

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 7TH-8TH, 2024 // REVELATION

THE CELEBRATION (REVELATION 19:1-5) BABYLON THE GREAT HAS FALLEN

Chapter 18 tells us about the evil city/culture that will be destroyed because of its excess and brutality. Chapter 19 shows the finality of the "notorious prostitute" and shows the victory the people of God have over evil.

- This chapter shifts from an "evil prostitute" to "the pure Bride of Christ."

THIS IS A LOUD CHAPTER

The volume is turned up as John hears the "loud voice of a vast multitude" shouting "Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God."

- **Hallelujah** is often heard in church. It simply means *praise the Lord* and is usually accompanied by a why.

THE REASON CHRISTIANS PRAISE THE LORD

The redeemed of God praise Him because of salvation. His judgments are also "true and righteous." God not only loves His people; He protects them from, and brings justice to, evil in the world.

- V. 2 is specifically talking about Babylon and a culture that persecutes followers of Jesus.

"A SECOND TIME THEY SAID, HALLELUJAH!"

The volume of the crowd escalates as they celebrate not only the fall of evil but its finality. The 24 elders and the four living creatures from Chapter 4 fall down and join the celebration saying, "Amen! Hallelujah!"

- **Amen** means *truly it may be*. The beings in heaven affirm the praise of God's people.

THE DIRGE IS MIRRORED

Chapter 18's funeral song is directly contrasted by Chapter 19's celebration of life eternal. "A voice came from the throne, saying, Praise our God, all His servants, and the ones who fear Him both small and great!"

- **This reminds us sin leads to death and decay, but Christ leads to abundant life.**

"PRAISE OUR GOD" IS THE GREEK HALLELUJAH

John's use of both Greek and Hebrew "Hallelujahs" in this chapter reinforces that **all people are welcomed into God's family**.

- The mention of His "servants" who "fear Him" isn't derogatory or condescending but shows **we are owned by God because we properly acknowledge Who He is**.

THE FEAST (REVELATION 19:6-10)

REMEMBER REVELATION 11:16-18?

We talked about the chronology of Chapter 11 and how vs. 16-18 come later in the narrative of Revelation. Revelation 19:6-8 is the same scene as 11:16-18.

- This gives evidence that the end comes at the 7th trumpet and that Chapters 12-18 are the same 7 years of the Great Tribulation.

A MARRIAGE FEAST

The volume of praise raises to a "rumbling of loud thunder" as people declare "the Almighty reigns! Let us be glad, rejoice, and give Him glory."

- The celebration revolves around the **marriage of the Church and Jesus**. The **complete reconciliation of God and humanity has taken place!**

WE WILL SEE JESUS IN THREE ROLES

Ch. 19 shows Christ in three roles. The 1st is Jesus as **the husband** of the church. Above all things, **Jesus loves us more than anyone else and is jealous for our time** (Exodus 20:5).

- **Our eternal reward is participation in life with God forever! The beauty of heaven is Jesus. "... AND HIS BRIDE HAS PREPARED HERSELF."**

More importantly than when and where things happen in Revelation is the major theme: **be prepared!** John was given this book so those who "have ears to hear" will heed these words.

- **We can disagree on eschatology, but Believers cannot disagree on the need to be prepared for His inevitable return!**

- 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6 (CSB)

THE BALANCE OF FAITH AND WORKS

The clothing of the people at the feast (bright and pure) is the opposite of the prostitutes' (purple and scarlet). This symbolizes "righteous acts of the saints" and reminds us that **actions follow true belief**.

- **If action doesn't follow "belief," we may not be what we claim to be** (James 2).

CAREFUL WHO YOU WORSHIP

John fell at the angel's feet and worshiped him after he witnessed the marriage feast. This isn't because John is bad, it's because he's **overwhelmed**. The angel mildly scolds John and reminds him to only worship God.

- Jesus holds the "spirit of prophecy" which means the future and truth.

THE RIDER (REVELATION 19:11-16)

"THEN I SAW HEAVEN OPENED"

First, we see Jesus as our husband. Now, we see **Christ as our protector**. When He was on Earth, He rode peacefully on a donkey into Jerusalem shortly before His death. Now, He rides on a white horse showing imminent victory.

- Though His name is not mentioned, the Rider's identity is very clear.

SOME TITLES OF THE RIDER

The 1st title is "Faithful and True" which flies in the face of corrupt earthly leadership. Our Leader has integrity.

- The 2nd title is a mystery only He knows. This shows **our inability to fully understand the Godhead and His ways** until heaven. **It's ok to admit we don't fully comprehend God!**

"HIS EYES WERE LIKE A FIERY FLAME"

Similar to Revelation 1:14 showing wisdom, omniscience, and possibly anger

"MANY CROWNS WERE ON HIS HEAD"

Shows complete authority over all kingdoms

"ROBE DIPPED IN BLOOD"

Either blood from the cross, the martyrs, or of the armies He is about to destroy

- Isaiah 63:2-3 (CSB)

THE 3RD TITLE OF THE RIDER

"His name is called the Word of God." This is connected to John 1:1 and shows the power of God's written (Bible) and spoken word.

- **God created the universe with words and will end all evil with His tongue. This should encourage us to read and even speak the Word aloud.**

"A SHARP SWORD CAME FROM HIS MOUTH"

God does not need modern weaponry or armies to defeat the forces of evil. He simply needs His words.

- **The Bible is still sufficient to lead and protect us! It holds all power, wisdom, and justice.**

We don't need brute force; we need the power of God's Word!

DID JESUS HAVE A TATTOO ON HIS LEG?

As Jesus goes to trample the "winepress of God's wrath" (Ch. 14), John mentions He has a name written on His robe and thigh.

- This is probably not a literal mark, but a distinction from the mark of the beast. It reminds us He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

THE KING (REVELATION 19:17-21)

THE GREAT SUPPER OF GOD

The first feast we hear about is a celebration of our consummation with God. The second is a **gruesome depiction of evil's demise**.

- An "angel standing in the sun" calls for the birds to eat the flesh of kings, military commanders, the mighty, and everyone, both free and slave, small and great.

IT DOESN'T GET MUCH MORE GRAPHIC

Few places in the Bible are as gruesome as this. Though graphic, evil people have brought this upon themselves, and it shows just how strongly God will end evil and chaos.

- This final clash has been built up in previous chapters, but we will see the battle is quite anticlimactic.

A BATTLE THAT NEVER REALLY HAPPENS

As the beast and "the kings of the earth...gathered...to wage war against the Rider on the horse and His army," Jesus instantly captures the Antichrist and his false prophet.

- They are captured because **their punishment will be more severe because they misled so many** (Luke 12:48).

BOTH "WERE THROWN ALIVE INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE"

This is the first time hell is described in this way. We will get more clarity on this in the next two chapters.

NO FIGHT, JUST MASSIVE BLOODSHED

Without leadership, and because Jesus has no rival, the world's armies quickly die by the sword (word) that comes from Christ's mouth.

THE 3RD ROLE OF CHRIST IS THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

If we deny the invitation to join Christ at the marriage feast, we accept a place at the gruesome "great supper of God."

- **If we deny a relationship with Christ and fail to let Him be our protector we become enemies of God and place ourselves in a position of judgment** (Luke 11:23).

- Matthew 10:32-34 (CSB)

THERE ARE ONLY TWO CHOICES

- It's unpopular to draw distinctive lines, but Jesus Christ came to do just that.
- The absolutes of the Bible have been polarizing, but **God loves us so much that He wants His expectations to be clear. We are either on His side, or we aren't**. The fence is not an acceptable seat.

HUSBAND (SPOUSE)

- Jesus cares for us the way a perfect husband cares for his bride, even when she is imperfect.
- Symbolically, Christians are "married" to Jesus. This means He is our top priority and ultimately **our deepest love and allegiance lie with Him**.

PROTECTOR AND PROVIDER

- Jesus also wants to protect and provide for us, but we have to invite Him to do so.
- God doesn't promise protection and provision as the world defines it, but **He protects our soul, mind, and heart as He gives us what He knows is best for our growth, endurance, and eternity**.

RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

- Following Christ means we trust His ways are right, and we also understand we're held into account for how we live (Matthew 12; Colossians 3).
- Because we are adopted as children of the King of the Universe, we are called to live in a way that honors the name and Person we have chosen to identify with.

THE KING

- We have the choice to either accept the invitation to "feast" with King Jesus, or to "eat" of the destructive ramifications of a broken, divisive, and evil adversary.
- **God isn't just the all-powerful King—He is good, and He loves us so much He gave everything to be with us for eternity**.