

Introduction:

- "At the time of the peace treaty between Jew and Arab, much was made of the shaking of hands by Rabin and Arafat 1993.," observes author Madeleine L'Engle: The newscasters skipped over the fact that the two leaders had been invited to have dinner together with the Clintons at the White House, and they refused. What matters in the Middle East is eating together. You cannot kill someone you have shared a meal with. And so my heart sank. When will they eat together? When will we all eat together, God's children of all colors, all ways of worship? When will we be one in the kingdom, sharing in the unity of the Trinity? **APPLICATION** The answer to her question given in the Scriptures is at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb! "*Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!*" (Revelation 19:9). This is our subject this morning.
- The marriage supper of the Lamb is a subject greatly misunderstood, not because of erroneous teaching, but because it is almost totally neglected in preaching today. The Marriage supper of the Lamb is the culmination of multiple things regarding the Kingdom of God. God's judgements have been released. Babylon (the anti christ system) of Revelation has fallen. The church has been raptured. The millennium is about to begin. And the marriage supper of the Lamb is the first big event of it all!
- "*And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.' And he added, 'These are true words that come from God.'"* (Revelation 19:9, NLT)
- The angels said, "Write This!" I can think of three reasons "Why?":
 - First, because what is given is very valuable. It was also to be written because of its absolute certainty: "*These are the true sayings of God.*" If the angel speaks it to John he speaks it to us today.
 - Second, to bring it under our consideration as a thing worthy of being weighed, marked, learned and inwardly digested—not merely spoken to John by the angel of God, but written by the apostle at the express order of the Spirit of God. It is worth taking time to contemplate and meditate upon.
 - Third, some things appear to be too good to be true. "*He said unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*"

I. The Description of the Bridegroom (recap jewish wedding)

- A. There is no marriage without a bridegroom.
 1. There is no marriage of the Church without the appearance of Christ, and therefore He must be manifested (second coming/appearing). He must come out of the ivory palaces wherein He hides Himself, today. He must come out from preparing a place for her! He must appear in His glory! He must come and get His betrothed bride.
 2. And when He shall appear, what shall be His title? He is called the Lamb! A fascinating name for the main character of The Book of Revelation!
 - a) Lamb is John the Apostles favorite name for Christ.
 - b) He probably heard JTB declare, "Behold the Lamb of God."
 - c) Isaiah, the OT prophet, new him as the Lamb that was slain.
- B. It seems wrong to call Jesus "the Lamb" in the book of Revelation. Lion of Judah, yes! Lamb, no! John calls Him Lamb multiple times in Revelation. The Lamb, is how Jesus

desires us to see Him through Revelation and all eternity. The sacrifice for sin...from the foundation of the world.

1. As the Lamb He is the one everlasting sacrifice for sin. All His life, and in His death, He was no lion, no beast of prey—He was the gentle, suffering, sacrificial Victim, dying that we may not die, presenting Himself a sacrifice acceptable unto God! He was a Lamb to redeem His Church, so He appears as a Lamb in the marriage supper of His glory! He is especially glorious in the character of the Lamb of God. It is as a Lamb that He celebrates the marriage supper with His Bride, the Church.
2. It is as the Lamb that Christ is best loved of our souls. At any rate, you feel your affections most drawn out toward Him who suffered in your place.
3. ***Now, if you reject Him and do not care for my Lord as a substitute and a sacrifice, will you be at the marriage supper when He appears as the Lamb? If you reject Him it is as the Lamb of God that you reject Him! Then, neither will He accept you! He who was that sacrifice will disown you! There will be no marriage between your soul and Christ if you will not have Him as the Lamb, for that marriage feast is to be the marriage of the Lamb, and of none else.

II. The Meaning of the Marriage Supper

- A. *"Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."* vs. 9
- B. What will that marriage supper be? There is coming a time when all God's redeemed, the saved, the born again shall see Him as He is! He is returning for us, His bride!
 1. There will come a day when all who have died shall have been raised, again, from the grave, and those who remain alive shall have been changed, so that their corruption shall have put on incorruption, and mortality shall have put on immortality. Then will the Church be perfect and complete. *"It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies."* (1 Corinthians 15:42-44, NLT)
 2. No one member will be missing. There will be no spot or wrinkle remaining in her, the church. Then it shall come to pass that Christ will celebrate this marriage supper, which will be the bringing of the people of God into the closest and happiest union with Christ their Lord in glory.
 3. We shall see Him there...FACE TO FACE! 1 Cor 13:12
- C. That feast will be, like most other marriage dinners, the fulfillment of long expectation. Our Lord has waited a long time for His perfected Church. He gave Himself to her before the earth was, but there was much to be done before she was prepared for the marriage.
 1. Souls have to be saved—new-created, blood-washed, sanctified, perfected—and the whole of them must be gathered to make up the body of Christ's Spouse. And when

that is done, and she is all complete, the expectations of the Christ will be fulfilled at that marriage supper.

2. You do not know the longings of the heart of Christ for that day of glory! For this He lived! That we might be His eternal bride.
- D. Then will be the day of the open publication of the great fact of mutual love and union. At this moment Christ loves His Church and He is one with her, but the world, as a whole, does not know it. It does not know either Him or her, nor does it care about them.
1. But the day shall come when Christ will bring His hidden people into the light of day! *"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father."* And then shall the Christ, Himself, also be manifested, though long hidden! Oh, what a day that will be when the eyes of the entire universe shall be turned in one direction and the glorious Christ, in the splendor of His manhood and of His Godhead, shall take the hand of His redeemed Church, and before men and angels and devils, declare Himself to be one with her forever and forever! That will be the beginning of the marriage supper of the Lamb—it will be a viral announcement to all, of the great fact of this intense mutual love and union!
 2. The picture of a marriage supper is intended to set forth the overflowing of mutual delight and joy. There is too much joy for two!
- E. That marriage feast will be the grandest display of Christ's magnificent generosity in a banquet. If people ever make a little more show than on other occasions, it is usually at a marriage feast. And oh, what a show Christ will make that day!

III. The Bride—The People Called to This Supper.

- A. Who are the people called to this feast?
1. In one sense, you are all called to it. There is a call of the gospel to each of you! We are charged to preach it to every creature under heaven and we do preach it, leaving none of you out. "Who-ever will, let him take the water of life freely." "Whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." The call, "Behold, the Bridegroom comes," is to the foolish virgins as well as to the wise, and if you do not come, it is not because you were never invited and never entreated to come to Christ! By the Spirit of the living God, I implore you men and women to seek the Savior's face!
 2. Who, then, are they who are specially called to this marriage feast? Well, first, they are those who are so called as to accept the invitation. Have you come to Jesus? Are you trusting Him? Will you have Him today as Lord and Savior? Does your heart say, "Yes"?
 3. To help you to judge yourself, here is another test. Those who are called to that marriage supper love the Bridegroom. He will have no enemies at His banquet! Do you love Jesus? Does your heart leap at the sound of His name?

4. Those who are called to this supper are made ready. Are you made ready? You remember that the man who came to the wedding feast was asked to put on a wedding garment—have you put on the righteousness of Christ? Has Christ put on you His sanctification? Are you changed in heart? Without holiness no man shall see the Lord! Has the grace of God renewed you? Then you are one of those who shall come to the wedding—among the blessed who are called to that great marriage feast! *“to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.”* (Ephesians 5:26-27, NLT)

IV. If You RSVP, You Are Blessed

- A. I know that I am speaking to many who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb and I want you to enjoy yourselves, for you have a hope which blesses you even now. If you are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb, the text says that you are blessed and truly blessed you are! *“And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” ...”* (Revelation 19:9, NLT)
- B. I shall be a part of that Church and you who believe will be a part of that Church—and we shall all have great honor in being called to such a future. What joy to be there! What joy to be there, not as spectators, but as part of the Bride that shall then be taken by her Husband! My soul, you shall swim in happiness, you shall dive in seas of inconceivable delight by reason of your union with Christ and your delight in Him and His delight in you!
- C. Remember, too, we shall be blessed at the marriage supper because no fear will mingle with our enjoyment. Once with Jesus at the banquet above, there will be no such fear! Once there, every pain and tear and fear will have gone forever—that will be a glorious wedding feast, indeed!

Conclusion:

- Will you be there?
- You cannot be left outside the wedding feast if you have trusted in Jesus! Then trust Him at once! Rest in the Lamb who will be your Bridegroom and at whose marriage supper you shall be present to praise the glory of His grace forever and ever! Amen.
- Will you be seated and eat with the Lamb or will you continue to shake your fist and oppose Him?