

I. WONDERS IN HEAVEN

A. After the fall of Babylon

1. The fall is fixed, final and FINISHED! Religious and political power over!
 - a. All of Satan's kingdoms come to NOTHING!
 - b. The satanists, the wiccans, the masons, ALL OF THEM
 - c. Think they will receive power from their sin and witchcraft
 - d. Perhaps they think a millstone is a good flotation device, too!
2. The tribulation period may be seen in three realms
 - a. The religious realm, rebelling against the Righteousness of God
 - b. And the commercial realm, buying and selling, the mark, etc.
 - c. And political realm, absolute totalitarianism / pure communism
 - d. Pure communism has never been tried (they say)
 - e. It will be tried in the Tribulation Period and GOD HATES IT!
3. Chapter 18 sees God's ABSOLUTE victory over all THREE realms

B. Because of this, a GREAT voice of MUCH people is heard in Heaven

1. WEBSTER'S 1828 - "Praise ye Jehovah; give praise to God; a word used in songs or praise, or a term of rejoicing in solemn ascriptions of thanksgiving to God. It is used as a noun, or as an exclamation."
2. Four Alleluias:
 - a. Alleluia for Salvation!
 - i. It is only by the Blood of the Lamb – NO OTHER WAY
 - ii. There is NONE other name under Heaven
 - iii. He is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE!
 - b. Alleluia for God's Glory!
 - i. Eye hath not seen nor ear heard! Consider His Majesty!
 - ii. The throne room, the mighty angels, the four beasts!
 - iii. The crystal sea, the LUMINOUS shekinah GLORY of GOD!
 - c. Alleluia for God's Honour!
 - i. He is honored! FEARED (not fear of a capricious God)
 - ii. Means respected, worshiped, HALLOWED be His Name!
 - iii. Earnestly praised, ADORED, Humbling MYSELF before Him
 - d. Alleluia for God's Power!
 - i. He ALONE is God and there is NONE else
 - ii. We say He is all-powerful / all-mighty – do we understand?
 - iii. He created EVERYTHING – in the Beginning was the word
 - iv. He holds together EVERYTHING – COL. 1:17 – "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."
 - v. He defeated Satan without moving from His Throne!

C. All of Heaven Rejoicing

1. Giving praise unto our God – Because His Judgments are TRUE (v.2a)

- a. His judgments are Righteous (both true and righteous)
 - b. Because the great Whore Babylon has been destroyed (forever)
- 2. The Voice from the Thone (vs. 5)
 - a. That is the voice of Authority – GIVES PRAISE to our God
 - b. And the choir picks up the tune (vs. 6) voice of MANY waters
 - c. This is complete ADORATION of the Redeemed in Heaven
- 3. So, this morning we will see:
 - a. These Wonders in Heaven, the Wife of the Lamb, the Wedding Garments of White, the Worship of God Alone
 - b. Then we will find out When to Be Ready

II. WIFE OF THE LAMB

- A. One of the more “controversial” topics among Baptists (not just Christianity)
 - 1. Some will call others “Baptist Briders”
 - a. We know churches are compared to Body, Building, and Bride
 - b. Yet no one calls anyone a “Baptist Bodier” or “Baptist Builder”
 - c. What do they mean by this?
 - i. Similar to the imprecation (name calling) of “Legalist”
 - ii. I usually just ask the other party to define it!
 - iii. No sound Baptist believes baptism saves
 - iv. No sound Baptist believes that church membership saves
 - v. No sound Baptist believes only Baptists go to Heaven
 - vi. No sound Baptist believes the Rapture only for Baptists
 - 2. The QUESTION is about the Biblical definition of the word CHURCH
 - a. All N.T. church doctrine must start there – with that word
 - i. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are church Ordinances
 - ii. Pastors and Deacons are church Offices
 - iii. The Great Commission is a church’s Orders
 - iv. If I don’t understand what a church is...
 - b. The word “church” was not a mystery to the disciples
 - i. MATT. 16:18 – “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
 - ii. ACTS 19:41 – “And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.”
 - iii. A local, visible assembly of baptized believers, who have covenanted themselves together to fulfill the Great Commission.
 - 3. How does one become a member of a church? Baptism!
 - a. 1 COR. 12:13 – “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” (ONE body, not TWO)

- b. EPH. 4:5 – “One Lord, one faith, one baptism,”
 - c. Apostles had John’s baptism and were NEVER re-baptized
 - i. Others with ONLY John’s baptism WERE baptized
 - ii. John the Baptist was NEVER baptized! (That’s significant)
- B. What about “Holy Spirit Baptism”?
 - 1. The Holy Spirit does NOT baptize
 - a. John said: MARK 1:8 – “I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.”
 - b. Neither does “water” baptize, but a CHURCH
 - c. The word baptize means “overwhelm” fully wet, full immerse
 - d. Like “church” it was already understood
 - e. And used in Mark 7:4 for the word “wash” before eating
 - 2. Be careful about making the Holy Spirit baptism into a doctrine...
 - 3. For water is a picture of death and the grave
 - a. The Christian is raised up symbolically from death and the grave
 - b. To walk WITHOUT death in newness of life
 - c. Does the Holy Spirit picture death and the grave?
 - d. Are we to walk our new lives WITHOUT Him?
- C. The Bride of Christ are New Testament Churches
 - 1. He washes us through the Bible teaching and Preaching!
 - a. EPH. 5:26 – “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (27) That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”
 - b. Brides adorn themselves – makes herself as lovely as possible
 - c. What would you think of a bride that shows up in ripped jeans?
 - i. “She doesn’t love him very much...”
 - ii. “She isn’t really excited about her wedding...”
 - 2. There will be guests at the wedding
 - a. JOHN 3:29 – “He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.”
 - b. The Repentant Thief on the cross (never baptized)
 - c. Others without scriptural baptism.... SAVED but not members
 - 3. What are the benefits of being a member of a N.T. Church?
 - a. Protection, fellowship, community here on earth!
 - b. What about in heaven? The Bible doesn’t say specifically...
 - c. But if it’s good on earth, it will be BETTER in Heaven!

III. WEDDING GARMENTS OF WHITE

- A. The Bride has made herself ready (vs. 7)
 - 1. She was prepared, already ready in vs. 7, but given MORE in vs. 8

2. Fine linen, clean and white! (threadcount: 1 bazillion)
- B. The Saints are made ready (vs. 8b)
 1. THE fine linen is the righteousness of saints
 2. In other words, righteousness becomes our robes
 3. And where did we get righteousness? Only His IMPUTED Righteousness
 4. REV. 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.”
- C. The Invitations to the Supper has gone out! LUKE 14:16-23
 1. The self-righteous would not come
 2. The religious would not come
 3. The self-sufficient would not come
 4. Only poor wretched sinners answered the call to come
 5. Amazing GRACE how sweet the sound, that SAVED a wretch like me!

IV. WORSHIP GOD ALONE

- A. A call to be careful whom it is we worship
 1. REV. 19:10 – “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”
 2. John was so thrilled by this scene that he got caught up in it
 3. Be careful with emotion and excitement
- B. He was instructed NOT to worship the creation, but only the Creator
 1. This person calls himself John’s “fellowservant”
 - a. Of John’s brethren – a Hebrew? (But maybe just a human)
 - b. But certainly someone who lived on earth and was Saved
 - c. He had the testimony of Jesus Christ
 2. 1 PETER 1:12 – “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”
 3. The Angels want to look into the Gospel!
- C. What are this man’s instructions? Two words (Rev. 19:10): Worship God

V. WHEN TO BE READY

- A. He is COMING BACK to receive His Bride!
- B. JOHN 14:2-3 – “In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”
- C. Be ready today! Be Saved Today!