

Nov 21, 2021



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Jesus laid down His life to show His love for us

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

God of love and grace, words can never capture the wonder of the sacrifice that Christ offered on our behalf. May our love respond to You with faith and worship—for Your Son who was slain is worthy of our praise

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father

(Gal 1:3-4 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 15, 2016)

Series: Celebrating God

UNIT 3: Visions of Praise

NEXT WEEK

Good News for All

(Acts 10:34-47)

Marriage of the Lamb Revelation 19:1-8

Lesson Background and Introduction

Babylon experienced divine wrath for opposing God in both word and deed. Similarly, the Roman Empire was insatiable in its conquests as it enslaved peoples across the Mediterranean world of the first century AD. Palestine had begun to experience Roman might in 63 BC, when Pompey besieged Jerusalem. The Jewish revolt of AD 66-70 resulted in the sacking of Jerusalem and the destruction of its temple. John wrote the book of Revelation some 25 years afterward. Prior to today's passage, Revelation 18 sketches a lengthy celebration of the downfall of Babylon, rehearsing charges against it. That prophetic text guarantees, by extension, the ultimate downfall of all kingdoms and entities that oppose God. Today's passage takes us to what happens after the collapse of those foolish opponents. Weddings are designed to create memories and ingrain those memories in the minds of those who attend. Therefore, the wedding party's clothes are normally chosen with great care and coordinated for maximum effect. The wedding party may take hours to get ready for the ceremony. Because the ceremony will be remembered for years—for its beauty as well as its glitches—everyone goes to great lengths to ensure that everything is "perfect." The wedding ceremony between the Lamb and his bride culminates in the rescue of the bride from the power of sin and evil. When Jesus, the Lamb, receives his bride, the church, it will be the wedding for all time! The groom has done his part by paying the price for sin on the cross. But the bride has her part to do as well, considering John's statement that she has "made herself ready" (Revelation 19:7). Jesus has provided us with "garments of salvation" and a "robe of his righteousness" (Isaiah 61:10), but we must put them on.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Hallelujah - John, the author of Revelation, repeatedly used the word hallelujah throughout his writings. The expression means, "praise the Lord." It is often about Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb. Everyone in heaven rejoices, giving glory and honor to the Savior of the world. Jesus' affections are exclusively for His bride, the Church.

The Defeat of the Beast - Earlier chapters in Revelation commented on the destruction of the beast (the enemy, Satan). A multitude in heaven made up of those saved out of the Great Tribulation, the 24 elders, and the four living creatures join in the celebration of the demise of the antichrist and the world system under his control. Finally, their doom falls upon their heads. The saints prayed for years for the destruction of God's enemies. Finally, it is over. They are no longer a threat.

The Final Wedding - The bride, Christ's Church, is married to Jesus, the groom. Usually, at a wedding, the bride takes center stage. She is the center of attention. But in this scenario, everyone—the entire audience in heaven—has their eyes on the groom. He received and will continue to receive the honor. In the end, Jesus' bride is the one dressed in the "righteous acts of the saints." Initially, Jesus' marriage partner appeared covered in wrinkles, blemishes, and spots. But the Lamb cleansed her and made her radiant. Presently the Church is engaged to Christ. The two parties love each other. Eventually, in heaven, God's children will see their heavenly Father and Jesus' face. At the appointed time, Jesus will return to earth, rescue His bride, remove any imperfections, and present her to His Father. We will rejoice with Him and reign with Him. What a great reason to praise Him!

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Calls to Celebrate (Rev 19:1-4)

Call to the multitude (1)

- Called by God who chose us before the creation (Eph 1:4-5)
- Called according to God's purpose (Rom 8:28-29)
- Called by grace (Rom 11:2-5)
- Called through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit (2 Thess 2:13)

Call to judgment (2-3)

- Judgment of the unrighteous (2 Peter 2:7-10)
- Judgment of God's stored up wrath (Rom 2:5)
- Judgment of those who do not know or obey God (2 Thess 1:5-9)
- Judgment for the ungodly (2 Peter 3:7)
- Judgment for those who have oppressed others (Mal 3:5)

Call to worship (4)

- Worship with joy, gladness and thanksgiving (Ps 100:2-4)
- Worship with reverence and awe (Heb 12:28)
- Worship during calamities (Job 1:18-20)
- Worship by rejoicing in God (Phil 4:4)

Reasons to Celebrate (Rev 19:5-8)

Because God is God (5)

- God is God because there is no other besides Him (Deut 4:35)
- God is God because He is faithful eternally (Deut 7:9)
- God is God because He is the Rock of Ages (Ps 18:31)
- God is God because He guides us until death (Ps 48:14)
- God is God because He is the Holy One (Ps 68:5)
- God is God because He created us (Ps 100:3)
- God is God because He establishes us (2 Cor 1:21)

Because God is Omnipotent (6)

- God is Omnipotent because all things are possible for God (Matt 19:26)
- God is Omnipotent because He is majestic in power (Ex 15:6-8)
- God is Omnipotent because of His greatness and mighty deeds (Deut 3:24)

God is Omnipotent because He brings to life and puts to death (Deut 32:39)

God is Omnipotent because He is great and powerful (1 Chron 29:11)

God is Omnipotent because He is Almighty (Ps 89:8)

God is Omnipotent because He is endued with power (Ps 89:13)

God is Omnipotent because He created and controls the universe (Ps 104:1-10)

God is Omnipotent because He can kill the body and the soul (Matt 10:28)

Because the Lamb is coming (7)

The Lamb is coming so be prepared (Matt 25:1-13)

The Lamb is coming so let us rejoice (Ps 96:11-13)

The Lamb is coming in all His glory (Matt 25:31)

The Lamb is coming to glorify His people (2 Thess 1:10)

The Lamb is coming so listen for Him (John 3:29)

The Lamb is coming who took away the sins of the world (John 1:29)

The Lamb is coming to lead us to the springs of living water (Rev 7:17)

The Lamb is coming so that His people will follow Him wherever He goes because He purchased them (Rev 14:1-4)

Because God's Church will be ready (8)

God's Church will be ready because He keeps us blameless until that day (1 Cor 1:8)

God's Church will be ready because He cleansed us so we will be ready (Eph 5:25-28)

God's Church will be ready because He sanctified us (1 Thess 5:23)

God's Church will be ready because we belong to Him (1 Cor 15:21-23)

God's Church will be ready because He is coming to bring salvation (Heb 9:26-28)

God's Church will be ready because we eagerly await our redemption (Rom 8:23)

God's Church will be ready because our citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20-21)

God's Church will be ready because we have been predestined to be ready (Eph 1:11-14)