

Imagine you are at the wedding of a close friend, and the people are eating, laughing, and enjoying themselves, when a stranger tries to sneak into the party looking like they had just played a muddy game of football. Would you be appalled? Would you think, "How could someone come in, not even having a relationship with the happy couple, and not being properly dressed for the occasion?" It is the same with the marriage supper of our Lord. We must know the Groom and be dressed in His righteousness to enter and be blessed with "those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" (Revelation 19:9). Otherwise, you will fall before Him ashamed. Are you ready?

The King is Coming: A Study in Revelation 19

Today we open up the breath-taking scenes of Revelation chapter 19. As we have read through this book, we've walked through some heavy territory. We've seen the rise of the Antichrist, the pouring out of the vials of God's wrath, and the total collapse of "Babylon"—that world system of religious and commercial corruption.

In chapter 19, the clouds are finally parting. The darkness of the Great Tribulation is about to be pierced by the brightest light this universe has ever known.

The Hallelujah Chorus of Heaven

"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!'" (Revelation 19:1, NKJV)

For the first time in the New Testament, we find the word "Alleluia." It's a Hebrew word—*Hallelu-Yah*—which literally means "Praise to Yahweh." Heaven is erupting! Why? Because the judgment of the earth is complete. The wrath has been poured out, and the time has come for Jesus Christ to return and establish His Kingdom.

Notice what they are praising Him for in verse 2: "*For true and righteous are His judgments.*" You know, the enemy loves to whisper to us—just as he did to Eve in the Garden—that God isn't fair. People today ask, "How could a loving God judge the world?" But heaven declares that His judgments are true. God never makes a "snap judgment." He never judges without all the facts. He will never have to apologize for a verdict He has rendered.

Religion vs. Relationship

In verse 2, we see that God has judged the "great harlot"—that false religious system. I've often said that religion is one of the greatest curses on the earth. Religion is man's attempt to reach up to God through works, rituals, and "brownie points." But the Gospel is God reaching down to man.

Religions tell you that you must perform to be accepted. The Gospel tells us that our own righteousness is as "filthy rags" and that we must simply cast ourselves upon His mercy. Jesus was always at odds with the religious leaders of His day because He offered a relationship, not a legal system. Religion is threatened by spiritual life. But God has avenged the blood of His servants shed by those religious systems.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

"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." (Revelation 19:7, NKJV)

Who is the bride? That's us, the ekklesia—the church! The Body of Christ. And look at our wedding garment in verse 8: *"fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."* Now, don't get confused. This isn't a righteousness you earned by reading five chapters a day or never missing a prayer meeting. As Paul told the Philippians, it is a righteousness "which is through faith in Christ" (Philippians 3:9, NKJV). It is *imputed* righteousness. God puts it on your account because you trust in His Son. If our standing depended on our performance, we'd be righteous on Monday and unrighteous by Friday night! Thank God our "wedding dress" is woven by His grace, not our effort.

The Heavens Open

"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True..." (Revelation 19:11, NKJV)

John sees the climax of history. Jesus isn't coming back on a donkey this time; He's on a white warhorse. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and He has a name written that no one knows but Himself. He is called The Word of God.

Behind Him are the armies of heaven. That's us again! Clothed in that same fine linen. And notice His weapon: *"Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations"* (verse 15). This is the power of the Word. Just as God said, *"Light be,"* and light was, Jesus will speak the word, and the rebellion of man will be over. The Antichrist and the false prophet are captured and cast alive into the Lake of Fire—Gehenna. The battle is settled not by a long struggle, but by the sheer authority of the King of Kings.

Practical Application & Challenge

1. Trust His Timing: When you see the world's systems collapsing or feel the sting of unfairness, remember that God's judgments are *true and righteous*. He sees, He knows, and He will make it right.
2. Check Your Garment: Are you trying to stitch together your own righteousness through religious works? Stop. Rest in the finished work of Jesus. Your "fine linen" is a gift received by faith.
3. Occupy Until He Comes: We are part of the army that follows Him. Our "warfare" now is not with swords, but with the same Word that proceeds from His mouth. Share that Word with a dying world.

My challenge to you, believer: Live this week in light of the "Alleluia" of heaven. If we are going to be part of that great multitude praising Him then, let's start practicing now. Let the reality of His return change how you treat your neighbor and how you handle your trials.

An Invitation to Life

Perhaps you're reading this and you realize you've been "religious" but you don't have a relationship. You've been trying to reach up, but you've never let God reach down.

Jesus died on that cross and shed His blood to pay for every sin you've ever committed—past, present, and future. When He rose from the dead, He proved forever that He is God, Savior, and Lord. The "marriage supper" is being prepared, and there is a seat with your name on it—but you must respond to the invitation.

Don't wait for the day of judgment. Reach out to Him today. Just say, *"Lord, I'm a sinner. I can't save myself. I put my trust in what You did for me on the cross. Wash me clean and be my Lord."* He promised that whoever comes to Him, He will in no wise cast out.