

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION, REVISITED

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with Pastor Dan Betzer

## THE RETURN OF JESUS TO EARTH

As already indicated in this series, Revelation chapters 19 and 20 are watershed chapters as they whisk us out of the Tribulation description into the saints' eternity with God. Last week we discussed the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, that time to come in which the Church of Jesus Christ is eternally united with Jesus, He is the Groom and the church is the Bride. Paul's reminder to the believers in Corinth, Greece, make this very clear:

II Corinthians 11:2

*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.*

Revelation 19:9

*And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

In the many weddings I have officiated over the decades, I have never seen an ugly bride. They appear radiant, and are attired beautifully. When the church, the Bride appears before Jesus, we must be pure, radiant and dressed in robes of white, which is the biblical description of the righteousness of Christ Himself.

We used to sing:

*'Tis a glorious church without spot or wrinkle,  
Washed in the blood of the Lamb!*

At this wedding, we will lay our rewards at the feet of Jesus - that is, if we have any rewards following the Judgment Seat of Christ. How tragic it would be, and how terribly embarrassing to lay at His feet only scorched ashes of the hay, wood and stubble, described by Paul in I Corinthians 3! It would be worthwhile for every follower of Christ to be familiar with this coming event - the Marriage Supper. It would affect the way we live now!



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In the time when Revelation was written, a marriage in Israel included three distinct aspects.

- The first part included an agreement between the parents of the bride and groom that usually included a dowry paid to the bride. This is still practiced in some cultures, called a betrothal.
- The second part usually involved the groom coming to the home of the bride late at night. He and his male friends would arrive with torches to come for the bride. Jesus' story of the ten virgins in Matthew has to do with this event:

Matthew 25: 1-13  
*Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. [2] And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. [3] They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: [4] But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. [5] While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. [6] And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh;*

1        *go ye out to meet him. [7] Then all those virgins arose, and*  
2        *trimmed their lamps. [8] And the foolish said unto the wise, Give*  
3        *us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. [9] But the wise*  
4        *answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you:*  
5        *but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. [10] And*  
6        *while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were*  
7        *ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.*  
8        *[11] Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord,*  
9        *open to us. [12] But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you,*  
10       *I know you not. [13] Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day*  
11       *nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

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- 13       • The third part included the marriage feast, which often took place  
14       over several days. The wedding at Cana in Galilee where Jesus  
15       turned water into wine offers an example of this.

16

17       John 2:1-2 - *And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of*  
18       *Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: [2] And both Jesus*  
19       *was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.*

20

21       In Revelation 19, John tells of the Marriage Supper beginning as the  
22       Lamb, Jesus Christ, comes to earth for His Bride, the Church. The  
23       payment, or dowry, preceding this marriage supper was the blood of Jesus  
24       on the cross. His death paid the price. This is why we continue to observe  
25       communion, remembering the awful cost of our salvation.

26

27       We believers in Christ are currently living in this betrothal period in which  
28       we are pledged as the Bride of Christ have not yet been united in eternal  
29       marriage or union with Jesus. This will take place shortly following the  
30       Rapture of the Church.

31

32       An interesting analogy in this chapter (19) includes the fine linen in which  
33       the Bride is clothed. Revelation 19:8 - *And to her was granted that she*  
34       *should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the*  
35       *righteousness of saints.*

1 How do we obtain such righteousness? Certainly not through our alleged  
2 goodness. It comes by God's amazing grace alone in Christ.

3

4 John 14:6

5 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man*  
6 *cometh unto the Father, but by me. Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation*  
7 *in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among*  
8 *men, whereby we must be saved.*

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10 Ephesians 2:8-9

11 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is*  
12 *the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

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## THE SECOND COMING

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17 We must remember: the Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming  
18 (to earth) of Christ are two different and completely distinct events.

19

20 1. At the Rapture, we believers - both living and dead - hear the  
21 trumpet sound and the shout of victory from Heaven, and we are  
22 immediately caught up in the clouds to meet Christ.

23

24 2. Seven years later, we believers (now in immortal bodies just like  
25 Christ's body after His resurrection) come back to earth with Christ  
26 to enjoy the 1000 year Millennium.

27

28 The Second Coming of Christ to earth occurs as the armies of the world  
29 gather for battle (the epicenter of which is the Valley of Armageddon).  
30 Our Lord's feet touch down on the summit of the Mount of Olives:

31

32 Matthew 24:16-22

33 *Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: [17] Let him*  
34 *which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his*  
35 *house: [18] Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his*  
36 *clothes. [19] And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that*

1 *give suck in those days! [20] But pray ye that your flight be not in the*  
2 *winter, neither on the sabbath day: [21] For then shall be great*  
3 *tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time,*  
4 *no, nor ever shall be. [22] And except those days should be shortened,*  
5 *there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall*  
6 *be shortened.*

7  
8 Zechariah 14:1-4

9 *Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the*  
10 *midst of thee. [2] For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to*  
11 *battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women*  
12 *ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue*  
13 *of the people shall not be cut off from the city. [3] Then shall the Lord*  
14 *go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day*  
15 *of battle. [4] And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of*  
16 *Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives*  
17 *shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west,*  
18 *and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall*  
19 *remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

20  
21 Why has Jesus returned to this planet? To rule it! For a thousand years!

22  
23 Revelation 19:15

24 *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite*  
25 *the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth*  
26 *the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

27  
28 Psalm 2:1-12

29 *Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? [2] The*  
30 *kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,*  
31 *against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, [3] Let us break their*  
32 *bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. [4] He that sitteth in*  
33 *the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. [5] Then*  
34 *shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore*  
35 *displeasure. [6] Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. [7] I*  
36 *will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son;*

1 *this day have I begotten thee. [8] Ask of me, and I shall give thee the*  
2 *heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for*  
3 *thy possession. [9] Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt*  
4 *dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. [10] Be wise now therefore, O*  
5 *ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. [11] Serve the Lord*  
6 *with/ear, and rejoice with trembling. [12] Kiss the Son, lest he be angry,*  
7 *and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little.*  
8 *Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.*

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The Valley of Armageddon looking east from the top of Mount Carmel

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14 Until Christ returns to rule, Satan's counterfeit messiah plagues the earth's  
15 remaining citizens. But his end is now at hand-and it's not pretty:

16

17 Revelation 19:17-21

18 *And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice,*  
19 *saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather*  
20 *yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; [18] That ye may*  
21 *eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty*  
22 *men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh*  
23 *of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. [19] And I saw the*  
24 *beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to*

1 *make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. [20]*  
2 *And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought*  
3 *miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the*  
4 *mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were*  
5 *cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. [21] And the*  
6 *remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which*  
7 *sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with*  
8 *their flesh.*

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10 Here is a question: when Jesus returns to earth and conquers all His foes,  
11 do we, the redeemed believers, who have returned to earth with Him have  
12 to fight? No, we will not. Jesus spoke everything into existence (see  
13 Genesis 1-3), and with His word alone He will conquer and destroy.

14  
15 You and I are only onlookers in this scene of vast carnage. Those who  
16 mistakenly believed there was no reason to fear God will now learn a very  
17 painful lesson. All rebellion to God's authority will be suddenly ended.  
18 All opposition to God's rule (theocracy - God-rule) will be silenced and  
19 the earth will settle in for the one thousand year reign by Jesus Christ  
20 Himself – the glorious Millennium.

21  
22 What awaits Satan and his henchmen? An angel takes them, binds them,  
23 and pitches them into hell for the thousand years. They will not deceive  
24 nations or individuals any more. Satan will be thrown into “the lake of  
25 fire and brimstone.”

26  
27 Revelation 20:10

28 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and*  
29 *brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be*  
30 *tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

31  
32 Remarkably, Satan will be released for a short time after the thousand  
33 years end. And then the end will come as it has been known since the  
34 Garden of Eden. I will discuss this remarkable occurrence next  
35 Wednesday night, my final such night with you.