

## Chapter 19:

Verses 1-5 describe the Great Multitude in heaven giving glory to God and praising Him for the judgement against Babylon. We see the 24 Elders and 4 living creatures worshipping God who was seated on the throne. They are instructing all of God's servants, both great and small, to praise Him.

Verses 6 and 7 we see the Great Multitude shouting Hallelujah and giving praise to God. They are saying let us rejoice and be happy and give God glory because the wedding of the Lamb, Jesus, has come. His "bride" has made herself ready. In the Bible there are plenty of places where the writers speak about rewards for being ready. We also see Jesus' parables speaking of those who are ready vs. those who are not. My favorite reference of the bride is spoken of in Jesus' words for the 7 Churches of Asia, In Revelation chapters 2 and 3; see the 7 Churches Reference Matrix. Keep in mind the term "bride" isn't specifically called out there. There are however descriptions of a "marriage level" relationship or reward being spoken of, especially with respect to the Philadelphia church.

For me the bride is a difficult discussion. There are many Christians that believe, if a person "believes" in Jesus, you are part of the church body and therefore in the bride of Christ. I do not believe this, however I have yet to find anything specifically referring to a body of believers that make up the bride. The only exception to this is what I perceive from the 7 churches study and comments made throughout the Bible. There is plenty of evidence of rewards, and different rewards, being given to believers. However, tying the specific rewards to a category that makes up the bride, is difficult. It will be a study I take on in the future. I would also comment that a person should understand what the word "believes" mean. "Believing in Jesus", is more than just acknowledging he sacrificed Himself for the sins of man. If this doesn't make sense to you, I would recommend praying and meditating on it.

Verse 8 speaks of the bride wearing fine linen bright and clean. It is further explained in the text as representing the righteous acts of God's people. A Christian bearing fruit, or righteous acts, can be seen in their behaviors and actions. In Verse 9 the angel tells John, "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb." Notice it states wedding "supper" instead of only stating "wedding". I believe this is on purpose to specifically show different groups of individuals. It may be assumed that everyone is invited to the wedding of the Lamb. However, at the supper you would expect to have the bride and groom, the wedding party, the pastor, honored guests, and servants as well. Not everyone is invited to the supper, and more specifically, there are different categories of attendees.

Verse 10 John is so mesmerized by this angel and what he is hearing that he falls to the angel's feet to worship him. The angel tells him not to worship him. The angel says that he is a servant of God, the same as John's brothers and sisters, "who hold to the testimony of Jesus", in the NIV. The word "hold" here speaks to having possession of. The angel commands "Worship God!" The angel states that it is the "Spirit" of prophecy that bears testimony to Jesus. This is the big letter "S" Spirit, speaking of the Holy Spirit.

Verses 11-13 John sees heaven “standing open”. I picture a very large door...clouds rolled back. John describes seeing Jesus on a white horse and His name is Faithful and True. Faithful and True because He kept His word with what He said would happen. He judges the world with justice as He wages war against the followers of the Antichrist. “His eyes are like blazing fire” speaks to focused and righteous judgement. On His head are many crowns. “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” speaks to there being no one above Him. Jesus has a new name written on Him that no one knows but Himself. I believe “His robe dipped in blood” is speaking of His sacrifice for us. I believe it could additionally be speaking of the upcoming battle and that it is His alone to fight. The armies of heaven will be with Him, but He will be defeating them with the word of God coming from His mouth. “His name is the word of God”, Jesus is our divine redeemer.

Verses 14-16 the armies of heaven were following Him riding on white horses & dressed in fine-clean-linen, which represents righteousness. “Coming out of His mouth is a sharp sword”, speaks to Him only having to speak the words, and He will defeat the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter”, speaks to having power and ruling without prejudice. Jesus will be working the winepress that is bringing the wrath of God. This is at Armageddon. Jesus bears the name “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”.

Verses 17-18 is the angel calling to the birds to come and gather to eat the flesh of everyone and everything that goes against Jesus at the battle of Armageddon. This is referred to as the great supper of God. The followers of the Antichrist will be defeated by Jesus and consumed by the birds. In Verse 19, John sees the Antichrist and kings of the earth gathered with their armies to wage war against Jesus and His army. The beast, Antichrist, and the False Prophet are captured. They are thrown into the Lake of Fire. Everyone else is killed by the word of God spoken by Jesus, but the Antichrist and False Prophet start their eternities in the Lake of Fire.