

We're finally nearing the end of the Tribulation, that soon coming 7-year period during which God will judge and destroy Satan's evil world system, *the kingdom of darkness*. We just saw the destruction of *'Mystery Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.'*

The Tribulation will begin as soon as the Lord Jesus Christ comes down, as far as the clouds, and calls His Bride, the True Church, up to Himself, to meet Him in the air in the Rapture, following which He will take us back to His Father's House, Heaven, where we will spend the next 7 years in a wondrous, joyous time of meeting Him, receiving our eternal rewards and reuniting with our loved ones who've died and gone to Heaven before us. We will meet all the famous believers from the Bible and, even, the angels who've watched over us for all the years of our Earthly lives. And, we will finish our training in order to finally be ready to step into that specific area of ministry and authority God has planned for each of us as we then, when we return with Him, begin to rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ for 1000 years in His Earthly Kingdom and then forever in His newly recreated Heavens and Earth.

He will soon come for us as He promised:

'Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² 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.' John 14:1

We will meet the glorious angels who've watched over us throughout our Earthly lives:

'For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.' Psa 91:11

Remember: angels are also eternal beings; they, too, will live forever; they will not cease to exist or be banished to some other place. Their purpose has been to help us, God's children; I can imagine that they will forever help us in whatever God calls us to do in His Universal Kingdom. Think about it: they have helped protect us during our Earthly lives; why wouldn't we expect them to continue to be our helpers?! Wouldn't you expect the Lord Jesus Christ to install His faithful angels into offices of helping and teaching His Bride?

'Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?' Heb 1:14

Here, in our study, God has just finished His destruction of Babylon the Great, the Antichrist's world system of politics, economics, entertainment and religion.

We've been watching God's long planned judgment; it will begin with the Rapture. That specific event will begin His judgment because the moment He removes His Bride, the True Church, the Holy Spirit will then stop His long work of restraining evil; then, evil will suddenly rush in to fill the vacuum left by the departure of our ministry as salt and light which is the only thing holding back the full force of every evil imaginable which will then be part of Satan's work to finally bring about His long planned Earthly kingdom; that could not take place if all evil and destruction were, at the beginning of the Tribulation, given free rein but now, we are near the end of the Tribulation; we've seen the destruction of Satan's masterwork: the physical world-wide kingdom of darkness: *'Mystery Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.'*

In Rev 19, we are nearing the great crescendo of God's judgment when the Lord Jesus Christ will return to Earth in all His Power, Glory and Splendor to destroy all remaining rebellious humans and to imprison Satan for 1000 years.

Here is an interesting thought for us to meditate upon... because it is in His Word: *'Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'* 2 Tim 2:15

In just a few verses, we will see the Lord Jesus Christ's return to Earth, riding upon a great white stallion.

'And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war... And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.' Rev 19:15

That's a lot of white horses! Some would simply read that at face value and move along...

Jesus Christ will return to Earth riding upon a white horse as we, His Bride, and all His angels accompany Him, also riding on white horses.... here is our thought: God is not just 'making this up;' obviously there are horses in Heaven; God will not have just then suddenly created them; they are there now, they have been there for who knows how long... are they copies of Earthly horses or are Earthly horses copied after Heavenly horses? We often read of Earthly things having been copies of Heavenly things: man, animals, the Temple, etc. If Earthly horses are copies of Heavenly horses, then it's obvious that they did not come about through some form of evolution. So, if the horses in the Garden of Eden, were fashioned after Heavenly horses... why would we not expect to find every kind of animal which God created on Earth, first represented by the perfect original animals in Heaven!?

Adam and Eve were perfect humans; they were fashioned after the Lord Jesus Christ; they were made, perfectly, in His image; we've spent 6000 years evolving downward, not upward. The same is true of animals; they were placed in the Garden as perfect Earthly images of perfect Heavenly things. Before The Fall, God's will really was done on Earth as it is in Heaven and once again, it will be after He recreates it all.

Remember the Living Beasts around the Throne of God: they have 4 faces: like a man, like an eagle, like a lion and like an ox; were they created only after God created Earthly animals... or long, long before?

If we honestly begin to think about these things... then God begins to give us more and more wisdom and understanding concerning all these things and He has told us so much more, in His Word, than we have ever recognized or imagined.

'Set your minds, your hearts, your affections... on things above... (think about them, meditate on them)... not on things of the Earth.' Col 3:2

We should be ever more curious; to question (not to doubt), to think and ponder, to gain the Holy Spirit's wisdom and understanding about all things possible during the short time left to us before the Rapture. Then, *'...we shall know as we are known.'* *'For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.'* 1 Cor 13:12 This refers to our knowing God but I think it also touches on, that we will gain unimaginable knowledge and understanding and that, even now, we can learn, know and understand much, much more than we've ever thought, as we read and meditate on God's Word. He has told us so much more than merely the face value of the words of Scripture.

Chapter 19:1: *'And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: ²For true and righteous are his judgments: for He hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.'*

We all will have been privileged to watch God's destruction of Satan's and his son, the Antichrist's world system. God is true and righteous; He must judge and destroy Satan's works; He must avenge the blood of martyrs throughout time. He must judge the lost. If He would not, then He will have been unrighteous... in accepting unrighteousness. Evil and sin must be judged, condemned and executed; **God's standard reflects Himself: Holiness, Righteousness, Goodness and Perfection.** The same is true for all of our sin and rebellion; we, too, our sin had to be judged, condemned and executed; but all Praise, Honor and Glory be to the Lord Jesus Christ Who chose to come to Earth and to bear all our sin, on Himself, and to be judged, condemned and executed in our place. In Him, we were freed from the eternal consequences of our sin. Because of Him, and in Him, we are, in God's eyes, holy, righteous, good and perfect; we are acceptable to God, in Jesus Christ.

*'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, **wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.'*** Eph 1:3

'For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.'(us) Heb 10:14

Verse 3: *'And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. ⁴ And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.'*

These are the 24 Elders and 4 Beasts we saw back in chapter 4, immediately following the Rapture which is referenced in the first verse of chapter 4: *'After this I looked, and, behold, **a door was opened in heaven:** and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, **Come up hither,** and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter... And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold... And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.'* Rev 4:1, 4, 6

Verse 5: *'And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.'*

This is not a voice commanding us to praise our God. This is a genuine leader of worship leading these in praising and worshipping our God together... what a great thing! What an experience that will be!

Verse 6: *'And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.'*

And here is the sound of this great multitude responding to that leader of worship as they wholeheartedly praise and worship the Lord our God Who rules and reigns forevermore. But... we'll see that this is not the voices of everyone in Heaven at this time... it is the voice of the huge crowd of Old Testament Saints along with all of the martyred Tribulation Saints but one group's voice is not included.

What we hear, here, are the voices of the 'friends of the Bridegroom' and all those invited to the wedding of the Messiah. The voice not included is that of the Bride; these are, in fact, rejoicing with the Lord Jesus Christ because His marriage has finally come and His Bride has made herself ready:

Verse 7: *'Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.'*

Finally... what God, the Son, has waited for since time began, from the time of creation. God, the Son, was promised, by His Father, a Bride, a holy and spotless virgin bride with whom He would rule and reign, over all creation, forever and ever more.

We, His Bride, were chosen for Him, by His Father, to be the Father's love gift to His faithful Son Who was willing to go to the cross in order to pay the astronomically high bride price, to purchase back His promised Bride. And it was His torturous death which made it possible that His Bride would be a spotless, holy and righteous virgin.

What does it mean when we read, *'... and his wife hath made herself ready.'*? This does not mean, as some falsely believe and teach, that the Bride, the True Church, was made to go through part or all of the Tribulation in order for her to be purified; that is one of many doctrines of demons preached today. There is no amount of self sacrifice or scourging or good works that could make us in any way acceptable or 'ready' in God's eyes: *'But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as **filthy rags**...'* Isaiah 64:6

How will we, His Bride, have *'made ourselves ready'* for our marriage to the Messiah? It will be in the very same way any other bride makes herself ready...

Verse 8: *'And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness (righteous acts) of saints.'* Our good works will contribute to our wedding gown.

We will have made ourselves ready, first, in putting on our Wedding gown. We will wear fine linen, clean and white; that clean, white, fine linen gown will be representative of the good works we will have done, when done with the right, godly motives of giving all glory to the Lord Jesus Christ... but how else?

Scripture tells us of 5 different crowns which we will have been able to earn:

1. The **Imperishable Crown** – 1Cor 9:24, for faithful endurance.
2. The **Crown of Rejoicing** – 1 Thes 2:19, rejoicing leading others to Jesus Christ.
3. The **Crown of Righteousness** – 2 Tim 4:8, for those who patiently, anxiously await the Rapture.
4. The **Crown of Glory** – 1Pet 5:4, for faithful shepherds/pastors/leaders.
5. The **Crown of Life** – James 1, for persevering under trial and temptation.

We might have earned 1 crown, we might have earned 3 or all 5 crowns. Surely we will not wear all of our crowns as we are out and about, strolling through the golden streets of New Jerusalem, among our fellow children of God, but we will most surely take up all of them which we will have earned, as we *'make ourselves ready'* for our marriage to the Messiah.

How else will we 'make ourselves ready?' *'... for the fine linen is the righteousness (righteous acts) of saints...'* Jesus said: *'And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, **he shall in no wise lose his reward.**'* Matt 10:42

Every faithful act and good work will gain an eternal reward; each one will, perhaps, be represented by a tangible medal, such as are seen on the uniforms of service men and women. They, in each branch of service, know exactly what every medal signifies which they see upon each others' uniforms. The same will be true for us: we will know and be glorified in, and for, each and every one, even as we are faithful to always turn that glory and honor back to the Lord Jesus Christ.

God has promised to glorify us throughout eternity; our rewards will be unimaginable and the representations of those rewards, as in medals and sashes, etc., will be used, by God, to constantly glorify us and we, no longer having a sinful nature or illegitimate pride, will be faithful to always turn every glory and honor back to the only One Who truly deserves any and all of it: the Lord Jesus Christ, our faithful Bridegroom, with Whom we will rule and reign forever... we will be readying ourselves for Him, our Holy and Faithful Bridegroom.

As we wear our crowns and rewards, we will be showing forth our glory and honor while giving it ALL back to the Lord Jesus Christ for all that He has done. We are living trophies of His grace, mercy and love.

Every medal, every crown, every representation of rewards we've earned will find a place upon our own individual wedding gowns and we will wear all of them in humble adoration of our Holy and Righteous Bridegroom for our wedding/marriage to the Messiah.

This is how the Bride will have *'made herself ready.'*

Verse 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.'*

The one speaking to John, here, is the same angel we saw in chapter 17:1 *'And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither...'*

He tells John, *'Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb...'*

Who are the *'blessed'* who are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb? It is not the Church; we are not called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb; we are sitting at the most honored place, at the right hand of the Groom. These are not the Tribulation Saints who are still alive on the Earth; this is happening in Heaven just before our return, with Him, to Earth. These, called to the supper of the Lamb are every Old Testament Saint who died, from Adam and Eve until the birth of the Church in Acts 2, as well as those who did not die: Enoch and Elijah. In one of His parables, of a certain feast, Jesus said: *'And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'* Luke 14:23

To His Elect, of all ages, God made it simple and easy to come to Him; no one would be compelled to *'make up for his sin'*; no one will need to be *'good enough'*; no one will have even been required to *'deserve it.'*

The only requirement to enter in to God's Eternal Kingdom will have been to put their faith and trust in God's Word, in His Promise, in His Son, to *'believe on the Lord Jesus Christ' and thou shalt be saved!* Acts 16:31