

Date: 03.06.2020

Time: 7.30pm

Prayer Meeting taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Psalm: Psalm 68:32-35 (Scottish Psalter)

Scripture: Revelation 19

Outline:

- a) Introduction
 - 1. The worship of heaven
 - 2. The marriage of the Lamb
 - 3. The mighty rider
 - 4. The supper of God

- **Introduction**

Babylon and Jerusalem: We see contrast between the city of Babylon and the city of God – God’s enemies in contrast with His people.

The prostitute and the Bride: We see contrast between two women; the prostitute and Bride. The prostitute looked nice on the surface, but was as a whited sepulchre, rotten inside. The Bride, the Church of Christ is clothed in white, pure and clothed in Christ’s righteousness. The prostitute will be destroyed by the Lamb. The Bride will be married to the Lamb.

Heaven and Earth: The earth is a picture of where God’s enemies are. Heaven is where God’s people are. The new Heaven will come down on the new earth – the gulf between God and His people will be no more.

Supper of God and the Marriage of the Lamb: The Supper of God is when God’s enemies will be destroyed. The marriage of the Lamb shows us Christ with His Bride, His Church.

1) The worship of heaven

God’s servants: The angels and believers worship God in Heaven. The word “hallelujah” means “praise to God”. The world worships the beast and the dragon. Philippians teaches us that the true Israel are those who worship God.

God’s victory: God is worshipped and praised in Heaven for His victory and deliverance. We don’t tend to use the language of victory in our worship, but we should. We’re in a spiritual battle, but Christ has won the victory – we look forward to His full victory when He returns.

God’s throne: The throne highlights God’s presence – God’s people are in His presence and when we gather for worship, we’re especially in the presence of God. The throne is also a

picture of God's sovereignty. He judges as King, administering righteous judgement. The kingdom is His. This is Lord of lords and King of kings.

God glory: God's servants worship Him because salvation belongs to Him. The worship of God's servants is not just emotional, it is motivated – when aware of how much God has done for us, the natural response is to worship Him and seek to give Him glory.

The main purpose of worship is not the satisfaction of our souls, or even the salvation of souls, but to confess that God is glorious. The centre of our worship is not how we feel, but who God is. Worship is not for men or ourselves, it's for God. We long to see unbelievers saved at Sunday services, but if that doesn't happen, it's not wasted; it's God's glory that matters.

2) The marriage of the Lamb

Joyful occasion: The marriage of the Lamb is a joyful occasion – full of happiness, delight and blessedness. Jesus marries His Bride, His Church. We don't see Him now, but we love Him – then, we'll see our King in all His glory.. However hard we find it to believe, He'll rejoice in us – we'll be pure, without spot. The angels will celebrate. Babylon, who seduced and sought to take the Church's eyes from the Bridegroom is gone and destroyed. Nothing will get in the way of loving Him. We'll worship Him without fear

Conditional occasion: Only those invited will be at the marriage. The Church is dressed in a special way, dressed in fine linen, clothed in Jesus' righteousness. You need to be dressed in Christ's righteousness to be there, trusting Jesus' work and sins forgiven by God. God's people will be there.

Foretasted occasion: When we join in the Lord's Supper, it's a foretaste of the marriage feast of the Lamb. Often we can go gloomily to the Lord's table, but it's a celebration. We fear going wrongly to the table, but if you have Christ's righteousness imputed to you, then it's for you. At the Lord's table, we celebrate God's deliverance and victory. We celebrate His love for us, that He's loved us to the end.

3) The mighty rider

The mighty rider is a picture of Jesus at the second coming.

Lord of lords: This is the Lord of lords.

Judge: This is the Judge who will do what's right.

Warrior: The Jews had thought the Messiah would come as general to defeat the Romans – Jesus came to defeat sin and death, but also to save sinners. But He will return as warrior and commander.

Victorious: Jesus comes to establish His kingdom fully. He comes as Lord and He will be victorious. He doesn't need the help of angels – He speaks and His enemies are gone – those who were fighting against His church. Things can go wrong in a war, but not in the case of Jesus – there is never a doubt how it will end – Jesus will win.

4) The supper of God

We're provided with a picture of birds called to eat the remnants of God's enemies, those who stood against Him. This is a picture of defeat, destruction and death for all who refused

the righteousness of Christ. The two beasts are defeated. The worshippers of the beasts are defeated.

There is final eternal death for the enemies of God – this will be a separation from God and His goodness.

If you're not a Christian, you're not on the side of Christ – there is no middle ground. We're in a war, and if you're not on Jesus' side, you're His enemy. He is offering the opportunity to turn to Him still. Before the King returns to defeat His enemies, He sends ambassadors ahead of Him to tell them that the King is calling them to surrender, to repent, to have faith and be reconciled to Him. He doesn't need you, but He wants you.