

Rev. 19:1-10 “Victory and Marriage”

For the Children: There have been times when I lived in Australia, when I have been outside for a long time under a very hot sun, with nothing to drink. When I finally got to sit down and have a nice, cool drink, it felt so wonderful – unbelievably good! When God’s children feel the pressure from the world – to disbelieve or disobey – it should feel wonderful to receive God’s promise that one day the Lord Jesus will return and end the world. And that then He will let us join with Him in a victory celebration, also like a joyful wedding reception – like nothing else the world has ever seen! **Questions:** Why do we have to wait for these celebrations? Who gets to go? How should we respond to this information?

Introduction:

First Point: The Victory Celebration

- 1) The Great Multitude: Symbolic Babylon is a great city, with many rulers and merchants in tow, but at the end the great multitude will be in God’s City (vss. 1,6)
- 2) The Great Voice: “Babylon” seems to have the louder voice now. At the end, though, it will sink in silence while elect angels and men will be making a great sound, like a cataract or a thunderstorm
- 3) Great Praise: That sound is of the worship and praise of God. “Hallelujah” is mentioned 3 times, along with other words of praise and exultation. Praise is described and commanded, and receives an “Amen” here. This is the Lamb’s Victory Song, in contrast to the lament for “Babylon” in ch. 18
- 4) Great Reasons to Celebrate: That praise also confirms our reasons for rejoicing over “Babylon’s” permanent fall (v. 3/Is. 34:10). Christ ends the Harlot’s immorality and corruption. He rescues His people from her persecutions. His judgements are just and true, both against Babylon and for His people. His reign is finally seen visibly on earth, without opposition

Second Point: The Wedding Celebration

- 1) Prepared and Preparing: A further reason to celebrate is that Babylon’s destruction will open the way for the “marriage” of Christ and His Church. This consummation of His saving work must wait until Babylon is fallen, because His Bride must “prepare” or “clothe” herself. Salvation is given to her as a gift of grace, by Christ’s imputed merits. But she must respond (Mt. 15:1ff). That response is learned by the testing that comes as a result of Babylon’s opposition
- 2) Her Fine Linen: Hence the Church must be dressed in the fine, pure linen that represents the righteous acts of the saints. As righteousness is imputed from Christ (Is. 61:10-11), so it must be practiced as He imparts it through His Word and Spirit. The simple, pure beauty of this “fine linen, bright and clean” – the beauty of holiness - contrasts the gaudy display of the Great Harlot
- 3) Blessed Invitations: The superiority of being with the Bride and Groom is seen in the blessedness of all invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb. That blessing involves all the fellowship, peace, abundance and joy associated with a wedding supper – only infinitely greater when it involves Christ and His people. We should be full of joy in anticipation – as v. 7 exhorts us to be

Third Point: John’s Celebration

- 1) Carried Away: John is so carried away by the excitement that he tries to worship the angel who tells him these things. But that is idolatry, a mark of Babylon. Even in our zeal we must be careful not to make idols, ends in themselves, of the things associated with God – Church, angels, believers, theological study. The angel rebukes John and explains he is only a fellow-servant
- 2) Not Carried Away Enough: At least John was carried away with amazement at the Good News of victory and the wedding supper. We, in contrast, are often “underwhelmed” – perhaps due to Babylon’s influence. We need to see that we have the same “spirit of prophecy” as the angels – the same “testimony of Jesus,” the Gospel. We must marvel at that and be eager to spread it, in anticipation

Conclusion: