

## **Heaven Rejoices The Marriage of the Lamb Revelation 19:1-10**

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 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."

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

How many of you like weddings? - Fun! I especially love performing weddings

A)As a Pastor I have performed probably over 100 weddings

B)Great privilege - front row seat to the most special day in a couple's lives.

C)Most have a gone on without a hitch - but there was this one time- I got the grooms last name wrong - when I presented them

1)But it wasn't totally my fault

D)His last name was Allen - but during the rehearsal the day before- he was asking me how things were going to go -

1)So I was explaining - The ceremony -

E)After vows - ring exchange - Unity Candle - Communion - Kiss the bride and then I will present you -

1)My privilege...first time - MR and MRs - Matt -I said to him It is Nelson right ?- He said Yea - Nelson

Now I think he thought I was kidding or something-like of course I would know his last name

A)Listen - there are over 1200 adults who call CV their church home -

B)I don't know everyone's name's - I wish I did - definitely don't know their last names.

So he thinks I am kidding - the next day the wedding comes - Present them as MR and MRS Matt - Nelson

A)Funny thing was no one seemed to catch it- they all cheered - and they are still married

B)But here was the most embarrassing part - the mother of the bride came up to me after the wedding and said -

1)You know his last name is not Nelson it is Allen -

C)I am so embarrassed to admit this - but I argued with her - No his name is Nelson he told me last night

Definitely not my finest moment as a pastor. But that wasn't the worst one.

A)The worst one - happened early in my ministry - still a youth Pastor

B)I was filling in for a pastor who couldn't do the ceremony - so I didn't know the couple much at all

1)During the whole ceremony - I called the bride by the wrong name!

C)Not alone -Happens to the best of us Greg Laurie was married to his Wife Cathy by Pastor Chuck Smith -

1)but the whole ceremony - PC referred to Cathy as Laurie - Greg and Laurie

So I had two botched weddings and 98+ good ones

A)The Passage before - us describes the wedding to beat all weddings - The churches - Wedding to Jesus

B)A Wedding celebration that will be perfect in every way.

C)A wedding ceremony that you definitely want to be a part of.

D)The verses before us today - record a celebration in Heaven!

It is a loud and boisterous celebration v.6- And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters Oceans Roaring-Niagra- and as the sound of mighty thunders, Booming saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

A)I hope you like loud worship - Heaven is going to be full of it!

B)That word - Alleluia is used four times in these verses - it is the only time it is used in the NT -

C)it simply means PRAISE THE LORD!!!  
1)They can't say it enough!!!! - PTL X4

D)There is no holding back in heaven -

## **WHY IS HEAVEN REJOICING? 4 Reasons**

**#1 Because of our Salvation** - Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

A)There is rejoicing in heaven because of the Victory that we have in Jesus

B)When a person embraces Jesus as their Lord and Savior - 3 things happen

1)We are saved from the Penalty of Sin - Jesus paid it all

C)We can and should rejoice because we were going to hell - and now we are going to heaven!

But we are not just saved from the penalty of sin - but we are also saved from the power of sin

A)We no longer have to live in bondage to sinful desires -

B)There is power available to us through Jesus - his Spirit living in us to resist temptation

C)We can now walk in Victory -

D)the power that brought Jesus forth from the grave is now daily available to us -

1)to live for Jesus in this dark world

But it gets better - Not only are we saved from the penalty of sin and the power of sinned

A)But one day we will be saved and set free from the Presence of sin

B)That is the ultimate effect of salvation. - We will one day - be removed from these bodies

1)and this planet - we will no longer live in this tension and battle

C)So heaven is rejoicing in the Salvation that we have in Christ!

## **#2 Heaven is rejoicing because of God's retribution.**

2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her. 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

A)We see in Chapters 17-18 the Destruction of the Anti-Christ political and religious system that will be set up - known as mystery Babylon

B)Chapter 18 the world is mourning the destruction of Babylon - and at the same time heaven is rejoicing

C)Some might read this and think that's as insensitive as you can get.

1)That's as uncaring as you can get.

Not really! When a crime is committed we are angered and full of sadness right?

A)But when the criminal is apprehended we rejoice.

B)July 4<sup>th</sup> - I came to the church in morning to get something -

1)only to discover that our gate separates the main parking from storage area - blown off

C)What in the world happened? Camera's - Some guy hopped the fence - stole our church van

D)I was ticked off - really? Church van!

The Guy wasn't very smart - Van says Calvary Vista and Simply Jesus on it -

A)He was sitting in the van down in Carlsbad - the next day

B)Arrested and charged with a Felony - I rejoiced! - He is in Jail! Good!

C)Now I hope he gets saved! But I rejoiced he got caught

1)In a similar way - Heaven is rejoicing that this wicked system - is destroyed .....

Heaven is rejoicing because this system and Kingdom

A)that has been wreaking havoc on planet earth for a number of years is destroyed

B)Think of it this way - when someone who has been battling cancer for a number of years -

1)finds out - the cancer has been completely removed

C)Everyone rejoices - right - Party -

D)No one is mourning the Cancer - They are rejoicing their friend is Cancer free

E)Heaven is rejoicing that the World is Cancer free - Free of the Cancer of the kingdom of the anti-christ -

1)Heaven is rejoicing - God Salvation / Retribution

### **#3 Heaven is rejoicing because of God's Omnipotence**

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

The word omnipotent.

A)It means having all power, all rulership, power that is unlimited.

B)God's power has been on display during the tribulation -

1)Heaven is rejoicing at the display of it

C)I love Hebrews chapter 11 - Hall of Faith - chronicles the lives of men and women

1)Who believed in a Big and Powerful God

D)Because of that they were able to take Big steps of faith

Joshua marched around Jericho - Gideon went up against 135K - with 300

A)David as a young boy went out against the Goliath that everyone else was afraid of

B)Interesting that Right before David came to that Battle he wrote Psalm 19 - The heavens declare the glory of God.

C)He is meditating on the stars one night with his sheep - God is incredible glorious -

1)all powerful - amazing

D)Comes to the Battle - Goliath is too big to hit - No too big to miss - Nothing in comparison to our God!

The advantage that heaven has is it sees the things going on in our world from God's perspective -

A)Because of that There is a peace!

B)Have you Ever notice how the way parents react to a minor injury - affects how the child reacts

C)They fall down - and if the parent doesn't panic and sort of laughs - good fall - you ok

1)They sort of laugh - yea I am ok

D)But if the parent panics - oh my gosh - are you ok - horrible - the child starts crying hysterically

Heaven is at peace - rejoicing because God is not pacing around heaven and worried what is going on in your life - or this world.

A)He is never taken - off guard - how did that happen?

B)He is large and in Charge - So Heaven is rejoicing over the Omnipotence of God!

### **#4 Heaven is rejoicing because the Marriage feast of the Lamb is on!**

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."

A)What is the high point of every wedding ceremony? -

B)It is the moment that the Bride enters to walk down the isle - Everyone stands in honor and attention

C)No one stands when the mothers are being seated - some are even talking

D)No one stands when the bridesmaids walk down the isle

1)Or when the ring bearer or flower girl .....

But when it is time for the bride to appear - the music stops the tune changes

A)Everyone stands and turns to face the Bride.

B)Now when I am officiating a wedding - I have the perfect vantage point at the moment.

C)I can see her with that look of excitement -on her face - we are doing this - finally the day has arrived

D)But I also get to see the look on the grooms face - I always look at him

I know what he is thinking - it is what I was thinking Denise....

A)I can't believe this lovely wonderful woman is marrying him

B)Every grooms reaction is different - Some swoon -

C)Others - get this giant smile on their face - some adjust their ties - like ok here we go

D)My Son Aaron - tears began to well up in his eyes and his lip began to quiver -

1)He was overwhelmed at that reality - I am getting married to Brooklyn - he loves her so much.

Know this: Jesus is looking forward to the day that he is joined to his Bride!

A)See Jesus is the Bridegroom in this picture - and we the church are his Bride.

B)Paul said in 2 Corinthians 11 - that we have been betrothed to Jesus.

C)And Paul in Ephesians 5 admonishes Husbands to Love our wives

1)the way that Jesus loves his bride - the church

D)He was willing to serve her and give himself for her - He is our example

Now This wedding celebration is going to happen after the Rapture and before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus.

A) Note this: Jesus is more excited about our wedding day than We are!

B)Here we see Heaven is rejoicing that the Wedding is on - that the bride has made herself ready.

C)Now Having a little background to the first century culture - helps us understand that statement ...ready

D)See in Bible days - the way couples came together was very different than what we see in our day.

E)There was no dating - Definitely no - EHarmony - tinder - those sort of things

Marriages were arranged.

A)Two families one a girl the other a boy - we like you guys - our kids should get married -

B)so an arrangement was made. -kids were young

C)As the kids grew up - they did so knowing - that person was most likely going to be their spouse

1)That goofy 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boy... training started early!  
☺

When the kids became closer to the age where they could be married -

A)They entered into the Betrothal stage - Engagement stage

B)The Betrothal stage was a legally binding agreement -

1)they were married legally but the marriage wasn't consummated yet

C)And they were still living at their parents' house

D)But to break off the marriage during the betrothal stage meant - certificate of divorce - or death - only way.

Now when the Betrothal happened - An agreement took place between the dads. - Called a Mohar

A)A price would be paid for by the father of the groom - to the father of the bride.

B)there were two things that determined the price

C)The worth Bride (2 cows and 3 chickens)

1)and the wealth of the Father of and of the groom!

D)The Richer the Father - the greater the price he was expected to pay.

E)When you think about that in relationship to our marriage to Jesus -

1)what did God give in order to secure us for his son?

What did Jesus give in order to be united to us?

A)Well 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.

“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold<sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:18-19

Max Lucado: “Do you want to know how much you matter to Jesus? Find your answer in the blood on the cross. He’d rather die than have heaven without you. On the cross, he poured out his blood.

Our groom has done for us what we could never have done for ourselves. He has qualified us, purified us, sanctified us. He died and rose for us. Never has a groom done more for his bride. And never has a bride been more unworthy of a groom.”

Knowing how much Jesus loves us and what he did to make us his bride should impact the way we live.

A)It should impact the way that we approach life - the way we carry ourselves

B) There is a story from the middle east that is part of their Folk lore

C)Story is about a man who had a Daughter – in his eyes she wasn’t much to behold –

1)he thought never get married - Sad

But one day –a suitor came calling

A)The Father wondered -How much will he offer me for my daughter. - that was the custom - price

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

C)The man offered six Cows - the record in that Village was 3 cows -

D)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 year. 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 – Standing tall Head held high

1)People asked her WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ?

Bb)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 outlook –

D)suddenly she is standing up Straight

1)She carries herself w/ Dignity

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

Guys we are the bride of Christ - he gave his very life - to make us his bride

A)He purchased us with his blood - that reality should impact the way we live

B)But if we are honest often times it doesn’t

C)We tend to forget him, neglect him, to behave as if we aren’t engaged to him.

D)Yet he refuses to turn away. Just the opposite.

E)He invites us to imagine the moment in which he announces, “I, Jesus, take you, a sinner, to be my bride.

Heaven is rejoicing in that moment - the Bride 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.

In ancient days - the Bride would typically make her own wedding dress -

A) Usually it consisted of two pieces - One was the inner garment called the Tunic -

B) Then there was the outer garment called the toga  
1) Those two pieces - inner/outer picture our garment

C) Here John sees the Bride arrayed in Fine linen clean and bright -

1) that he refers to as righteous acts of the saints

### **When the Bible talks about our righteousness in the Lord -**

A) There are two aspects of it that are interrelated

B) There is Positional righteousness-INNER- Declared righteous by faith -

1) God sees us in his son. - Wonderful

C) Then there is practical righteousness -Outward garment - which stems from the first!

Because God has made me righteous in Jesus - I am going to see to live a righteous life.

A) I am going to seek to be who I am in Christ - not who I used to be in the flesh.

B) In the book of Colossians Paul describes it as putting on the new man -

1) like a person would put on a new Coat - A New team -Jersey - team Jesus

C) Representing him - Walk in a manner worthy of your Calling - worthy = measures and weights -

D) Walk in a way that would weigh as much as your calling! - your profession

Does that resemble your life?

A) What do most women do leading up to their weddings -

B) they get themselves ready - maybe diet - work out

C) Get a dress - leading up - Nails done - the day of hair and makeup done.

D) What would you think if you showed up to a wedding - the Bride totally let herself go -

1) Hair is a wreck - no makeup - hair under her arms - legs not shaved -

E) Instead of dress - Dirty cut off overalls -

I think we would be horrified - we would feel sorry for the groom.

A) What is she thinking?

B) If you are a believer in Jesus - you know Jesus - His bride - But are you living in a way to prepare yourself to meet him?

C) Key question - Are you ready - wedding day?

The Custom - during the betrothal period

A) House being built - She gets reports - Foundation - windows - garden ‘

B) Who determined when the house was completed - THE DAD!

C) Custom - Come in the middle of the night - with his groomsmen - Surprise

D) She and her bridesmaids needed to be ready - Dress oil in lamps - Matthew 25

No one Knows the coming of our bridegroom - Only the father -

A) We are to know the Signs - and the seasons

B) We can tell getting closer - in fact there is nothing else prophetically that needs to happen.

C) We are called to be ready and watching!

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.”

D) Are you ready? Are you living like you are betrothed to Jesus

E) Listen this is a wedding you are not going to want to miss. - Gospel moment

Wrap this up V.10 <sup>10</sup> And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who

have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

A)John is so taken back that he falls at the feet of this Angel -

B)the messenger who is showing him all of this

C)The Messenger says get up - don't worship me -

1) I am not the focus - I am a servant like you. -  
Worship God!

This is what I want to leave you with - the focal point of every earthly -wedding is the bride!

A)Everyone is waiting for her - Everyone stands in attention when she arrives

B)The Focal point of our wedding will be Jesus - The Lamb - He will be the center of attention

C)Now there are about 700 titles of Jesus Christ in the Bible.

D)But why is he here at the wedding feast referred to as the Lamb?

The Answer - that is who we fell in love with -

A)You didn't fall in love with God as Creator.

B)You didn't fall in love with the King, as potentate.

C)But because He shed His blood for you, His great sacrifice, endeared you to Him.

1)He'd rather die than have heaven without you.

D)That is how he won your heart - He loves you more than you could ever imagine - comprehend -

1)Praise him!!! - Live for him

E)Watch for him!!