

POWER HOUR

4/27/2025

Lesson Text:
Revelation 19:5-10

Background Scripture:
Psalm 97:1-12

Devotional Reading:
Matthew 22:1-14

“THE WEDDING FEAST OF THE LAMB”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: *Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: “Praise the Lord! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Revelation 19:6 NLT*

Time: about A.D. 96

Place: from Patmos

Revelation 19:5-10 NLT

5 And from the throne came a voice that said, “Praise our God, all his servants, all who fear him, from the least to the greatest.” **6** Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: “Praise the Lord! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. **7** Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his 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.” **10** Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said, “No, don’t worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

Those who sing or play instruments in Handel's Messiah cannot help being thrilled by the “Hallelujah” chorus. The audience customarily rises to its feet for this presentation. “Alleluia” is a variant of “hallelujah,” composed of the Hebrew terms hallel (praise) and yah (Yahweh, or the Lord). Worship in heaven will make full use of this word of praise to God.

Backing up to look at the first four verses of Revelation 19, we see that the alleluia in verse 6 is the fourth in a series. Consider the first three briefly.

Verses 1-2 record John hearing the voice of many people in heaven crying out alleluia. They ascribe salvation, glory, honor, and power to the Lord. They praise Him for bringing judgment on "the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication," and for avenging "the blood of his servants at her hand" (vs. 2). For a detailed description of the whore named Babylon, see chapters 17 and 18.

Revelation 19:3 tells of the multitude praising God because the smoke of Babylon's destruction will rise up forever. Verse 4 reports the twenty-four heavenly elders and the four living creatures falling down in worship to God, who is sitting on His throne.

1. Alleluia (Rev. 19:5-6).

Now we take note of the fourth alleluia. This appears to be a culminating action, as if the event is now rising to a crescendo. It is prompted by a voice coming out from God's throne and calling on all His servants who fear (revere) Him, both small and great, to participate.

The response is a massive one. List for your class the three descriptive phrases used for this: (1) "as it were the voice of a great multitude," (2) "as the voice of many waters," and (3) "as the voice of mighty thunderings" (vs. 6). The volume of sound is evidently significant, revealing the importance of the event. The praise is deafening because God's reign is now gloriously manifest for all to see. The celebration is on.

2. Marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9a).

It is suggested that two outstanding events await the arrival of believers in heaven. One is the judgment seat of Christ, when the motives of believers in serving Him will be tested and result in the conferral or withholding of rewards. It has nothing to do with one's salvation (Rom. 14:10; I Cor. 3:12-15). The other event is the marriage supper of the Lamb, which is described only here. However, the church as the bride of Christ is mentioned in Ephesians 5:25-27, and the bride as the dwelling place of believers, the New Jerusalem, is mentioned in Revelation 21:9-10. That may help us understand why, considered together, believers are called the bride of Christ, but considered individually, they are the invitees to the marriage supper (19:9).

Help your students see that it is their responsibility to prepare themselves for their marriage to Christ. Crucial to this is the act of being clothed in fine, clean, white linen,

meaning righteousness. No one can demand that this be given to them. No one can earn it on their own. Drive home to your class the need for receiving the righteousness of Christ rather than relying on their own righteous deeds. Perhaps the best verse to use for this is II Corinthians 5:21—“For he [God] hath made him [Christ] to be sin [a sin offering] for us, who knew no [inherent or personal] sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

3. A fellow servant (Rev. 19:9b-10).

The heavenly messenger was so glorious and awesome, John mistook him as worthy of worship. He bowed down and prostrated himself before the angel. The messenger identified himself as merely a fellow servant and a brother bearing testimony to Jesus. John was then told to worship God alone. The reason for all the prophetic things the messenger had shown John was to reveal more about Jesus.

This verse gives you opportunity to caution students to direct all their worship to God. They are to avoid veneration of angels or even good people. False religions are guilty of this.

POINTS TO PONDER

It is the privilege and responsibility of every Christian to “praise our God” (Rev. 19:5). We can look forward to the Lord’s heavenly reign being manifested on earth (vs. 6).

As people who have been brought into the closest relationship with the Lord, we should rejoice without ceasing (vs. 7).

We should strive to live righteous lives so that we are not ashamed to meet the Lord (Rev. 19:8; cf. I John 2:28-29).

Even the greatest saints are merely fellow servants; God alone is worthy of our worship (Rev. 19:9-10).

CONCLUSION

There is one observation at weddings that always seems to hold true: the groom becomes breathless at the sight of his bride walking down the aisle to meet him. No matter how lovely she is, her beauty increases on her wedding day. This is a day of flowers, of decorations, of the delicate yet striking dominance of the wedding dress,

and of smiling people whose attention is focused, at least for one moment, only on the couple. It is a day of excitement as two people become one. No matter how handsome the groom may be, all eyes are focused on the bride. At the greatest wedding of all time, however, the Christian will not see the bride. The church will be the bride. The Christian's attention will be focused entirely on the groom, the Lamb of God. We will have eyes only for Him.

QUESTION(S)

1. What does "small and great" mean in Revelation 19:5?
2. How is the voice heard by John described?
3. What does "Alleluia" mean (vs. 6)?
4. What does "omnipotent" mean? How else is the Greek term translated?
5. What is the "marriage of the Lamb" (vs. 7)? Who is the bride of the Lamb?
6. What is meant by the "righteousness of saints" (vs. 8)?
7. What event is linked to the messianic feast in the Old Testament?
8. How did the angel identify himself to John?
9. What did the angel ask John not to do? Why?
10. What is meant by the phrase "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (vs. 10)?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is *"A New Heaven and a New Earth"*

Lesson Text: **Revelation 21:1-8**

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