

## **Revelation 19:4-9 (New International Version)**

<sup>4</sup>The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried:

"Amen, Hallelujah!"

<sup>5</sup>Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

"Praise our God,  
all you his servants,  
you who fear him,  
both small and great!"

<sup>6</sup>Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah!  
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

<sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and be glad  
and give him glory!  
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.

<sup>8</sup>Fine linen, bright and clean,  
was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

<sup>9</sup>Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' "And he added, "These are the true words of God."

## **John 14:1-4**

### **Jesus Comforts His Disciples (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup>"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God<sup>[a]</sup>; trust also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going."

I usually dress up each 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month when we celebrate the Remembrance of Communion. I think of that day when we will enter the Great Banquet in heaven to celebrate a Mighty Feast with the Lamb who was slain, shedding His blood to pay the purchase price for the Bride, His church. (Read Rev. 19:4-9). There are countless reminders of the "Wedding Banquet in Heaven" to which we are all invited.

It is therefore no surprise that Jesus chose to perform His 1<sup>st</sup> Miracle at a Marriage Feast at Cana in Galilee. St. John 2:1-11.

The Gospels and the Epistles are loaded with reminders of Great Banquets, Wedding Banquets. Be ready like the 5 Wise Virgins who were ready when the Bridegroom came to take his Bride to his home. The Epistles say that husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved his church. When Jesus was about to die, his time was short, he wanted to spend time with his disciples. He comforted them with words taken for the marriage covenant. Rev. 21:9 "come and I will show you the bride, The Wife of the Lamb.

In the culture that Jesus lived parents chose the husband and the wife for their sons and daughters. The fathers agreed to the price for the bride and shared a cup of wine in agreement to seal the deal.

Then the son (or the Bridegroom) went to the house of the bride and offered her the cup of the covenant they would be entering. The covenants in the Jewish tradition were sealed with a blood sacrifice or its symbol – the red wine.

When the bridegroom offered the cup to the chosen bride she could accept it or reject it. Upon accepting it she was committing herself to the bridegroom. It was her sign of approval.

Then the bridegroom said to his bride, “Now I am going back to my father’s house to prepare a place for you in my father’s house that where I am you may be also.” He would then build a room onto his father’s house for them to live.

And when he had finished building it he would come back for her and they would have the great wedding feast. She never knew exactly when he would return but she was to be always ready (such as in the story of the 10 Virgins).

Jesus offered the cup to his disciples as a symbol of the tremendous price he paid for us, His Bride. Each time we take the cup we are expressing again the commitment we are making to him who paid the ultimate price for his Bride.

John 14 says: In my Father's house are many rooms. I am going there to prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you with me that you also may be where I am.