



## THE LORD'S (ROMANTIC) SUPPER

REVELATION 19:7-9

**Revelation 19:7** 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."

**Revelation 19:8** 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.

**Revelation 19:9** 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."

### Introduction

The Lord's Supper is **redemptive**. It looks back to its origins on the night of the first Passover Feast in Egypt. All those who paid the redemption price of a sacrificed lamb were spared death and set free to serve God in the wilderness.

The Lord's Supper is a **remembrance**. On the night before His crucifixion Jesus fulfilled the symbolism of Passover by becoming God's final sacrifice for sin. He was the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. The Passover Feast was transformed into the Lord's Supper. Jesus said of His final supper with His disciples, **this do in remembrance of Me** (Luke 22:19). It was to be a lasting ordinance for the church on earth to observe.

The Lord's Supper is something else. It is **romantic!**

Does it sound strange that the Lord's Supper should be romantic? The only thing strange is that we don't see it this way more often.

Jesus saw it as romantic. While eating the Last Supper and transforming it into the Lord's Supper He was looking ahead to a future feast.

Jesus said that He would **not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God** (Luke 22:16). Many believe that the fulfillment of His desire was later written about by John in Revelation 19:7-9. There John recorded an angel declaring, **Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!**

**The Last Supper and the early church's subsequent celebrations of Lord's Suppers all looked forward to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**

His future marriage supper was much on our Lord's mind that particular Passover evening:

1. He first mentioned it at the beginning of the Passover Feast (Luke 22:16).
2. He mentioned it again when passing the cup, saying, **I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes** (Luke 22:18).
3. Then, after the supper, He referred to it yet again, saying, **I confer on you a kingdom . . . so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom** (Luke 22:29-30).

This marriage supper may also be mentioned in the model prayer given by Jesus in Luke eleven. Jesus taught us to pray, **Thy kingdom come** (Luke 11:2, KJV). The very next request is **Give us each day our daily bread** (Luke 11:3, NIV). Literally, it reads something like, *the bread of us belonging to the coming day, give us today*. Instead of tomorrow, *the coming day* may refer to the Lord's return. Jesus may well have been teaching us to ask that the bread of the coming marriage supper be given to us today. **Let your kingdom come - Let the marriage supper begin today!**

The idea of a wedding should not surprise you. The Bible often describes your relationship with Jesus as that of a bride awaiting the return of her Bridegroom. Believers are described as engaged to

Jesus<sup>1</sup>; the entire church age between the Day of Pentecost and the rapture is an engagement period.

The gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit is called **the earnest of our inheritance** (Ephesians 1:14). The word **earnest** also means **engagement ring** (Wiersbe). An engagement ring is the tangible gift from the bridegroom to the bride pledging His surety that He has every intention of consummating the relationship in marriage.

Something stronger than our idea of an engagement is intended. In the customs of Bible times there was a betrothal. It was a binding promise for the future marriage. Once betrothed the couple was considered married even though their union had not been consummated. The betrothal typically lasted up to one year.

During the betrothal the bridegroom would be away preparing a dwelling for his future bride, usually in his father's house. The actual wedding took place only when the father determined that the new dwelling was ready. The father would then give his permission for his son to go and retrieve his bride. The bridegroom would return for his bride secretly and unannounced to take her to her new home. She would therefore remain ready and watchful for his imminent return.

**How beautifully all this pictures for us our relationship to Jesus Christ!** We are betrothed to Him. He is away at His Father's house preparing a place for us. He will return to take us home. We are to be ready and watchful for His imminent return.

Paul the apostle understood the romantic nature of the Lord's Supper. He said,

**1 Corinthians 11:26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

The words **until He comes** are an obvious reference to the Second Coming of the Lord to fulfill His desire to celebrate the marriage supper.

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<sup>1</sup> Second Corinthians 11:2

But there is something more; something essentially romantic. Paul instructed the church to partake of the bread and cup as a means of **proclaiming** the Lord's death. To whom were they **proclaiming** it?

Certainly anyone at the communion service would get a sense that the partakers believed Jesus was coming back. But there is also the possibility that as you partake of the elements you are **proclaiming** to Jesus that you are taking Him at His word and reminding Him of His promise to return for you.

Jesus said that we are to partake of the bread **in remembrance of Me** (Luke 22:19). Literally translated, Jesus said, **do this unto My reminder**.

When the church partakes of the Lord's Supper we remind Jesus of His promise to return and eat the marriage supper with us, in person (Luke 22:16, 18). Understood in this light, it is designed to be like a prayer asking Jesus to return.

It's not odd to remind God of His promises. The psalms, and other passages, are filled with saints reminding God of His promises. It's a language lovers are familiar with – reminding one another of deep, heartfelt promises.

The early church understood this. The earliest believers used *Maranatha* ("Our Lord, come") as a prayer in connection with the Lord's Supper. You find this in an early document called the *Didache* which, though not Scripture, is a manual of early church practices.

With regard to the use of the word *Maranatha* in First Corinthians 16:22, Dr. R.P. Martin writes,

"*Maranatha*... may very well be placed in a [communion] setting so that the conclusion of the letter ends with the invocation 'Our Lord, come!' and prepares the scene for the celebration of the meal after the letter has been read to the congregation."<sup>2</sup>

We are to enjoy the Lord's Supper as we would a marriage supper! It is even more romantic when you realize it anticipates your own

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<sup>2</sup> R. P. Martin, "The Lord's Supper," *The New Bible Dictionary*, ed. J. D. Douglas (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1982), 709.

marriage supper, to be celebrated with Jesus Christ at the consummation of the age.

You are His bride. What do brides do? **They get ready!** And one of the major preparations is the gown. Let's read about our wedding with the gown in mind.

**Revelation 19:7** "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."

**Revelation 19:8** 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.

You were **granted**, or *given*, a spiritual robe of righteousness when you received Jesus as your Savior. Righteousness, or being right with God, can not be achieved; it can only be received. It is God's gift to you who believe on His Son for salvation.

Afterwards you have the privilege of adorning your robe of righteousness by your **righteous acts** as His **saint**. You don't *earn* or *add to* your salvation; you simply earn rewards which will adorn your robe.

In a very real sense, **you choose your own wedding gown by your daily walk with Jesus!**

You don't have to believe it, but the average wedding in the U.S. now costs \$27,000.00. (*That doesn't include the honeymoon!*). Most of the people I know do not spend near that. Thus you might see a wedding gown you like but it's usually out of your reach.

Everything about our future marriage supper, and later our time in eternity, will be extravagant. We will live in a city whose streets are paved with gold. All the adornments are flawless precious jewels and gems.

We have opportunity to provide ourselves a lavish gown. It's only cost is obedience to the Lord and to His Word.

**Let's be making ourselves beautiful for Jesus!**