



The Real Victory: A Series in Revelation 10/11

John Bernard-Carlin – 23rd August 2026 (watch talk [here](#))

In this talk, John unpacked **Revelation 19 :1-10** for us in which we encounter the final victory portrayed as the marriage supper celebrating the marriage of the Lamb (Jesus) with his bride (the Church). He invited us to connect with these verses in two ways

Imagination of the Wedding Supper

Revelation 19 is the culmination of the human story where, throughout Scripture, God is revealed as having loved His people as a bridegroom loves His bride, always faithful and true. To understand Revelation 19, we need to understand the flow of this theme throughout Scripture.

Anticipation of the Wedding Supper

The image of the wedding supper of the Lamb gives us a vision of a future hope where we see the culmination of all things, but which also sustains us in our present circumstances and to live out our calling.

Zoom Out

Although the world may appear to be one of chaos and uncertainty, God has always had a plan to draw all people to Himself culminating in the marriage supper of the Lamb. As we see the weaving of God's plan, we understand better the certainty of victory – Jesus wins.

Theme of God's Marriage with His People in the Bible	
Old Testament Journey – God's people (Israel)	Song of Songs – allegory of God's love for his people God's enduring love as husband for Israel (Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 2:1-3) Foretelling the great banquet (Isaiah 25:6-10; 62:5) God (faithful husband) and his unfaithful bride (Israel) – God's enduring faithfulness (Ezekiel 16; Hosea 2:16-20)
Jesus' Ministry	John the Baptist – refers to Jesus as the bridegroom (John 3:29) Wedding at Cana – Jesus looking ahead to his 'hour' (John 2:4) Fasting and the presence of bridegroom (Mat 9:14-15; Mark 2: 19-20; Luke 5:33-35) Parable of the wedding banquet (Matt 22:1-14) Parable of the ten virgins (Matt 25:1-13) The Last Supper looking ahead to final banquet (Matt 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18)
New Testament fulfilment – the Church	The church as the wife for whom Jesus laid down His life (Ephesians 5:25-33) Paul referring to the church as Christ's bride (2 Corinthians 11:2)



Future Vision	The Marriage of the Lamb (eternal union of Christ with His redeemed people (Revelation 19:7-9; Revelation 21:2, 9-10))
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John was reminding his readers to see their current situation and their future destination in the light of this eternal story, and we are invited to do the same.

Zoom In

Imagination

When it comes to the wedding of the lamb, **it really matters what we think about when we think about what God thinks of us** – how he sees his relationship with us and ours with him – do we really see God's relationship with us as that of a faithful husband to His bride as faithful, enduring, longstanding and with everlasting love?

In a human marriage, the couple come together and they make these promises that they will live this life of devotion – that they will be vulnerable with and lay down their lives for each other – but in Jesus, we have one who has already fulfilled all the marriage vows:

- He has shown his vulnerability – coming as a helpless baby
- And ultimately taking on our shame and our guilt as He hung naked on a cross.
- He has shown his devotion.
- He has already lived the life of sacrifice for us

And in the light of all this, God's desire and plan that God and His people would be united in love (**2 Corinthians 11:2**).

Anticipation

'The hope that is birthed in our hearts when we look to a future – it is **about the future but for the present.**'

Eugene Peterson

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV)

Press In

Imagination

Whatever our current place on our journey of faith or our circumstances of life, there is an invitation to meditate and reflect of the truth of God's love and devotion for us – like a husband for His bride – to begin to grasp the depth and enormity of that love (faithful, enduring, longstanding and everlasting).



Anticipation

As we have a fresh revelation of that enduring and faithful love, we are invited to read again and reflect on that passage (Revelation 19:1-10) about God's image of relationship with us:

- To consider how a vision of that future reality will encourage, sustain and strengthen us in the here and now; and
- To live in the light of that future hope.

Reflect and discuss

1. What strikes you personally about the image of Jesus as the bride and His church as the bride?
2. How does the image of God's church as the bride shape or impact your view of your own local church and the wider Body of Christ including our brothers and sisters in the persecuted church?
3. As you consider the troubles in this world and your own personal challenges, how does the vision in Revelation 19:1-10 impact your perception and experience of those challenges?
4. How are you challenged by the vision in Revelation 19:1-10 as you consider your daily life?
5. What invitation do you sense the Holy Spirit is making to you in this moment?

Pray

Spend some time praying for one another in response to what has come to light through reflection and discussion. Consider one thing you can do this week to live in the light of the eternal promise in Revelation 19:1-10.