

Daniel Perrin – L3: Images From Marriage – Thursday, April 17: The Harlot is Judged

1. **Revelation 19:1–9** — Describes Two long-anticipated Conclusions simultaneously
 - a. Good to see them back to back / Literally right before you: THIS ... or THIS
 - b. A visualized illustration of the contrast Paul articulated in **Romans 6:23** placed in the context of Bible prophecy – “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”
2. Revelation 18 (fall of Babylon – united religious/political forces against God) moves right into Revelation 19 & 20, apparently in chronological order
 - a. In close connection with the Second Coming, but it is NOT the Second Coming Yet
 - b. Revelation 19:1-9 is a Heavenly scene of cheering that the two outcomes are set and will be carried out soon. — First John overhears it, then he witnesses it taking place in the following verses

HERE’S THE TEXT: Revelation 19:1–9 – *After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!”² For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.”³ Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”*

- It’s as if all of Heaven is holding its breath — waiting to break out in cheering at the right time
 - Two results stand out in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation: Judgment AGAINST the beast powers
 - Judgment FOR the Saints

⁶*And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”⁷ 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.”⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

- [KJV READS more accurately to the Greek text, “the righteousness of saints.”
 - Why is this important? – The saints *have* no righteousness. NOT of their own. Their righteousness is really Christ’s.
 - It is NOT the saints ACTS that give them righteousness. The acts of the saints are a visible demonstration that they have accepted Christ’s righteousness AS THEIR OWN.]

⁹*Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”*

3. **LOOK FOR THE Big Ideas IN THE TEXT**

a. Big Idea #1 – Heaven is interested

- All Heaven CHEERS – 3x “Alleluia in the first paragraph (vss. 1–5), once in the second paragraph
- They CHEER to see God’s people united with Him
 - BECAUSE that gives an EVEN CLEARER picture of God’s character
 - Angels want YOU to have a close relationship with God.
 - THEIR longing is for YOU to be in an intimate relationship with God.
 - They CHEER for the marriage supper of the Lamb.
 - Cheering because someone put a ball in a hole (that’s what every ball game is)
 - Is NOTHING compared with the cheering of Angels for a victory that actually matters!
 - This victory celebration will be nothing like spraying champagne around a locker room.

- But I'm not here to preach about sports teams – just dropping a bit of encouragement for those who will listen.
- It is the conclusion of what they have been working for
- No jealousy to see humanity elevated to a position of honor
 - NOT by their goodness

b. Big Idea #2 – Built on the metaphor of marriage

- Marriage designed by God to tell a story
- All the Bible images of husband and wife are brought to bear on this scene
 - Exclusivity / Intimacy / Faithfulness / Trust / Devotion / Unity / Working together / Tenderness / Dependability / Encouragement
 - THIS IS WHAT GOD WANTS — AND what WE need!
- We have made weddings and marriages more worldly than they should be
 - Nonetheless, a wedding is well-suited to symbolize the conclusion God wants in His relationship with each of us
 - Major event / not just a handshake or a high five to a winning teammate
 - Full of emotion
 - Lasting / exclusive
 - Solemn / Full of responsibility ... AND Consequence!
 - Your life and future changes based on WHO you choose to marry
 - ... and HOW you conduct yourself in that marriage
 - All of this tells us something about the marriage imagery in Revelation 19

c. Big Idea #3 – First Scene (vss. 1–5) – Christ suffers as the rejected husband

- The woman He committed HIMSELF to was unfaithful (represented as becoming an unfaithful harlot)
- In Revelation 19, the relationship is officially declared to be OVER.
 - It had ended long before – but at this point, every official signature is signed.
 - While there is cheering for the rescue of the Saints, the marriage imagery reveals that Jesus still experiences the pain of rejection by those He loved.

d. Big Idea #4 – Second Scene – Christ Receives His kingdom

- Embodied as the New Jerusalem — God's people adorned with the Righteousness of Christ revealed in Scripture

e. Big Idea #5 – Until sin is gone, there will be TWO GROUPS

- One Group of intimacy that marriage is an apt example of
- The other group is of the exact opposite
 - Harlotry / unfaithfulness / selfishness

f. Big Idea #6– Every decision matters

- Every marriage story has an outcome – there are only two — and they are based on our decisions
- The two GROUPS depicted in Revelation 19 illustrate the decisions of individuals.
- The Bride MADE HERSELF READY – That's a culmination of decisions that have an outcome