**Spiritual Insights class 12 (sjm 3-10-2024)**

**Rev 19:6** 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.
**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 God’s holy people.)

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

**Important Questions?** When is the Rapture, when do we get glorified bodies and the difference between our righteous acts vs Jesus making us righteous by his shed blood. Also is the wedding of the Lamb & wedding super of the lamb at the same time? In addition, what is the difference between the Judgement Seat of Christ & the Great White Throne Judgement?

**The Bride of Christ**? **Matt 9:15** AND, JESUS SAID UNTO THEM, CAN THE CHILDREN OF THE BRIDECHAMBER MOURN, AS LONG AS THE BRIDEGROOM IS WITH THEM? BUT THE DAYS WILL COME, WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THEM, AND THEN SHALL THEY FAST

**Hosea 2:1-17** Israel has fallen…. “In that day (future) you will call me your husband”

**Analysis**

Though the **marriage of the Lamb to His bride (the church)** and the **marriage supper of the Lamb** are closely related, they are separate events, just as the wedding ceremony and the wedding reception of our day are separate events. In fact, these two events are often held at two different locations, just as the ma**rriage of the Lamb** will be in heaven right before the second coming (Rev. 19), while the **marriage supper of the Lamb** will commence with the beginning of the millennium and will be on earth. By comparing Scripture with Scripture and distinguishing the things that differ, it appears clear that they are two separate events. The most important thing for anyone to consider is **whether they will be invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb**. Let’s make sure you are one of them by trusting Christ’ s gift of salvation through simple faith in Him and His gracious work on the cross that paid for the sins of all those who believer.

**The Marriage of the Lamb**

According to **Revelation 19:7,** the bride, (which is made up of the Saints throughout the church age taken to heaven at the rapture), makes herself ready for an impending event. How is the bride or the church made ready? She is made ready by clothing ” herself in the fine linen bright and clean,” which is said to be ” the righteous acts of the saints.” This statement means that by this point in history (right before the second coming), the sum total of the bride, the body of Christ, is in heaven and has already gone through the **bema judgment** where church age believers are to be evaluated for their faithfulness to Christ during this present age**.**

**Rom. 14:10** You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. (*gr: bema: elevated judges seat, place where awards are given)*

**2 Cor 5:10** or we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

The result of going through the judgment seat of Christ results in the bride being given fine linen that **Revelation 19:8 says**, ” is the righteous acts of the saints.” This is how ” His bride has made herself ready.” Ready for what? She has made herself ready for the marriage of the Lamb.

**1 Cor 3:12-15** If anyone builds on this foundation using **gold, silver, costly stones**, wood, hay or straw, **13**their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. **14**If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. **15**If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved

 *(Could it be at this time we receive our gloried bodies?)*

**Later,** Revelation 19:14 says, ” And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.” Thus, having been newly **married to the Lamb**, the bride begins her role in history of reigning at the right hand of Christ *(Rev. 3:21)* by accompanying her new husband in the heavenly accent from heaven on white horses in order to participate in the judgment of Armageddon at the Second Advent. The wedding announcement will be made (v. 6) and the Bride will finally be made ready (v. 7). The reason the Bride will now be fully ready for the marriage ceremony is because she will have her entire bridal gown on (v. 8). this also know that the marriage ceremony takes place after the Judgment Seat of the Messiah, when the saints are rewarded for their deeds on earth. This corresponds to the ritual cleansing of the Jewish wedding system. The ones present at the marriage ceremony are the ” few,” that is, only those in Heaven at that time.

**The Marriage Supper**

**Note*: Israel******– Rom 11:25****I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,****26****and in this way[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Rom+11%3A22-27&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28236a)*] all Israel will be saved. (Israel now saved & in heaven)*

It is at this point that many Christians today often confuse the marriage of the Lamb with the marriage supper of the Lamb. But they are two separate events that occur at two different times in history. Revelation 19:9 says, ” Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” This passage clearly has a forward look anticipating a future time. It cannot refer to anyone in heaven since the church (the bride) is the only redeemed entity in heaven. However, **after the** **second coming** when believers from other ages will be resurrected *(Dan. 12:2)* along with tribulation saints, both mortal and resurrected ones ***(Rev. 20:4),*** these will be the invited guest who will be guests at this celebration supper. I believe that the marriage supper will be during the first part of the millennial reign of Christ. Hence, the ” many” who are bidden to attend the marriage feast on earth are all the Old Testament saints and the Tribulation saints resurrected after the Second Coming. While the marriage ceremony will take place in Heaven just before the Second Coming, the marriage feast will take place on earth after the Second Coming. In fact, it would seem that the marriage feast is what begins the Millennium or the Messianic Kingdom; the Church’ s co-reigning with the Messiah will start with a tremendous marriage feast.

There are some New Testament passages that speak of Christ eating and banqueting in the kingdom are in my opinion references to the celebration related to the marriage supper of the Lamb. What are some of these passages which strongly imply that the celebration of the marriage supper commences in the millennial kingdom?

**Matt 8:1**  And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.” (These are the invited guests from all ages (Old Testament & new)

**Luke 13:28- 29** The statements made by Jesus in this passage have some parallels to the things in Matthew 8:11, but there are also some differences. It says, ” There will be weeping & gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham, Isaac & Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being cast out. And they will come from east and west, and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God **Luke 22:16-8** ” for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, ” Take this and share it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.”

**Luke 22:29-30** And just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel

**Parables of The Wedding Feast**

**Matt 22:1**Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: **2**“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. **3**He sent his servants to those who had been **invited** to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. *(to offer the gift of salvation)*

**4**“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been **invited** that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’  *(2nd chance)*

**5**But they paid no attention & went off, one to his field, another to his business. **6**The rest seized his servants, mistreated them & killed them. **7**The king was enraged. He sent his army & destroyed those murderers & burned their city

**8**“Then he said to his servants, ‘The **wedding banquet** is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. **9**So go to the street corners and **invite** to the banquet anyone you find.’ **10**So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

**11**“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. **12**He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

**13**“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**14**“For many are **invited**, *(the entire world)* but few are **chosen** *(those accepting salvation)* ***Ps 23?***

The Bible clearly tells us that the bodies of believers AND unbelievers will be resurrected There seems to be fairly universal agreement that the bodies of unbelievers will not be resurrected until after the millennium or 1000 yr reign of Christ, which occurs after the Tribulation. When they are raised, they will be judged at the Great White Throne judgment, and then cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity ([Rev 20:5](https://biblia.com/bible/kjv1900/Rev%2020.5),[11-15](https://biblia.com/bible/kjv1900/Rev%2020.11-15)).

**Acts 24:15** Having [the same] hope in God which these themselves hold *and* look for, that there is to be a resurrection both of the righteous and the unrighteous *(the just and the unjust).*

**Dan 12:2** Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

**John 5:28** Do not be surprised *and* wonder at this, for the time is coming when all those who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, **29**And they shall come out—those who have practiced doing good [will come out] to the resurrection of [new] life, and those who have done evil will be raised for judgment [raised to meet their sentence].

**Jewish Wedding Customs:**

These wedding customs had three major parts. **First,** a marriage contract was signed by the parents of the bride and the [bridegroom](https://www.gotquestions.org/bridegroom.html), and the parents of the bridegroom or the bridegroom himself would pay a dowry to the bride or her parents. This began what was called the betrothal period—what we would today call the engagement. This period was the one Joseph and Mary were in when she was found to be with child ([Matthew 1:18](https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/1/Matthew-1-18.html); [Luke 2:5](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/2/Luke-2-5.html)).

The **second** step in the process usually occurred much later, when the bridegroom, accompanied by his male friends, went to the house of the bride. If he came in the night, he and his companions would create a torchlight parade through the streets. The bride would know in advance this was going to take place, and so she would be ready with her maidens, and they would all join the parade and end up at the bridegroom’s home. This custom is the basis of the parable of the ten virgins in [Matthew 25:1–13](https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/25/Matthew-25-1.html). The **third** phase was the marriage supper itself, which might go on for days, as illustrated by the wedding at Cana in [John 2:1–2](https://www.bibleref.com/John/2/John-2-1.html).

What John’s vision in Revelation pictures is the wedding feast of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and His bride (the Church) in its third phase. The implication is that the first two phases have already taken place. The first phase was completed on earth when each individual believer placed his or her faith in Christ as Savior. The dowry paid by the bridegroom’s parent (God the Father) would be the blood of Christ shed on the Bride’s behalf. The Church on earth today, then, is “betrothed” to Christ, and, like the wise virgins in the parable, all believers should be watching and waiting for the appearance of the Bridegroom (the [rapture](https://www.gotquestions.org/rapture-of-the-church.html)). The second phase symbolizes the rapture of the Church, when Christ comes to claim His bride and take her to the Father’s house. The marriage supper then follows as the third and final step. It is our view that the marriage supper of the Lamb takes place in heaven between the rapture and the second coming (during the tribulation on earth).

**Other General Scriptures not used in Teaching:**

**1 Thes 4:16-18** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first.

**17**Then we, the living ones who remain [on the earth], shall simultaneously be caught up along with [the resurrected dead] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so always (through the eternity of the eternities) we shall be with the Lord!

**18**Therefore comfort *and* encourage one another with these words.

**Glorified Body Phil 3:21 21**Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

**1 John 3:2 2**Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (1 Cor 15:48-49)

Eph 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **ekklēsia**

**Eph 1:13** When you 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.

**Jewish Wedding: The call to marriage and engagement** – Marriage took place at a very young age for the ancient Jews. Most rabbis proposed age 18 as most appropriate for men, though often a bit younger especially when war was less common. Young women married almost as soon as they were physically ready, generally around age 13 or 14.

**In most cases, marriages were arranged** by the parents. There were exceptions, however, and arranged marriages were seldom forced on young people who had absolutely no interest in each other. Nevertheless, the view in the ancient world, and even in many places today, was that marriage was more about survival than romantic feelings. Further, it was not merely the individuals who married; the families came together in mutual support. Beauty and romance, while considered pleasant things, were known to be passing; life and survival had to be based on sturdier foundations.

**Once a future bride had been chosen** for a young man, there followed a one-year period of betrothal. During this time the couple still lived apart while delicate, often-protracted negotiations occurred between the families, especially regarding the dowry. The groom or his family paid the dowry to the father of the bride in recognition of the loss incurred by the bride’s family as a result of her departure as a working member of the household. It was also understood that some money should be set aside for the woman in the event that her husband died prematurely.

**Marriage ceremonies** – After the period of betrothal was finished and all the agreements had been reached, the wedding could take place. Weddings typically extended over a period of five to seven days. Autumn was the best time for marriage because the harvest was in, the vintage over, minds were free, and hearts were at rest. It was a season when the evenings were cool, and it was comfortable to sit up late at night. Usually the entire village gathered for a wedding.

**At the beginning of the wedding celebration, in the evening,** the bridegroom, accompanied by his friends, went to fetch his betrothed from her father’s house. He would wear particularly splendid clothing and sometimes even a crown. A procession was formed under the direction of one of the bridegroom’s friends, who acted as the master of ceremonies and remained by his side throughout the rejoicing.

**The beautifully dressed bride was carried in a litter and in procession.** Along the way people sang traditional wedding songs largely drawn from the Song of Songs in the Bible*: Who is this coming up from the wilderness like a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and incense made from all the spices of the merchant?* (Song of Songs 3:6) When the procession reached the bridegroom’s house, his parents bestowed a traditional blessing, drawn from Scripture and other sources. After the prayers, the evening was passed in games and dancing, and the bridegroom took part in the festivities. The bride, however, withdrew with her bridesmaids and friends to another room.

**The next day was the wedding feast**and once again there was general rejoicing and a sort of holiday in the village. Toward the end of the day there was a meal at which the men and women were served separately. This was the time for the giving of presents. The bride, dressed in white, was surrounded by her bridesmaids, usually ten of them. She sat under a canopy while traditional songs and blessings were sung and recited. During this time, in the evening, the groom arrived. While the exact ritual words are not known, there seems to have been a dialogue between bride and groom. This is recorded in the Song of Songs. The bride says, *Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is more delightful than wine. Pleasing is the fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the young women love you! Take me away with you—let us hurry! Let the king bring me into his chambers* (Song 1:2-4). The groom responds, *Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me. My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely* (Song 2:13-14).

**Now that the couple was together,** all the other men and women also came together. It would seem that synagogue or other religious leaders imparted blessings to the couple, who were together under the canopy. The words of these blessings and rituals are not definitively known and seem to have varied. After these came the evening feast.

**Later that first evening** the couple would vanish to consummate the marriage. They did not go on a “honeymoon” but rather remained for the rest of the celebration, which often went on for several more