

Two Suppers

Revelation 19:1-10

- I. Revelation 19—sounds and sights (Vs.1-6).
 - A. John hears things in heaven (Vs. 1, 3, 4, 6)
 - B. John sees things coming down from heaven (Vs. 11, 17, 19).
- II. **“After these things”** (V.1)
 - A. tribulation will come to a close.
 - B. The end of the woman, Babylon.
 - 1. The end of all world religion (Ch. 17).
 - 2. The end of the world’s economic/political system (Ch.18).
 - C. The end of all evil.
 - D. The proper response to God’s sovereign reign.
 - 1. “Hallelujah” or “Hallelujiah”
 - a. “Halle” – to praise.
 - b. “Yah” (YAHWEH) – God.
 - 2. “Alleluia” the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew.
- III. Four Hallelujahs
 - A. Hallelujah #1
 - 1. For God is bringing justice and righteousness to the world. (Vs.1-2)
 - 2. There is not one injustice that will not be accounted for by God Himself.
 - B. Hallelujah #2
 - 1. God ends “Babylon”, the one-world system forever (V 3).
 - C. Hallelujah #3
 - 1. Worship to God breaks out (V 3).
 - a. 24 elders—represents the church.
 - b. Four Living Creatures—the cherubim, the high angels.

D. Hallelujah #4

1. A “loud” voice gives praise to the Almighty God.
2. Almighty *Reigns*.
 - a. Reigns—sovereign: the supreme authority, undisputed majesty.

IV. The marriage supper of the Lamb.

A. A marriage between the Lamb (Jesus) and His bride (the church).

1. Modeled in Ephesians 5:22-32.

B. The Jewish wedding.

1. Betrothal.
 - a. The marriage arrangement and dowery.
 - b. The couple is considered “married”.
2. The presentation—The groom returns for the bride.
 - a. The parable of the ten virgins (Mathew 25:1-13).
3. The wedding banquet.
 - a. A seven-day celebration.
 - b. The bride and groom consummate the marriage.

C. The parallel of a Jewish wedding to Christ return.

1. Jesus paid the “dowery” for the bride (the church) with His blood on the cross.
2. Jesus and the church are still in the betrothal stage of marriage.
 - a. Jesus has *delayed* His return.
 - b. Jesus is preparing a house for His church in heaven (John 14:1-6).
3. Jesus is coming for His bride (We are waiting!).
4. Jesus will finalize the marriage with the marriage feast.

You want to be at the supper of the Lamb!

Two Suppers

Revelation 19

You all have a dinner invitation for one of two feasts...two banquets so to speak...they are nothing alike... one is a wedding feast the other a funeral dinner... your choice....one is by invitation only the other by default...you'll want to be at the first one.

Not trying to be morbid... just know that at one dinner you will dine on the finest of foods.... The other one you will be the food....your choice...we find both of these banquets described for us in Revelation chapter 19...My prayer is that we all are at the wedding feast...the marriage supper of the Lamb...

Please turn in your Bible to this great chapter, chapter 19 as we continue through our journey through this profound book.

I've been longing to get to this chapter... It feels like we've been in the tribulation for more than seven years... that's a lot for a pastor to take his church through...I'm ready for some very good news...as I imagine you are as well...so arriving at chapter 19....through these final four chapters ... we arrive at the best news.

Chapter 19 begins with sounds and ends with sights... four times in the first six verses John **hears** something...things that will take place in heaven... ..major events that culminate in **the marriage supper of the Lamb**... which is what we will see this morning...

A wonderful supper that will take place just before the second coming of Jesus Christ to earth...and all believers will be there...if you are one, your RSVP has been received... then in verses 11 through 19 **he sees** three events that move from heaven coming to earth

Verse 11 the second coming of Jesus Christ with the saints...His church coming back to earth... verse 17 he sees the destruction of the armies gathered for war at Armageddon... and verse 19... he sees the punishment of the beast (Antichrist) and the false prophet in the lake of fire.

Which all make up the other meal... a meal that will take place after Jesus's return... a meal of judgement to all the enemies of Christ... all those who rejected Him...a massive slaughter of flesh followed by a world-wide feasting on the flesh by birds... an angel calls this **the great supper of God**...that will be next week.

So for this week...Let's read together the first ten verses of chapter 19.

Read Revelation 19:1-10

After these things...

Let's don't let those words just slide by... **After these things**... think about them... we've been through a lot in the previous chapters... **After these things** are relieving words after going through difficult times... the difficult times have come to a close... there's good news ahead.

These words here are a great reminder to us that after any trial we may go through... God has been through it with us, and He will bring us through it...

Some of you have been through some very difficult times lately... terrible news for your health... loss of a loved one... divorce... financial disaster... a wayward child... there will come a time when you will be through those hard times... there be an **after these things**.

The world will go through the most turbulent period of tribulation... what God is showing us through John is that there is an **after those things**... after all the wars... injustices... persecutions... sicknesses and catastrophes... **After all these things... There will be praise.**

After these things is certainly referring to everything that happened in the previous two chapters... if you remember the woman, or prostitute, harlot called Babylon... Babylon a city but it is more of a world system. A world system with its own world religion chapter 17 and it's own one world economic/ political system chapter 18....

Babylon represents where our world is not only heading... but is already forming... a world opposed to truth, opposed to God... and celebrates and elevates man.

But to put chapter 19 closer to the on-going chronology of Revelation... this coincides with the end of chapter 16 with the battle of Armageddon and the pouring out of the final seventh bowl of judgement... and that seventh bowl concludes when Jesus returns to earth....

Read Chapter 16:15-21

Chapters 17 and 18 digressed a bit filling in some details about this woman Babylon... chapter 19 follows **these things**... so, as I said in the first six verses John hears sounds... all of these sounds are sounds of rejoicing... aren't you glad?

After each of the four sounds, John hears the word **Hallelujah**... we know that word... but we say it incorrectly... the Greek includes the sound of "I" in the pronunciation... it is al-lay-loo'-ee-ah... let's all try it _____ Al-lay-loo-ee ah.... Kind of messes up the Halleluia chorus doesn't it?

Hallelujah is an important word... it comes from two Hebrew words... *Hallel* which means "**to praise**" and *Yah* which refers to God... a shortened YAHWEH.. Hallelujah means "*to praise God*"... Some of your Bibles say "*Alleluia*"... which is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew

As familiar as that word is... you didn't learn it from the New Testament unless you've read Revelation... no other book of the New Testament has the word... but here in chapter 19...four times in just six verses.

These first six verses are full of praise to the Lord... **Praise the Lord!** these are all the sounds of rejoicing... heaven is rejoicing

(1) **Hallelujah**... Salvation and glory and power belong to the Lord... why is that?...

(2) **Because His judgements are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her sexual immorality and He has avenged the blood of His slaves shed by her hand...**

Praise the Lord because **God is bringing justice and righteousness to the world**...Have you ever been bothered by the injustice in the world?...why is it that evil seems to be rewarded in this world?...nothing ever seems to happen to those people!!! Like Asaph in Psalm 73 **Why do the wicked prosper?**...

Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth....

Job—"Why do the wicked still live?" (Job 21:7)

Habakkuk 1:13 asks God:**Why do You look on those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up?**

Earlier in Revelation 6... remember the souls of the martyred saints of the Tribulation **cried out with a loud voice saying "How long, O Lord, holy and true will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"**

We were killed for our faith and they just live on and on!...WILL THERE BE ANY JUSTICE?...YES!!! Revelation 19!...Jesus comes back and EVERYTHING is made right!...Hallelujah!!

There is not one injustice that will not be accounted for by God Himself.... What we are seeing here in these first six verses is great rejoicing in heaven because they are seeing the time of God's vindication is coming to pass....

Read Rev. 19:3

A second Hallelujah...Remember in the last chapter, **18:8** God will torch Babylon for her gross immorality...here the smoke of that fire **will rise forever and ever** which means this judgement is final...permanent... irreversible...there will be no **After these things** for Babylon

The One world system... the One world religion... the one world economic/political system has been judged...the evil of the world...brought down...burned up... gone forever and ever! **Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!**

Then a third Hallelujah

Read 19:4

Similar to John's response later in verse 10

Read verse 10

We first were introduced to the 24 elders back in chapter 4 when John is given a look into heaven... **24 elders** are most likely representative of the church in heaven... the **four living creatures** also first seen back in chapter 4...are those high ranking angels the cherubim...

What are they doing?... they have fallen down before God and are worshipping Him... **saying Amen Hallelujah...** a phrase right out of Psalm 106:48 **Amen, Praise Yah! Hallelujah!...** I have no idea why I thought about this but I'll pass it along anyway...

I was thinking of Handel's great music masterpiece "Messiah"... when they get to that grand Hallelujah chorus... everyone in the audience traditionally stands up during the chorus... here they fall prostrate on the ground before Almighty God.

This is the proper position one should be before Almighty God... it is a picture of the highest form of worship which is to present your soul, your body, your mind, and your will to God...I think the apostle Paul had this in mind when he wrote in Romans 12:1

Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

And the final... fourth Hallelujah

Read 19:5-6

Something I was reminded of as I read through these four Hallelujah's is something I've noticed all through Revelation and that is heaven is loud!...I've mentioned that before... God likes loud!... I grew up thinking that everything about God needs to be received with **quiet** reverence... As a small boy in church my mom would always Shhhooosh me.

I think God wants us to be loud in our reverence!... **the sound of many waters...mighty peals of thunder**...no shooshin going on there!...verse 6 concludes: **Hallelujah! For the Lord God, the Almighty reigns.**

Let's think about that word **reigns... the Almighty reigns**...somebody was asking me how to spell **sovereign**...I guess it is a difficult word to spell... I never had any trouble because I knew that it included the word **reign**...just add a *reign* to a *Sover* and you've got it...sovereign.

When we speak of the "sovereignty" of God we are speaking about one of the greatest attributes of God... it speaks of God's **supreme authority** over all things... God... the One with undisputed majesty... majesty literally means **sovereign power**...

God is not just the supreme authority over kings and rulers and countries... He is the supreme authority over the minute... infinitesimal things...there is nothing out of His authority...

knowing that God reigns over all things is great comfort to me.... This goes right along with **after these things!**...no matter what you are going through... God reigns in it... it is because of His supreme authority that we will have an **after these things....**but now... it's time for supper!

Read verse 19:7

This is a very, very great event!... If I have been right... and I think I have been... the church has not been mentioned in Revelation since chapter 3... I believe the church...all believers have been removed after chapter 3... "*raptured*" the church hasn't been mentioned once in chapters 4 till now...

This is the marriage between the Lamb...Jesus... and His bride... the church...all believers in Christ... "**Lamb**" is the most used title for Jesus in the book of Revelation... 39 times...which shows the redemptive emphasis of Jesus... the One who went to the cross... as a lamb to be slaughtered, whose blood was shed to wash our sins ...

This Lamb marries His bride...the church....The apostle Paul wrote the greatest passage on marriage in Ephesians 5...

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she would be holy and blameless.

Paul goes on with detailed instructions and descriptions for a Christian marriage... but he ends his instructions saying **This mystery is great** (this thing called marriage where two become one flesh) **BUT I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church...** Marriage has always been a representation of the relationship between Christ and His people... He the bridegroom... the church the bride.

And here... is the Marriage supper of the Lamb...

Read verse 19: 8

This is a picture of believers...the bride at the moment of their salvation... they are "**clothed in righteousness**"... **fine clean linen** ...So then the *great wedding banquet*... To really understand this... I think it helps to know some things about a Jewish wedding... specifically a Jewish wedding in the day of Christ... it's a beautiful picture.

A Jewish Wedding

We need to not think of a wedding from our culture... I've performed marriage ceremonies in my office!... the Jewish wedding in Jesus's day was as opposite that as you could get... a Jewish wedding had basically three parts to it.

1. The betrothal period... the time when a contract was drawn up and agreed to by the fathers of the bride and the groom...Jewish weddings in that day were arranged marriages...no dating... no searching for your spouse...no eHarmony or Dating.coms...HALLELUJAH!... just two dads coming together and making a contractual agreement for the marriage of their children...

wouldn't that make things so simple!?

This could have taken place when the girl and boy were just two years old!... *"Hey, your daughter is so cute!... I want her to marry my son"*... The two dads would shake on it... this was a legal transaction... the father of the boy would pay a dowery to the girl's father...payment would be money, it could be cattle, sheep, precious stones... whatever was available and agreed upon.

Most of the time the dowery would have been paid in advance and held by the girl's father...if the couple ever divorced... which was common in those days... men often divorced their wives for any reason...it was very hard for the estranged wife to survive....so the dowery would support the estranged wife.

Once the children got to the age to marry... which was very young in those days... no waiting for them to get out of college... most children in those days had already been working for years in the family business by the time they were 14 or 15...so they would have gotten married young.

Most think the mother of Jesus, Mary was between 12 and 15 when she was betrothed to Joseph...so the betrothal was a marriage contract... a price was paid to the father for the bride...marriage vows were exchanged... they would not consummate the marriage at this time....no marriage celebration, that would be later.

Once the betrothal was made... the groom would leave for a year... he would go and build an addition to his father's house for them to live in once they were officially married... it was common for two to three generations to live in the same home.

There is a Levitical law that exempted the groom to enter military duty during the betrothal period... the one year... they were considered as husband and wife even though they had not finished the marriage process... if the couple broke up during the betrothal period... they were considered to be divorced...

When you understand this process... you can see why the Christmas story is a little tense when Joseph finds out Mary was pregnant... they were in this betrothal period... they had not consummated the marriage yet...he hadn't had sexual relations with her... yet she was with child... and what was he willing/wanting to do?...

He was going to "**divorce her quietly**"... he didn't want to make a huge public issue about it... it didn't want to destroy her reputation...but Mary's betrothal period became a serious

deal!...fortunately an angel comes down and tells Joseph *don't worry this pregnancy was through the Holy Spirit...* Oh, well then, that makes sense!

Betrothal was a legal but unconsummated marriage... after a year... the groom would return for his bride...

2. Bridegroom returns for his bride... Jesus sheds light on the Jewish wedding in His parables... In Matthew 25 is *the parable of the 10 virgins...* yes they're virgins... but they are all bride's attendants...the bride's maids...

They would have attended the bride during that entire year.

So these ten bride's maids had the responsibility to be watching for the arrival of the bride groom... the year is up... and the bridegroom would be showing up at any time... they were to keep watch for him...the groom would come at midnight to get his bride...

Read Matthew 25:1

These bride's maids were to take lanterns out into the night and meet the groom...here's the problem:

Read Matthew 25:2-4

What Jesus is telling us is that some will be ready for His return and some will not... now the groom in the parable wasn't on time... just like Jesus told His disciple He would return to them shortly be ready...He's delayed for two thousand years...we're still waiting.

Read Matthew 25:5

But just as promised...the bridegroom will return...

Read Matthew 25:6-7

One problem... Five of the bridesmaids were ready for the groom return and five were not...they had their lamps... but they didn't think about bringing the oil for their lamps... the point is... they didn't really expect Him to return... Life has been going along day after day just fine...2000 years...

Jesus is using this parable to tell us to be ready for His return!... The bridegroom will return!

Read Matthew 25:8

The groom is going to return... you don't know when... but be ready... for when He comes... it will be too late to find oil for your lamps... *Give us some of your oil for our lamps...*

Read Matthew 25:9

Why didn't they give them some oil?...**you can't get to Jesus on borrowed faith!... it has to be YOUR faith**....when it comes to your spiritual life... you can't borrow some of it from anyone else!

Read Matthew 25:10-13

So...*first the betrothal*...the legal contract and vows... the groom goes away for a year to prepare for his wife... *second the grooms return to get his wife*... and finally, *third... the wedding banquet* itself...

3. The wedding banquet

The groom comes for his bride... those who will be the wedding guest will raise the bride up on this platform on their shoulders to take her to the groom... at the wedding banquet... this would be a seven-day party... a great celebration with invited guests... seven days! (think Fiddler on the roof!).

[It was one such wedding celebration where Jesus performed His first miracle...at the wedding in Cana... a few days into a wedding celebration they ran out of wine... so Jesus was summoned by His mother, Mary to make some more wine...which He miraculously did... He began His ministry at a wedding... He returns to a great wedding.]

During this wedding celebration... the bride and groom would go to their private room and consummate the marriage... so the betrothal, the return of the groom after a year... he would come back...to all these guests who were invited to celebrate with them... a great feast that would last for seven days... the couple would consummate their marriage...

A Jewish wedding!

Here's the parallel to Revelation 19... When we think about the betrothal... we can see the picture of Jesus Himself paying the dowery... the price of the bride... He paid the full price for His bride with His blood... He literally "purchased" us.

He laid down His life... and with His blood... He secured His bride... He purchased us... He loves us... He enters into a "marriage" covenant with us... then what happened?... He went away for a period of time... at least a year right?...He said He was going to return!... He's delayed His return still... what has He been doing while He's been gone?

He's building onto His father's house!... Turn to the gospel of John... chapter 14... this is all marital language... the scene takes place the night before He goes to the cross...He just told His disciple He was going away... **He would be with them only a little while longer**...

The next day He would be going to pay for His bride on the cross... but before He did... He told His disciple where He was going and what He was going to do after He paid that price...

Read John 14:1-2 (marriage language)

Just like a groom would leave for a year to go add an addition to his father's house for his bride... Jesus has gone to His Father's house to prepare a place for His bride... the church... Do you see all this?... it's amazing!

We are living in the betrothal period... RIGHT NOW!... the church has been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ... we have entered into this marriage covenant arrangement... Christ has gone away... He's preparing a place for us...

And what did He say?...

Read John 14:3

Jesus is coming again... He's coming for His bride... His church... we have to be ready... we have to have oil in our lamps... we are the bride... the wedding party... we are to be anticipating His imminent return!... He has delayed His return to increase the size of His wedding party!...

But He is coming!

Don't be like the five foolish virgins who didn't have oil... were not ready... be ready!... this is where we are right now in redemption history... we are waiting for the Bridegroom to come and receive His bride...

John 14 is not about Jesus returning with His bride to set up His kingdom... that is later.... He is coming back to GET His bride... [Rapture] and take His bride to the house He has prepared for her... ONCE THE CHURCH IS RAPTURED... TAKEN TO HEAVEN THEN THERE WILL BE THE GREAT CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE SUPPER.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb**Read Revelation 19:7-10**

You want to be at that banquet!...

This is a two part story

(1) When I was a young boy... supper was a very big deal in my family... I was expected to eat with the family no excuses... I'm thankful for that... I think all families should share and make special that final meal of the day if possible...

It didn't matter where I was, when it was time for dinner, my dad would yell for me to come... I would be outside... somewhere in the neighborhood... digging foxholes, playing football... doing something to get filthy dirty.

But when I heard my dad call... I would come running home... my mom would look at me and say “*go wash up!*”... I hated that!... *do I have to?*... my passive aggressive behavior surfaced when I “washed” my hands... *those aren't clean...get in there and WASH YOUR HANDS....GET CLEANED UP FOR DINNER!*

(2) I remember about twenty-five years ago hearing Chuck Swinoll preach on the Marriage Supper of the Lamb... something that has stuck with me...he said ***You have to get cleaned up for the marriage supper of the lamb... soap won't do it... you have to be cleaned up with blood.***

Elijah Hoffman wrote a classic hymn...actually he wrote over 2000... most likely you know it:

*Are you washed in the blood,
In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?
Are your garments spotless? (Verse 8)
Are they white as snow?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be white?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright,
and be washed in the blood of the Lamb?*

Do you need to get cleaned up?... the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse you from all sin...to get cleaned up you can't do it... to get cleaned up you don't have to give up smoking, chewing, drinking...you don't have to promise to keep coming to this church or any church.

You don't have to clean up your life...YOU can't... you don't have to start doing anything “religious”...but you do have to be cleaned by the blood of the Lamb.