

Wednesday Teaching Series
Revelation 19 and 20

The Book of Revelation
Lesson #18-The Final Victory-Part I

Introduction: (Verse 1-5)

- o This chapter is the bridge between the predicted and experiential fall of Babylon and the final judgment that leads to the New Jerusalem.

A Hymn of vindication:

NOTE: In response to Revelation 18:20

"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!" Revelation 18:20 NKJV

"The Halleluiahs Chorus"

- A. The section of Babylon's (Rome) fall began in 17:1 and was lengthy.
- B. Sad dirge of the merchants, kings, and seafarers

NOTE: This heavenly jubilation is in great contrast to the dirge.

- C. The 3-fold lament is followed by adulation and worship of a new grouping of three.
 1. A heavenly multitude (1-3)
 2. 24 elders and 4 living creatures (v. 4)
 3. Voice from the throne (v. 5)

THE GREAT MULTITUDE

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! Revelation 19:1 NKJV

1. Great multitude? (angelic host; others, the faithful dead)
2. Praising God for His salvation; avenging the blood of the martyrs.
3. Hallelujah ("Halal" (praise)/ "Yah" (Yahweh)

4. Salvation here is more than personal redemption; the safeguarding of God's entire redemption process.

THE REASON FOR PRAISE

For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." Revelation 19:2 NKJV

1. God's judgments are both true and just.
 - a. True: valid
 - b. Just: absolutely fair; the punishment of the harlot recorded is what she deserved.

2. After the 7th trumpet the time of judgment had come

The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth." Revelation 11:18 NKJV

- a. With Babylon's fall; judgment is on the way
- b. The grounds of her judgment also listed here (corrupted the earth)

(ILL) Jesus; Satan; kingdoms of this world

3. Martyrs avenged

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Revelation 6:10 NKJV

For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." Revelation 16:6 NKJV

I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. Revelation 17:6 NKJV

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. Revelation 18:21 NKJV

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people." Deuteronomy 32:43 NKJV

4. NOTE: A morally just God must punish evil in a moral universe.

THE SECOND HALLELUIAH

Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" Revelation 19:3 NKJV

NOTE: Smoke of Babylon rises

THE ELDERS AND THE CREATURES

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" Revelation 19:4 NKJV

And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." Revelation 5:6-10 NKJV

- o Worthy to judge
- o Worshipped for judging

THE VOICE FROM HEAVEN

Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" Revelation 19:5 NKJV

1. Redeemed in heaven and the court in heaven have song.
2. Now, the church on earth is invited to sing.
3. The voice is probably of the heavenly beings (not God).
4. All believers; no distinction.

INTERESTING: Does rejoicing over judgment really reflect a Christian response?

1. Not the suffering or judgment that is rejoiced over.
2. It is the vindication of God's name.
3. The character of God is at stake.
4. Implications today; would a God of love do that? Better question: Will a God of justice let it go?
5. Had promised that the blood of martyrs would be avenged. Always true to His word!

TRANSITION:

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:6-10 NKJV

- o Now to the scenes that depict the final victory of God over Satan and the forces of evil.
- o Fall of Rome (Babylon) is a picture of the eschatological demise of every proud human institution that glories in its accomplishments at the expense of all that is right and good.
- o God's righteousness will prevail (every knee and tongue).
- o Time for the wedding supper of the Lamb and His bride has come.
- o The realization overpowers John; he falls to his knees in worship.

THIS SECTION:

- o Begins with an announcement of the Marriage of the Lamb (19:6-18).
- o Leads on to the return of Christ as Messianic conqueror (19:11-16).
- o Final destruction of anti-Christ and his allies (19:17-21).
- o Binding of Satan (20:1-3).
- o Millennial reign (20:4-6).
- o The end of Satan's regime (20:11-15).
- o The Great Final Judgment (20:11-15).

I. Marriage of the Lamb Announced (19:6-10)

A. The Great Sound he hears (v. 6)

1. Appropriate for this announcement that God has at last established universal reign on earth.

(Visible reality of 11:15)

B. Let us rejoice and be glad (v. 7)

NOTE: Only other place where these 2 verbs are used together is Matthew 5:12

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:12 NKJV

Cause for rejoicing is the reward awaiting the persecuted.

1. The reward is a great wedding feast.
2. Marriage between God and his people is a common metaphor.

"I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy; Hosea 2:19 NKJV

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:32-33 NKJV

3. Biblical times marriage-2 great events

- a. Betrothal: (time period to prepare a home; John 14:1-3)
- b. Wedding: Begin with a progressing to bride's house and a return to the grooms for the feast; Jesus: I will come again.

C. Adornment of the bride (v. 8)

1. See 17:4 and compare
2. Righteous acts
3. Imparted and imputed righteousness

D. Blessed are those called (c. 9)

But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:29 NKJV

E. John overwhelmed (v. 10)

NOTE: I believe this takes place in heaven during the tribulation.

II. The King Returns (11-16)

A. Heaven opens

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. Revelation 19:11 NKJV

Faithful and true (A title)

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: Revelation 3:14 NKJV

B. Eyes, head, and name

His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. Revelation 19:12 NKJV

1. Eyes: nothing hidden
2. Head with crowns; contrast 12:3 and dragon "many crowns" unlimited sovereignty; all authority.
3. Name only He knows
 - a. Too holy to be announced Yahweh
 - b. Above every name (Philippians 2:5-11)
 - c. Secret name veiled from all created beings
 - d. Always a mystery about Christ; never fully grasped

C. The Robe and His Name

He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. Revelation 19:13 NKJV

1. Blood of his enemies who will be conquered
2. Word of God (see Hebrews 4:12)

D. The Armies in Heaven

And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Revelation 19:14 NKJV

E. His mouth, his rule, his treading

Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. Revelation 19:15 NKJV

1. Strike the nations with a sharp sword

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Isaiah 11:4 NKJV

Word of judgment

NOTE: A death pronouncement

2. Iron scepter

Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel." Psalms 2:8-9 NKJV

She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Revelation 12:5 NKJV

3. Treading the winepress

F. King of Kings and Lord of Lords

And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:16 NKJV

UNIVERSAL RULE

III. Anti-Christ and False Prophet Destroyed

A. Supper of the Great God

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." Revelation 19:17-18 NKJV

1. Compare to Marriage Supper of the Lamb
2. God's supper in that He will provide it
3. No preference given to the wicked; all who reject Christ will be judged

B. The last attempt of the Beast

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Revelation 19:19 NKJV

1. Preparation

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Revelation 16:13-14 NKJV

And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. Revelation 16:16 NKJV

C. Defeat of the Beast and the False Prophet

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. Revelation 19:20 NKJV

1. No warfare spoken of here
2. Beast; all secular power
3. False; prophet; all secular religion
4. Into the lake of fire

D. Punishment to all who followed the beast.

And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. Revelation 19:21 NKJV

Conclusion: Punishment to all who have followed the Beast, to the Beast and the false prophet. Only one remains to be punished-Satan himself!

Ultimately God will win the battle!