel during human history to seven (7 equals full and complete); MATTHEW 24:27-31 and finally MATTHEW 25:1-13.



MATTHEW 25:1-13 Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom ... And five of them were foolish, and five were



prudent (*wise*). For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil (*oil pictures the Holy Spirit. Those without oil profess to be believers, but are not*) with them, but the prudent (*sensible, careful: believers*) took oil (*the Holy Spirit*) in flasks along with their lamps. Now, while the bridegroom was delaying, they all (*all become weary, but believers are prepared*) got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, "Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the prudent, "Give us some of your oil for our lamps are going out." But the prudent answered, saying, "No, there will not be enough for us (*no one can believe in Christ for anyone else*) and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast and the door was shut (*His true people, the sheep, go in with Him*). And later the other virgins also came, saying, "Lord, Lord, open up for us." But he answered and said, "Truly I say to you, I do not know you (*goats at the separation of the sheep and goats. These are definitely unbelievers. The Lord would never say "I do not know you." to those who trusted in Him*)." **Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.**"



These verses help explain the separation of the sheep (believers) and goats (unbelievers) after the Tribulation. Virgins represent those alive at the end of the Tribulation. Living believers (sheep) who survived the Tribulation go into the Millennium and attend the Marriage Feast on earth. Living unbelievers (goats) are removed from earth and suffer the baptism of fire. The separation occurs at Christ's Second Advent immediately preceding the Marriage Feast on earth. It is part of earth's purification (chart: p. 16). A note in the Ryrie Study Bible is helpful.



The Ryrie Study Bible, Ryrie, Charles Caldwell, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, 1976-78, p. 1491, Footnote for 25:1. "...to meet the bridegroom." "The two phases to Jewish weddings helps here. First the bridegroom went to the bride's home to pick her up (Editor's NOTE: there is a technical problem here: earth is not the bride's home. She is not settled down on earth,

but is already a citizen of heaven) to obtain his bride and to observe certain religious ceremonies. Then, he took his bride to his own home for a resumption of the festivities. Christ will take His bride at His second coming to the marriage supper (Editor's NOTE: technically, this is the "feast". Ryrie doesn't refer to the two separate celebrations.) on earth. The virgins represent the professing Jewish remnant on earth at His return."



THE SEPARATION OF THE SHEEP AND GOATS MIGHT BE THOUGHT OF AS A "REVERSE RAPTURE". UNBELIEVERS ARE REMOVED FROM EARTH.

b. Earth's inhabitants.

- 1) Believers are sheep who survive the Tribulation and go into the Millennium alive to celebrate the Marriage Feast on earth.
- 2) Unbelievers are goats who go to torments in the center of the earth where they await the Great White Throne judgment at the end of time. They do not attend the Feast on earth, only believers may attend.
- 3) The Marriage Supper is in heaven and the Marriage feast takes place on earth. **Both celebrations are attended by believers only: pure and righteous creatures.**

3. MARRIAGE TRULY MADE IN HEAVEN

The counterfeit bride (the harlot) is judged and goes to destruction. The true bride (the church) lives an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, eternally. There is a ceremony of unbelievable beauty and tenderness.

4. EVENTS ON EARTH

a. Certain events follow the Bridegroom's return to earth.

- 1) Satan is cast into the abyss for 1,000 years.
- 2) Sheep and goats are separated. Sheep include 144,000, all living, believing survivors of the Tribulation and the living remnant or offspring of the woman. Goats are all living unbelievers of the Tribulation.
- 3) Though the exact time is obscure, Stage 3 of the first resurrection has occurred: O.T and Tribulation believers in resurrection bodies attend the marriage feast on earth.

5. SUMMARY



(The time of some of these events is not exact. However, the chronology is not in opposition to our current knowledge of Scripture.)

First, there is a binding engagement and a period of separation. Then, the bridegroom picks up His bride, takes her to his home and presents her to his family.

Jesus Christ won the love of his bride when He died on the cross. An engagement of at least 2,000 years (the Church Age) follows. He returns to take her to His Father's house in heaven at the Rapture. The bride's preparation takes around seven years, during which time heaven is purified by the removal of Satan before the ceremony. The ceremony is performed and festivities follow.

Christ returns to earth with His bride (the Church) at which time earth is purified by the removal of Satan and all unbelievers before an elaborate Marriage Feast is held. The feast is followed by a 1,000 year honeymoon (the Millennium).

Jesus Christ, the King, presents His bride to earthly people, the living believing Tribulation survivors. Christ rules the earth for a thousand years as King of kings. His bride is glorified and reigns with Him. In eternity future Christ's bride, the Church, shares His reign over earth. The reign will be from the heavenly Jerusalem, that golden city with twelve pearl gates, one river and a street of purest gold.

The Bride is united, forever, with the One who loves her and redeemed her; the One and Only, God, Man, Savior, Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.

**THOUGH OUR BRIDEGROOM HAS NOT YET RETURNED, HE
COULD COME BACK AT ANY MOMENT.**

**THOSE WHO ARE HIS BRIDE, SHOULD
EAGERLY AWAIT HIS CALL.**



**I AM LISTENIN' FOR THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPET. I PRAY
YOU ARE, TOO!**

Display the shouting (hands over mouth) AND THE TRUMPET symbols.



6. SONG: *"The Church's One Foundation" (First verse, specifically),
Great Hymns of the Faith, p.186.*

CLOSING PRAYER

There is no way, Father; we can adequately thank You for all you have done. Our hearts overflow with appreciation as we study Your plans for our future. Though we cannot know every detail of what tomorrow brings, we can know that Your plan includes what is best for Your children and Your bride. How grateful we are that You have not only worked out every detail of this magnificent plan, but you have revealed much of it to Your children in Your wonderful Word. In Jesus name, we thank You. Amen.



SEPARATION OF SHEEP AND GOATS

Matthew 25:12; 31-41; 7:23;

SHEEP are living believers at the end of the Tribulation.

EARTH

SHEEP transfer into the Millennium, alive.

GOATS are removed from earth and immediately transferred to Sheol.

GOATS are living unbelievers at the end of the Tribulation.

UNDERWORLD

Compartment of Torments in Sheol.

The term “THE BAPTISM OF FIRE” refers to the transfer of living Tribulation unbelievers to Torments to await the second death at the end of time. They are “identified” with fire. The second death is the “Lake” of Fire (Revelation 20:14-15).

APPROXIMATE CHRONOLOGY OF END TIME EVENTS

