THE WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB

Revelation 17:1–19:10

Key Verse: 19:9

1. Note what has been previously said about “Babylon the Great” (14:8; 16:19). For the historical background of this term, see Isa13:19; 21:9. Read 17:1–6. How is this woman described here? What influence did she have? (17:2) What evil had she done? (17:6a) How did John react to her, and why? (17:6b)
2. Read 17:7–18. What is the “mystery” of the beast? (7,8) Of the seven heads? (9–11; cf. 17:3) The ten horns? (12,13; cf. 12:3) Why only “one hour”? (see also 18:10,17,19) What war and what outcome did he predict? (14) How did he explain the waters? (15; cf. 17:1) What would happen to the prostitute? (16) The beast? (17) Who is the woman? (18)
3. Read 18:1–8. How is the angel described? (1) What was his message? (2,3) What further can we learn here about the woman’s influence? What did God tell his people? (4) How would her fall bring about God’s justice? (5–8) What can we learn here?
4. Read 18:9–20. How are the kings described? (9) Why will they stand “far off”? (10a; cf. 15,17) What is their first “woe”? (10b) How will the merchants be affected, and what will they say? (11–15) What is their second “woe”? (16,17a) How will naval people respond? (17b–19a) What is their third “woe”? (19b) What’s the final message? (20)
5. Read 18:21–24. What “never agains” did a mighty angel proclaim, and why? Read 19:1–3. How did the great heavenly multitude celebrate, and why? Read 19:4,5. How did the four living creatures and 24 elders respond, and why?
6. Read 19:6–9. In contrast to the prostitute, who is “the bride”? (cf. 2Co11:2; Eph5:25–27) Why is heaven described as a “wedding supper”? (Isa25:6–8) What do the clothes mean? (8; cf. 7:13,14; Mt22:11,12) What does it mean to be “invited”? (9; cf. 17:14; 12:17; 3:20; see also Mt22:8–10,14) What did the angel tell John, and why? (19:10)