

15th October 2020 Introduction to the Bible Study on the End Times

The Marriage of the Lamb

Dear Brethren and Sisters of the Lord Jesus.

In our last Bible class, we left the study of the End times at the Judgement seat, we discussed how each person who has been responsible to judgement, who has known the gospel, will be called to give an account of their life's works. Of course, after resurrection, many will recognise the gravity of the situation, and their consciences will be pricked. It will all come back to them. How stupid and foolish they were to leave all their good intentions to another day – which never came, how foolish they were to just spend their days selfishly enjoying themselves, and not give a thought for the precious words of God, who neglected their prayers to God, and failed to observe the example of the Lord Jesus., who became past caring, and settled into a rut of denial, and self-justification. How it will be so devastating, as they blink the new light after resurrection and realise they are in the company of past acquaintances and former brothers and sisters. How they will seek spiritual sustenance from them, some form of reassurance that somehow its going to be alright. But there will be no oil available for them to trim and prepare their lamps. Instead they will see their former friends, in prayer, in meditation, quiet contemplation, as they await their turn to go in to stand before the King. When they arrive, they will stand in dread, knowing the answer. They have no light from their lamps. They have no extra talents, multiplied no extra pounds, they have done nothing with the knowledge that they were given. Maybe they will be thinking frantically of excuses, it wasn't my fault, all this will be filling their minds, as suddenly they are ushered in. There will be no golden sceptre held out, (Esther 5:2) no warm welcome, or kindly smile, just pity, and anger. *Who is this that is here without a wedding garment?* (Matthew 22:12) So ended the parable



of Jesus

when he described those who had been invited to the wedding feast. The guest invited but could not be bothered to dress properly for the occasion was ejected from before the host, and before all the other guests, oh the embarrassment and shame - and cast outside into the darkness. Similarly, with those who are caught out without having any oil in their lamps, will find the door is shut in their faces, and they are left outside in the bleakness. Emptiness, and the sheer pointlessness of life will come back to haunt them now. As they trudge away, and find their ways back to former towns, and see how much everything has changed, their misery and testimony will be a huge impact on unbelievers, and certainly make people think. But their future is doomed, and will fade away, as the autumn leaves, irrelevant, discarded, of no further use, except as a stark warning to the world, that the judgement of God is absolute, and final. This gloom and greyness is not reserved for others, anonymous, and faceless. It is the certain end for each one of us, if we do not lay hold on the hope set before us, and dedicate our life to working on our wedding garment, multiplying the talents and pounds, getting oil, and more besides for our lamp.

Let us work on that wedding garment.

The title of this class the Marriage of the Lamb, in our series of studies on the End Times, is taken from the words of the Lord Jesus in the last book of the Bible, the Apocalypse, more commonly known as the Revelation. This can be found in Revelation 19:7-9 *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. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 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.* If we take time to read the whole chapter, we will see that the uniting of the Lamb and His Bride, is described as a marriage, and that it takes place before the nations of the world are judged, before the great day of God Almighty. The marriage takes place, and after that it is then time to

go back to work. This chapter is describing in vision the event of when those who have been judged righteous at the judgement seat, are blessed, and are given eternal life. It is such a joyful occasion, that it is likened to a wedding. We know that weddings are happy occasions. This is an age-old process, for all young men and women, and all are familiar with weddings. The time comes that a young man and woman, catch each other's eye, and the smile, a connection is made. As time passes, and they enjoy one another's company, and love blossoms, they can think of nothing better, than to remain in each other's company, to be married to be together as one. They make a promise, to be married, they are betrothed, or as we say today, engaged. Both the betrothed, declare their love for one another, and work hard to save up for a new life together. It is a time of great preparation. They prepare themselves for the big day, set far ahead, when they can be together. They both realise, that for a new life together, they have to work at it. The young man to provide a home, and security, the young lady, skills to fill that home with love and happiness.

All this is based on a promise. They continue living apart, each working for the other's best interest, what does he or she like me doing, looking like, all they think about is each other, and how to make one another happy. No one else can intrude into this partnership, or understand their personal connection. Each one changes their personality to fit the other better. The day finally comes, so much has been laid in store. Both have dressed to impress the other, no longer based on a promise to be married, they can stand together, to declare their eternal love, to remain together married, as one, to live together, create a home and family together, and raise a new generation together. Such a declaration is witnessed, and declared official. But it is also witnessed by one who is invisible. God. The Creator of all things, who made man in his own image. He breathed into man, and made him a living soul. He later, put the man to sleep, and took a rib from his side and fashioned an help, meet for him. (Genesis 2:23-24) This was woman – meaning out-man. Taken from out of man. God then united them together as husband and wife. This was

his plan for the earth, to be filled with like men and women, from Adam and Eve, who could share with God, in His creative power, and rejoice in His superlative character – and Love. Jesus taught in Matthew 19: 4 -6: *Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.* This shows us, that marriage is a Divinely appointed Institution, He designed it from the beginning, and He had it in mind to be part of His purpose with the earth and man upon it. With this in mind, then, it is no surprise, that to those who begin to appreciate the power of the Word of God, that the story of life, where two lovers come together, in matrimony to create one flesh, is so similar to His story of The Life. Because what happens between a man and a woman is but a pattern of something far greater. Eve instead of being an help suitable for Adam, she became a hindrance. Adam proved to be a disloyal husband, and blamed his wife, instead of taking responsibility himself. They both allowed another force to come between them. The serpent. Sinful thinking. Their characters became sullied and blotched and ugly. Fig leaves did not prove sufficient a garment to cover their shame. They were rejected from Eden. Into outer darkness, the door was shut. God's plan was set back, but instead God devised a way for True Love – Agape to triumph. A Lamb was to be offered, to provide a sinless and innocent covering, innocent blood to atone for the guilt and shame of sin. The skins to cover Adam and Eve, the offering of Abel, the replacement for Isaac, the sacrifice to ensure the Angel Passed over, to save the firstborn. John the Baptist declared who all this pointed forward to, the second Adam, a new creation, another young man: ***Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*** John 1:29, speaking of none other than the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lamb of God, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. Like all fathers in bygone days, his Father in heaven has selected him a Bride. Jesus the second Adam, is the pinnacle of God's

creation. On him rests the purpose and plan of God. He was also put to sleep, by God. Holy harmless and undefiled, his Wife would be taken out of him. Through his death, his unselfish submission to the will of the Father, it is possible for a Help, meet, and suitable to be found for The Man, who would match him, and help and not be a hindrance. Taken out of Christ Jesus, fashioned from his body. The Woman betrothed to Christ, by the New Testament in his blood, is described as the One Body of Christ, a clone as it were of him. She is governed by how he thinks, He is her Head, so in step they are together, so in love, so committed. He provides her his covering, security, and the promise of an abiding place in his Father's House.

But Jesus

had to leave, to be about his Father's business, and prepare a place for His Bride. The Apostle Paul explains this mystery: Ephesians 5: 23 -25 *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it ...* He was willing to die for her, he loved her so much, but even in his absence he cares for her 26 -27 *That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 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.* The Spiritual Bride then is made up of many people, who redeemed by his blood through baptism, taken out of his side as it were. 30 *For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.* Once part of the Bride, our former life is behind us. We are espoused to another as Paul continues: 31 -32 *For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.* Having made that promise, the members of the True Bride (for there are many Harlots, false churches and denominations who claim to be his wife) being betrothed, they promise to be faithful, not to be distracted by sin, in the absence of their Lord, they think about what will make their Love happy,

what does he like me doing, what does he like about me best, how can I impress him better – or supposed to at any rate! Like Eve of old, there are lots of little distractions that have a habit of getting out of hand: 2 Corinthians 11:2 -3: *For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.* The corruption can come about because of impatience. How long do we have to endure the temptations of this world, being lonely, and constantly waiting? Why do we have to be in love with someone we can't even see? This state of mind is expressed in Song 3: 1 -2 *By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not.* 5: 8 *I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.* Depression can set in, those outside of the relationship entice, and mock, scoff and have no understanding. We can lose focus and wander off. 3:3 *The watchmen that go about the city found me: to whom I said, Saw ye him whom my soul loveth?* 5:7 *The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.* The covering provided, begins to slip off. Maybe we will be amongst those who do not have a wedding garment when the big day comes.

Which is why we have Bible classes. We forget that these spiritual lessons have a practical outworking. It's all very well reading of these types and shadows, and thinking this is very nice, but how does it affect us? If we truly want to be on the right side of the judgements seat, then preparation should begin now. The Marriage of the Lamb will take place, and we may well not be there. Now is the time, to take back the veil, and put on the garments required of us. *Psalms 45:10-16 Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is*

thy Lord; and worship thou him. The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework... The Bridegroom, in his love letter to his Bride also urges us in Revelation 3:17,18: *Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that thou may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness does not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye-salve, that you may see.* The white raiment, the wedding garment that we must be found wearing of course, we know, is not literal. Instead it represents our character. Just as the covering provided by the Lamb is not literal, but it is the character of Christ, and his atoning sacrifice, so we become identified by how we behave and what we stand for. Our uniform is what identifies us as belonging to Christ. Going back to the Revelation 19: we read: 7 -8: *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. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.* His wife made herself ready; and this preparation involved qualifying for a wedding garment. The garment is described as the righteousness of saints. Thus, we can understand clearly, that how we live, what we say, and think, how we behave identifies and describes our character. – The King's daughter is all glorious within. What really matters to the Lord Jesus when he views those assembled before him at the judgement seat, is those who have showed that they really loved him, and proved their love. If we love someone, in this day of small things, and in the weakness of our flesh, we make concessions in our selfishness, we make sacrifices and aim to please that person. How much more for Christ? Have we given our life to him? Have we aligned our character with his? Have we tried to put on his covering, his Divine nature? (Isaiah 61:10, Job 29:14, 2 Cor 5:1-4) Have actions followed our vows? That is how we fill up the oil lamp, and build a store of oil, - not in how much we know, or how much we talk, but how

much we do. The clothes we wear, is how we portray ourselves to Christ. He will immediately recognise who are his. He knows them already.

The judgement itself may take some time, last Bible class we were shown how it can be quite quick, six seconds, and we also had a suggestion of half an hour per person. Either way, the process will be painful, shameful, embarrassing to some, and to others an exhilarating experience, a climax of anticipation, something they have been looking forward to all their life. As the judgement concludes, and the rejected all depart, a hush will descend, and the door will be shut. All that will be left will be those who have been called chosen and faithful. All clothed in characters which match that of Jesus. He will know them each intimately, as he was with them every step of the way in their mortality. The brightness of the community, lamps burning, the power and energy of hope realised. The Holy Spirit in its fullness, the day of Pentecost fully come. For the Father is there, in their midst. The Great marriage of the Lamb has come. The Bride and the Groom. The Father, who has already given his Son, is the Witness to the Union. He who has already written in the book of life, will be the official. He will finally answer his Sons prayer: John 17: 21 *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

The Groom will look upon his Bride with adoration: He will say *Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord* (Matthew 25:21) *Well done, good and faithful servant* (23), *you will my Father honour* (John 12:26) *I have prepared a place for you, I will receive you unto myself* (John 14:3) *You suffered with me, you will reign with me....* (2 Timothy 2:12). After this acceptance, the great ceremony will take place. The great day, that each member of the Bride has so carefully prepared for, looked for with yearning and aching hearts. *We shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye ... This mortal must put on immortality* (1 Cor. 15:53). The power of God, will bring about joy unspeakable, full of glory, as each member of the Bride, is given the Morning Star. *He shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body*

(Phil. 3:21). Assimilated, integrated, as one, a communion. The consummation of the marriage of the Lamb will take place, when mortality will be swallowed up of life (2 Cor. 5:2–4). Our mortal bodies will be quickened by the same Spirit that dwelt in each one in their probation (Romans 8:11) *He shall render eternal life to them who, by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory and honour and immortality* (Rom. 2:7). *They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.* (Daniel 12:3)

As we receive the fusion of the power of God, and we are permanently transfigured, transformed, energised by the Spirit, no longer blood, we will see all the faithful in clarity, know each one, no need to be introduced, as the Spirit will guide us, the new knowledge, we will see John standing close to Jesus and recall immediately his words: Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. Ha! How happy we will be, we will know and feel exactly what it feels like to be eternal, immortal, to be at one in that cloud of witnesses. But what will be so special, is that no longer betrothed, but married, we are at one with God, elevated, lifted up, no longer Elohim by title alone, but in power, higher than the angels, to talk face to face with Yahweh Himself, who will be proud to give us His home. Isaiah 62:5 *For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.*

The Lord Jesus will no longer be alone. With his Bride, by his side, married life can begin. He has a marriage supper to attend, and prepare. Beyond that a Kingdom to establish. Marriage life is going to be very busy! But the marriage supper cannot take place just yet. The marriage supper described in the Revelation must not be confused with the Marriage of the Lamb. The marriage of the Lamb, takes place in private away from the eyes of the world, at the same location as the judgement. The marriage supper will take place in Jerusalem. But it will not immediately follow. It will not be possible, for his enemies will be everywhere, they must be subdued

and destroyed before the marriage supper of the Lamb can be celebrated by all the world. First The Way to Jerusalem must be secured, the Jews, the chosen of the Lord need to be saved, from the ravages of Gog at Armageddon, The harlot on the scarlet coloured Beast, who tells the world she is the church the bride of Jesus, needs to be destroyed, and the Beast with her. Only after that can the marriage be celebrated in Zion, when all nations will be invited and be introduced to the new ruling class, the Kings and Priests who will rule with Jesus Christ for a thousand years.

Brother Terry