

## **Series: Understanding Who You Are Through the Eyes of God**

### **Lesson 5: “You are the Bride of Christ”**

**\*Announcements, encouragement to invite people and opening prayer.**



**Connect:** an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What is it that makes a bride beautiful?

**Transition:** A bride lives for the day they enter this new of sharing, of becoming one with the person they've fallen in love with. There is excitement as the bride in all her beauty comes down the aisle looking into the eyes of the one she longs to spend the rest of her life with.

**Bottom Line:** God designed you to be a Jesus' bride, dressed beautifully for the one she loves because we are the church, the gorgeous bride of Christ.

#### **LESSON PLAN**

**Question** – When you think about that truth, what comes into your mind?

**Question** - Do you rejoice and stand in awe of the fact that God dressed you in the most beautiful of gowns? Do you realize that it the Holy Word of God and the Holy Spirit who has given you the ultimate make-over for this day?

**Transition:** I pray no one leaves this class today without a new sense of awe at the coming of the wedding feast and aisle we are about to walk down as the bride of Christ.

**Background:** There is a scene that will take place in the future that Jesus had the Apostle John show us so we could be excited about this great wedding day. It's like the invitation with the pictures on it that make you want to be there. It is sandwiched between a judgment scene on evil pictured as Babylon and the final battle where Christ ends evil once and for all. This snapshot is the beautiful picture anyone could imagine.

**Read Revelation 19:1-2**



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**Question:** When have you stood beside a huge waterfall and it was so powerful that it sounded like a giant roar?

1. Notice the great multitude of voices in heaven was shouting so loud that they sounded like a roar to the Apostle John. What is the first word they shout with a roar?

*Hallelujah! This a combination of words that join together and mean, “Praise ye Yah or Praise ye Yaweh!”*

2. In their praise, what do they declare belongs to God?

**Question –** In what way does mankind try to claim that salvation belongs to man rather than to God?

*By worshiping the created rather than the Creator, man tries to set the earth, the particles, nature or science up as the source of hope. There is no hope outside of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Therefore to teach anything else is to say salvation belongs to mankind.*

3. The crowd declares that God’s judgments are true and just. How is that a great comfort to you?
4. How is it frightening to realize that God’s judgments are true and just?

The great prostitute is evil personified. In Revelation Jesus uses this imagery to help us understand that evil dresses itself as beautiful, as tempting, as luring people with her promises only to destroy them. The pagan rituals included the temple prostitutes, male and female with drunken orgies. The food, wine and sex excitement attracted massive followers. The result was often sexually transmitted diseases, addictions, and obesity. It was all a lie that destroyed but

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was painted as beautiful and exciting and rewarding. That is the perfect example of how Satan uses lies to perpetuate evil and lure souls to their destruction.

5. What happens to the great prostitute?

6. Who were those servants of God the prostitute has taken the blood from?

*All the Apostles except John died a martyr’s death. This is most likely all of heaven celebrating at the fall of Rome, the great prostitute who sat on 7 hills. Her evil and bloodlust against those who love Christ is forever destroyed. All people and governments filled with evil take on the same imagery and heaven celebrates as evil is destroyed. It didn’t end with Rome. Even today, a Christian minister Youcef Nadarkhani is waiting to be executed by the Iranian government because he was convicted of apostasy from Islam and trying to proselytize, lead Muslims to Jesus. If he is proven to have been a Muslim then he must renounce Christianity or be executed. To denounce your Muslim faith is punishable by death in Iran.)*

#### **Read Revelation 19:3-4**

7. Now why are they shouting Hallelujah, for everyone to praise God?

*John’s readers would have recalled the prophecy of Isaiah against Edom, that the enemies land would burn night and day and its smoke would go up forever (Isa 34:8-10) Have someone read Rev. 14:11 and note the familiar theme of complete judgment.*

8. What do the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures add to the roar of the great multitude?



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**Question:** Do you think we should be excited that God is going to avenge evil and contain it forever? How should we show that excitement? How could that be part of our prayer life in a positive way?

#### Read Revelation 19:5

9. What does the voice that comes from the throne of God say?

**PRAISE APPLICATION:** List on the board praises the class wants to lift up to the Almighty God. After listing them, offer up a prayer of adoration to God.

#### Read Revelation 19:6-9

For John to call the Lord God Almighty at this time in history was an act of extreme confidence. The Roman Emperor Domitian had bestowed on himself the title, “Our Lord and God” according to Suetonius, *Dom. 13*. Literally the Almighty means the one who holds all things in his control. This was flirting with execution for John to write down such a title in this text and circulate it.

10. Notice the roar of the great crowd is now amplified, taken to a new decibel level. If there were excited about judgment upon evil, they are now even more excited. What is fueling this excitement?

*It is firmly established. The Lord Almighty reigns! The final wedding of the Lamb has come. The bride, the church is finally made beautiful and ready to come down the aisle to her groom to be joined forever and ever. This is the most exciting wedding about to take place in all of time and creation. The multitudes are delirious with joy! The promised seed of Abraham is about to be married to His promised bride. All of human history recorded from Genesis to Revelation is about to be written forever as the last page of the Book of Life is about to be written and completed.*

**Question:** How can we share the excitement of this coming event with people so they can understand?

11. What did the angel then tell John to do?



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*To write, “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! These are the true words of God.” There are actually 7 beatitudes in Revelation. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> one. They are 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14. Blessed is **mah-kah’-ri-ahs** meaning blissful. It is in an enviable position as if God were holding me in His arms, lovingly hugging me.*

**Question:** How does it make you feel to know that you are the Bride of Christ?

#### Read Revelation 19:10

12. When the angel of God speaks the true words of God, what does the Apostle John do?

**Question –** What does this do to people who worship angelic beings?