

A	<p><u>Overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the previous chapter depicts one of the two women in Revelation, the tragic ending of the great harlot of Babylon, chp 19 presents the victory celebration in Heaven over the judgment of the woman. Underscored by the wedding feast of the Lamb in Heaven, this chapter details the other woman - the other woman of Revelation - who encounters a completely different ending. The second section (v 11-21) sets forth the first of the four visions about how God will bring history to its goal, that is the Word of God, the victory of the "King of kings and Lord of Lords" and the defeat of the antichrist (including the two beasts previously mentioned. The other three are portrayed in 20:1 - 21:8. The end of the world is, indeed, a terrifying concept; however, the surprising twist is how Revelation is concluded with the sweet and eternal union between the Lamb, the Messiah, and His Bride, the Church. The climax is the unfolding of the Bride's beauty unreservedly (apokalypsis)! The hope of Christians is founded in nothing but Revelation's surprising twist. 	<p>CCSS p 305</p> <p>B. Pitre. <i>Jesus the Bridegroom</i>. 121-3.</p>	
B	<p><u>Victory Song in Heaven; Announcing the Arrival of the Marriage of the Lamb and the Bride</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "After this I heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven" - this great multitude emerges from the great tribulation and praises God for victory and salvation. Just before the seven bowls are poured out, they sing the song of Moses that praises God's justice. Here, the great multitude celebrates God's judgment of Babylon and praises God. "A voice coming from the throne" - comes from an angel who is divinely inspired; under his leadership in a heavenly liturgy, "a great multitude" announces "The Lord has established his reign", and the wedding day of the 	<p>19:1-10</p> <p>19:1-4, 7:9-14, 15:2-4</p> <p>19:5-8 CCSS</p>	

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	<p>Lamb has come.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A royal wedding is about to occur, like the one celebrated in Ps 45. Following the defeat of his enemies: “Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king’s enemies; the peoples fall under you”; “The princess is decked in her chamber ... [and] is led to the king; ... with joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king”. According to scriptural traditions, the story of Revelation also ends happily with the marriage of a virtuous and victorious king; revealing the goal and destiny of the entire salvific history. In order to truly understand the human condition, it is crucial to see the world and human history through the same lens. According to scriptural traditions, marriage is an image of God’s intimate relationship with His Chosen People and the Church. “The entire Christian life bears the mark of the spousal love of Christ and the Church”. The entire salvific history begins and ends with a marriage. The mystery of Christ becoming man reveals this nuptial relationship; the union of humanity and divinity. “The bride has made herself ready” - note that the bride has prepared herself. God has allowed the union between humanity and God through divine grace; however, human efforts and collaboration are essential. The guests are wearing “bright, clean linen garment[s]” to the wedding feast, the linen represents “the righteous deeds of the holy ones”. 	<p>SN1</p> <p>CCSS 303-9 Mt 9:15, Jn 3:29 2Cor 11:2, Eph 5:25-27 CCC 1617; 1602, 1612</p> <p>19:7 CCSS</p> <p>Mt 22:10-14</p>	<p>Ps 45</p> <p>Is 54:5, Hos 2:16-25 Ezk 16:6-14 Is 61:10, 62:4-5</p> <p>Is 25:6, Pr 9:1-6</p>
C	<p><u>“King of Kings, Lord of Lords”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This section depicts how Christ will fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy about God coming as a warrior to rescue and vindicate his people. This vision provides a symbolic depiction of the second coming of God: He appears like a victorious Roman 	<p>19:11-16</p> <p>19:11-12 CCSS</p>	<p>Is 63:1-6, 11:4 Ps 45:4</p>

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	<p>emperor returning on a white horse. “His eyes were like a fiery flame” because he has “penetrating knowledge and the justice of the judgement that follows him from his clear view of reality”. He holds true authority to rule the nations, therefore, “on his head were many diadems”. The name inscribed that “no one knows except himself” suggests that his identity is beyond the understanding of any creature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Out of his mouth came a sharp sword to strike the nations” because He is “the Word of God”. • “King of kings, Lord of lords” - Humanity’s desire to be kings (to rule over everything) and refusal to trust God marks the beginning of the Bible. The conclusion; however, allows humans to see the one who is in control of everything, the “King of kings, Lord of lord”. 	<p>19:13-15 CCSS Jn 1:1, 14 Eph 6:17, Heb 4:12</p> <p>19:16 CCSS Acts 1:11</p>	<p>Dan 7:13-14</p>
D	<p><u>The Judgement of the Two Beasts and Their Companions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just as the fall of Babylon has been foretold three times (14:8, 16:19, this chapter describes what has been twice foretold, the last battle between the just and the evil (16:14-16, 17:13-14). 20:7-10 describes the conclusion to the same battle. This decisive battle at the end of time fulfills what has been foretold in the OT. • In this decisive battle, the two beasts are caught and are “thrown alive into the fiery pool burning with sulfur. The rest were killed by the sword that came out of the mouth of the one riding the horse”. The different penalties demonstrate the difference between spiritual beings and human beings. 	<p>19:17-21</p> <p>CCSS</p> <p>19:20-21</p> <p>Ref. Explanations in CCSS 13:1-2</p>	<p>Ezk 3, Zc 12,14</p>

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Special Notes:

1. Revelation's description of the union between God and the Church follows Jewish Wedding Customs.

Betrothal		
Summary	Scripture	Context of Revelation
The betrothal occurred before the woman was of childbearing age.	Ezk16:6-8, Is 62:4-5	In Revelation, especially the letters to the seven churches, this is the time of preparation before the union between humanity and Christ. We must repent, receive baptism, and convert to God wholeheartedly; place our trust in God especially in times of trials and pain.
Before the couple began living together	Mt 1:18-19	
A betrothed couple was understood to be legally married.		
The period before the wedding ceremony was a time of preparation.		
Wedding		
Summary	Scripture	Context of Revelation
The bride came to live in the house of the groom and was accompanied by various ceremonies.		
First the bride was adorned.	Ezk 16:9-14, Is 62:4-5, Eph 5:26-27	Rev 19:7-8. Christ, the New Groom, prepares the Church, the Bride, through the entire salvific history. This story ends with the wedding of Christ and the Church.
Next came the procession when the bride and her friends went to the house of the groom, who went out to meet the bride, and then brought her into his house in a joyous entry.		Rev 21:2 portrays the well-adorned bride coming to the groom's dwelling. "God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them" (21:3).
Then came the wedding feast that lasted for seven days.	Jn 2:1-12	Rev 19:9 proclamation. 21:2 describes the adorned bride coming to the wedding banquet.

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The first day of the marriage was the “revelation” and union (apocalypse) and consummation of the marriage. The bride moved in with the groom officially.		Rev 21:9 - 22:5: New Jerusalem signifies the consummated marriage and the bride moving in with the groom officially.
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