

## The Marriage Supper

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*"<sup>1</sup> 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!"<sup>2</sup> For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."<sup>3</sup> Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"<sup>4</sup> And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"<sup>5</sup> Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"<sup>6</sup> And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"<sup>7</sup> Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."<sup>8</sup> And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."<sup>10</sup> And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:1-10 (The New King James Version)*

Before we get into our study of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, there are a few facts we would like to review about the sixty-six books that compose the library of books under one cover that we call "the Bible". First, everyone of the sixty-six books were recorded without any divisions. They were divided into chapters and verses at a later date.

Second, some of the books were written on animal skins and others were written on papyrus or other material. **THOSE BOOKS ARE NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE.** They

deteriorated long ago. The translations into various native languages were translated from what we consider faithful copies. Those faithful copies were supposed to be compared with each other in order to establish their accuracy and then translated into the different languages. The approximately forty different writers of the original books were inspired by God. **THOSE WHO TRANSLATED THE BIBLE INTO NATIVE LANGUAGES WERE NOT INSPIRED.** Sometimes the translators allowed their personal religious beliefs to influence how they translated a particular verse or passage. Because of that, every translation has some error in it. Although some translations have less error than others, there has never been a perfect, errorless translation. Only the original books were perfect and without error. That is why a person should read all the scriptures dealing with a particular subject before they come to a conclusion about what they think God is teaching. It is also important that we are able to see what the Hebrew word or the Greek word really means in our own language. That is the reason it is so important, if possible, for you to have access to a good concordance or a good Bible software. I suggest that before you accept anything, including these papers, that you read **all** the scriptures dealing with the subject and then come to a conclusion about what God is saying. Be careful as you read anything, to make sure the person writing is not propagating "the skin of truth stuffed with a lie".

Another important fact is that the information in the Book of Revelation is not recorded in chronological order starting from chapter one, verse one and concluding with the information recorded in chapter twenty-two, verse twenty-one. We find in chapter ten, verses 5-7, for instance, the following:

*"<sup>5</sup> The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven <sup>6</sup> and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, <sup>7</sup> but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets. Revelation 10:5-7 (The New King James Version)*

Jesus Christ, in His instructions to His disciples in Matthew 24:45-51, explained what He meant by delay when John was told in Revelation 10:6 that there should be delay no longer. "<sup>45</sup> *Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?* <sup>46</sup> *Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will*

find so doing.<sup>47</sup> Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.<sup>48</sup> But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'<sup>49</sup> and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,<sup>50</sup> the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,<sup>51</sup> and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. *Matthew 24:45-51 (The New King James Version)*

John is told that when the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, the mystery of God will no longer be delayed but will be finished. This is the mystery that Paul taught about in Ephesians 1:3-12, "<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.<sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love<sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace<sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,<sup>9</sup> he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,<sup>10</sup> to be put into effect **when** the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. *Ephesians 1:3-10 (The New International Version)*

That is exactly what will happen when the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, as we shall see in the next chapter, Revelation 11. We find in the latter part of Revelation chapter 11 that the seventh angel will blow his trumpet, the mystery of God will no longer be delayed but will be finished and all things in heaven and on earth will be brought under the authority of Christ. Once that happens, He will reign forever and ever. "<sup>14</sup> *The second woe has passed, but the third is coming soon.*<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet. There were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world now belongs to our Lord and to his Anointed, and he will reign forever and ever."<sup>16</sup> The twenty-four elders who sat on their thrones before God prostrated themselves and worshiped God<sup>17</sup> and said: "We give thanks to you, Lord God almighty, who are and who were. For you have assumed your great power and have established your reign."<sup>18</sup> *The nations raged, but your wrath has come, and the time for the dead to be judged, and to recompense your servants, the prophets, and the holy ones and those who fear*

*your name, the small and the great alike, and to destroy those who destroy the earth." <sup>19</sup> Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a violent hailstorm. Revelation 11:14-19 (The New American Bible)*

If, at the end of Revelation, chapter 11, all things in heaven and on earth will be brought under the authority of Christ and He will begin to reign forever and ever, why did Christ give us the information in chapters 12 through 22? It is obvious that much of what is revealed in chapters 12 through 22 take place **before** the seventh angel blows his trumpet and all things in heaven and on earth are brought under the authority of Christ and He begins to reign forever and ever. Because much of the information Christ reveals in Revelation, chapters 12-22 is extra information.

Please think of it this way. Christ sent His δοῦλος (pronounced doo' los - His bondservants) a panoramic view of the things which would begin shortly and would culminate with all things in heaven and on earth being brought under His authority. The information we find at the end of the eleventh chapter finished the wide sweeping panoramic view. Then, beginning with chapter 12, Christ gives His bondservants extra information they are to place in the "cubby holes" of the panoramic view in order to better understand what He revealed. Included in that extra information was the information He revealed about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

We do not know exactly when the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place although we do know the following:

- 1- It will take place in the Third Heaven while the seven years of the Great Tribulation will take place here on the earth.
- 2- Since the first event that those who are caught up will attend is the Bema Seat (the Reward Seat), the Marriage Supper will take place after the Bema Seat is finished.
- 3- The Marriage Supper will take place before Christ returns to this earth to set up His 1,000 year reign.

4- There will be wedding guests such as John the Baptist attending the Marriage Supper. They are friends of the Bride Groom, not part of the Bride. John the Baptist did not have the one thing that all members of the Bride of Christ must have-scriptural baptism. No one had the authority to administer scriptural baptism until the Lord sent John the Baptist to prepare the material Jesus Christ called, organized, instructed, commissioned and empowered. In the beginning only two people were given the authority to administer scriptural baptism. One of them was John the Baptist. The other was Jesus Christ. John the Baptist **could not** pass his authority down to his disciples. Jesus Christ **could and did** pass His authority down to His disciples and they passed their authority down to their disciples and they passed their authority down to their disciples... to this present time. Although John the Baptist baptized others, none of the disciples of John the Baptist had the authority to baptize him. That means that the only way John the Baptist could receive scriptural baptism and become a member of the Bride of Christ was to become a scripturally baptized member of a local, scriptural church. But John the Baptist was arrested and killed before he was able to become a scripturally baptized member of a local, scriptural church.

*"<sup>22</sup> After these things came Jesus and his disciples to the land of Judea, and there he did tarry with them, and was baptizing; <sup>23</sup> and John was also baptizing in Aenon, nigh to Salem, because there were many waters there, and they were coming and were being baptized-- <sup>24</sup> for John was not yet cast into the prison-- <sup>25</sup> there arose then a question from the disciples of John with some Jews about purifying, <sup>26</sup> and they came unto John, and said to him, 'Rabbi, he who was with thee beyond the Jordan, to whom thou didst testify, lo, this one is baptizing, and all are coming unto him.' <sup>27</sup> John answered and said, 'A man is not able to receive anything, if it may not have been given him from the heaven; <sup>28</sup> ye yourselves do testify to me that I said, I am not the Christ, but, that I am having been sent before him; <sup>29</sup> he who is having the bride is bridegroom, and the **friend of the bridegroom**, who is standing and hearing him, with joy doth rejoice because of the voice of the bridegroom; this, then, my joy hath been fulfilled." John 3:22-29 (Youngs Literal Translation)*

*"<sup>7</sup> As these men went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds **about John**: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothes? Look, those who wear soft clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup>*

*But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and far more than a prophet.*<sup>10</sup> *This is the one it is written about: Look, I am sending My messenger ahead of You; he will prepare Your way before You.*<sup>11</sup> *“I assure you: Among those born of women no one greater than John the Baptist has appeared, but **the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.**”* Matthew 11:7-11 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

*“<sup>1</sup> I hope you will put up with me in a little foolishness. Yes, please put up with me! <sup>2</sup> I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. <sup>3</sup> But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. <sup>4</sup> For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. ”* 2 Corinthians 11:1-4 (The New International Version)