

The Return of the King!

Revelation 19:7-16

10/27-28/07

Intro

We have been studying about the Tribulation of the Lord, the seven year period of God's wrath that will soon come upon the earth. The Tribulation takes up a large part of Revelation as John gives us some fascinating, though terrible insights into those awesome days. But the Tribulation will come to an end with an event that the world has been waiting for for thousands of years – the return of Jesus Christ to rule and reign on the earth in person.

Every year, the week before we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, we celebrate what we call the "Triumphant Entry" as we remember when Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on the foal of a donkey. Jesus wept on that day when He saw Jerusalem - the city that did not recognize the time of its visitation.

Jerusalem is called the "possession of peace," but it has been and will be the center of conflict and of war. It is the center of future events and it will be the focal point again when Jesus returns. This will truly be the **Triumphant Entry!!**

There is a lot for us to gain from this study because there is great personal application for each one of us as we study the second coming of Christ; the return of the One who is King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

I. Give Praise to our God

- In verse 5, a voice from heaven is calling bond-servants small and great to give praise to our God. Mystery Babylon the great has been destroyed and the way is being prepared for the return of Christ.
- The sound of this declaration is so powerful it sounds like mighty peals of thunder as they will

shout, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty Reigns!"

A. The marriage of the Lamb has come

- This is not the first time in scripture that we have heard of the idea that the Son of God is to have a bride.

Ephesians 5:31-32, because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

- It's very clear that the bride of Christ is the church – it's us!
- In verse 7 John wrote that the bride has made herself ready. This is a reference to the bride's heart!

Illus – the bride is beautiful and a lot of time goes into the preparation for the wedding. But the most important part of her preparation is what is happening in her heart.

I Peter 3:3-4, Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart...

- What a contrast to the description of Babylon, the great whore, who has chosen the party life and the stuff of the world to the offer of life from God!

- Our heart is absolutely important to the Lord.

Ezekiel 36:26-27, “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes...”

B. Fine linen is given to the bride

- Verse 8 – “it was given to her... to clothe herself in fine linen.”
- John also wrote that the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.
- It is very important that we understand these things because they have everything to do with our relationship to the Lord.
- First, we must be very clear that the linen, the wedding dress, is a very important part of any wedding.

Note: Many people believe that the white dress of the bride represents the bride’s purity (virginity), but in fact it represents the holiness that God gives to us and the purpose and goal of our relationship to Him.

- There are several scriptures that are very helpful in our understanding.

Isaiah 61:10, I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Illus – In a parable of a wedding feast, the wedding clothes were required for entrance. He is the one who gives us the wedding clothes.

Matthew 22:9-14 A man without wedding clothes

- The intention of Christ to purify us is seen in the famous chapter on marriage found in Ephesians 5.

Ephesians 5:25-27 The church in all her glory.

- So the “righteous acts of the saints” is what happens when the church puts on the fine linen, the righteousness of God.

Illus – We are supposed to change the way we live when we put on fine clothes. My mom used to get frustrated with me when I wouldn’t change my clothes after church – we lived on a farm. I used to work with cows for a neighbor. Imagine doing that in good clothes.

C. Blessed are those who are invited

- Vs 9 -- This is a powerful verse! The invitation is the greatest honor that could ever be extended.
- We know that God comes to us and knocks on the door of our heart.

Revelation 3:20, Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.

- But the problem is that some people are *not willing to come*. We see this is that same parable in Matthew 22.

Matthew 22:1-6 Those who were unwilling

- Others take in the invitation lightly.

Luke 14:15-24 Those who took the invitation lightly.

- One this is for certain, God does not take the invitation lightly. In fact He even goes so far as to entreat with great passion.

Illus – Surely He has loved us much more than we deserved, yet still He asks us to come.

When Jesus dipped the bread with Judas, He knew that Judas would betray Him, yet He dipped His bread with Him as an act of love.

II Corinthians 5:20, Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

II. Jesus Comes as a Champion

- John was in such awe that he fell down in worship, but was immediately corrected. The angel then pointed him to Jesus...
- “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” All of prophecy points to Jesus. Worship Him, the angel is saying. We are also then drawn to what happens next.

A. He comes to set things right

- He comes on a white horse – the sign of a champion.

- It’s interesting that the Antichrist, the false messiah, comes on a white horse as well (Revelation 6). But there the similarity ends.
- Jesus is called, “Faithful and True.” There is no deception with Him; He comes to conquer all that has stood in opposition to Him.
- There has been so much that has been wrong on this earth, and some have wondered why God has not taken action.
- The answer is found in the patience of God; waiting for the all who will come to Him to respond.

II Peter 3:7-11 the Lord is not slow about His promise

- But now He comes. The scene is in heaven as He prepares to enter the scene unfolding on the earth, where the enemies of Israel have gathered for one final battle – the Battle of Armageddon.
- And His armies come with Him. That’s us. The saints will return with Christ in that great and fateful day.
- We see some of the details of the events that happen next; the events that happen on the earth, in the book of Zechariah chapters 12, 13, and 14.

Zechariah 12:9-10, 13:1, 14:1-4 Israel is saved.

B. He will rule with a rod of iron

- Verse 6 – “Hallelujah, for the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns.”
- Verse 15 – he will smite the nations and he will rule them with a rod of iron.
- We are helped here by understanding that in the Greek, the word here is “shepherd;” He will shepherd with a rod of iron.

App – The idea of a shepherd is so helpful here because we know that a shepherd carries a staff and Christ’s will not break, it is made of iron.

But the shepherd is also the one who is a healer. If God disciplines, he also heals.

Illus – In that day, healing water will flow from Jerusalem.

Zechariah 14:8, And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

Ezekiel 47:9, It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.

- Jesus asked His disciples a question that we also must be able to answer...
- “Who do you say I am?”