



The Marriage Supper of the Lamb
Revelation 19:1-10

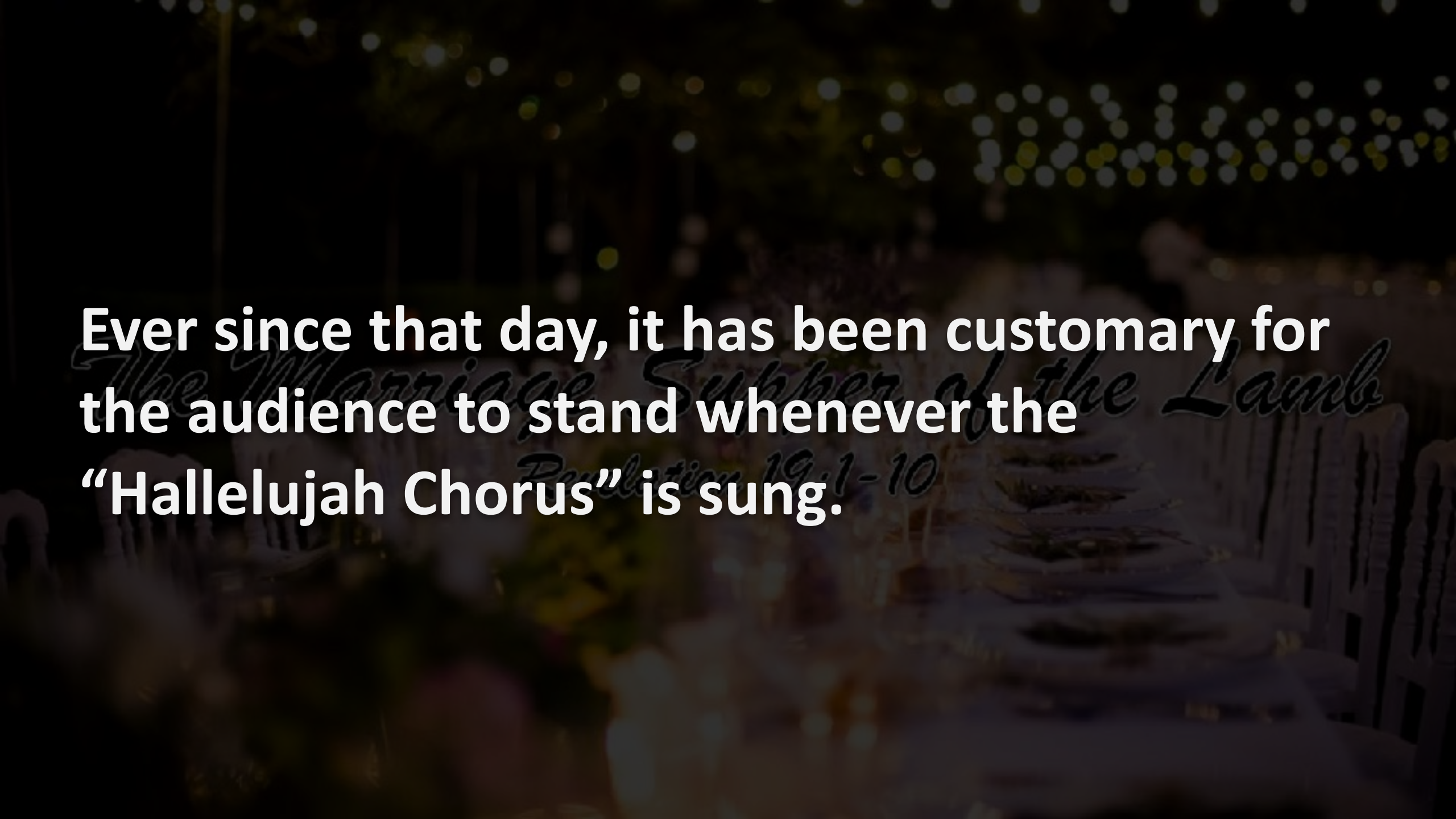


The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Revelation 19:1-10

INTRODUCTION

On March 23, 1743, *The Messiah*, written by George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759) in 1741, was performed for the 1st time in London, England. Present was the King of England. The king was so moved by the singing of the “Hallelujah Chorus,” he spontaneously stood to his feet and remained standing until the end of Handel’s masterpiece.



Ever since that day, it has been customary for the audience to stand whenever the “Hallelujah Chorus” is sung.



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CONTEXT

Following the destruction of Babylon and immediately before Jesus comes again to the earth, heaven will perform its version of the “Hallelujah Chorus.” Heaven, however, will not stand. Rather, they will fall down in worship (v. 4). The song will be sung in celebration of the judgment of the great harlot Babylon (v. 2) and in celebration of the marriage supper of the Lamb (vs. 7-9).

The “Hallelujah Chorus” is in response to the command of 18:20, and in anticipation of Christ’s coming in 19:11-21. Nothing less than unabated, unhindered worship breaks out in heaven, worship that is extremely instructive and inspiring for all who love the Lamb, who love the Lord Jesus.



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Revelation 19:1-10

TEXT

Revelation 19:1–2 (CSB) After this I heard something like the loud voice of a vast multitude in heaven, saying, Hallelujah!

Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God, because his judgments are true and righteous, because he has judged the notorious prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality; and he has avenged the blood of his servants that was on her hands.

Revelation 19:3–4 (CSB) A second time they said, Hallelujah! Her smoke ascends forever and ever! Then the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who is seated on the throne, saying, Amen! Hallelujah!

Revelation 19:5–6 (CSB) A voice came from the throne, saying, Praise our God, all his servants, and the ones who fear him, both small and great! Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder, saying, Hallelujah, because our Lord God, the Almighty, reigns!

Revelation 19:7–8 (CSB) Let us be glad, rejoice, and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself. She was given fine linen to wear, bright and pure. For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints.

**Revelation 19:9 (CSB) Then he said to me,
“Write: Blessed are those invited to the
marriage feast of the Lamb!” He also said to
me, “These words of God are true.”**

Revelation 19:1-10

Revelation 19:10 (CSB) Then I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and sisters who hold firmly to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”



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COMMENTARY

Revelation 19:1 (CSB) **After this** I heard something like the loud voice of a vast multitude in heaven...

After this – is a key time marker. This vision follows the destruction of religious and economic Babylon (chs. 17-18), that evil, organized, Satanic system which opposes all that is of God, and it occurs at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 19:1 (CSB) **After this** I heard something like the loud voice of a vast multitude in heaven...

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These verses serve as a bridge between the 7-year Tribulation and the 2nd Coming of Jesus (19:11-21).

Revelation 19:1 (CSB) After this I heard something like the **loud voice of a vast multitude** in heaven...

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Loud voice of a vast multitude – probably angels are in view here because the saints seem to appear to enter the worship in v. 5.

**Revelation 19:1 (CSB) ...saying, Hallelujah!
Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God,**

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Revelation 19:1-10

**This worship is not quiet and sober, but loud
and celebrative.**

**Revelation 19:1 (CSB) ...saying, Hallelujah!
Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God,**

The word “hallelujah” occurs only in this passage in all of the New Testament (4x). It derives from 2 Hebrew words halal means praise and ya, an abbreviated form of Yahweh, meaning “Praise Yahweh” or “Praise the LORD.” The Hebrew word introduces a number of the Psalms (106, 111-113, 117, 135, 146-150).

Revelation 19:2 (CSB) because his judgments are true and righteous, because he has judged the notorious prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality; and he has avenged the blood of his servants that was on her hands.

The reasons God is to be praised are noted in vs. 1-2. There are 6:

Verse 1 1) For His salvation. 2) For His glory (doxa). 3) For His power (dunamis).

Verse 2 4) For His true and righteous judgments. 5) For his judgment of the great harlot. 6) For His avenging the blood of His saints.

Our God is a saving God, a glorious God, a powerful God, the true God, the righteous God, the judging and avenging God. He is not docile or disinterested deity. He sees all that happens. He knows all that happens and in the end, He will make all things right.

Revelation 19:2 (CSB) ...because he has judged the notorious prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality; and he has avenged the blood of his servants that was on her hands.

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Babylon is a harlot, a spiritual and idolatrous fornicator. Babylon is a murderer of the innocent saints of God.

**Revelation 19:3 (CSB) A second time they said,
Hallelujah! Her smoke ascends forever and
ever!**

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**The 2nd hallelujah – her judgment will never
be forgotten.**

Revelation 19:4 (CSB) Then the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who is seated on the throne, saying, Amen! Hallelujah!

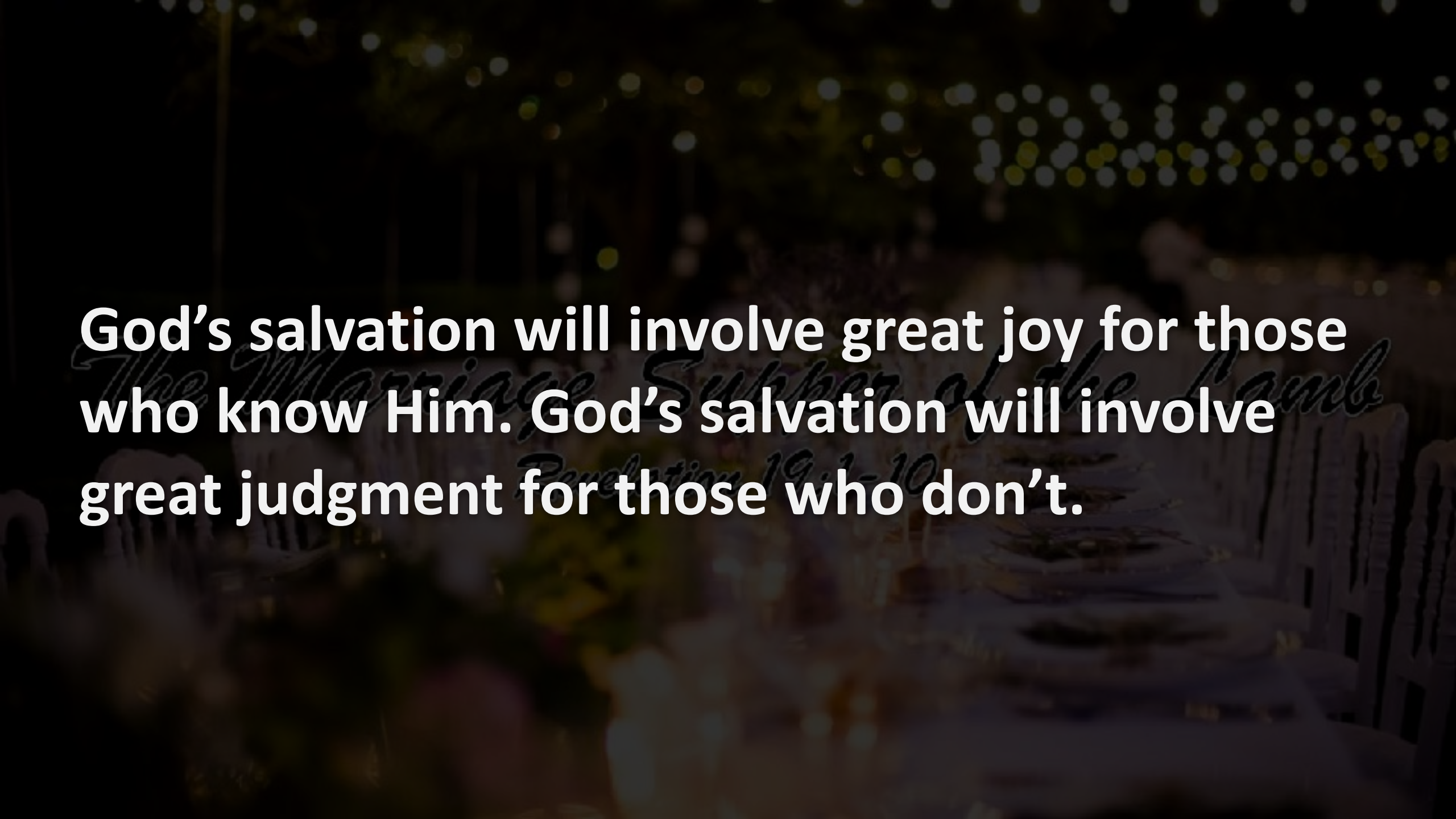
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The redeemed and the angels recognize, worship, and applaud the just and righteous thing God has done.

Revelation 19:4 (CSB) Then the **twenty-four elders and the four living creatures** fell down and worshiped God, who is seated on the throne, saying, **Amen! Hallelujah!**

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This is the last we see of the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures. Amen – let it be. Hallelujah – praise the Lord.



God's salvation will involve great joy for those who know Him. God's salvation will involve great judgment for those who don't.

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Revelation 19:5 (CSB) **A voice came from the throne**, saying, Praise our God, all his servants, and the ones who fear him, both small and great!

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Voice from the throne – could be an angel, one of the living creatures, one of the elders. Who is not crucial, what is said certainly is.

Revelation 19:5 (CSB) A voice came from the throne, saying, **Praise our God**, **all his servants**, and the ones who fear him, both small and great!

Praise our God! He is ours and we are His!

That is a great reason to praise Him! **All** – not some or most. **His servants** – (doulos).

Revelation 19:5 (CSB) ...all his servants, and the ones who fear him, both small and great!

His servants are the ones “who fear him,” reverencing Him, honoring Him, caring more about what He thinks and wants than anyone else. They understand that, “all that really matters in life is that you please God.”

Revelation 19:5 (CSB) ...Praise our God, all his servants, and the ones who fear him, **both small and great!**

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Both small and great – little people/big people; unknown/well-known; those who fear Him and serve Him will praise Him in life and in death, in word and in action.

Revelation 19:6 (CSB) Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder, saying, Hallelujah, because our Lord God, the Almighty, reigns!

Revelation 19:1-10

Vast multitude. - Sound of many waters (like a waterfall, a mighty cataract). - Sound of loud thunders. The noise is deafening!

Revelation 19:6 (CSB) ...saying, Hallelujah,
because our Lord God, the **Almighty**, reigns!

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD!!! Lord God
Almighty (pantokrator) – used 9 times in
Revelation (1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14;
19:6, 15; 21:22), only 1 other time in the New
Testament in 2 Corinthians 6:18, and there it is
an Old Testament quote.

Almighty

“Word means one who holds all things in his control” (Mounce, 339). This is an omnipotent God, an all-powerful God. He is also a God who has begun to reign. What is already now a reality in heaven is now about to become a reality on earth. Matthew 6:10, “Your Kingdom come” has arrived.

Revelation 19:7 (CSB) Let us be glad, rejoice, and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself.

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Revelation 19:7-10*

The image of marriage symbolizing the relationship of God and His people appears several times in the Bible (Isaiah 54:5-7; Hosea 2:19; 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:25-27)

3 distinct stages to a Jewish marriage.

- 1) Betrothal took place from God's perspective in eternity past/from ours at the time of conversion.**
- 2) Procession to get the bride – THE RAPTURE
(1 Thess. 4:13-18)**
- 3) Wedding Feast / Celebration**

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

The wedding supper of the Lamb (also called the “messianic wedding banquet”) is the future fellowship celebration of God with his people in the new creation.

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

As the divine husband, God promised his bride a lavish banquet celebrating his defeat of her enemies and his abundant provision. A key Old Testament passage is Isaiah 25:6–9, which describes the rich feast God will provide.

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

Isaiah 25:6–7 (CSB) On this mountain, the Lord of Armies will prepare for all the peoples a feast of choice meat, a feast with aged wine, prime cuts of choice meat, fine vintage wine. On this mountain he will swallow up the burial shroud, the shroud over all the peoples, the sheet covering all the nations.

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

Isaiah 25:8 (CSB) When he has swallowed up death once and for all, the Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face and remove his people's disgrace from the whole earth, for the Lord has spoken.

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

Isaiah 25:9 (CSB) On that day it will be said,
“Look, this is our God; we have waited for him,
and he has saved us. This is the Lord; we have
waited for him. Let’s rejoice and be glad in his
salvation.”

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

Jesus also speaks of a wedding banquet in his consummated kingdom (e.g., Matt. 8:11; 22:1–14; 25:1–13; Luke 13:29; 14:16–24).

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

Even the promise Jesus makes to his disciples at the Last Supper assumes the coming reunion banquet: “I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom” (Matt. 26:29).

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

The wedding supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19:9 likely points forward to the more complete description of the new heaven and new earth in Revelation 21–22. This eternal celebration of God’s people stands in contrast to the “great supper of God,” where the birds consume the dead bodies of God’s enemies (19:17–18, 21; Ezek. 39:17–20).

What is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?

Overall, the image of a wedding supper conveys the personal, intimate, joyous time of fellowship that God is preparing for his people.

Revelation 19:7 (CSB) Let us be glad, rejoice, and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his **bride** has prepared herself.

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Glad ... rejoice ... give glory to Him (the Lamb). Lamb is Christ (29 times in Revelation. 28 of Jesus, except 13:11). **Bride** – The Church, redeemed of all the ages.

**Revelation 19:7 (CSB) Let us be glad, rejoice,
and give him glory, because the marriage of
the Lamb has come, and his bride has
prepared herself.**

Revelation 19:1-10

**We belong to Him as a bride to a groom!
Through sanctification, we have prepared
ourselves (Ephesians 2:10).**

Revelation 19:8 (CSB) She **was given** fine linen to wear, bright and pure. For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints.

Revelation 19:1-10

Was given – God did it too.

Philippians 2:12-13, Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Revelation 19:8 (CSB) She was given **fine linen to wear, bright and pure...**

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In contrast to the apparel of the harlot, the bride is fine, clean, bright symbolizing her righteous behavior.

Revelation 19:8 (CSB) ...For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints.

Acts of faithful obedience is the proper behavior and response to the sacrificial love of the bridegroom, the Lamb (Ephesians 5:22-25).

**There is some diversity on the meaning of
“For the fine linen represents the righteous
acts of the saints.”**

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**Dr. Lehman Strauss writes, “Has it ever
occurred to you... That at the marriage of the
Bride of the Lamb, each of us will be wearing
the wedding garment of our own making?”**

Revelation 19:9 (CSB) Then he said to me,
“**Write: Blessed** are those **invited to the
marriage** feast of the Lamb!” ...

Write Blessed (4th of the 7; 1:3; 14:13; 16:15;
19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14). **Invited to the marriage**

While in 19:7 the church is portrayed as a
bride, in 19:9 the church is pictured as the
guests invited to the wedding.

Images are flexible in prophetic-apocalyptic literature, and the variety helps us to view the people of God from different perspectives: the corporate church as the bride and individual believers as banquet guests; both are true and important.

**Revelation 19:9 (CSB) ...He also said to me,
“These words of God are true.”**

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**True sayings (words) of God. No falsehood,
deceit, deception or lying in this revelation. It
comes from God.**

Revelation 19:10 (CSB) Then I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “Don’t do that!...

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John errs, as does anyone, in worshipping an angel, a creature. This is idolatry (cf. 22:8-9!).

Revelation 19:10 (CSB) ...I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers and sisters who hold firmly to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Revelation 19:1-10

Angels are fellow servants, slaves (sundoulos). They too bear witness to Jesus, hold the testimony given by Jesus.

**Revelation 19:10 (CSB) ...Worship God,
because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of
prophecy.”**

**The testimony of Jesus is the spirit (theme,
essence, focal point) of prophecy. The true
spirit of prophecy always points to Jesus. The
message given by Jesus is the essence of
prophetic proclamation. - Either way it's all
about Him, it's all about the Lamb!**



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Revelation 19:1-10

MODERN APPLICATIONS

Of all the images God could have used to describe the eternal state, why a wedding supper? It's because throughout Scripture the marriage metaphor depicts God's relationship with his people like no other (e.g., Hos. 2:16, 19–20; Isa. 54:5–7; Jer. 2:2; Matt. 25:1–13).

The prophets often speak of Israel as the wife of Yahweh (Isa. 49:18; 54:5–6; 62:5; Jer. 2:2; Ezek. 16:15–63; Hos. 2:14–23). Negatively, Israel's unfaithfulness is compared to the adultery of an unfaithful wife (Jer. 3:20; Ezek. 16:15–63; Hos. 2:1–13; 4:12, 15).

Yet God remains faithful and plans to restore his bride under the new covenant (e.g., Isa. 62:1–5; Ezek. 16:60–63; Hos. 2:16–20). It makes sense that Jesus portrays himself as the bridegroom (Mark 2:19–20; John 3:29) and the church as the bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25–33; Rev. 19:7; 21:2, 9; 22:17).

The language of bride and bridegroom communicates God's perfect love for his people and anticipates our joyous, intimate experience of the personal presence of God in the new creation. The marriage metaphor also conveys deep emotional security and assurance for Christians currently suffering persecution and abuse under evil human rulers.

1. At present, we can praise God in anticipation of the beginning of his universal reign. Every generation of Christians lives under some earthly ruler who claims lordship over their world. We know that God is firmly seated on his heavenly throne as the only legitimate ruler of the universe. While God's sovereignty is never in question, we do not yet see his reign fully established on the earth.

We feel the frustration and burden of living under counterfeit kings. But we can anticipate the great multitude's "Hallelujah" and praise God now because we know his full and glorious reign is coming. This text reminds us to praise God not just for what he has done but for what he is going to do in the future.

2. There is no greater blessing than to be invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb. In Luke 10 when the seventy-two return to Jesus with stories of how even the demons submitted to Jesus's authority, Jesus himself redirects his disciples' focus to the blessing of having a secure standing before God: "Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).

This passage challenges us to rethink what constitutes our most significant blessing. It's not our spiritual authority or even our God-given ministry, but the comfort and security and encouragement that come from knowing Jesus and being known by him, from being on the heavenly guest list for the great wedding banquet. Our personal relationship with the Bridegroom is our greatest blessing.

3. Righteous behavior is crucial to our preparation as the bride of Christ. Revelation repeatedly stresses the importance of the church's actions and deeds. As Paul says in Ephesians 2:8–10, salvation is by grace (source), through faith (means), and for good works (results).

Even in Romans where Paul goes into great detail about justification by faith (Rom. 3–5), he also gives a great deal of attention to how God’s people should live (Rom. 6–8, 12–16). The church is characterized by obedience to God and loyalty to the Lamb, rather than compromise with the world system.

As we allow God to transform us, we are preparing ourselves as the body of Christ for his appearing (Phil. 1:6; 2:12–13). Spiritual (by the Spirit) formation should always be wedded to Christian eschatology.



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OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

Revelation 19:2 because his judgments are true and righteous, because he has judged the notorious prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality; and he has avenged the blood of his servants that was on her hands.

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2 Kings 9:7 You are to strike down the house of your master Ahab so that I may avenge the blood shed by the hand of Jezebel—the blood of my servants the prophets and of all the servants of the Lord.

Psalm 119:137 You are righteous, Lord, and your judgments are just.

Psalm 19:9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are reliable and altogether righteous.

Revelation 19:1-10

Psalm 79:10 Why should the nations ask, “Where is their God?” Before our eyes, let vengeance for the shed blood of your servants be known among the nations.

**Revelation 19:3 A second time they said, Hallelujah!
Her smoke ascends forever and ever!**

**Isaiah 34:10 It will never go out—day or night. Its
smoke will go up forever. It will be desolate, from
generation to generation; no one will pass through it
forever and ever.**

Revelation 19:4 Then the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who is seated on the throne, saying, Amen! Hallelujah!

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1 Kings 22:19 Then Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing by him at his right hand and at his left hand.

2 Chronicles 18:18 Then Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and the whole heavenly army was standing at his right hand and at his left hand.

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Psalm 47:8 God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne

**Revelation 19:5 A voice came from the throne, saying,
Praise our God, all his servants, and the ones who fear
him, both small and great!**

**Psalm 115:13 he will bless those who fear the Lord—
small and great alike.**

**Psalm 135:1 Hallelujah! Praise the name of the Lord.
Give praise, you servants of the Lord**

Revelation 19:6 Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder, saying, Hallelujah, because our Lord God, the Almighty, reigns!

Psalm 22:28 for kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules the nations.

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Psalm 93:1 The Lord reigns! He is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed, enveloped in strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken.

Revelation 19:8 She was given fine linen to wear, bright and pure. For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints.

Isaiah 61:10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord, I exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation and wrapped me in a robe of righteousness, as a groom wears a turban and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.



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SUMMARY

Key Themes of Revelation 19:1–10

- God deserves praise and glory for beginning his universal reign.
- Jesus relates to his people like a husband to his bride.
- God's people, in contrast to the great prostitute, are clothed in righteous acts.

Key Themes of Revelation 19:1–10

- **Angels, like believing humans, are fellow servants who hold to the testimony of Jesus.**
- **God alone deserves worship, for he (by his Spirit) is the source of the prophecy about Jesus.**



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CONCLUSION

On earth when we sing the “Hallelujah Chorus” we stand. In heaven when they sing the “Hallelujah Chorus” they fall down and worship (vs. 4). Standing is fine for now. Falling down will be the only appropriate response then. Hallelujah, the King is about to come! Are you ready?



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