

10 – Are You Going to the Wedding? (Revelation 19:6-21)

John uses a metaphor that has lost much of its meaning in our generation—marriage. In this day of interchangeable marriage roles, five-year renewable relationships and serial monogamy, it is difficult to grasp the splendor of marriage as God intends it. John chooses a wedding to describe the consummation of the deepest longing of the human soul: Christ's coming to receive us. Our present engagement (betrothal) to Christ will be followed by the wedding service and a joyous feast. Then and then only can we experience complete unity with Christ. This vision seems a welcome relief after the long passage on tribulation and judgment (Rev. 6-18). In fact, the marriage is the logical result of all that has gone before, as we shall see.

1. In your opinion, what are some of the best things about marriage?
2. Read Rev. 19:6-10. Why is the great multitude shouting praise in heaven?
3. Based on what you have studied in Revelation, what do you think has made the bride ready for the groom?
4. John does not describe the details of the marriage, he simply proclaims it. Why is marriage such a good image for the believer's hope?
5. How is this hope greater than our present experience of Christ?

6. Read Rev. 19:11-16. Like a champion ready for battle, Jesus appears on horseback. What do we learn about him?

7. Imagine that you are among those who have suffered the atrocities of the beast and his armies. How would you feel as you saw your champion coming to meet them in battle?

8. Read Rev. 19:17-21. Why must this battle take place before the marriage can begin and the kingdom of God can fully come?

9. In what ways would you like to see Christ triumph in your life or in the world around you?

10. Why is engagement (or betrothal) such a good illustration of our present relationship to Christ?

11. How can we confidently know we are invited to the "wedding supper of the Lamb"?