

JESUS REVELATION

The Groom at the Wedding (Revelation 19:6-17)

Jesus Revelation pt. 4

Pastor Tim Peck

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus is our Groom, and we are his Bride. When we worship together, we remember the dowry price Jesus paid, we resolve to persevere because he is purifying us during this betrothal, we rejoice because he will come again for the wedding feast, and we anticipate a covenant relationship with him that will last forever.

OPENING

- What's your favorite love story? Why is it your favorite?
- How do you feel when you attend a wedding? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER

- In the ancient world, there were four stages to getting married: *paying the dowry*, *betrothal*, *the wedding feast*, and then the *marriage*.¹ Most marriages were arranged by the parents of the bride and the groom. This is an example of how the Bible sometimes reveals God's truth through ancient cultural practices. However, this does not mean that the Bible is also commanding this practice for us today. How is ancient marriage different from we practice marriage today?
- Read Mark 2:19 and John 3:28-30. How do these passages picture Jesus?
- The Beast and the Woman riding the Beast in Revelation chapters 17 and 18 create a contrast with the Groom and the Bride in Revelation 19. How does 17 and 18 picture the Beast and the Woman? This week's message suggests that the Beast represents *the various empires that try to dominate God's people throughout time*. And the Woman represents *the self-indulgent and exploitive economies of those*

¹See C. Keener, "Marriage," in *Dictionary of New Testament Background* (InterVarsity Press, 2000), pp. 685-86.

*various empires.*² Where do you see these “beastly” empires at work in our world today?

- Of the four stages in marriage—dowry, betrothal, wedding feast, and marriage—which stage are we in today? According to Ephesians 5:26-27, what is Jesus doing during this stage? What role do the problems we face in life play in this process?
- According to this week’s message, our worship has three tenses: it looks to the *past* at the price that was paid, it looks to the *present* as we go through sufferings, and it looks to the *future* as we anticipate the wedding feast and marriage. Which of these three “tenses” resonates most with you when you worship? Why are all three tenses important?

PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Be alert to “false love stories” you see from media, entertainment, TV, and online this week. Whenever you hear or see one of these false love stories write it down. How do these “false love stories” tempt people to lose sight of the true love story between God and his people?
- Think of a time when you’ve been disillusioned by the Church. Then spend five minutes alone, imagining a bride getting ready for her wedding day. Imagine the Church as that bride adorned on her wedding day. Picture the love the groom feels for the bride when he sees her. How does this exercise impact your feelings and attitude toward the Church?
- Revelation 19:8 describes the bride’s adornment as “the righteous acts of God’s holy people.” How are your problems right now purifying you so you can participate in these acts?

PRAYER REQUESTS

To learn more about Pastor Tim’s approach to Revelation, see the article “Approaches to Revelation” on the Glenkirk website: <https://www.glenkirkchurch.org/sermon-series-jesus-revelation/>

²See Scot McKnight for this interpretation in *Revelation for the Rest of Us* (Zondervan, 2023), especially chapters 18, 19, 20, and 21.