

ENDGAME

A Study On Revelation (Week #162)

Pastor Jason Goss

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)

Wedding _____

- Recap
 - Who's Invited?
 - Betrothal
 - Purchase Price
 - Groom's Preparation
 - Surprise Gathering
 - Bride's Garments
 - Celebration
 - Day and Hour
 - Heavenly marriage vs. Earthly marriage

What Did _____ Say?

- Who's Invited?
 - Jesus spoke a lot about what a disciple looked like, acted like, and what was expected of them.

- Betrothal
 - New Covenant (Communion)
- Purchase Price
 - Jesus was betrayed for a price (price of a slave).
 - Jesus paid a high price (His life).
- Groom's Preparation
 - Promise of a New home, waiting for groom's (Jesus') return
- Surprise Gathering
 - Unknown Return (Rapture/Harpazo)

Ten _____

- Bridegroom is coming at an unexpected hour.
 - ▶ Some are ready, some are not.
 - ▶ Do we recognize symbolism and can we understand the meaning?

Matthew 25:1 "Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. **3** The five who were foolish didn't take enough olive oil for their lamps, **4** but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. **5** When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. **6** "At midnight they were roused by the shout, 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!' **7** "All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. **8** Then the five foolish ones asked the others, 'Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' **9** "But the others replied, 'We don't have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.' **10** "But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. **11** Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!' **12** "But he called back, 'Believe me, I don't know you!' **13** "So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return. (NLT)

- Who are the bridesmaids?
 - Are these referring to individual people?
 - Do the virgins represent the Church, people, or something else?
- Church is responsible to maintain the oil of the Holy Spirit.
 - Can people lose the oil of the Holy Spirit?
 - ▶ Does the Holy Spirit ever leave the believer?
 - ▶ Can the Holy Spirit leave a church?
 - ▶ Samson, David, Saul
 - With no oil, the lamp was virtually _____.

Romans 8:9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) (NLT)

- _____
 - The cultural setting of the parable is a first-century Jewish wedding. D. A. Carson explains the custom:
 - ▶ “Normally, the bridegroom with some close friends left his home to go to the bride’s home, where there were various ceremonies, followed by a procession through the streets—after nightfall—to his home. The ten virgins may be bridesmaids who have been assisting the bride; and they expect to meet the groom as he comes from the bride’s house. . . . Everyone in the procession was expected to carry his or her own torch. Those without a torch would be assumed to be party crashers or even brigands (robber, thief). The festivities, which might last several days, would formally get under way at the groom’s house” (Expositor’s Bible Commentary, vol. 8, Zondervan Publishing House, 1984, p. 513).
 - ▶ The “torch” or “lamp” was either a stick with a rag soaked in oil on the end of it or a lamp with a small oil reservoir and wick. Either way, maintaining the flame would require the occasional addition of oil.
- _____ and Second Coming
 - Some interpret this parable as a picture of the Christ’s second coming at the end of the tribulation.
 - ▶ The view is that all the parables in this series relate to Israel, not the church.
 - ▶ Israel during the end times is the focus of Matthew 24, and Matthew 25 continues that theme.
 - ▶ In this view, the bridegroom in the parable is Jesus Christ, and the waiting bridesmaids are Israel.
 - ▶ Will Israel be ready to receive the Lord as her Messiah? Jesus’ answer in the parable is that some will be ready to enter the kingdom, and some will not.
- _____
 - Who is Jesus speaking to?
 - ▶ Jesus addresses His disciples concerning the signs of the end times and the importance of being ready for His return.
 - Where is Jesus?
 - ▶ The parable is set within the broader context of Jesus' teachings on the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 24:3 Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?" (NLT)

- What does Jesus say before and after this?
 - ▶ It follows the Parable of the Faithful and Wise Servant and precedes the Parable of the Talents, all of which emphasize readiness and faithfulness.
 - ▶ Matthew 24 Jesus tells them not to be misled by false messiahs (4-14, 23-26), coming day of desecration in the temple [abomination of desolation] (15), great tribulation (16-22), second coming (27-31), fig tree lesson [rapture - this generation] (32-44).
 - ▶ Faithful and Wise Servant (45-51)

Matthew 24:45 "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. **46** If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. **47** I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. **48** But what if the servant is evil and thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' **49** and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? **50** The master will return unannounced and unexpected, **51** and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (NLT)

- ▶ Parable of the Talents [5 bags, 2 bags, 1 bag] (25:14-30), Final Judgement [sheep and goats, hungry, naked, prison, thirsty] (31-46)

Matthew 25:19 "After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money." (NLT)

Matthew 25:29 "To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. **30** Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" (NLT)

Matthew 25:41 "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. **42** For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. **43** I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.' **44** "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?' **45** "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were

refusing to help me.' **46** "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life." (NLT)

- ▶ Both parables following Ten [Virgins] have a similar message, if you are not prepared, fail to follow instructions, you will be left behind and cast in outer darkness.

- _____
 - Do This
 - ▶ Be _____
 - ▶ Be patient
 - ▶ Be obedient
 - ▶ Choose wisely
 - ▶ See eternally
 - Don't Do This
 - ▶ Don't _____
 - ▶ No sharing
 - ▶ No second-chances

Matthew 7:24 "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. **25** Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. **26** But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. **27** When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash." (NLT)

- _____ Meanings
 - Wise and foolish Builder? Christian vs. Hypocrite?
 - ▶ Just enough oil to meet the bridegroom, not enough oil to stay with the bridegroom.
 - ▶ They have the provision in their hands but not their hearts. (soil - Luke 8 / Matthew 13)
 - Similar Issues
 - ▶ They act under the influence of external persuasion or motivation, but are void of spiritual life.
 - ▶ They do not make provision for what is to come.
 - ▶ They "fall asleep" and were not ready for the return, unprepared for what lies ahead.
 - ▶ Distracted, tired, worn out, not watching - too busy with their own agenda or feelings, too lazy.

Luke 18:8 "I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?" (NLT)

- The Lamps are gone out.
 - ▶ The apprehensions which some hypocrites have of the misery of their state, even on this side death, when God opens their eyes to see their folly, and themselves perishing with a lie in their right hand.
 - ▶ The real misery of their state on the other side death, and in the judgment; how far their fair, but false, profession of religion will be from availing them any thing in the great day; see what comes of it.

Isaiah 50:11 But watch out, you who live in your own light and warm yourselves by your own fires. This is the reward you will receive from me: You will soon fall down in great torment. (NLT)

2 Peter 2:20 And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before. (NLT)

- ▶ They wanted oil to supply them when they were going out.
- ▶ They wanted to live off the oil of others rather than their own.
- ▶ Ride the coat-tails of someone else's relationship with God.
- Matthew Henry Commentary:
 - ▶ "Those who now hate the strictness of religion, will, at death and judgment, wish for the solid comforts of it. Those who care not to live the life, yet would die the death, of the righteous. The day is coming when those who now look with contempt upon humble contrite saints, would gladly get an interest in them, and would value those as their best friends and benefactors, whom now they set with the dogs of their flock. Give us of your oil; that is, "Speak a good word for us;" so some; but there is no occasion for vouchers in the great day, the Judge knows what is every man's true character."
- Too Little Too Late
 - ▶ Those will see their need of grace hereafter, when it should save them, who will not see their need of grace now, when it should sanctify and rule them.
 - ▶ It comes too late. God would have given them oil, had they asked in time; but there is no buying when the market is over, no bidding when the inch of candle is dropped.
 - ▶ The just shall live by his faith. Every man shall give account of himself, and therefore let every man prove his own work
 - ▶ Getting grace is a work of time, and cannot be done in a hurry.

- _____ Meaning
 - Sleeping means dying.
 - ▶ The ancients generally understood the virgins' slumbering and sleeping of their dying; they all died, wise and foolish (Ps. 49:10), before judgment-day.

Matthew 25:5 When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. **6** "At midnight they were roused by the shout, 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!' (NLT)

Psalm 49:10 Those who are wise must finally die, just like the foolish and senseless, leaving all their wealth behind. (NLT)

- Door Is _____
 - This was like the shutting of the door of the ark when Noah was in; as he was thereby preserved, so all the rest were finally abandoned.

Genesis 7:16 A male and female of each kind entered, just as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord closed the door behind them. (NLT)

- ▶ Opportunity to repent is over. No more chances.
- ▶ Rooting for the winning team after they have won.

Isaiah 62:5 Your children will commit themselves to you, O Jerusalem, just as a young man commits himself to his bride. Then God will rejoice over you as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride. (NLT)

Matthew 24:42 "So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming." (NLT)

- I Do Not _____ You
 - Not the only time Jesus has said this phrase.
 - ▶ Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 7:20 "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)

- ▶ Mount of Olives

Matthew 25:11 Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!' **12** "But he called back, 'Believe me, I don't know you!' **13** "So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return. (NLT)

- Why Bridesmaids or _____?
 - Bridesmaids may confuse as to who the message is to.
 - ▶ It's not the bride so it cannot be the Church.

Matthew 25:1 "Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids [virgins] who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. (NLT)

Matthew 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom." (NLT)

- Virgins gives us a picture.
 - ▶ Virgin is pure, spotless.
 - ▶ Has not given herself to another (Another argument against it being Israel).

Isaiah 57:5 You worship your idols with great passion beneath the oaks and under every green tree. You sacrifice your children down in the valleys, among the jagged rocks in the cliffs. **6** Your gods are the smooth stones in the valleys. You worship them with liquid offerings and grain offerings. They, not I, are your inheritance. Do you think all this makes me happy? **7** You have committed adultery on every high mountain. There you have worshiped idols and have been unfaithful to me. (NLT)

- Virgins (bridesmaids) are:
 - ▶ Waiting for the bridegroom
 - ▶ The bridegroom is the king (Jesus); so these virgins are maids of honor.
 - ▶ Attendants for Christ (servants, giving Him praise)
 - ▶ Expecting of Christ (believing, looking for His return)
 - ▶ Hoping to be the next one married
- Picture of who? Who are they?
 - ▶ Israel? _____
 - ▶ Church? _____
 - ▶ Individual? _____

Ruth 4:2 Then Boaz called ten leaders from the town and asked them to sit as witnesses. (NLT)

Hosea 2:19 I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. (NLT)

Revelation 14:4 They have kept themselves as pure as virgins, following the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been purchased from among the people on the earth as a special offering [*firstfruits*] to God and to the Lamb. (NLT)

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride [*virgin*] to one husband—Christ. (NLT)

Philippians 2:14 Do everything without complaining and arguing, **15** so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. **16** Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. (NLT)

- _____ Of Holiness

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. (NASB)

1 Peter 1:14 So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then.

15 But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. **16** For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." (NLT)

John 17:14 "I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **15** I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. **16** They do not belong to this world any more than I do. **17** Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. **18** Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. **19** And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth." (NLT)

Romans 6:22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (NLT)