

## Lesson 6

### The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

#### Introduction

In this lesson we are going to spend our time looking at one of the most important aspects of a believer's relationship with Christ, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Sadly, it is one of the most misunderstood and under-appreciated aspects of a believer's connection to their Savior. Properly understanding what is involved in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb should have several effects on a believer's life. First, it will help a believer cherish the love that Jesus has for them. Secondly, a proper grasp of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb should swell the heart of a believer in anticipation of their Beloved's coming for them. Thirdly, it should cause a deep desire to be personally ready for the union that will take place at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. With this short introduction, let's see what we can discover about this great supper we will be attending.

#### 1. Different views of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

- a. View #1 \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_.

The problem with this view is that in the Old Testament, Israel is portrayed as the faithless wife of Jehovah, not a pure bride.

- b. View #2 - \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ are the bride.

The problem with this view is that the redeemed of Israel do not rise until after the Great Tribulation, so they cannot possibly be mixed in with the events pertaining to the bride. These occur before the Second Coming of Christ.

- c. View # 3 - The \_\_\_\_\_ is the bride.

This view fits perfectly with what we know of the Church and how she is identified as the Bride of Christ, a pure, clean, spotless, virgin (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-32).

#### 2. How does the New Testament characterize the relationship between Jesus and the Church?

- a. John 3:29

- b. Romans 7:4

- c. 2 Corinthians 11:2
- d. Ephesians 5:25-23
- e. Revelation 19:7-8; 21:1-22:7 (vv. 2, 9)

**3. What is the purpose of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?**

- a. The purpose is to recognize all that was \_\_\_\_\_ to the Church. It will emphasize the \_\_\_\_\_ between Jesus and all believers in the Church Age.
- b. It emphasizes how \_\_\_\_\_ the Church is to Jesus as He purchased her with His own blood (Eph. 1:7).
- c. It is the unveiling of the Church's \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 5:27).
- d. It is the event that establishes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the relationship (John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:17).

**4. When does the Marriage Supper of the Lamb take place?**

It occurs between the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church and the \_\_\_\_\_ Coming of Christ.

**5. Where does the Marriage Supper of the Lamb take place?**

This celebration is presented in Revelation 19:7-9, which puts the event in \_\_\_\_\_, not on \_\_\_\_\_, and prior to Jesus' return as seen in vv. 11-16.

**6. Who will be present at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb?**

\_\_\_\_\_ and all \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church Age. The resurrection of both the Old Testament saints and believers who died during the tribulation will take place at the Second Advent of Christ (Is. 26:19-21; Dan. 12:1-3; Rev. 20:4-6).

**7. What is the difference between the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the wedding feast mentioned in Matthew 22:1-14; 25:1-13; Luke 14:16-24?**

- a. The first distinction is that the Marriage Supper of the Lamb takes place in heaven, and the wedding feast takes place on earth.
- b. Secondly, in these passages Jesus used parabolic teaching to address Israel's future in the Millennial Kingdom as well as the gentiles who will survive the tribulation.
- c. Thirdly, the Lord's teaching on this matter emphasizes the mood of the entire millennial kingdom. It will be like a wedding celebration that goes on for days after the wedding occurred.
- d. Dr. Dwight Pentecost notes that during the time of the wedding feast "the bridegroom is honored through the display of the bride to all His friends who are assembled there [resurrected O.T. saints and believers who survived the tribulation]. The Church, which was God's program for the present age, is now seen to have been translated, resurrected, presented to the Son by the Father, and has become the object through which the eternal glory of God is forever manifested. The present age will thus witness the inception, development, and completion of God's purpose in *'taking out... a people for His name'* (Acts 15:14).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pentecost, J. Dwight, *Things to Come*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan Pub., 1958, p.228

8. Considering the process of marriage from a biblical perspective can be helpful to understand the importance of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Normally, there would be a five-step procedure to getting married:

h. The \_\_\_\_\_

Weddings in Bible times were events that were normally initiated by the father of a prospective bridegroom (Gen. 24:1-9). He would arrange a marriage by paying a price for the bride (Gen. 24:10; 34:12; Ex. 22:16; 1 Sam. 28:25). This step on the fathers part would contractually bind the future husband and wife in a legal relationship that could only be broken by a divorce (Matt. 1:18-20).

i. The \_\_\_\_\_

Once the arrangement was made, the couple entered into a betrothal period, normally lasting one year. During the year before the wedding, the couple would prepare themselves for their future lives together. The bridegroom would spend the year preparing a home for his bride. And he would also send his future bride gifts throughout the year with the anticipation of the day he would come to get her. She would be preparing herself by keeping herself pure for her future husband.

j. The \_\_\_\_\_

When the day of the marriage finally arrived, the bridegroom, accompanied by his friends, would go to the home of the bride, normally at midnight. The groom's friends would follow him with torches in a parade through the town's streets. Once at the bride's home; the groom would lead her to his father's home, where the parents of the bride gave their blessing (Matt. 25:6, 10).

k. The \_\_\_\_\_

Once the blessing of the ceremony was completed, the family and friends of the groom and bride were invited to a wedding feast (Gen. 29:21-22; John 2:1-11). At the feast the guests were expected to wear the appropriate clothing (Matt. 22:11) and were seated according to their relationship to the couple (Luke 14:8-9). Finally, the marriage feast would last for a week or more.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_

At an appropriate time, after the marriage feast had begun, the bride and groom would go to their new home to consummate their marriage. Thus, at this time they would physically join themselves together as husband and wife.

When one considers the process of being married from a biblical point of view, one cannot help but see how it corresponds to Jesus (the bridegroom) and the Church (the bride). Consider the following:

- The Betrothal - God the Father has chosen and purchased a bride for His Son (1 Peter 1:2, John 6:37, 39; 10:29; 17:2, 9, 24; Acts 20:28; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:17; Rev. 5:9).
- The Preparation - God the Son has gone to His Father's home to build a place for His bride (John 14:2). And at the same time, the Church (bride) is being prepared for her Bridegroom by keeping herself pure (Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7-8). At present the Bridegroom (Jesus) is giving His bride (the Church) many different gifts in anticipation of His coming for her and His love for her (Eph. 4:7, 11-12; 1 Cor. 12:4-11).
- The Procession - One day very soon Jesus is coming back for His bride: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."*
- The Marriage Feast - At the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the Church will celebrate the union she will then have with her Groom (Rev. 19:7-8). It would also appear that one's position at the supper may be determined by one's righteous acts for which they were rewarded at the Bema Seat.
- The Consummation - During the Church Age, Jesus had entered into a legally binding agreement with all those who are born again. This is the New Covenantal agreement we celebrate at the Communion Table. Thus, we are betrothed to Him. But when the Marriage Supper of the Lamb takes place we will permanently be united with Jesus, spiritually, emotionally, and physically in an eternal oneness, thus finally consummating the relationship.