

The Revelation of Jesus Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Righteousness Imputed & Actualized

Revelation 19:7-8
Matthew 22:1-13



⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.





Revelation 19:7

•Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

The marriage of the Lamb is the formal union of bride and the bridegroom.

In this case, the bride is the church and the bridegroom is Christ—the Lamb of God.

The separation between the people of God and their God has been eliminated.

This is glorious figurative language describing the formalization of God dwelling with his people.



Perhaps we could think of it like this:

1. We, the bride, are engaged to Christ, the bridegroom, through faith in the gospel.
2. The Holy Spirit, the guarantee or pledge (earnest), is like the engagement ring the bride wears indicating she is in a formal relationship with a man.
3. We are living in separate houses (earth v. heaven) waiting for the wedding day when we will no longer be apart one from another.



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**The elimination of
the separation was
first described 8
chapters ago.**



Revelation 11:15

- Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.**”





Revelation 19:7

•and his Bride has
made herself ready;

Let me remind you that the bride is the church and the church is comprised of all those who are truly saved by faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The church is people (not buildings).



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Note
The
Personal Responsibility
in v. 7



Those (like us) who take a high view of the Sovereignty of God must not minimize personal responsibility and individual culpability. The Bible presents both in a mysterious tension.

**The Bride has
made herself ready.**



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**We must NOT put
greater emphasis on one
part of the Bible while
minimizing another.**



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How does the bride make herself ready for the wedding?



The bride must believe in the full and complete revelation of Jesus Christ.

By believe we mean more than awareness or intellectual consent to one's existence.

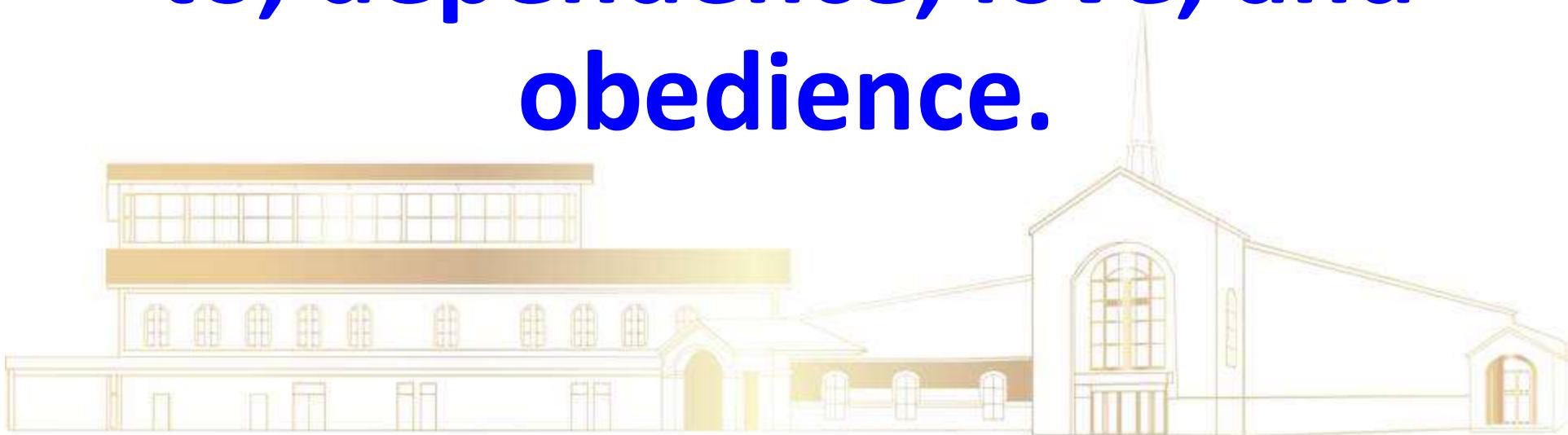


1. Jesus is the eternal Son of God—the second person of the Triune God of the Bible.
2. **Jesus became a man so that He could die.**
3. Having never sinned Jesus died for the sins of humanity on a cross 2000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem.
4. **After 3 days in a tomb Jesus rose from the dead and showed himself alive for 40 days.**
5. Jesus is alive in heaven waiting for the eternal kingdom from His Father.



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**Salvific belief includes
trust, assurance, reliance
upon, faith in, submission
to, dependence, love, and
obedience.**



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Turn To

Matt 22:1-3



We are turning to Matthew 22 because Jesus told a parable about a Father planning a wedding feast for His Son and in Revelation 19 we have the same language of Wedding and Wedding Supper for the Son of God.



Matthew 22:1-3

- And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying,
“The kingdom of heaven **may** be **compared** to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son,



Notice they are NOT being invited to a wedding feast—this is a parable.

In reality they are being invited to become part of the Kingdom of God.

God is inviting them through his Son Jesus to become part of His Kingdom.



Matthew 22:1-3

- And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son,³ and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come.



**Remember we are not talking
about missing a wedding or a great
party after the wedding.**

The wedding and wedding supper
are symbols for the permanent
union of Christ and His Church for
all eternity in the kingdom of God.



Matthew 22:4-6

- Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’⁵
- But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business,⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.



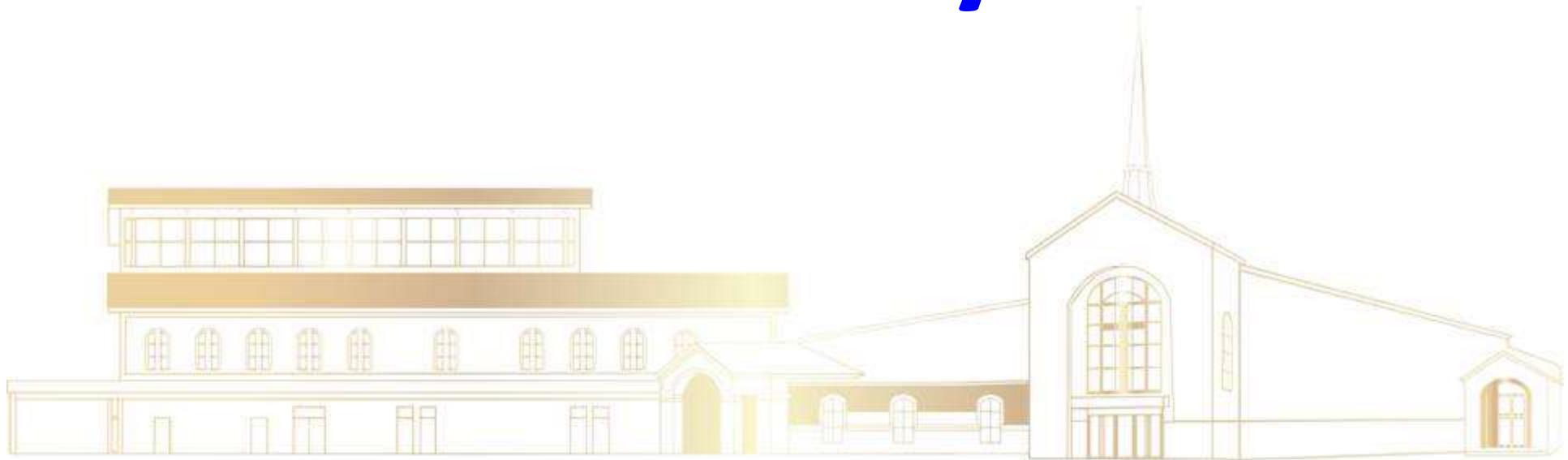
- They would not come.
- They paid no attention.
- They went about their normal day to day business.

Each of these sentences puts the onus of responsibility on the individual who received the invitation to become part of the Kingdom of God and chose to ignore it.



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**Look @ v. 7 and think
about Babylon.**



Matthew 22:7

- The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.



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Look What Happens Next

v. 8-9



Matthew 22:8–9

- Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’



**Inviting people to the wedding
feast is evangelism.**

**It is the proclamation of the
gospel with a clear expectation
that you will believe the truth.**



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Look back @

Revelation 19:8





Revelation 19:8

•it was granted
her to clothe herself with fine
linen, bright and pure”—.

“it was granted”

What voice is that? **Passive**

In Revelation passive voice is consistently used to indicate God is the one doing the action.



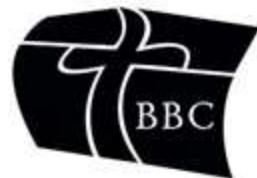
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What is a grant?



Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I.* to give
- II.* to give something to someone
 - A.* of one's own accord to give one something, to his advantage
 - i.* to bestow a gift
 - B.* to grant, give to one asking, let have
 - C.* to supply, furnish, necessary things
 - D.* to give over, deliver
 - i.* to reach out, extend, present
 - ii.* of a writing
 - iii.* to give over to one's care, intrust, commit



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Think

Ephesians 2:8-9



Ephesians 2:8–9

- For by grace you have been saved through faith.
- And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.



Acts 11:18

- When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”



Our text in Revelation communicates two important ideas:

- 1. Personal responsibility in the culpability of my eternal destiny.**
- 2. God's sovereignty in the giving of salvation.**



Notice how Jesus assigns personal responsibility to the residents of the city of Jerusalem in Matthew 23:37 for their failure to believe the truth and embrace Jesus as the Messiah.

“And you were not willing!”



Matthew 23:37

- “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, **and you were not willing!**



Philippians 2:12

- Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,**



2 Peter 1:10

- Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to **confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.**





Revelation 19:8

•it was granted her
to clothe herself with
fine linen, bright and
pure”—

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Look Back @

Matt 22:11-12



Matthew 22:11

- “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.



Matthew 22:12

- And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’
- And he was speechless.



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**This is a
parable.**



What does the
wedding garment
represent?



What does the
wedding garment
represent?

The Answer is Twofold



The Wedding Garment

- 1. Imputed (or credited) righteousness from faith in Jesus Christ.**
- 2. Actualized (or manifested) righteousness fully enabled by God's grace.**



Isaiah 61:10

- I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.



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Twice Earlier in Revelation Robes Were Mentioned





Revelation 6:11

- Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.



Revelation 7:14

- I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

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**This imagery of God
clothing His People goes
all the way back to the
Garden of Eden**



Genesis 3:21

- And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.



**Understanding what the
wedding garment
represents is a big deal.**

Look at Matthew 22:13.



Matthew 22:13

- Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’





Revelation 19:8

•it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

**This is imputed
righteousness actualized.**

To actualize something is to make it a reality.

Having received Christ's righteousness
we work that out in righteous deeds.



**Does this go without
saying?**

**We don't have righteous
wicked citizens of the
kingdom of God.**



Let me show you this
idea from another
eschatological passage.

Matthew 25:31-40



“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and **you gave me food**, I was thirsty and **you gave me drink**, I was a stranger and **you welcomed me**, ³⁶ I was naked and **you clothed me**, I was sick and **you visited me**, I was in prison and **you came to me.**’ ³⁷ Then **the righteous** will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as **you did it** to one of the least of these my brothers, **you did it to me.**’



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Turn to
James 2:14-18



What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ **So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.** ¹⁸ But someone will say, **“You have faith and I have works.”** Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.



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**Showing faith by works
is the actualization of
the imputed
righteousness of Christ.**



2 Peter 1:10–11

- Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance **into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**



5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge,⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness,⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.



8 Essential Virtues from 2 Peter 1

KJV	ESV	NASB	NET
Faith			
Virtue	Virtue	Moral Excellence	Excellence
Knowledge			
Temperance	Self-Control	Self-control	Self-control
Patience	Steadfastness	Perseverance	Perseverance
Godliness			
Brotherly Kindness	Brotherly Affection	Brotherly Kindness	Brotherly Affection
Charity	Love	Love	Unselfish Love



8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Effective and fruitful is actualization of the imputed righteousness of Jesus.



1 John 3:7

- Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.



1 John 3:10

- By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.



Is there evidence that
the imputed
righteousness of
Christ is being
actualized in your life?

