

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

REVELATION 19

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Woodland Church

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“After this, I heard what sounded like a vast crowd in heaven shouting, “Praise the LORD! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. His judgments are true and just. He has punished the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality. He has avenged the murder of his servants.” And again their voices rang out: “Praise the LORD! The smoke from that city ascends forever and ever!” Then the twenty-four elders and the four living beings fell down and worshiped God, who was sitting on the throne. They cried out, “Amen! Praise the LORD!” And from the throne came a voice that said, “Praise our God, all his servants, all who fear him, from the least to the greatest.” Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: “Praise the LORD! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.” For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God’s holy people. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.” Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, “No, don’t worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.”
(Revelation 19:1–10, NLT)

Heaven will be filled with worship.

“After this, I heard what sounded like a vast crowd in heaven shouting, “Praise the LORD! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.” (Revelation 19:1, NLT)

“He will bless those who fear the LORD, both great and lowly.”
(Psalm 115:13, NLT)

“The godly will rejoice when they see injustice avenged. They will wash their feet in the blood of the wicked. Then at last everyone will say, “There truly is a reward for those who live for God; surely there is a God who judges justly here on earth.” (Psalm 58:10–11, NLT)

In this heaven, God and his glory are not the center of attention. It's all about you.

Here, sins are not washed away. Instead, hurt is washed away. The language of good and evil is replaced by the language of trauma and recovery. There is no vice and virtue, no moral framework to locate the individual within the cosmic infinity of the universe. Instead there are just the right emotions -- Do you feel good about yourself?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/09/opinion/hooked-on-heaven-lite.html>

1. **It is the compassion of God delaying judgement.**
2. **God sends judgement to:**
 - a. **Stop oppression.**
 - b. **Avenge oppression.**
3. **We can experience a little bit of Heaven in worship.**
 - a. **Thank Him now for salvation!**
 - b. **Thank Him now for His righteous judgments.**
 - c. **Thank Him now for the wedding feast of the Lamb.**
 - d. **Thank Him now for the victory!**

Weddings are times of great joy!

1. In the days of the Bible marriages were arranged by the families.

“This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.”
(Matthew 1:18, NLT)

“For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:2, NLT)

There were two important steps to a Jewish marriage: the betrothal (the promised agreement to marry) and the actual wedding ceremony. These two events were often separated by an extended period of time during which the couple remained faithful to one another though the wedding ceremony was not yet finalized.

Our betrothal to Christ takes place at the point of salvation. But the wedding ceremony occurs when Christ, the Bridegroom, comes to take his bride.

“What does the wedding of the Lamb represent?” commentary on Revelation 19:7, Quest Study Bible (Zondervan, 1994)

“When the LORD first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, “Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the LORD and worshiping other gods.”
(Hosea 1:2, NLT)

- a. **Hosea married her.**
- b. **Hosea lavished love upon her.**
- c. **Hosea lavished her with gifts.**
- d. **She returned to prostitution.**
- e. **She became destitute**

- f. **Hosea purchased her.**
- g. **God made us.**
- h. **God bought us with the blood of his Son, Jesus Christ.**

2. Brides were prepared.

“And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband.”
(Revelation 21:2, GN)

“Then he called his servants and said to them, ‘My wedding feast is ready, but the people I invited did not deserve it.’” (Matthew 22:8, GN)

“I am overwhelmed with joy in the LORD my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom dressed for his wedding or a bride with her jewels.”
(Isaiah 61:10, NLT)

3. The bride and the bridegroom love each other.

“Christ loved the church.” (Ephesians 5:25)

4. The bride is given pure white linen.

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.” For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God’s holy people.” (Revelation 19:7–8, NLT)

- a. **Christ’s shed blood cleansed us from our sins.**
- b. **We are given the gift of righteousness.**
- c. **White linen was appropriate for worship.**
- d. **We live out our salvation by our good deeds.**

5. The bride's and the great prostitutes garments.

“The woman wore purple and scarlet clothing and beautiful jewelry made of gold and precious gems and pearls. In her hand she held a gold goblet full of obscenities and the impurities of her immorality.” (Revelation 17:4, NLT)

6. The bride is honored.

“For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body. As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” (Ephesians 5:25–33, NLT)

7. It was so wonderful John was overwhelmed.

“And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.” Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, “No, don’t worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God.” (Revelation 19:9–10a, NLT)

*“I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don’t know—only God knows. Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.”
(2 Corinthians 12:2–4, NLT)*

- a. **John was overwhelmed with the joy of heaven.**
- b. **The angel said, “These are true words from God.**
- c. **God says to all who put their faith in Christ, you are accepted, you are beloved, you are saved.**

“We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people.” (1 Thessalonians 1:4, NLT)

“By his one sacrifice he has forever set free from sin the people he brings to God.” (Hebrews 10:14, CEV)

“And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” (1 John 5:11, NLT)

“Repentance is to leave, the sins we loved before, and show that we in earnest grieve, by doing so no more.” Charles Spurgeon

8. THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO TALK ABOUT JESUS.

“For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.”
(Revelation 19:10b)