

Study 39: Revelation 19:9-13

9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

- The angel said: "Write!" And that is the command, in my opinion, to many people today, maybe even you. You should write and record what the Lord is doing and saying in your life. Maybe you should even have a personal website where you can publish what you write so that people from all over the world have the possibility of reading what you write to the glory of God. And you may even publish booklets, fliers and books. To do any of that, however, means that you first must write!
- I wonder if John understood that people would be reading what he wrote 2,000 years after he wrote it. For that matter, I wonder if any of the writers of Scripture understood this. I am not saying that this will happen to you, but it could! It will never happen, however, until you do write. You must give God something to use before He can bless and distribute it.
- Is there anything more joyous than a wedding feast? What an apt symbol this is of the relationship between the Lamb and His bride, His people.
- All God's words are true. I find it interesting that the angel would endorse God's words in such a manner. But the human heart in the fallen, human condition tends to doubt the words of God and attribute truth to other words. This is a mistake. If God said it, you can believe it!

10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

- Angels are not to be worshipped. Satan, however, distorted this truth and desired to be worshipped, which led to his downfall. This particular angel, loyal to God and his purpose, refused to receive the worship, or at least the honor, that John tried to give.
- There is a lesson here for leaders. People will have a tendency to fall down and worship at the feet of whoever brings the truth, or whoever is the most eloquent or powerful. We must work to deflect man's praise and worship and focus their worship on God. That means developing lifestyles, spending habits and church traditions that keep the focus on Jesus and not on the messengers.

When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates

because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them (Acts 14:11-18).

- Jesus did not deflect the worship that came His way. This is a key issue for those religions who claim that Jesus was and is a prophet. If Jesus was "only" a prophet and He allowed men to worship Him, He was a false prophet and nothing He said can be trusted. Of course, this is not the case. Jesus allowed men to worship Him because He is God!

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted (Matthew 28:17).

- Even in the midst of worship, some doubted. Worship and doubt can coexist. Some act like God cannot do something unless there is pure faith with no doubt. That is not the case.
- The aim of prophecy is to exalt Jesus. All that the Church does and will do should be about Him, not about the messenger. We aren't really sure who recorded this Revelation. Many think it was the apostle John. Why isn't who wrote it more evident? Because it's not about who wrote it, it's about Jesus!
- The Church is built by personalities, but these personalities must work hard (harder than some are presently working) to shift the focus away from themselves and on to Jesus. Jesus is the message, the prophecy. Worship Him! Talk about Him! Adore Him!

"They love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi. "But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called 'teacher,' for you have one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted" (Matthew 23:7-12).

- 11 **I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.**

- John saw heaven standing open. What did he see? He saw Jesus! That reinforces the point made above, that Jesus is the message of heaven. Jesus needs to be the message of the church.
- A white horse, even in modern movies, is symbolic of the “good guy” or the hero. Jesus is the best man that ever lived and now He is seated at the right hand of the Father.
- We know that Jesus is praying for the Church at the right hand of the Father. Here John tells us that He also judges and makes war. So prayer must involve judgment and spiritual warfare.

Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us (Romans 8:34).

Which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way (Ephesians 1:20-23).

12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

- Jesus has a name written on him that only he knows. That means that we don't know everything there is to know about Jesus. We have been given all that we need to know, but His ways and being are beyond human comprehension.
- Anyone that can “figure God out,” so to speak, would be God. But we are finite beings worshipping an infinite God; we can know Him intimately but we cannot know Him in all His glory and majesty.
- Why have I made this point? Because there are some who try to reduce God to a system, a set of principles. If you can reduce God to a system then the system becomes God! God is not controlled by anyone or anything.
- Jesus has the power to look at something with eyes of fire. He cannot be fooled and His eyes can judge a situation accurately and with righteousness. He also wears many crowns; that is why He is the King of kings.

In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his

own time-- God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:13-15)

- Paul stated that God was the King of kings. Since Jesus wears many crowns, He can be designated the King of kings. Therefore Jesus is God! Do you agree or disagree?

13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

- Besides being a warrior, Jesus was also a priest, the High Priest of heaven. What does this have to do with verse 13? Let's look at the Old Testament:

Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood from the altar and sprinkled them on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and their garments. So he consecrated Aaron and his garments and his sons and their garments (Leviticus 8:30).

- The magnificent garments of Aaron were sprinkled with blood! Imagine a fine, expensive wedding dress being spotted with blood! No matter how magnificent the blessings that we enjoy today, we must not lose sight of the fact that they were earned through the blood of Jesus. He was and is our High Priest before God.

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted (Hebrews 2:9-18).

- Jesus is also the Word of God!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made (John 1:1-3).

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

- Remember, the book of Revelation is about Jesus, not about the dragon, prophet, beast or antichrist. He is the main focus. Revelation was written to encourage people who were being persecuted that Jesus was still on the throne.
- Revelation was also written in symbolic language so that non-Christians would not understand what was being written about them. God speaks to His people in ways that the world cannot understand.
- In every generation, there are powers that rise up to challenge Jesus' authority. They have some measure of success and may gain a strong, large following. But they are destined to fail and perish unless they repent. God is in control.
- This means that He is in control of your life and circumstances as well. You can be encouraged in your difficulties that God will take care of you. You may even lose your life, but there is another age to come and you will be exalted. God will not forget His people. Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Be encouraged today and every day.