

THE REVELATION

LESSON 28: THE CELEBRATION OF HEAVEN (19)

Intro:

Have there been times you have just had to shout and sing in worship? When?

BIG IDEA: God's execution of _____ upon the enemies of the church will be cause for great _____.

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
²for his judgments are true and just;
for he has judged the great prostitute
who corrupted the earth with her immorality,
and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

³Once more they cried out,
"Hallelujah!

The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."

⁴And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" ⁵And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God,

all you his servants,
you who fear him,
small and great."

- The multitude is _____ God for his judgment upon the great prostitute. It is _____!
- "*Hallelujah!*" is only found in Psalms and Revelation.
- It is an allusion to the worship at the _____ after Egypt was judged.
- Her 2 sins are noted: corrupting with her _____ & shedding the _____ of the saints.
- She will remain desolate. The judgment is final!
- They are joined by the 24 _____ and the 4 living creatures who _____ Him

What do you think of their rejoicing over destruction?

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“The holiest hearts, the purest minds, in the entire universe, from God’s vantage point, recognize that hell is right and just for those who finally go there.” **Doug Kelly**¹²⁰

⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,
“Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
⁷ Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;
⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure” —
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

- John hears a deafening crowd _____ in God’s _____.
- This means that the long awaited _____ feast of the Lamb is about to begin.
- This is the true Bride: she is _____!
- Who is the Bride? Is it the Church (Eph. 5)? Is it the converted Jews of the Tribulation? Does Jesus have more than 1 bride? Or is Israel the Father’s (Hosea 2:19; Is. 54:1-8; Ezekiel 16:7)?
- Like any bride, she prepared herself with righteous deeds- _____!
- Possibly “righteous deeds performed _____ the saints” or “righteous acts performed _____ the saints”. Goods works as evidence of justifying faith vs. _____ of the saints¹²¹

Betrothal & Dowry => Period of Preparation => Procession, Feast & Consummation

If the Bride is to prepare herself, as a part of the Bride what are you doing to get ready?

How much does the anticipation of the Wedding Supper shape your ordinary life?

“The entire ministry of Jesus is a preparation for a wedding.” **Derek Thomas**¹²²

¹²⁰ Kelly, pp. 353.

¹²¹ Beale, pp. 936ff.

¹²² Thomas, pp. 155.

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⁹ And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” ¹⁰ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

- Who are those invited to the marriage supper?
- The focus of the angel is the word of God. It is not his own _____, his own _____.
- Even John was _____ to worship the angel, a fellow servant.
- Our hearts are _____ toward _____. All of _____ competes with Jesus for the _____ of our sin-ridden hearts.
- The angel _____ the worship and points him back to God.

What good things are you tempted to worship?

Historicist	Preterist	Futurist	Idealist
Now that the papal system has been destroyed, the Church joins Christ in conquering the nations through the gospel. There are various views about the wedding supper-present state or future state of the church.	Chilton provides a side-by-side comparison of the 1 st 6 verses with the last 5 verses of chapter 11 to show they deal with the same event. He views the marriage supper as the full establishment of the New Covenant. The Old Covenant is nullified and the New fully established with the destruction of the temple (after an overlap of 40 years). Essentially, God divorced Israel.	The marriage is a heavenly one; it is not with Israel but with the church. But many expect God to take back his adulterous wife, Israel. This scene is seen as taking place immediately after Rapture which took place 15 chapters earlier. Walvoord sees the invited guests as the OT saints and those of the millennial period.	The Bride is the Church, and this refers to the consummation at the end of time. It was announced in the OT, the betrothal & payment took place during Jesus’ earthly ministry. He prepares a place for us now. No sharp distinction is to be drawn between the Bride and the guests.

“This feast is the climax of that entire process by means of which the Bridegroom, Christ, comes to His bride, the Church. It is the goal and purpose of that ever-increasing intimacy, union, fellowship, and communion between the Redeemer and the redeemed.” **William Hendriksen**¹²³

¹²³ Hendriksen, pp. 181.

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“Unlike the beast, the false prophet, the harlot, and the dragon who backs them all, this faithful servant of God will not tolerate any worshiping of himself, a creature, instead of the Creator.”

Dennis Johnson¹²⁴

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵ From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

- Heaven opens again; this is a _____ vision. This is not a Bridegroom but a victorious _____!
- Jesus sits upon the _____ (Faithful & True, The Word of God).
- “*True*” can also be translated “*Genuine*”. He is the real deal as opposed to the _____ messiah.
- He is fearsome with eyes like fire and _____ robes. His _____ would appear to outnumber the Beast’s.
- The armies of heaven are dressed like the _____, in white, pure, fine linen. They ride white horses.
- He strikes down the nations that rise against him with the sharp sword from his mouth.
- He treads the _____ of God’s fury (Isaiah 63).
- Jesus _____ His enemies!

How comfortable are you with the “dark” side the gospel: that those still in their sin are subject to God’s wrath?

Is this a source of comfort or fear to you? Why?

“The wars of earthly armies typically leave much unjust suffering and destruction in their wake. This war, however, is utterly just, because of the supreme power and justice of the One who wages war.” **Vern Poythress**¹²⁵

“In John’s time it was not uncommon for a monarch to wear more than one crown in order to show that he was king of more than one country.” **Bruce Metzger**¹²⁶

¹²⁴ Johnson, pp. 264.

¹²⁵ Poythress, pp. 174.

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¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” ¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹ And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

- The angel summons the _____ to devour the flesh of those who opposed God.
- The armies of the earth gather against Christ and his army. They have been deceived by the false _____.
- The Beast and the false prophet are _____, not killed. They are tossed into the _____ of burning _____.
- The people were slain and left for food for the birds (_____ 39:17-20).
- This portrays the fulfillment of _____ (Deut. 28:26).

“The wedding feast, the consummation of blessing and satisfaction, contrasts pointedly with the horrific feast ... Everyone will participate in one or the other feast.” **Vern Poythress**¹²⁷

“One by one, Jesus is defeating every opponent. He is ensuring the triumph he has promised to his people.” **Derek Thomas**¹²⁸

Historicist	Preterist	Futurist	Idealist
This represents the on-going victories of the gospel during the modern missions movement.	Jay Adams and others think this refers to the continuing warfare of the church thru the proclamation of the gospel. They generally argue that this does not refer to the Second Coming (Jesus didn't ascend on a horse). Most (but not all) are post-millennial. They	Jesus is coming to establish His millennial kingdom by judging His enemies. The army is interpreted in many ways (saints of other dispensations, the church, Tribulation saints, angels and the church). Non-dispensationalists	The rider is Christ, at the consummation, coming with an army (some say angels, some the church) to judge His enemies. He returns when the nations gather together to destroy the church.

¹²⁶ Metzger, pp. 91.

¹²⁷ Poythress, pp. 171.

¹²⁸ Thomas, pp. 158.

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	believe all nations will be Christianized through the gospel proclamation. This happens prior to the millennium.	often see the sword as the Word of God. Dispensationalists see it as a symbol of Christ's authority.	
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Which time frame for these events makes the most sense of the text? Why?

Conclusion: