

ENDGAME

A Study On Revelation (Week #158)

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Revelation 19:7 Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His *[wife]* bride has prepared herself. **8** She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear." For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God's holy people. **9** And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he added, "These are true words that come from God." (NLT)

Revelation 19:7 Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His *[wife]* bride has prepared herself." **8** It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the *[God's people]* saints. **9** Then he *said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'" And he *said to me, "These are the true words of God." (NASB)

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." **8** And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. **9** Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." (NKJV)

Revelation 19:7 Let 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 granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. **9** And 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." (ESV)

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad, rejoice, and give him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has prepared herself. **8** She was given fine linen to wear, bright and pure. For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints. **9** 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." (CSB)

Wedding _____

- Recap
 - Who's Invited?
 - ▶ What does a true believer / disciple look like?
 - Betrothal
 - ▶ Covenant begins at the Betrothal (Engagement)
 - Purchase Price
 - ▶ Price paid for the Bride
 - Groom's Preparation
 - ▶ Rooms at the Father's house
 - Surprise Gathering
 - ▶ Announced by a shout and trumpet
 - Bride's Garments
 - ▶ Given, pure white linen
 - Celebration
 - ▶ 7 day celebration
 - Day and Hour are unknown
 - ▶ Could we know the season?
 - Heavenly marriage vs. Earthly marriage
 - ▶ Perfection vs imperfection

What Did _____ **Say?**

- Who's Invited?

Matthew 22:1 Jesus also told them other parables. He said, **2** "The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. **3** When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come! **4** "So he sent other servants to tell them, 'The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!' **5** But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. **6** Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them. **7** "The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. **8** And he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren't worthy of the honor. **9** Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.' **10** So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests. **11** "But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. **12** 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' But the man had no reply. **13** Then the king said to his aides, 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' **14** "For many are called, but few are chosen." (NLT)

- _____ Invitation
 - ▶ Who is the king? Who is the son?
 - ▶ Who was the wedding feast for?
 - ▶ Servants represent the _____
 - ▶ Guests specifically represent _____
 - ▶ Army represents other _____
 - ▶ Everyone you see represent _____
 - ▶ Wedding clothes represent _____
 - ▶ Outer darkness represents _____

Matthew 21:33 "Now listen to another story. A certain landowner planted a vineyard, built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and built a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. **34** At the time of the grape harvest, he sent his servants to collect his share of the crop. **35** But the farmers grabbed his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. **36** So the landowner sent a larger group of his servants to collect for him, but the results were the same. **37** "Finally, the owner sent his son, thinking, 'Surely they will respect my son.' **38** "But when the tenant farmers saw his son coming, they said to one another, 'Here comes the heir to this estate. Come on, let's kill him and get the estate for ourselves!' **39** So they grabbed him, dragged him out of the vineyard, and murdered him. **40** "When the owner of the vineyard returns," Jesus asked, "what do you think he will do to those farmers?" **41** The religious leaders replied, "He will put the wicked men to a horrible death and lease the vineyard to others who will give him his share of the crop after each harvest." **42** Then Jesus asked them, "Didn't you ever read this in the Scriptures? 'The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful to see.' [Psalm 118:22-23.]" **43** I tell you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation that will produce the proper fruit. **44** Anyone who stumbles over that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone it falls on." (NLT)

- _____ Savior
 - ▶ Who is the landowner? Who is the son?
 - ▶ What is importance of the vineyard? _____ and _____
 - ▶ Matthew 25:14-30; Revelation 14:19-20, 19:15
 - ▶ Is United States the nation producing proper fruit?
 - ▶ What happens when fruit stops producing? (Mark 11:12-14)

Matthew 21:19 "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. **21** Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." (NLT)

- Your treasure (what you value) is where your heart is.
 - ▶ Is my heart about the _____ Kingdom?
 - ▶ What are the things I _____ most?
 - ▶ It's not wrong to have stuff - the problem is when the stuff has my heart.

Matthew 7:13 "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. **14** But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it." (NLT)

- Who is able to enter God's Kingdom?
 - ▶ What's the key word that helps us know? _____
 - ▶ This implies that you have the ability.
- Are some not allowed to travel the narrow way?
 - ▶ What's the key word that helps us know? _____
 - ▶ This implies that you are the one deciding.
- Few will travel the difficult path. Why?
 - ▶ The journey to follow Jesus is _____.
 - ▶ Narrow and difficult - Requires submission and obedience.

1 Corinthians 9:24 Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! **25** All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. **26** So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. **27** I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified. (NLT)

- Fully _____ - Most will not follow the path to God's Kingdom.
 - ▶ Heartbreaking. Why? They choose not to do so.

Joshua 24:15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." (NLT)

John 15:16 "You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name."
(NLT)

Matthew 13:3b "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. **4** As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. **5** Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. **6** But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. **7** Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. **8** Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! **9** Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."
(NLT)

- ▶ Farmer - Jesus
- ▶ Seed - Good News
- ▶ Birds - Evil one (Satan)
- ▶ Field - World
- ▶ Soil - Hearts of people
- ▶ 25% of seed produces results (narrow road)

Matthew 13:18 "Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: **19** The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. **20** The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. **21** But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. **22** The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. **23** The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" (NLT)

- ▶ Hard Soil (footpath) - blind or hard (hearted) towards the seed, snatched away by Satan.
- ▶ Shallow Rocky Soil - shallow faith, hearers not doers, walk away from faith upon hardship or persecution. Stones spoil the root.
- ▶ Thorny Soil - have some root but come short of any saving benefit of it. The good is overshadowed by the world and what it offers. Thorns spoil the fruit.
- ▶ Good Soil - Accept, receive, transformed, and spread the message.

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- ▶ Location of the tree?
 - ▶ Fruit of the tree?
 - ▶ What is fruit?

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. **16** You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? **17** A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. **18** A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. **19** So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. **20** Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions." (NLT)

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. **22** On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' **23** But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'" (NLT)

- ▶ Knew: γινώσκω; (Greek - ginóskó [ghin-ocē'-ko]); To know, to come to know, to recognize, to perceive; to know, especially through personal experience (first-hand acquaintance); "experientially know" (as in intimacy).
- ▶ Everyone who says they follow isn't a follower.
- ▶ How can we know? Inspection of fruit.
- ▶ What is the difference? _____

Matthew 13:24 Here is another story Jesus told: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. **25** But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. **26** When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. **27** "The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?' **28** "'An enemy has done this!' the farmer exclaimed. "'Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked. **29** "'No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.'" (NLT)

Matthew 13:36 Then, leaving the crowds outside, Jesus went into the house. His disciples said, "Please explain to us the story of the weeds in the field." **37** Jesus replied, "The Son of Man is the farmer who plants the good seed. **38** The field is the world, and the good seed represents the people of the Kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one. **39** The enemy who planted the weeds among the wheat is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world, and the harvesters are the angels. **40** "Just as the weeds are sorted out and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. **41** The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. **42** And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **43** Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!" (NLT)

- Kingdom Of Heaven: _____
 - ▶ Chance to grow, chance to change, chance to repent
 - ▶ Wolves in sheep's clothing
 - ▶ "Birds in the trees"
 - ▶ Disobedient / False teachers
 - ▶ Non-fruit bearing people

Matthew 13:47 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. **48** When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. **49** That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, **50** throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **51** Do you understand all these things?" "Yes," they said, "we do." (NLT)

- ▶ Everything is together, not separated until the end
- ▶ There is still time for people to accept the invitation until the harvest.
- ▶ Invited - but didn't change.

Matthew 13:31 Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. **32** It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches." (NLT)

- Kingdom of Heaven: _____
 - ▶ People will accept the invitation
 - ▶ Small beginnings but reach of the Gospel would grow
 - ▶ The enemy will try and deceive those in the Kingdom.
 - ▶ Invited - but didn't listen.

Matthew 13:33 Jesus also used this illustration: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough." **34** Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables. **35** This fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet: "I will speak to you in parables. I will explain things hidden since the creation of the world. (NLT)

- Kingdom of Heaven: _____
 - ▶ Preaching of Gospel is like leaven, working to spread (knead) message
 - ▶ Leaven hid in the flour (like a heart), soft and pliable (Psalm 119:11)
 - ▶ Leaven works speedily, so does the Word of God, and yet gradually at the same time.
 - ▶ Matthew Henry Commentary: "It works silently and insensibly, yet strongly and irresistibly: it does its work without noise, for so is the way of the Spirit, but does it without fail. Hide but the leaven in the dough, and all the world cannot hinder it from communicating its taste and relish to it, and yet none sees how it is done, but by degrees the whole is leavened."
 - ▶ The Apostles hid the Gospel in a mass of humanity, it had a great effect turning the world upside down.
 - ▶ Invited - but didn't do the what was required.

Matthew 13:44 "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. **45** "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. **46** When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it! (NLT)

- Kingdom of Heaven: _____
 - ▶ Worth everything you own

Matthew 19:16 Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" **17** "Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments." **18** "Which ones?" the man asked. And Jesus replied: "'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. **19** Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.'" **20** "I've obeyed all these commandments," the young man replied. "What else must I do?" **21** Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure

in heaven. Then come, follow me." **22** But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions. (NLT)

- ▶ Invited - but not willing to pay the cost.

Luke 14:25 A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, **26** "If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. **27** And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. **28** "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? **29** Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. **30** They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!' **31** "Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? **32** And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. **33** So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own. **34** "Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? **35** Flavorless salt is good neither for the soil nor for the manure pile. It is thrown away. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!" (NLT)

- ▶ Invited - but failed to count the cost and didn't finish the race.

Matthew 18:1 About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" **2** Jesus called a little child to him and put the child among them. **3** Then he said, "I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. **4** So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. **5** "And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me. **6** But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea. **7** "What sorrow awaits the world, because it tempts people to sin. Temptations are inevitable, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting. **8** So if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand or one foot than to be thrown into eternal fire with both of your hands and feet. **9** And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It's better to enter eternal life with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell." (NLT)

- _____ of refusing the invitation
 - ▶ Don't keep others from receiving
 - ▶ Better to suffer earthly pain than eternal spiritual pain
- Become like a child
 - ▶ Willingness to learn
 - ▶ Willingness to change
 - ▶ Willingness to be humble
 - ▶ Willingness to follow

Matthew 10:11 "Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town. **12** When you enter the home, give it your blessing. **13** If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing. **14** If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. **15** I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off than such a town on the judgment day." (NLT)

Acts 13:44 The following week almost the entire city turned out to hear them preach the word of the Lord. **45** But when some of the Jews saw the crowds, they were jealous; so they slandered Paul and argued against whatever he said. **46** Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and declared, "It was necessary that we first preach the word of God to you Jews. But since you have rejected it and judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we will offer it to the Gentiles. **47** For the Lord gave us this command when he said, 'I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.'" **48** When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and all who were chosen for eternal life became believers. **49** So the Lord's message spread throughout that region. **50** Then the Jews stirred up the influential religious women and the leaders of the city, and they incited a mob against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of town. **51** So they shook the dust from their feet as a sign of rejection and went to the town of Iconium. **52** And the believers were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. (NLT)