

ENDGAME

A Study On Revelation (Week #165)

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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)

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) & 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)
 - Bride/Church (Individually and Corporately) must be prepared
- Bride's Garments
 - The Bride has been sanctified (set apart, holy) for her groom
- Celebration
 - For those who accept the invitation
- Day and Hour are unknown
 - _____?
 - ▶ The Jewish bride did not know the exact time of the groom's coming for her, and the Church does not know the exact time of Christ's coming for her.
 - ▶ Be _____

Matthew 24:36 "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows." (NLT)

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

Mark 13:32 "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. **33** And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert [and pray]!" (NLT)

- ▶ In the same way that a shout preceded the Jewish groom's arrival, so Christ's arrival to take the Church will be preceded by a shout.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. (NLT)

- ▶ Similar to the Jewish bride's return with the groom to his father's house after her departure from her home, the Church will return with Christ to His Father's house in heaven after she is snatched from the earth to meet Him in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. (NLT)

John 14:2 "There is more than enough room in my Father's home. [*or There are many rooms in my Father's house.*] If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? **3** When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am." (NLT)

- Heavenly marriage vs. Earthly marriage

Matthew 22:23 That same day Jesus was approached by some Sadducees—religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. They posed this question: **24** "Teacher, Moses said, 'If a man dies without children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who will carry on the brother's name.' [*Deut 25:5-6.*] **25** Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children, so his brother married the widow. **26** But the second brother also died, and the third brother married her. This continued with all seven of them. **27** Last of all, the woman also died. **28** So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her." **29** Jesus replied, "Your mistake is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God. **30** For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven. **31** "But now, as to whether there will be a resurrection of the dead—haven't you ever read about this in the Scriptures? Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, **32** 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' [*Exod 3:6.*] So he is the God of the living, not the dead." **33** When the crowds heard him, they were astounded at his teaching. (NLT)

- We will...

- ▶ _____ people
- ▶ _____ people

Luke 16:19 Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. **20** At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. **21** As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. **22** "Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, **23** and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. **24** "The rich man shouted, 'Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.' **25** "But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. **26** And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can

cross over to us from there.' **27** "Then the rich man said, 'Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home. **28** For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.' **29** "But Abraham said, 'Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.' **30** "The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.' **31** "But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'" (NLT)

- ▶ Earthly marriage is no longer needed. The purpose and the design are _____ completed.
- ▶ In heaven, death doesn't exist - no need to populate the earth.
- ▶ Neither does temptation and sin - no need to protect from lust.

Genesis 1:28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground." (NLT)

Luke 12:33 "Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. **34** Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." (NLT)

John 17:20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. **21** I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. **22** "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. **23** I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. **24** Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! **25** "O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. **26** I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them." (NLT)

The _____ of the Analogy

- Why is the Jewish wedding analogy important?
 - This analogy between Jewish marriage customs and Christ's relationship to the Church is very beautiful, but what practical significance does it have for today?

- The answer to this question is twofold. First, if you have never taken Jesus Christ personally to be your Saviour from sin, it has great significance for you. Christ came to this earth and died on a cross for the purpose of paying the penalty for your sins. Through the shedding of His blood, He paid the price necessary to purchase you to be part of His Bride, the Church. He thereby established a new covenant through which you can enter into a special relationship with Him.

Luke 22:20 After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you." (NLT)

- Every time the gospel of Jesus Christ is declared to you, Christ is proposing that you enter into this special relationship with Him. In essence, He is saying to you:
- "I, Jesus, take thee, sinner, to be My Bride. And I do promise and covenant before God The Father and these witnesses, to be thy loving and faithful Saviour and Bridegroom; in sickness and in health, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in faithfulness and in waywardness, for time and for eternity."
- Just as the proposal that the Jewish bridegroom made could be accepted or rejected, so Christ's proposal to you can be accepted or rejected. If you reject it throughout this lifetime, then you will never be rightly related to Jesus Christ. The tragic result will be that you will spend eternity separated from God and Christ in the eternal lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. **12** I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. **13** The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. **14** Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. **15** And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire. (NLT)

- If, however, you accept Christ's proposal, then your sins will be forgiven, and you will enter into that relationship that makes you part of His Bride, the Church. In addition, you will go to be with Him when He comes to take the Church, and you will remain with Him forever in great blessing. The way in which you can accept Christ's proposal is quite simple. If you sincerely

believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He came to this earth, died for your sins, and rose from the dead, then respond to Him as follows:

- ▶ Prayer of Repentance
- Second, the analogy is most significant also for those who have taken Christ to be Saviour. During the time of separation between the establishment of the marriage covenant and the coming of the bridegroom to take his bride, it was possible for the Jewish bride to commit adultery by giving herself to another man. In like manner, it is possible for believers today to commit spiritual adultery against Christ before He returns to take His Church. Paul expressed concern over this possibility when he wrote the following to Christians:

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ. **3** But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. (NLT)

- James expressed the same concern when he rebuked Christians as follows:

James 4:4 You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. (NLT)

- The context of James' statement indicates that spiritual adultery is committed when a believer becomes more devoted to the godless world system and the things that please it than he is to Jesus Christ and the things that please Him.
- If you are a believer, honestly evaluate your devotion to Jesus Christ. Do you love him as much now as when you took Him to be your Saviour? Is He truly the Centre of your existence, the One who gives your life its meaning and purpose? Is your every attitude, action, and lifestyle motivated and controlled by your devotion to Jesus Christ, or by a desire to have the friendship of the world system in which you live?
- If you have been unfaithful to your heavenly Bridegroom, confess this to Him and be assured that...

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is. (NLT)

- Then trust the Holy Spirit to renew your devotion as you wait for your heavenly Bridegroom to come at any moment.
 - ▶ https://www.biblestudymanuals.net/jewish_marriage_customs.htm

- ▶ Dr. Renald Showers, Chairman of the Pastoral Studies Dept. Philadelphia College of Bible (year unknown) Distributed by, The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., W. Collingswood, N.J.

The Marriage _____

- Jesus talked about all of them.
- The Bible is filled with references.
 - Who's Invited?
 - ▶ 2 Corinthians 5:15-20; Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 6, 7, 10, 13, 18, 19, 20, 22, 25; 1 Corinthians 9:24; Joshua 24:15; Luke 14:25; Acts 13:44-52
 - Betrothal / Purchase Price
 - ▶ Exodus 21:32; Philippians 2:5-11; Zechariah 11:4-14; Matthew 16:21; 17:21-23; 20:17-19; 26:26-29, 44-46; 27:5-10; Mark 9:30-32; 10:32-34; 14:22-25, 41-42; Luke 9:44-46; 21:16; 22:19-20; 22:14-20; 24:6-7; Matthew 26:27-29; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 11:23-26; Hebrews 9:13-15; John 6:53-54; 10:18; 15:13
 - Groom's Preparation
 - ▶ Matthew 5:12, 18; 26:26-29; Luke 6:34-36; 22:17-20; 24:50-51; Acts 1:6-11; Hebrews 11:13-16; John 1:51; 4:13-14; 6:33-65; 14:1-31; 16:13; Mark 14:22-25
 - Surprise Gathering / Day and Hour
 - ▶ Matthew 7:20-27; 23:37; 24:30-51; 25:1-13; Daniel 9:24-25; Zechariah 9:9; Philippians 4:5; 1 Peter 4:7; Luke 12:35-48; 18:8; 19:41-44; 21:5-28; Mark 13:28-33; 2 Peter 2:20; 3:8-9; James 5:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 5:16-22; Hosea 2:14-23; Isaiah 50:11; 57:5-7; 62:5; Revelation 1:19-20; 3:11; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30-32; Romans 8:5-17; Philippians 2:14-16; 2 Corinthians 11:2
 - Bride's Garments / Set Apart (Holy)
 - ▶ Galatians 2:20; 5:19-25; Titus 3:4-5; 1 John 1:9; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:11, 18-20; 10:31; Habakkuk 1:13; Psalm 51:10; 119:9; Ezekiel 22:18; 2 Timothy 2:19-22; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:29; 5:25-27; Mark 7:17-23; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 2:9; John 15:19; 17:14-19; Romans 6:22-23; Revelation 18:12, 16; 19:7-8, 14, 25-27; 20:6; Isaiah 44:22; Luke 9:23-26; 14:26-28; Matthew 5:8; 6:14-15; 7:22-23; 10:7, 37-39; 13:18-23; 15:1-20; 16:24-26; 18:21-35; 22:1-14; Hebrews 10:10; 13:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 10:4-5
 - Celebration
 - ▶ John 14:1-3; Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39; 7:31-35, 22:15-16; Matthew 6:16-18; 9:14-17; 22; 25, 26:39; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Romans 8:38-39; Colossians 3:4; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-27; 3:5, 12, 21; 7:9; 14:13; Isaiah 25:6-10, 26:1-4, 19
 - Heavenly marriage vs. Earthly marriage

- ▶ Genesis 1:28; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 7:1-9; 13:12; 15:42-44, 51-57; Matthew 17:1-13, 22:23-33; Luke 12:33-34; Colossians 2:17; 3:2, 24; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 Timothy 2:22; Ephesians 3:18-19

Final _____

- Final Promise

Mark 14:25 "I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God." (NLT)

Matthew 26:29 "Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom." (NLT)

Luke 22:15 Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. **16** For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." **17** Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. **18** For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." (NLT)

- Role Of The _____ / _____ / _____

Ephesians 5:25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her **26** to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. **27** He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. **28** In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. **29** No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. **30** And we are members of his body. **31** As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." [Gen 2:24] **32** This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. (NLT)

- _____, There's more.

Ephesians 5:21 And further,... (NLT)

- Bride of Christ - _____

Ephesians 5:1 Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. **2** Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. **3** Let there be

no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. **4** Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. **5** You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. (NLT)

- Do Not Be _____

Ephesians 5:6 Don't be fooled...

- Decieved: ἀπατάω; (Greek - apataó [ap-at-ah'-o]); to deceive; delude; trick, fool; cheat; is often sensual (personal desires, pleasure; (properly) deceive, using tactics like seduction, giving distorted impressions /apataō ("lure into deception") emphasizes the means to bring in error (delusion).
 - ▶ Conveys the act of misleading, whether by deliberate fraud or by subtle distortion of reality. Its three New Testament appearances trace a spectrum that runs from external deception (Ephesians 5:6) through self-deception (James 1:26) to the primal deception that opened the door to human sin (1 Timothy 2:14). In each setting, deception is presented as diametrically opposed to God's character and redemptive purpose.

1 Timothy 2:14 And it was not Adam who was deceived by Satan. The woman was deceived, and sin was the result. (NLT)

- ▶ Paul recalls the fall narrative to illustrate how deception introduced transgression into human experience. The verse reinforces the lethal connection between believing falsehood and committing sin.
- ▶ "ἀπατάω" deliberately evokes Genesis 3, where the serpent's craftiness culminates in Eve's deception. By employing the same verb family, Paul signals continuity: the ancient tempter still operates through counterfeit words (Ephesians 5) and inward rationalizations (James 1). The vocabulary also resonates with Jesus' Olivet discourse, "See that no one deceives you" (Matthew 24:4), underscoring a consistent biblical alarm against doctrinal and moral imposture.

James 1:26 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. **23** For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. **24** You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. **25** But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. **26** If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are

fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. **27** Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. (NLT)

- (1) Guarding the _____: Ephesians 5:6 locates deception in verbal content—"empty words." Discipleship, therefore, demands theological discernment, measuring every claim by the full counsel of Scripture.
- (2) Guarding the _____: James shows that deception may originate within. Spiritual disciplines such as self-examination and accountability help expose internal double-talk.
- (3) Guarding the _____: False assurances about sin threaten collective holiness; leaders are charged to confront seductive teachings that excuse impurity or injustice. (1 Timothy)

Ephesians 5:6 Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. **7** Don't participate in the things these people do. **8** For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! **9** For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. **10** Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. **11** Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. **12** It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. **13** But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, **14** for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light." (NLT)

- You cannot be _____ by yourself

Ephesians 5:15 So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. **16** Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. **17** Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. **18** Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, **19** singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. **20** And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NLT)

- Role Of The _____

Ephesians 5:21 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. **22** For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **23** For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. **24** As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. (NLT)