

“Wedding Bells”

(Rev. 19:1-10)

Dr. Richard S. Koole
Chapel Pointe
January 13, 2008

I. Introduction

A. The Final Battle

1. It's "go time!"

The great conflict of the ages is almost over. Babylon is gone forever, and the nations of the ungodly are retreating to their final stand at Armageddon. The devil and the antichrist and the false prophet are themselves en route to lead their followers into the last great battle of the long warfare between heaven and hell. They have dispatched their legions of wicked spirits to gather all the kings of the earth and their armies to the climactic confrontation at the great day of God Almighty. The hordes are assembling in the tremendous column extending across Israel, from Armageddon to Edom, and there have already been sieges and skirmishes throughout the land, especially at Jerusalem.

Preparations for the battle are also underway in the heavens. The holy angels are there, and the raptured saints are there, and all have been watching the terrible judgments on the earth, knowing that they very soon will also march forth to follow their King as He returns to earth. (Henry Morris (p.377))

2. But wait!

- a. One more thing needs to be done
- b. Hold those angels

B. Weddings I've done

1. Great times

- a. Joy and excitement
- b. Marine Corps weddings

- 1. Swords and uniforms

2. Have done some unusual ones
 - a. The beaches of California
 - b. The helicopter
3. Now the wedding to end all weddings!

II. Text....Rev. 19:1-10

A. Introduced

(1) After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

1. *"After this..."*
 - a. After world's economic system collapses
 - b. After destruction of false religion
 - c. After...
 - Seven seals
 - Seven trumpets
 - Seven bowls of wrath
 - d. And just before the triumphant return of Jesus
2. Here come the hallelujahs!
 - a. *"Hallelujah"*
 - English transliteration of the Hebrew "Alleluia"
 - b. "Alleluia"
 - = Hebrew
 - = Means *"Praise God"*
 - "Allel" = Praise

- “Yah” = short for Jehovah (God)

B. Why the celebration?

1. Your salvation will be made complete.....v.1

(1) After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

a. Why your salvation is not yet complete

1. Have not yet been saved from the “presence” of sin

- Saved from the “power” and “penalty” of sin... but not from the “presence” of sin
- It gets a lot better than this world
- Lots of suffering today
- People I counsel with

2. Have not yet been formally married to Christ

- Just engaged
- Engaged to become the “bride of Christ”

3. Have not yet received your glorified body

- (Rom 8:23)—“And not only they, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”
- This body certainly isn’t sufficient!
- Even the saints already in Heaven

*the “dead in Christ” will rise first

4. Have been told that full salvation is near...but not yet here

a. (Rom. 13:11)—“...for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed”

b. Multitudes in Heaven rejoicing

1. Because the salvation is complete

2. Justice has come.....v.2-3

(2) for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” (3) And again they shouted: “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”

a. False religion is destroyed

b. God avenges the blood of His children

c. The smoke rises

1. The harlot burns

3. The big guns join the choir.....v.4

(4) The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!”

a. The 24 Elders

1. The Church

b. The Four Living Creatures

1. From Throne of God

c. ***“Amen”***

1. “So be it!”

a. “So let it be!”

2. “We really mean it!”

d. Then “Hallelujah”

4. A voice encourages them to sing louder.....v.5

(5) Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!”

5. The sound intensifies.....v.6

(6) Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

a. The voice of a great multitude

1. Every voice in Heaven

2. Words from “Agnus Dei”

b. Sounded like

1. Many Waters

a. Niagara

b. Roars!

2. Mighty thunderings

a. The rolling of thunder

6. One more reason for the “Alleluias”

a. A wedding!

b. Time of pure joy

III. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (v. 7-10)

(7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. (8) Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) (9) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” (10) At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

A. The Jewish Wedding (time of Jesus)

1. The Contract

- a. Between the parents
- b. Even prior to birth
- c. The deal is signed and sealed
 - 1. Consummated years later

2. The Betrothal

- a. Similar to our “engagement”
 - 1. “espoused” is the same
 - 2. “Fiancé”
- b. Much more binding however
 - 1. Lasted between 9 and 12 months
 - 2. A time to prove the bride’s chastity
- c. Treated by law as married
 - 1. Inheritance if he died
 - 2. Adultery (public or private)
 - 3. Need for Bill of Divorcement
- d. The betrothal of Joseph and Mary
- e. Yet—no physical consummation or living together

3. The Presentation

- a. Seven days prior to the wedding
- b. The bride is presented to the family of the groom
 - 1. At his father’s house

- c. Time to prepare for the wedding
- d. Get the bride shined up

4. *The Wedding Ceremony*

- a. Simple yet beautiful ceremony
- b. Alfred Edersheim (pp. 354-355)

On the evening of the actual marriage, the bride was led from her father's home to that of her husband. First came the merry sounds of music; then they distributed wine and oil among the people, and nuts among the children; next the bride, covered with the bridal veil, her long hair flowing, surrounded by her companions, and led by 'the friends of the bridegroom', and 'the children of the bride-chamber'. All around were in festive array; some carried torches, or lamps on poles; those nearest had myrtle-branches and bouquets of flowers. Every one rose to salute the procession, or join it; and it was deemed almost a religious duty to break into praise of the beauty, the modesty, or the virtues of the bride. Arrived at her new home, she was led to her husband. Some such formula as 'Take her according to the law of Moses and of Israel,' would be spoken, and the bride and bridegroom crowned with garlands. Then a formal legal instrument, called the *Kethubah* was signed.

5. *The Marriage Supper or Reception*

- a. At last...time to eat!
 - 1. The marriage supper in Cana
- b. A festive celebration like our "receptions"
 - food (reception)
 - drink
 - dancing
- c. Joy
- d. Friends and family celebrate

6. *The New Home*

- a. The groom takes her to a new dwelling
- b. She leaves her old home

C. The Marriage of the Church

1. *The Contract*

- a. The “Church” is called “the Bride of Christ”
- a. The deal was made at Calvary
 - 1. The contract was signed
 - 2. Jesus paid for you in full on the Cross
- b. An irrevocable contract
 - 1. When Jesus declared “It is finished”

2. *The Betrothal*

- a. The binding engagement
- b. Happens when you accept Jesus as your Savior
 - 1. Jesus chose you...but you had to accept
- c. II Cor. 11:2

“I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him.”

- d. It is binding—cannot be broken
- e. Proven by the engagement ring—the Holy Spirit
- f. Eph. 1:13-14

“Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.”

- g. An engagement ring is a deposit or guarantee

1. "It don't mean a thing if you don't have a ring!"

3. The Presentation

- a. The presentation?
 1. (Eph. 5:25-27) *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her (26) to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, (27) and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless."*
- b. Happens seven years (not days) prior to ceremony
 1. At the Rapture
 2. Taken to the groom's family and home (heaven)
- c. Getting ready for the formal ceremony and supper

4. The Wedding Ceremony

- a. Back to Revelation 19

(7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

1. It's time!
- b. At the groom's home—Heaven
- c. Dressed in fine linen

(8) Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

1. Clean
2. Bright
- d. The righteous acts of the saints
 1. Not saved by righteous acts

2. Yet acts of righteousness will follow you
3. Will have already occurred
 - a. Sometime after the Rapture
 - b. (II Cor. 5:10)—“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
 - c. Rewards for righteous acts
4. Called the “Bema Seat”
 - a. the Olympics
 - b. “Hail to the victors”
4. The ceremony will be followed by the reception

5. The Marriage Supper (Reception)

(9) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

- a. Time to let loose and party
- b. The “bride” (the church) will be joined by some special guests
 1. John the Baptist
 2. Israel’s saved
 3. Abraham
 4. King David
 5. O.T. believers
 6. Tribulation believers
 7. Gentile believers
- c. They are of one mind—happy!

- d. What about the honeymoon?
 - 1. In a minute but first one more thing—
- e. Driving through town with horns blasting?
- f. Rev. 19:11-14

(11) I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. (12) His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but He himself. (13) He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood and his name is the Word of God. (14) The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine line, white and clean.

6. The New Home

- a. The groom takes her to a new dwelling
 - 1. Already has the title deed
 - 2. The Final Kingdom
- b. Establishes the Millennial Kingdom
 - 1. New Heaven and New Earth!

IV. Summary

A. John was staggered by the sight

(10) At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

- 1. Overwhelmed
- 2. Fell down before the angel
- 3. Oops!
- 4. Get up John
 - a. I’m just a messenger

- b. Worship God alone
 - c. He has paid for all of this
5. Jesus the Spirit (and testimony of all prophecy)
- a. Jesus is the theme of all prophecy and revelation!

B. I've been to many weddings

1. Beautiful
2. My words to groomsmen, etc. "Always face the Bride"
3. She's so pretty
4. Theodore Roosevelt
 - a. His daughter
 - b. Daddy always wanted to be center of attention
 - c. At a wedding he was jealous of the bride...and at funeral he was jealous of the corpse!

C. What to wear to the wedding?

1. What do you wear to a wedding?
 - a. Have you ever shown up "under-dressed"
 - b. Or with dirty un-pressed clothes?

(7) ...For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. (8) Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints

2. Clothed in righteous acts
 - a. The only thing that will follow me
 - b. Everything else gets left behind
3. What does a "righteous act" look like???

4. The gravity of your “wedding vows”
 - a. Before God and man “I vow...”
 - b. (read vows)

Those whom God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

Forasmuch as _____ and _____ have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and have given and pledged their vows, each to the other and have declared the same by giving and receiving a ring, and by joining hands; I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.