

Revelation 19:7-9 - Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Today is our first Sunday back meeting together – LORD Supper service. But for those unable to attend I wanted to have something available for Sunday morning. Both messages are from same text in Rev. 19 but each with a little different emphasis. Rev. 19:7-9 references The Marriage Supper of the Lamb which is an exciting and intriguing subject matter but also carries a matter of debate. For this message I want to think about: *Interpretation* *Anticipation* and a great *Distinction*

Interpretation

- What is meant by the *Marriage Supper*? What is the main point of this passage?
- Who is the Bride and who are the invited guests? (Same people or different?)
- How much weight does the ancient Jewish wedding culture have on interp. of Rev. 19:7-9

I was taught a view that placed a heavy emphasis on Jewish wedding culture as the way to interpret. The Father chooses bride...eventually betrothed is presented to Son and bride price was paid (engaged) ...Son goes to prepare a place... comes to get bride...7 day marriage feast...marriage

- Cultural elements are important to help understanding (apply nicely)but they are subordinate to scripture and the immediate context (cultural details can be pressed too far)
 - o Context - Hallelujah chorus for Babylon's judgment (18) and the 2nd Coming (19:11f)
- Scripture interprets scripture a Marriage Motif is prominent in scripture
 - o Israel is God's bride Isaiah 54:5-6 Hosea 2:19-20 Ezek. 16:8 Jer. 3:14
 - o The Church is Christ's bride 2 Cor. 11:2 Eph. 5:25-33
 - o The New Jerusalem is the Bride Rev. 21:9-14
 - Patriarchs are the gates (Israel) Apostles are the foundations (church)
 - The Bride is 1 body – Israel and Church 1 unified city (Eph. 3:6)
 - Some make distinction: Church=Bride Guests = OT saints
 - Rev. 19 is prob. mixing metaphors(Mark 2:19disciples=friends of Groom)
 - o God is preparing a marriage feast for His Son Matt. 22:1-14
 - Many are invited and most decline the invitation
 - The wedding feast is full of all kinds of people
 - Proper dress is required to stay for the party Matt. 22:11-14 Rev.19:8
 - Rev. 3:5 3:18 6:11 7:9 7:13-14
 - o The Bridegroom was a long time in coming Matt. 25:1-13
 - We know there is a wedding but we don't know when – (no "save the date")
 - We need to be ready for the party
 - There are no second chances after the Groom comes

Anticipation

- I think the main point of this marriage motif in Rev. 19 is to engender an eager anticipation
 - o History is on course for judgment and HISTORY IS ON COURSE FOR A WEDDING!
- Were you eager and excited about your wedding?
 - o I “knew” the 2nd coming would happen first and I would miss out on mine. ☺
 - o Brides anticipate and plan. Guests order their schedule around
 - o People get dressed up for the special occasion. PARTY!
 - o Rev. 19:7-9 is there to cause eager anticipation of the marriage celebration
 - o Sometimes we fight over details of end time interpretation
 - We are to encourage one another with these things 1 Thess. 4:18
 - A destination wedding is planned
- As the Redeemed we are the Bride!
 - o The bride longs to see the Groom 1 Peter 1:8 1 John 3:2
 - o The bride longs to be united with HIM
 - Marriage and the marital union is a illustration of Christ and His church - (Eph. 5)
- As the Redeemed are the invited guests
 - o We join in the celebration of the consummation of the ages
 - o We celebrate with the redeemed from all ages great family reunion
 - o The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is going to be the party of parties
- In the midst of all of our problems we are to anticipate THE PARTY
 - o After the judgment on the earth....the wedding will happen
 - o There is hope in the midst of the horror for the people of God

A Stark Distinction

There are 2 great suppers mentioned in Revelation 19 and we are meant to notice the comparison

- Rev. 19:7-9 Marriage supper of the Lamb
- Rev. 19:17-21 The Great Supper of God
- An invitation is given to both suppers one to BELIEVERS the other to BIRDS
- One is a great feast of celebration the other is a great fight and damnation
- The 2nd coming of Christ stands in the middle of these 2 contrasting suppers 19:11-16
 - o Like the middle cross - the thief on right – saved thief on left damned
 - o It is your relationship to the ONE on the middle cross that makes all the difference
- You can join the wedding celebration and be saved today
- Or you can continue in rebellion, refuse repentance and keep your invitation to the Great Supper of God

A gospel invitation invites you to change what supper you are invited to.

You can exchange damnation for celebration.

You can exchange wrath for a wedding

Won't you respond with repentance for a relationship with Jesus Christ today?