

February 22, 2011

My Big Fat APOKALUPTIK Wedding

Revelation 19

Rejoicing in Heaven- 2 More Songs on the Apocalyptic Hit Parade!

¹After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

²for his judgments are true and just;

for he has judged the great prostitute

who corrupted the earth with her immorality,

and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

³Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."

⁴And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the

throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" ⁵And from the throne came a voice saying,

"Praise our God,

all you his *slaves*,

you who fear him,

small and great."

1-4 The heavenly chorus that began in chapter 4 reaches its climax in 19 with a hallelujah chorus

1 "the loud voice of a great multitude"- Likely the Church Triumphant from 7:9-17

"Hallelujah"- Hebrew for "Praise Yahweh" never used in NT, only used in the Psalms of the OT (with 2-3 places in Isaiah/Jeremiah), this indicates what kind of singing and rejoicing is taking place- worship

"Salvation and glory and power"- a threefold praise for the Triune God (also echoes 7:10)

2 "true and just"- a direct contrast with all the terror of chapters 17-18

"has avenged on her"- referring back to the punishment of chapter 18 (cf 18:24)

3 "smoke...goes up forever and ever"- contrasts the incense smoke of heavenly worship (8:3; 15:8)

4 "24 Elders"- (4:1 – 5:14, 11:16)- To what does "elders" refer? And what does 24 symbolize?

"4 Living Creatures" (chs 4, 5, 6, 7, 14, 15 also Ezek 1)- why 4? What were they?

5 "all you his *slaves*"- the whole people of God is called to worship, invited to the banquet

"you who fear him"- a common phrase in the Psalms, reinforcing that this is Church!

An Invitation to the Marriage Feast

⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God

the Almighty reigns.

⁷Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his Bride has made herself ready;

⁸*it was given* her to clothe herself

with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

⁹And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And

he said to me, "These are the true words of God." ¹⁰Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me,

"You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

7 Rejoice, Exult, Give Glory- the appropriate celebration for a marriage feast

Bride- a deep image! Hos 2:19-20; Ezek 16:8; Is 54:5-8 portray Israel as an unfaithful wife

In the NT, the image for the church switches to an engagement! Baptism functions as a betrothal to Christ (2 Cor. 11:2), the Consummation is yet to come. Matt 9:15; 22:2-14; John 3:28-29; Eph 5:22-33. For the bridegroom to have his bride, he must pay the betrothal price. Christ pays it with his holy, precious blood.

- “made herself ready”- not an earned salvation, the bridegroom has chosen her already. Is 61:10!
- 8 “fine linen = righteous deeds of the saints”- a symbol explained! Since the deeds are depicted as an adornment it shows that the righteous deeds are a gift from the bridegroom! Gal 3:27
- 9 “Blessed are those”- the 4th beatitude of Revelation (1:3; 14:13; 16:15)
“who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb”- for meaning of “supper” see 1 Cor 11:20
- 10 What is “the testimony of Jesus?”
“testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy”- the divine prophetic word is here equated with the message from and about Christ! Reading Revelation without the concentration on Christ BREAKS the spirit of prophecy!

The Heroic Son of Man Conquers the Enemy / The Bridegroom Bursting Forth from His Chamber

¹¹Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

This is the Second Coming of Christ, seen elsewhere in Revelation from different angles

- 11 white horse- in 6:2 it was the conquering horseman of the 7 seals.
“Faithful and True”- in 3:14, the letter to Laodicea this is a title for Christ Jesus
- 12 Eyes are like a flame of fire- like the Son of Man in 1:12-16, what did fire eyes symbolize?
Many diadems- Royal crowns, authentic, unlike the Dragon and 1st Beast (13:1)
A name no one knows- we’ll find out on the last day too!
- 13 robe dipped in blood- an image of the sacrifice of atonement
“The Word of God”- an important title in John’s Gospel (1:1-3, 14)
- 14 Armies of heaven- such as in “Lord, God of *hosts/Sabaoth*”
Fine linen, white and pure- indicating the armies of heaven include the saints (ch 7) and angels
- 15 sharp sword- again referring back to 1:16
Rod of iron- seen in 2:27; 12:5 referring way back to Ps 2:8-9- Messianic Authority (Mt 28:19-20)
Tread the winepress- image originally from Isaiah 63:2-3 also cup of wrath in 14:8-10; 16:19
- 16 King of kings and Lord of Lords- spoken of in 17:14 as a superlative title for Jesus Christ
- 17 angel standing in the Sun-
Called to the birds- Ezekiel 39:17-20, a contrast of fates for the believers and unbelievers
- 19 Scene 5’s End Times Battle, paralleling- 9:13-21 (scene 2); 14:14-20 (scene 3), 16:12-16 (scene 4)
- 20 the beast...the false prophet → Beast from the Sea (13:1-10) & Beast from the Land (13:11-18)
Lake of fire that burns with sulfur- (2 Thess 1:9, Matt 25:41) The description of hell
- 21 slain by the sword that came from the mouth- the key is where the sword is coming from: Mouth