

Corresponds to Programs 68, 69

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

The Marriage and the Millennium STUDY GUIDE

THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

Revelation 19:1-6

God calls heaven and earth to rejoice over the fall of Babylon, the spiritual, political, and economic system that has destroyed the earth. With God, we are called to be thankful and rejoice that His justice has prevailed. Every honest soul has been called out, and Babylon is now the dwelling place of demons. God has brought it down, and its pride and sin that had reached to the heavens will be no more. Praise God!

Revelation 19:7-10

The angel in verse 10 refuses to allow John to worship him, unlike another angel named Lucifer, who longed for angels to worship him (Isaiah 14:12-14). It's as if this angel remembers vividly just how sin entered the universe as Lucifer, a created being, sought to be recognized above the Creator of all beings. Unlike Lucifer, this angel recoils from worship, saying in verse 10, "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"



"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."

REVELATION 19:7

THE MARRIAGE

The marriage has finally come. The Lamb's bride is finally ready. There is a powerful prophecy in Proverbs 31 that describes a virtuous woman who encourages God's people to not to drink wine. The text notes that wine is for those who are perishing and not for believers (Revelation 14:8; John 3:16). The woman symbolizing God's church has made necessary

spiritual provisions for her household. In sharp contrast, the woman symbolizing the apostate church in Revelation 17, decks herself out with gold and pearls instead of taking care of her household.

Proverbs 31 speaks in symbolic language of a woman, representing God's church, that has been faithful to God. There are some clear connections between this prophetic Proverbs 31 woman and the woman in Revelation 12:1.

- This woman does not pervert judgment (verse 5).
- She opens her mouth to plead for the poor and needy (verses 8-9).
- Her husband, Jesus, can safely trust her because she does Him good (verses 11-12).
- She rises early and stays up late, working hard to feed and clothe her household, as well as the poor and needy (verses 13-20).
- She is not afraid of coldness because she is double-clothed (verses 21-22).
- Her husband, Jesus, is known in the land (verse 23).
- She delivers her goods to the market and is filled with strength and honor, rejoicing for her future (verses 24-25).
- She speaks wisely and kindly (verse 26).
- She takes care of the needs of her household and is not idle (verse 27).
- She is blessed by her children and her Husband (verse 28).

KEY SCRIPTURES

Rev. 19:5 PRAISE OUR GOD, ALL YOU HIS SERVANTS

Rev. 19:7 THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB HAS COME

Rev. 19:11 NOW I SAW HEAVEN OPENED

Rev. 20:10 THE DEVIL...WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE

- She excels all the daughters of the world (other churches) (verse 29).
- This woman fears the Lord's everlasting gospel (the first angel's message) (verse 30).
- She will receive the fruit of her hands and her works will be a testimony of praise (verse 31).

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF SAINTS

All the good works and faithfulness of the woman in Proverbs 31 and Revelation 12 are based on the gift of Christ's righteousness. All who are saved are saved by the gift of Christ's righteousness, and this gift produces all the good works seen in the representation of God's church. Yet these good works can never replace the salvation gift given to us by Jesus Christ. This is because no matter how good and perfect our works appear, they will never be good enough or perfect enough to meet the standard of God's Ten Commandment Law. Only Christ in human nature was able to meet this standard. Only Christ stood before the law blameless, sinless, and holy, without blemish. His perfect life and penalty-satisfying death are both our title and our fitness for heaven. Because we are saved by Christ's righteousness alone, we can live lives that reflect that perfect righteousness (Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:1-8).

Revelation 19:11-16

These verses clearly reveal that the entire battle centers around the Word of God in what the Bible teaches and what it does not teach. Now, before the second coming of Jesus Christ, we fight this battle by faith. Faith is the victory (1 John 5:4). When Jesus returns, this faith will be rewarded as He brings justice to the nations and delivers all those who trust in Him.

The winepress of God's justice will eventually be trodden by Jesus. In Revelation 14, people are likened to grapes ready to be harvested (Revelation 14:14-20). When grapes are ripe for the harvest, they are brought to their final endpoint. The language here and in Revelation 14 is referring to the winepress.

Revelation 19:17-21

These verses span the timeline from the second coming of Christ to the end of the 1,000 years in Revelation 20. We see this same truth in Daniel 2. The image shown to Nebuchadnezzar takes us all the way down to the time when God's kingdom is set up on the earth after the 1,000 years.

THE MILLENNIUM

Revelation 20:1-6

Here we find a clear and simple explanation of the events of the 1,000 years. At the second coming of Christ, the lost are destroyed by the brightness of Christ's coming. The earth will be left desolate, with the devil and his fallen angels left to behold their handiwork for 1,000 years (Jeremiah 4:23-27).

The saved go to heaven and live and reign there with Christ for 1,000 years. During the 1,000 years, all of the saved have the opportunity to have all their questions answered. They can ask all their questions about God's love and why people suffered and died for so long. They will have access to the exact records of Earth's history. This happens for us in Heaven during the 1,000 years so that any misunderstandings about God's Name or His character will be cleared up. By the end of the 1,000 years, God's name will be fully vindicated among His people.

At the close of the millennium, God and His people, along with the New Jerusalem temple, will return to the earth. The lost will be resurrected by God and will surround the New Jerusalem city. Then, an exact and accurate revelation of human history will play for the lost (Revelation 20:12). They will see God's grace, mercy, and love toward them, and they, too, will confess that God is just and merciful (Philippians 2:5-11). Yet their characters will remain unchanged. They would, if given the opportunity, revert back to a life of sin.

Revelation 20:7-10

In these verses, we see what the devil does after the 1,000 years are finished. The second resurrection takes place for all those who have rejected God's love and grace, and now there are again people for the devil to tempt. It is in this sense that the devil has been released from his prison. Before the second resurrection, there was no living person on the earth to tempt. All humans were dead or in heaven with Christ. This was the prison house of the devil. Now, after the second resurrection, the devil is free, so to speak, to go out again to deceive the nations. In other words, the devil's prison time was the 1,000 years when he had no one to tempt. After the 1,000 years, he is freed up for a little time, and in that time, he again tempts the lost who have just been resurrected.

Revelation 20:11-13

In these verses, we see a judgment scene. Books are opened and no place is found for those who have rejected God's love and mercy. Everyone is judged, not arbitrarily, but according to their works. They are judged according to the things that they have done with the lives that God gave them on Planet Earth. Then there is a final end to sin and unrepentant sinners. We will take more time to consider this in our next study.

Summary

The marriage has come. The bride is ready. God longs for this day as any young couple who are in love longs for their own wedding day. God is eager to gather His bride. He hopes that will include you. God recognizes that we may still have questions about His character in relation to sin and suffering. All of those questions will be fully answered during the millennium. Today, God asks us to believe His Word by faith.

All those who choose to do this will be delivered from the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet, and for all eternity live and reign with Christ. Our prayer is that each one of us be among that number. In Jesus' name, amen. ✨

