

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #59

11/28/2007

The King Is Coming Part 1
19:11-16

Before we consider the majestic scene beginning in verse eleven which describes our Lord's victorious return, some matters about the Marriage and Marriage Supper of the Lamb need to be clarified. As we have seen in considering the previous passage, our ability to comprehend the majestic character of these events is severely limited. First, this is a heavenly event, a scene, beyond anything known to man on this earth. God built into the Jewish traditions of marriage some aspects to assist us in our attempts to understand this heavenly event. Second, as we consider this Jewish tradition we need to remember that our sinful natures have impaired our ability to comprehend heavenly things.

There were three phases in the Jewish traditions regarding marriage :

- 1) The legal consummation of the marriage by the parents of the bride and of the groom, with the payment of a dowry;
- 2) The bridegroom suddenly coming to claim his bride;
- 3) The wedding supper which was a several-day feast following the bridegroom claiming his bride.

The first phase above has been pictured in what God has done in selecting, saving and adopting sinners into His family. This is pictured in many places in the New Testament, most clearly in Ephesians 1:3-14 and 5:25-32. In that phase notice that God provided a dowry, or earnest payment in the person of the Holy Spirit, just as was done in the Jewish traditions.

The second phase has been pictured in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 which describes our Lord, the Bridegroom, coming to claim His own and take His own, His Bride, back to heaven with Him. Thus, when we come to the events of Revelation 19:1-10 the Bride, the New Testament church, has been with Christ in heaven for at least seven years, waiting for the marriage supper.

The third phase, the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, is described, beginning in Revelation 19:1-10, but there is more to it than is presented in these verses. While the marriage, phase two has taken place in heaven when the Lord received His Bride to be with Him there, the Wedding Supper takes place on the earth and is an extended event that continues into the Millennial Kingdom.

Before the Wedding Supper, the extended marriage feast, which includes the Millennial Kingdom, can take place on the earth, God cleanses and prepares the earth.

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Revelation 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Revelation 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

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A portion of God's cleansing of the earth is accomplished by His awesome judgments which He pours out upon the earth such as the unprecedented earthquake that totally rearranges the topographical features of the earth (Rev. 16:18-20). In a number of places in the Old Testament (Isaiah 24:1-4,13,18-21; 34:9; 35:1-10; 51:6) God told about His work of so preparing the earth for His use. However, to further prepare the earth for the Marriage Supper and the Millennial Kingdom, the Lord also cleanses it of all His enemies. The passage in Isaiah 63:1-6, along with many others in the Old Testament such as Ezekiel 39:7-18, also foretell this cleansing work of the Lord. This cleansing of the earth is not completed until the events associated with the King's victorious return, described later in Revelation 19, take place. When it is all done, the earth is prepared for this glorious Wedding Feast which will last a thousand years.

Having reviewed the events associated with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb we are now ready to turn our attention to the majestic and glorious return of the King. The descriptions of Him presented here are quite different from the image that most people have of the personage of God the Son, but are more accurate in describing His holy person than the opinions of men resulting from His first coming into this world.

According to what God has told us, God the Son had to restrain or hide the fullness of His glory and attributes when He came the first time to offer Himself as man's sacrificial substitute to pay for man's sins. Paul writes in Philippians 2 that though Jesus Christ ***"who being in the form (morphe: very essence) of God ...and equal with God, made Himself of no reputation (emptied Himself of His glory) and took upon Himself the form (morphe: very essence) of a servant, and was made in the likeness (homoima: resemblance) of men. And being found in fashion (schema: outward appearance) as a man, He humbled Himself ..."*** (Phi. 2:6-8). As a result of His self-humiliation in order to take man's place as a substitutionary sacrifice upon the cross to pay for man's sin, the personhood of God the Son was not appropriately appreciated by most of mankind. Most saw Him as weak, because He restrained Himself and did not defend Himself. They also saw Him as loving, but not judging, because of His loving giving of Himself in death for man. Most of mankind still does not have any understanding of what He really is like, but that changes when He comes again. The scene before us, which John begins to describe, has never before been seen. It presents that to which everything that has happened in this world has been pointing and moving since the Garden of Eden. It is the presentation of God the Son in all of His holy glory and the fullness of His attributes.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

John has seen heaven opened before, but never like this. Previously, when he saw heaven open, he saw glorious scenes with angels and the raptured redeemed. This time that which is before his eyes is what has been desired and anticipated by all of those down through the ages, even from the time of Adam, who belong to the Lord God. The millions of men, women and children, many of whom have been persecuted and martyred for their faith and loyalty to Him, who down through the ages have cried out for the King of justice and righteousness to reign supreme over the wicked followers of Satan and the evil of this world have looked forward to this time, not knowing when it would come, but absolutely confident that it would. It is now here.

This time, when heaven opens, he sees Jesus, God the Son, appearing as He has never before appeared and little else. It is as if nothing else matters — just Jesus.

Jesus is sitting upon a white horse. Back, when Jesus opened the first of the seals on the little book, the title deed of the earth, of chapter five, John had seen an image on a white horse (Rev. 6:2). But that one was a pretender, as Satan has always presented himself, as a false Christ. The role of that one was to bring a temporary peace to the earth as he attempted to usurp the role of the owner of this world. He brought a false peace which he, himself, destroyed because it was not really peace at all. He could not bring peace because he was the very reason why there was no peace on this earth.

Jesus, of course, is no pretender. He is the Creator and owner of this world. He long ago determined what is right, issuing from His own righteousness, and what is wrong, and He is coming to right all that is wrong and evil. The first time He came into this world, He came to pay for man's sins of rebellion against Him. Now He is coming to judge and punish those who continue to reject Him, refusing to accept Him as their Lord and King. John begins his description of the One he saw with the following words:

“...he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True....”

He is **“...called Faithful....”** because **He IS Faithful** in everything He says and does. Countless times over the centuries He has promised to come. Even at the close of His first coming, when He was preparing to ascend back into heaven, to take His rightful place upon His throne in glory besides the throne of God the Father, His disciples, even though they had walked with Him for three years, still had this on their minds and said to Him:

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“...Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:6-11)

Through the angel He promised to come back. Through the prophet Isaiah He promised to come in victory:

“Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the wine vat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.” (Isaiah 63:1-6)

Jesus promised to come again, and He keeps His word. He is indeed faithful to what He has promised to do. In fact, His faithfulness and the believer's dependence upon Him is one of the primary motivations to those who serve Him.

On the night before He was crucified, He said to His disciples: *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” (John 14:3)*

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Often, when Paul, Peter, James and John wrote to the believers in the various churches, they reminded them of the Lord's promise to come to motivate them to remain faithful because Jesus is faithful:

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?” (1 Thessalonians 2:19). *“To the end he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints”* (2 Thessalonians 3:13). *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels”* (2 Thessalonians 1:7). *“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him”* (2 Thessalonians 2:1). *“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom”* (2 Timothy 4:1). *“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh”* (James 5:7,8). *“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming”* (1 John 2:28). *“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus”* (Revelation 22:20).

Not only is the Lord faithful, He is also “True.” All truth flows from Him and everything He says is absolutely true. This statement applies to what He speaks verbally and what He instructs others to write. As the prophet Isaiah said:

“The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever” (Isaiah 40:6-8).

Men may reproduce the trait of Satan and lie, but everything Jesus says is totally and absolutely true. It always has been. It always will be!