

A Journey Into the Heavens
Revelation 19 - The Victory!
March 30, 2016

After the fall of ecclesiastical and commercial Babylon there was a call to rejoice (18:20), and the opening verses in chapter 19 records a fourfold “hallelujah” response.

The word alleluia is the Greek form of the Hebrew word hallelujah and has the identical meaning - “praise the Lord.” It, like amen, has become a universal word and is an acclamation of praise to God with the highest possible sense of reverence, awe, and praise.

The word hallelujah appears four times in Revelation 19:1-6, but nowhere else in the New Testament. Also, it is found only in the book of Psalms in the Old Testament!

In Revelation 19:1-6 there are four shouts of alleluia for the fall of Babylon! Thus in stark contrast to the events on earth of torment, weeping, and wailing (18:15), all heaven bursts forth in celebration and praise to God for the destruction of Babylon.

I. The _____ Supper of the Lamb (7-10)

Verse seven says, Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come... The New Testament has four analogies of Christ and the church:

I Corinthians 3:9-11 - _____

Ephesians 5:23 - _____

I Peter 2:4-8 - _____

The fourth analogy is found in Ephesians 5:25-31, where the church is described as a bride destined to be married to the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. Early in Jesus' earthly ministry, when He was asked why His disciples were not fasting like the Pharisees and the followers of John the Baptist, Jesus gave a remarkable reply. (Matthew 9:15) The array of the bride is described in Revelation 19:7b-8. The delicate balance between the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of the believers is made clear in the two phrases "hath made herself ready" and "to her was granted".

The church's garments are fine linen, clean, and white, in contrast to the clothing of the great mother of prostitutes, who was arrayed in purple and scarlet color (17:4). The brides clothing is explained as the righteousness of the saints in 19:8. The Greek word translated righteousness is in the plural and is translated "righteous deeds". This means the wedding garment will be made up of the righteous deeds performed in life. This does not imply a works salvation, but rather a delicate balance between God's grace and our obedience response to it. The bride is GIVEN the wedding garment, but she HATH MADE HERSELF READY.

Verse nine contains the fourth of seven beatitudes found in the book of Revelation: Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. (The other beatitudes are found in 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 20:6; & 22:14).

The marriage of the Lamb is mentioned in verse seven, and the marriage supper is here in verse nine. The supper followed the wedding, and apparently all the hosts of heaven were invited to join the celebration. The certainty of this beatitude is emphasized by the phrase, "These are the true sayings of God (19:9). John is so overwhelmed by the angel's revelation of the marriage of the Lamb that he fell at his feet to worship him (19:10).

The angel quickly says, See thou do it not..., and then informs John that as an angel he is a fellow servant and is not to be worshipped. Indeed, worship belongs exclusively to God. We are not to bow down and worship anyone or anything except Him! We also find in 19:10 what all true prophecy is about - the testimony of Jesus. True prophecy is not telling about the future; it is telling about Jesus!

II. The _____ Coming of Christ (11-16)

This event is the very pinnacle of all history - the climactic event toward which all history has been moving. For centuries people have been asking, "Where is the promise of his coming? (as II Peter 3:4 warns us). Well, here it is!

The Second Coming has been confusing to many people because the New Testament says in I Thessalonians 4:17 that believers will "be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air..." However, we find the second coming of Christ described in Zechariah 14:3-4 and Acts 1:9-11.

The reason for the two different descriptions is the Second Coming will take place in two parts. The first is called the "rapture," when the church is caught up from the earth to meet the Lord in the air. Shortly after that, the Great Tribulation begins. Then, at the end of the tribulation, the second part of the Second Coming - often called the "Revelation" - will occur. At this point Christ will actually return to earth.

Describing the Second Coming, John says in Revelation 19:11, And I saw heaven opened, and a rider on a white horse, who is none other than Jesus Himself. A white horse with a rider also appeared in Revelation 6:1, but the similarities between those two riders end there. The rider in chapter six was the anti-christ, who came with empty promises and unjustly made war. The rider in chapter 19 is called "Faithful and True!!

The eyes as a flame of fire (19:11) definitely connect Him with John's vision of Christ in chapter one. On His head are not just seven crowns (12:3), or ten (13:1), but many crowns (19:11). Verse 12 also says "he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself." Perhaps the secret name is the one used in verse 13 - The Word of God - or the name used in verse 16 - KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. On the other hand, it maybe a name that will not be revealed until Christ's return.

Comparing the description of the armies that followed Christ in verse 14 with verse 8, we as Christians makeup the heavenly army! The word “armies” is plural, indicating not only the army of saints (Jude 14-15), but also an army of mighty angels! (II Thessalonians 1:7-9)

We read in verse 15 that by the power of His spoken word, not with His hand or with bombs, He will destroy the armies of the earth. (Isaiah 11:4) By simply speaking, Jesus will smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and...he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (19:15).

The voice that spoke and created the world (John 1:3), the voice that atoms and molecules obey, will again speak, and the lost world will be unable to find any weapon on earth powerful enough to defend themselves against the Word of God. On His vesture dipped in blood (19:13) and on his thigh was the name, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS (19:16). At His Second Coming, the Lord Jesus will in reality be the indisputable King above all kings and Lord above all lords, and will be victorious!!

III. The Battle of _____ (19:17-21)

In 19:17 the Battle of Armageddon is called “the supper of the great God”, in contrast to the “marriage supper of the Lamb.” One supper describes the destruction and death of the enemies of Christ, and the other symbolizes the wonderful fellowship and destiny of believers in Christ!

The “fowls that fly in the midst of heaven” (19:17) are summoned to “eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men...” (19:18). This event cannot be understood unless we remember that in Revelation 16:16-21 the armies of the world had gathered in Palestine to oppose the beast and his armies, but they apparently forgot their animosity toward each other and unite to oppose Christ and His holy army.

Remember, chapters 17 and 18 are an interlude, explaining Babylon, her sins, and destruction. So the account of this event resumes in 19:17, beginning where 16:16-21 ended.

The beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies are powerless before the returning Christ. He simply speaks and they are defeated.

In verse 20, the beast and the false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire burning with fire and brimstone!

Verse 21 reveals that the remnant were slain by the Word of the Lord. It appears the battle is over instantly, with Jesus merely speaking the word, and then all the fowls were filled with their flesh (19:21).

The curtain now falls on the most terrible events in human history, as the judgement of God has been fully meted out upon a guilty planet. The terrible scene depicted in these verses may offend the sensibilities of those who think of God as only loving and merciful! The Lord is in fact the ultimate victor and we have nothing to be afraid of because He is for and who can be against us!!