

The Marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:1-21)

Hallelujah – because our Lord God, the Almighty, has begun to reign! 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 permitted to wear fine linen, bright and pure; for the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints (Rev. 19: 6-8).

The chapter begins with the words, after this... which was the destruction of Babylon. The meaning of Babylon in prophecy according to Scofield “is sometimes used in a larger sense than mere reference to either the ancient city or nation”. The Babylon of the end- time has two forms: political (Revelation 17:8-17) and ecclesiastical (Revelation 17: 1-7, 18-24). Chapter nineteen opens with four Hallelujahs; the word Hallelujah expresses joy and it means praise the Lord. The first Hallelujah expresses redemption: And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Hallelujah, salvation and glory and honor and power unto the Lord our God (19:1). This is marvelous scene in heaven when all the redeemed harmonizes praises to their Savior in a deep expression of gratitude for their salvation. The time had come when their redemption had been completed. This assures us that the great day of our deliverance will certainly come. The second Hallelujah is the Hallelujah of righteous retribution: For true and righteous are His judgments: For He has judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication and has avenged the blood of His servants at her hand. And again they said, Hallelujah. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever (19:2-3). The righteous judgments of YAHWEH guarantee us His promises to be fulfilled. The time will come when we will see the finality of His judgment upon the evil; He won the battle against the devil at the cross, and in His right time He will avenge him with power and might in holiness forever. Hallelujah!

The third Hallelujah is the hallelujah of realization; Then the twenty four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped YAHWEH, Who is sited on the throne, saying: Amen Hallelujah! And a voice came from the throne, saying, Praise our YAHWEH, all His servants, you who fear Him, both small and great! This chorus of Hallelujah demonstrates the realization of the greatness of our YAHWEH. The fourth Hallelujah is for the reign of Christ: And I heard as it were the voice of great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thundering, saying, Hallelujah – because our Lord God, the Almighty, has begun to reign (19:6)! This final shout of praise comes from the host of the redeemed. At last the time has come when the King of kings took His right place to reign; the time has come for Him to sit on His throne and to receive the praise and honor due Him; the time will come when all knees on earth and heaven will bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord to the glory of the Father (Phil.2:11). And this final shout leads to the marriage of the Lamb.

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 permitted to wear fine linen, bright and pure. For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints (19:7, 8). The long-awaited-for event in the life of the Bride has arrived. The central figure here is the Bridegroom- the Lamb Who is none other

than YAHSHUA. The Bride of Christ is not to be confused with Israel as the wife of YAHWEH. YAHSHUA paid a price to redeem His Bride from every tribe and nation with His own blood; He gave Himself to her and she will be presented to Him "holy and blameless". He did that to present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and blameless (Ephesians 5:25-27). The union between YAHWEH and Israel to take place on earth is not to be confused with the marriage of the Lamb to His Bride, which will take place in heaven. In Revelation 21:9-10, the Lamb's wife is seen descending out of Heaven as the heavenly Jerusalem, a city being used symbolically for the Bride, just as Babylon is used symbolically of the harlot.

And His Bride has made herself ready; and to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints (19:7-8). The righteousness of YAHWEH imputed to the Bride of Christ qualifies her to be righteous in His sight. We cannot work for the righteousness of YAHWEH; it is received by faith through His grace. This righteousness is godly living, deeds and right standing with YAHWEH. So it seems that the wedding gown of the Bride of Christ is made of the righteous work she does while on earth. Her works will be tested at the judgment seat of Christ after the rapture. Paul writes, But if anyone builds upon the Foundation, whether it be with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, the work of each [one] will become [plainly openly] known; for the day of Christ will disclose and declare it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test and critically appraise the character and worth of the work each person has done; if the work which any person has built on this Foundation [any product of his efforts whatever] survives [this test] he will get his reward. But if any person's work is burned up, he will suffer the loss though he himself will be saved, but only as [one who has passed] through fire (I Cor. 3:12-15). The godly life lived before YAHWEH and man carries fruit to eternity with reward pleasing to the Lord. YAHSHUA said in John fifteenth verse five that the one who remains in Him and He in him produces much fruit, because we cannot do anything without Him; He said, My Father is glorified in this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples (John 15:8). I pray this will compel us to get up from our comfort zone to serve our Lord.

And like it is with weddings that reception follows, the Marriage of the Lamb will follow with a marriage feast. John writes, And he said to me, Write: Blessed are those invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9)! The wedding of the Lamb with His Bride will be in heaven, but the wedding celebration will be on earth, when He will come with His Bride to reign for a thousand years. This, according to Strauss, explains the parable of the ten virgins in Mathews 25:1-13 as the Latin vulgate adds the words "and bride" to the end of the first verse, which reads, Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom and the bride. Another parable that fits in the wedding supper is the one recorded in Matthew 22:1-14. The guests of the Bridegroom will be the Old Testament and the Tribulation saints. John the Baptist will be one of them, for he called himself "the friend of the bridegroom" (John 3:29). John records, And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war; His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crown; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped

in blood; and His name is called The Word of God (19:11-13). Here John sees *heaven opened* for the descent of YAHSHUA; in chapter four, verse one, John sees a door opened in Heaven. These two openings (4:1; 19:11) mark the distinction between Christ's coming for His saints, and His coming with His saints. In these two small prepositional words there are remarkable differences that we need to consider for our understanding of the order of events. This is a sure promise for those who entered through the heaven's open door; they will come with the Bridegroom when heaven is opened.

The rider on the white horse of Revelation nineteenth is not to be confused with the rider in chapter six in the opening of the seals. The rider in this chapter is called Faithful and True; the one in chapter six is called faithless and untrue; he is the antichrist. YAHSHUA is also called the Word of God; an example is found in John 1:1, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God; He was with God in the beginning. He is then the eternal Word; He is the perfect expression of God and in creating the world, He expressed wisdom and power. He is not just a mere expression of sound, but He is life. In this chapter He is both the Warrior and the Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean (19: 14). Who are these in the armies? These are the saints He took to heaven; Their clothing indicates that they are the redeemed people; also a host of angels will be in that army according to the Lord's words in Matthews 25:31: When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. To know YAHSHUA as Lord and Savior is to know the hope of glory; is to know peace and the certainty of His promises waiting to be fulfilled in us. Halleluiah!

Maranatha!

(References from the book Revelation by Lehman Strauss)