

Revelation 19:1-10 The Wedding Feast

Well, another wedding season begins – Here in California – March – July – Heavy wedding time

A) Many upcoming weddings – friends – pp from Church.

B) I like weddings – I like to officiate weddings – real privilege - - AWESOME TIME.

1) I have had that privilege probably a couple hundred times in my 26 yrs of being a Pastor.

C) Preparing for this TEACHING – I found my self Reminiscing - Certain weddings

1) My first was right in this room. 22 yrs ago – Tom and Cathy Frazee.

D) Now I was not scheduled to do their wedding- I received a call from Pastor Brian – Friday night

1) Sick could – I do it – I really didn't know Tom and Cathy – Never done a wedding – NOTES

E) Sure that Tom and Cathy were disappointed – but the Service went well – I think – still happily married. { Became good friends

It was about 8yrs later – Denise and I had moved back to Vista- after Planting – 5yrs

A) Tom and Cathy have us over for Dinner – Beautiful Picture. – So embarrassed.

B) My most embarrassing wedding moment – Matt and Diane Allen –

1) Lots of pp here in the Church – Know many pp by first name only.

C) MatthewNelson right -

D) Aside from those two mix ups – Many many weddings – gone fantastic. – Awesome

1) Great setting – Everyone dressed up – Celebration

E) But one of the reasons – I love weddings is because every Christian wedding is a picture of our relationship with Jesus.

1) Every wedding Reception is a Picture of the Wedding Feast – Jesus one day ! – Can't wait

And that is the focus of our text here today – Rev 19

A) Now the placement of this wedding feast in Ch.19 has caused some pp – CONFUSION.

B) They say: Ok you and Jason have taught us that this book is not hard to understand

1) Divine outline – Ch.1:19 – Write Seen – Vision – Are Ch.2-3 – Churches / After this 6-19

C) We have noted that after the Church age is complete Ch.2-3 –

1) We hear a trumpet – Come up – rapture – Ch.4-5 we see the Church in Heaven. {

2) Ch.6 Tribulation starts – Makes sense – get it.

But why do we wait all the way until Ch. 19 to read about the wedding Feast – why not Ch. 4 or 5 ?

A) **GOOD QUESTION** – The answer is found in understanding what takes place – **in the Customs of the Jewish Marriage**

B) **The Jewish marriage Ceremony is a Rich & Wonderful picture of our Relationship w/ the Lord .**

1) Throughout the OT the **nation of Israel** is described as the Wife or Jehovah.

C) In fact in many places like Hosea– She is portrayed as the **unfaithful wife**.

1) Committed harlotry in worshipping Idols

But in the NT – the Church – you and I – are referred to as the Bride of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2 “For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

A) Israel is the adulterous wife of Jehovah – but we are called the **Chaste virgin of Jesus**.

B) We have been Betrothed to Him!

1) What does it mean to be Betrothed?

C) In the **kiddushan** – the Jewish marriage arrangement – 3 stages.

1) This is hugely significant concerning our relationship with Jesus.

2) Why **the wedding feast is seen here Ch.19**

1st stage- Engagement stage:

A) Marriages were by arrangement : Kids young my Daughter your Son

B) (too important of a Decision to be left to immature – kids) - AMEN

C) The instances in Scripture where a man tried to choose his own wife w/ out the **directive of the Father / or the influence of the Father**

D) Always ended up in Heartache /Headache /tragedy & Disaster !!!

1) Several examples in Scripture: Samson, Jacob, Esau – {resulted in Problems}

E) So it became the custom that the marriage relationship would be arranged by the dads.

1) Usually when the kids were very young.

One Exception:

A) In the event that – a woman’s husband died – she had the opportunity according to **Levitical Law to pick from his single Brothers**

B) Which made for some **interesting Conversations** – when a Dad announced he had picked a Bride for his son.

1) (The boys, **Bros . pay attention-** Check her out knowing they might end up w/ her !!!)

**C) If they didn't like what they saw they might say –
*Dad are you sure this is the one – have you prayed
about this Pops ? Sure heard from the Lord***

1) Did You fast about this Dad on & on .

**D) So that was the one Exception : The rest were by
arrangement**

1) So the first stage was they were engaged when
they were very young !

**2nd Stage: Betrothal - this took place usually when
the girl was some where between the ages of 12 – 16
yrs old**

**A) So when we read in the gospel story of Mary
being Betrothed to Joseph, understand – some
where between 13 –16 yrs old**

**B) Amazing to think of what a godly young girl that
she was at such a young age .**

**C) At time of Betrothal – sometimes – Bride to be &
Grooms first meeting – if they lived far from each
other.**

**D) Some significant things would happen during the
Betrothal stage.**

**1st thing: The Fathers would come together with the
kids and the father of the groom would negotiate
what was called a MOHAR.**

**The MOHAR was the price that was to be paid by
the Father of the groom for the Bride to be!**

(Sometimes result in a lot of Haggling)

**A) Now the price of the MOHAR would be
determined by three things.**

B) #1 The father of the groom's Wealth.

1) If he was a rich man he was expected to pay
generously. Or else – seen as being Cheapskate

#2 The Bride's Worth:

**A) What did you view her worth to be - 2 Chickens /
2 Chickens & a horse – what ?**

**B) The Price could be determined by the # 3 The
Groom's work.**

1) In cases where the Groom's family was poor or
Deceased – the Groom would work to pay the Price

**C) Example : Jacob was on his own – marry Rachel –
agreed to work for 7yrs for her**

1) Caleb offered his Daughter to anyone who
conquered the city of Kirjath Sepher- Othniel
responded Josh. 15

**D) There was Gentile man named Shechem who took
a liking to Jacob's daughter Dinah –**

1) Asked her bros – Price? **Circumcision** – You need
to identify with our pp. – Jews – Not just you – all men

Somehow Shechem was able to get all the men to go along with this

A) All circumcised – then Destroyed – another story for another day

B) SO the Price that was determined for marriage could be accomplished by the **Work** like Jacob /

1) Thru **War** like Othniel & David /

Or Thru **Identification** like in the case of Shechem

C) Now I think some of you are starting to see – the parallel here:

You see this whole thing is a wonderful illustration of what God has done for you and me.

A) The Father has Chosen us to be the Bride of His Son !!! – Before we were born -

B) We have been **BETROTHED** to JESUS

C) God the Father has paid the MOHAR!

D) According to HIS WEALTH

1) **How Rich is God ?** What could God give that would be an accurate Measure of His Riches ?

D) **Trillion Dollars?** – Nothing ! All the gold? Asphalt

1) A planet? – Spoke into existence.

What determined God's wealth?

A) What did God only have one of? – His Son!

John 3:16 “ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* ”

Romans 5:8 *But God DEMONSTRATES His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

B) It cost the Lord greatly for us to be the Bride of Christ !!!!

According to the Worth of the Bride!

How Valuable are You & I in the eyes of God ?

Arabs have a Story – part of their Folk lore

A) Story is about a man who had a Daughter – in his eyes she wasn't much to behold – he thought never get married

B) But one day – **a suiter came calling** {This had become the custom in that middle eastern culture (

C) The Father wondered -How much will he offer me for my daughter.

1) The father would have been happy w/ a bird / a lizard

D) **The man offered six Cows** - record in that Village was 3 cows - **THE FATHERED WAS AMAZED**

1) record in that Village was 3 cows. – **SIX!!!!**

So His daughter & the man were married – and moved to another village – a yr. Later returned for a Visit -

A)When they came back – people in that village saw this man’s Daughter. They were amazed

B) She was stunningly Beautiful – Head held high Standing tall

1)People asked her WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ? – Her reply : **I AM A SIX COW WOMAN**

C)In other words once she realized that she was a Six Cow woman – it affected her whole out look – suddenly she is standing up Straight

1) She carries herself w/ Dignity

D)She literally became what she was worth to her husband !!! (Note to Husbands)

She was a Six cow Woman – What was our worth to God? Peter declared in 1 Pet.1:18

“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

A)God gave everything for us – we are more than a Six Cow Woman

1)**Treasure in a Field** : Sells everything so He could buy the Field to obtain the Treasure

B)God’s love of you intense and Passionate.

1)God says : *I loved you so much that I gave everything in order to bring you into the Kingdom - in order to make you the BRIDE of Christ*

C)Therefore : The reality of that should affect the very way that we live our lives !!! Countenance of Joy /–REJOICING in our HEARTS :

1) Glean in our Eye / Confidence in our step !!!!

D)Why? God Loves me / God is for me / He won’t forsake me / He wants what is best for me !!!

How do I know ? – He gave His very best for me

1) Romans 8: ³²*He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

So the wealth of the Father- He gave what He only had one of. His beloved Son.

A)The worth of the Bride. More than a Six Cow woman.

B)What about the work of the Son?

C)Well, Jesus our Bride Groom identifies w/ us like Shechem did when he was circumcised –became a Jew

1)**JESUS BECAME ONE OF US – INCARNATION** – he took on flesh & blood !!! Became a man

WARFARE: He fought long & hard on the Cross / shedding His own blood to secure our Salvation for eternity

- A) He conquered the World's greatest enemy a GIANT much bigger a cananite City / conquered The Devil / Death / paid price for man's sins
- B) **WORK : He worked for 33 yrs – laboring - ministering here on the earth**
 - 1) He out did Jacob – FIVE FOLD
- C) He out does Shechem in Pain – Beaten beyond description.
- D) **God the Father has paid the MOHAR**
 - 1) **Wealth of the Father/ Worth of the Bride/ The Work of His Son** – the Price that was !

After the MOHAR has been paid ? What comes next is called the Mattan

- A) **See Part of the price that was paid is set aside as a dowry for the bride – in case she becomes a Widow / Divorced or Deserted**
- B) **And part is given to the Father of the Bride :**
 - because in losing a Daughter –
 - 1) Unlike a Son she can't carry on the family name /
 - 2) Unlike a Son She can't run the family Business/

So part of the Mohar goes into the Father's bank account {Secutiry

At this point something really interesting happens : As they meet together in this room.

The Price has been worked out –

- A) **The money is placed on the Table along w/ a Contract that is to be signed – stating this is serious matter**
- B) **After this – the Bride & Groom do something for the first time : they take a cup of wine & they each take a sip (it is the Cup of the Cov.)**
- C) **At that point they are BETROTHED - they are Legally married but they don't live together & the marriage isn't consummated for a yr.**

D) But this agreement is so Binding that if they wanted to call it off – they would have to go thru divorce proceedings

- 1) **If the Bridegroom were to die in this time the Bride would be considered a Widow**

Once again this Parallels our Situation Perfectly

- A) **On the night before his betrayal Jesus meets in the upper room w/ His Bride to be - there on the table is the Bread -**

B) **Representing His body** – which is going to be **given to pay the Price** for the Bride – (*My body broken for you*)

C) Then He takes the cup / **Cup of the New Cov.** – **Signifies A Contractual agreement**

D) The Contract is the Book that we hold in our Hands – written in black & white

D) Jesus said on that night – *I will not drink this cup with you again until I do so w/ you in My Father's Kingdom* **BETHROTHAL**

What happens next is most intriguing : After the contract is signed cup is drank the bride would begin to wear a veil for approx. one year

A) This signified that she was taken : She was not available

B) Now this veil **would distort her vision a little bit** –

C) Same is true of us Paul said we are looking thru a glass dimly – fogged mirror

1) We have **an eye on eternity** that **distorts** our Vision concerning the things of this earth – not as attractive – We are taken w/ our Bridegroom

D) **EYES FOR NO OTHER !!!!!**

D) The Bride would also begin working on her **wedding Dress !!!** –

1) Ezekiel 16:10 - Now in some cases the Bridegroom would supply the material to his bride for the DRESS ! **So that is what the Bride would be doing**

WHAT ABOUT THE GROOM ? the young man would return to his fathers house where He would begin construction on *called “the little mansion”*

A) Addition to his father's house

B) Recall Jn 14 what Jesus told His disciples after they had eaten the last supper – **Bread & the Cup** – *I am going to my Father's house to prepare a mansion for you I will come again receive you to Myself* – *Rapture*

C) **So the Groom would start working** : But it was the **Father** who **determined** when the **house was finished**
1) But the Bride would get reports - he was aware of the times & the seasons – **getting close**

D) See Parallel Jesus said : *No man knows the day or the Hour but the Father*

1) But we should be aware of the times and Seasons
Getting Closer.

E) **Technology in place** – Cashless Society

1) Stage set for Ezekiel 38/ New world order

So the Bride would get reports – she would know that the day was getting closer – finally hears – the house is done – Any day now !!!

A) Wedding season in Israel was in the Fall. – feast

A) Now it became the Custom to have the Weddings on a Wed. which in the Jewish day – really begins on our Tues. night

B) The reason that they would get married on Wed. is because the courts were open on Thurs.

C) So that if it was discovered that the Bride was not a Virgin – a Divorce could be rendered on Thurs.

1) Married on Wed. divorced on Thurs.

Since that was the case once the house was completed the Bride & her bridesmaids would gather Every Wed. am, really – Tuesday pm

A) Because it had become the custom for the Bridegroom & his Grooms men to come in the night or early in the morning – Bride needed to be ready

B) Here is what would happen : They would come – trumpets blaring shouting **Bride groom Cometh** (people wake up - **WEDDING TODAY**)

1) Ceremony actually takes place outside – under the stars – **Contract would be read** – Blessing Pronounced

C) Off the wedding party would go to the Father's house – **Bride & the Bridegroom would go into the LITTLE MANSION**

1) And it was there the marriage Consummated

D) Now outside the Door of the LITTLE MANSION was the best man – the **Shoshban** – the **Friend of the Bride groom John 3:28,29**

1) That is what John the Baptist called Himself – not the Messiah – I am the Shoshban – the Friend of the Bride groom – Prepare the way- **Hear the voice**

E) The Shoshban would stand outside the door – And once the marriage was Consummated – the **Bridegroom would yell out – Ok / or Not Ok**

1) Ok – meant Yes she was a virgin – which was proven by the bed sheet that would be spotted w/ Blood

F) Not ok – meant that she wasn't a Virgin – consequently – **Divorce would occur / She could be Stoned & everyone went home**

So everyone would gather in the Father's house waiting to hear what the word was going to be !!!!

Talk about pressure ?

A) Now maybe you are thinking here is where the picture breaks down for me *I am not a Chaste Virgin – I have blown it too many times / I continue to have problems w/ sin.*

B)GOOD NEWS:It is not our blood that deems us as Being Ok !!

1)But it is His Blood – His Blood that was Shed at Calvary

C)He is the one who is pure / the one who has never sinned & when His Blood is applied to my Life –

1(Washed – Justified – *Just... never sinned*)

D)It is GLORIOUS – His blood Cleanses me so that I appear as His Bride according to Eph. 5 – Being w/out Spot of Blemish

1) He supplies **the Wedding Garment** – He robes me in His Righteousness

So when the Shoshban gave the ok – everyone would break into Rejoicing & the 7 day celebration would begin !!!!! { Water to Wine – Promoting drunkenness?

A) Now for those 7 days the bride & Groom were treated like **King & queen** - (No vacations / Resorts – this was the best it got)

B) For those seven days the Bride was not seen – the Bridegroom would come out of the **Little Mansion** & mingle w/ Guests

1) He would get food & goodies for his Bride - & literally serve her

C) Recall what Jesus declared in Luke 12:³⁷ *Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.*

D)It fits perfectly w/ what the Lord declared Concerning our situation

1)After rapture – 7 yrs of intimacy with Jesus – feasting, fellowship -

Now here is where it gets interesting as it relates to our text – here in Rev. 19

A) At the end of the 7 days the Bridegroom would come out of the **Little Mansion & He Presents his Bride** to the guests / then sits down for the Feast

B) This is when the Official Wedding feast would take place

1)After this the Rest of the town would see the **Bridegroom w/ His Bride**

C)It fits perfectly: here we are at the end of the 7yr Trib.the Wedding feast is celebrated – what is next?

D)The 2nd coming – Jesus returns to the World w/ His Bride – Presenting us to the world.

7Let 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.

C) Question: What makes the Bride Ready ?

Put it real simply – is your Robe on ? Is your gown on ? What does that mean ?

A) If you have trusted in Christ – His work on the Cross / to pay for your sins – **Then you have been Robed in His righteousness**

B) Question is? Have you embraced what Christ has done for You –

1)Are You walking in that reality !!!!

C)Living like you belong to Him!

C) *Romans 13:14* **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**

Jesus declared Blessed are those who are found watching for His coming – those who realize the Price has been paid

A)The Work has been done / The're ready, robed in His Righteousness – Waiting for the Wedding Day

That is the whole point of the Parable of the 10 virgins Matt 25 – the 5 who were not ready – why?

A) Although they were hanging out w/ the wedding party –similar to how some people hang out in Church – they had no oil in their lamps

B) Which speaks of Salvation – **filled w/ Spirit – And they were not Watching – Not born again.**

C) So, do you know that you are Born again ? - And are You Watching

1) Longing to see Him !!!!!

Believer –You are betrothed to Jesus –

A)Loves you – Paid price to win – you.

B)Wants to spend eternity with you.

C)Now? Rest in His Work - Love Him! –

So Good – So simple –

Help others – be a part of this wedding.