

Theme: One Story (Acts 17:26-28)

Title: Yet to Come ~ Holy Wedding Cake, Batman! – Revelation 19:1-21

Aim: Celebrate the victory of Christ & urge to be ready for His coming.

Intro: Some people just love weddings (our little girls). Others will go when invited, but it's not their favorite thing. But who doesn't like wedding cake? These are a couple that our daughter Beth has made (pics). Often so beautiful that hate to cut into them, but...it's wedding cake! Can you begin to imagine what the cake will be like at the marriage supper of the Lamb? Theme: One story – one God, one plan, one story – God's story & plan of redemption, provided thru the atoning work of Christ, the Lamb of God who is continuing to carry out the Father's plan. As said, from chap6-22 John saw a panoramic vision of what was yet to come, from the measured judgments of the seals being opened, to the measured judgments of the trumpets being sounded, to the fuller judgments of the bowls being poured out, to the pronouncement of Babylon's fall. All that the world w/out Christ hopes in will be taken out of the way, from false religions & worldly wealth & man-centered worldviews, to worldly governments. In the last 4 chaps of Revelation John is shown the final victory of Christ, ushering in eternity. Revelation 19:1-21 [READ]. I) **Rejoicing in heaven** – vs1-5. Remember that Babylon is called the great city, the city of man, the seat of immorality in the world. W/the pronouncement of her judgment & fall, which hasn't fully happened yet, but is declared & sure, there erupted a great celebration in heaven. John heard "what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven" praising God for His just judgment. In the words of David Palmer (Casket Empty), there is "great rejoicing among the redeemed. God's righteous judgment will bring no regrets. [He is to be praised] for His justice [as we] celebrate our redemption." When God finally says "enough!" regarding the persecution of His saints & the immorality of this twisted

world, His judgment will be just & true. He will have given all the warnings to be given, all the urgings to accept His Christ, all the chances & 2nd chances to repent & believe. John heard the 24 elders & the 4 living creatures around the throne say in agreement, “Amen. Hallelujah!” In God’s perfect time, every wrong will be righted, every martyr for Christ avenged, every evil judged. Now we say, “How long?” Then we’ll declare God’s greatness & majesty & perfect justice. Every sin has either been paid for by Christ on the cross, or for those who refuse to embrace Christ by faith, it will be paid for in the judgment of the world. II) **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb** – vs6-10. John again heard a loud voice as of a multitude, loud as thunder, exalting Almighty God & celebrating His reign – vs7-8. As you know, the Church is called in Scripture “the bride of Christ,” again, the people of God contrasted w/the people of the world w/out Christ – the people of the serpent. We are the bride of Christ! What a wonderful thing to look forward to – the marriage supper of the Lamb – that Lamb who was slain, who took the scroll, who is carrying out the Father’s plan. Palmer wrote, “The character of God & the beauty of His city are compared to a wedding feast, the messianic banquet. God invites us to sit at His table for the marriage banquet of His beloved Son. He will clothe us w/fine linen, bright & pure. He will summon us to feast w/Him. We will see His face & be w/Him forever.” There are 2 things most people want to see at a wedding: 1) the bride in her wedding dress. It always makes the bride beautiful. It’s a dress for which she (dad) will pay highly & wear once – on her wedding day - & then put away in a closet for the rest of her life. Yet we who are the bride of Christ are even now clothed in the righteousness of Christ, which is seen in our own righteous deeds – faith w/out works is dead. We will wear that robe of Christ’s righteousness throughout eternity, & we will be beautiful forever w/the beauty of Jesus! 2) The wedding reception – the spread & the cake.

Beautiful & tasting great. I've been blessed to be able to officiate at some beautiful weddings & see some beautiful brides & eat at some wonderful receptions, w/some beautiful & yummy cakes. However, I don't believe any could compare w/the wedding feast we will share w/Christ! Years ago I saw this poster at a church where I spoke (I think) & fell in love w/it. Someone in that church later sent me a copy of it, which I have in my office. Isn't it beautiful? Note the place settings & the fact that the table goes on & on. But even this picture can't do justice to what awaits us in Christ. I'm not sure if it will be a literal meal or not, but why not? Imagine the feast that will be set before us – the very finest of fare. And the cake! Even Beth couldn't make one as beautiful! The angel told John to write, "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." Blessed indeed! Our invitation comes here & now, though. It's the invitation to come to faith in Christ – believe & receive Him. What you do w/Him now will determine whether or not you have a place at the table w/Him then. It won't be everyone. To be God's children (& the bride of Christ) you must be born again. III) **The Coming King & Judge** – vs11-21. In Jewish culture, in ancient times, the bridegroom would go from his father's house to get his bride, & thus we see the coming of Christ in these verses. However, before He gets His bride to take to the wedding feast, He must vanquish His foes & in a sense, rescue His bride. Palmer wrote, "In final preparation for the wedding feast, Jesus Christ rides forth in final victory over the beast, the serpent, & death itself." Here's one artist's conception of it (pic). John describes the coming King Jesus: He's called "Faithful & True", as Jesus called Himself in His letter to the church in Laodicea. Eyes like a flame of fire, crowned w/many crowns, meaning, as Palmer wrote, He has "legitimate authority." Palmer continues: "He bears the divine name; His robed is dipped in redeeming blood. He is the Word of God. The armies of heaven follow Him in

triumph. He strikes down the nations w/a sharp sword (from His mouth, which indicates it is His word that slays) & rules w/a rod of iron (as promised in Psalm 2). He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God. He is King of kings & Lord of lords. He is the divine warrior, mighty to save. The beast & the false prophet & their armies gather to make war against Him, but the outcome is never in doubt. God's [army] doesn't strike a single blow; rather, they stand & see the salvation of the Lord. The beast & false prophet are captured & thrown alive into the lake of fire. The rest who oppose the Son are slain by the sword from the mouth of Him who rules in victory." IV) **The Surety of Judgment** – 20:1-15. Jesus' final victory is seen also in the ultimate defeat of Satan himself along w/death & the grave, along w/the great white throne judgment of all who have ever lived. The 1st of the chapter speaks of what is understood as the millennium, which is 1000 yrs. Some are pre-millennialists (Jesus will come before & believers who live in that time will reign w/Him during); some are post-millennialists (Jesus will come after, we'll reign w/Him in eternity) & some are a-millennialists (we are in the millennium – not a literal 1000 yrs – we reign w/Christ now & will for eternity). Palmer wrote that "While Christians have understood the millennium differently, we should give our main attention to the meaning of the millennium w/in the controlling vision of Revelation. The image of Christ reigning w/His people in the midst of a renewed earth replaces the demonic parody of the beast that had been inspired by the serpent." In this chap we see Satan bound & eventually cast into the lake of fire. "God's people are raised to everlasting life & the 2nd death has no power over them...God's people inherit an eternal kingdom that will never be destroyed (Dan.2)." All the dead are raised & judged from 2 sets of books – book of deeds & book of life. The Bible does seem to indicate that Christians will be judged according to what they have done after

coming to faith & rewarded accordingly (I Cor.3), but our ultimate judgment will be whether or not our names are found written in the book of life. Those not in Christ are judged according to their deeds & condemned to the lake of fire. Death itself will be destroyed (I Cor.15)! Can you imagine? We have a short time now to come to faith in Christ & to proclaim the gospel to those who will hear that they, too, will come to know Him. His is the victory & we who are in Christ are victors w/Him! And we get to eat cake! It's all one story: one God, one plan, one story.