

Ch 8 Covenant Consummation: The Wedding Feast of the Lamb

Suggested Reading: Revelation 1, 17, 21–22

Untitled Intro: Where are we going?

- Personally? Heaven, perhaps
- Human history? God is still working in history, guiding it toward some goal
- Wedding Feast of the Lamb: history ends and the Body is purified and united with Jesus
- **Revelation**: one of the most controversial & confusing books in the Bible; [Overview](#):
 - o St. John exiled on Patmos and sees Jesus & a vision
 - o Jesus has John write a message to seven local churches in the main cities of Asia Minor
 - o After he is taken further up into heaven, glimpses heavenly worship of saints & angels
 - Incense is offered in prayer | Bowls of wine are poured out as an offering
 - Trumpets are blown to praise God | Sealed scrolls are broken open and read
 - o John sees this take place on earth: great plagues, catastrophes & judgments ending history
 - o A great and very evil city, portrayed as a harlot, is overthrown by various disasters
 - o A new city, portrayed as a bride, comes out of heaven from God uniting with the Lamb
 - o Revelation refers to the Mass and human history
 - o The Church has modeled her worship after patterns God showed John
 - o Mass is the same worship that is going on in heaven, a foretaste of heaven
 - o Revelation tells us about the historical work of Jesus in the past, present & future

“Who Was” in the Past

- Revelation tells us of the destruction of the city of Jerusalem soon (70 AD)
 - o Described as a *harlot* in league with a terrible *beast* or *dragon* (Rome)
 - o The wealth of the city described in Revelation 18 is no exaggeration of Jerusalem
 - o Around 66 AD, the relationship with Rome broke down & the *beast* destroyed the city

“Who Is” in the Present

- Revelation tells a story of human rebellion against God that provokes plagues as judgment
 - o Plagues result not in repentance but rather in further hatred of God
 - o City finds herself destroyed by the very powers she was wielding against God’s people

“Who Is to Come” in the Future

- Revelation does indeed tell us about the future
 - o Worldwide plagues and disasters will fall on earth before Christ’s return/final judgment
 - o There will be a time of testing and trial before the end comes
 - o *Before Christ’s second coming... Church must pass through a final trial... shake faith* 675
 - o *Triumph of Christ’s kingdom will come* (after) *one last assault by the powers of evil* 680
 - o Jesus taught that his disciples would go through the final tribulation (Mt 24:9–14, 20–21)
- How can Revelation both describe the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the world?
 - o The Temple of Jerusalem was a symbol of the whole cosmos (a Temple city)
 - o Romans destroyed Jerusalem/Temple in 70 AD (symbolic destruction of the universe)
- St. John describes the Lamb’s wedding feast in the last two chapters of Revelation
 - o *The holy city... Jerusalem... coming from God... as a bride adorned for her husband*
 - o The cube represents perfection, a spotless bride/temple filled with the Holy Spirit
 - o Church in heaven *triumphant*, on earth *militant* & in purgatory *suffering*