

Revelation 19

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And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven saying Alleluia; Salvation, and glory and honour and power unto the Lord our God.

After receiving the revelation of the destruction of Literal and Mystery Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18, John now sees the marriage of the Lamb in heaven just before the second advent of Christ. He also hears the voices of a great multitude of people praising and glorifying God. They had seen Him Judge the great whore who led all the false religions the world over into corruption with her fornication. Today we can sit and ponder over all the types of different religions in the world, all different. Many associated with war. Most of them have a story of a flood, most have a story of a man dying and going to the sky, many believe in some sort of creation or big bang that brought us into existence. Most are very well organised religions with constitutional laws, great buildings beautiful churches, but no cross, no salvation, no Bible, no Jesus and no heaven. This will please the kings under the evil spiritual power of the whore it will be easy to follow such a trend that makes them rich with earthly goods with no commitment to a Saviour or preparation for eternal life.

Verse 2.

For true and righteous are His Judgements, for He has judged the great whore which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and has avenged the blood of His servants at her hand.

Since time began Good has always fought against evil, history tells us man will fight against man over the silliest thing and God did not want it this way. In fact we human beings do not know what it is like to live in total peace because the great whore under the influence of Satan has had control of the lives of man and woman since the Garden of Eden. You and I can thank God her reign will come to an end. Satan and the Antichrist will be dealt with, and that time is what we are studying now.

God has judged the great whore which did corrupt the world with her fornication '*And has avenged the blood of His servants at her hand*'. All those throughout history who have suffered in the name of Christ will be avenged and their shed blood will not be a waste. God will have the last word on this subject very soon and He has given us the privilege to have insight about that. I am sure those in heaven will be able to see the goings on in the earth I believe they will hold their breath as God will deal with the whore and when they see her destruction and that her smoke will rise up for ever and ever, meaning an everlasting death they will all shout Alleluia at the top of their voice.

Verse 4

And the four and twenty Elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God Who sat on the throne.

The 24 Elders represent the redeemed of all ages, the 4 living ones or Zoa, represent the creation of God and now that creation can serve and function in its full purpose as originally intended. So the cry from the depths of the hearts of these onlookers will be Alleluia as they fall down and worship the Lamb who prevailed to open the Book of Life.

John heard a voice of a great multitude like the voice of many waters and mighty thunderings meaning not only all believers from Adam and Eve to the very last soul saved in the tribulation but all of nature having been released from the curse will sing praises to our God for the Lord our God omnipotent reigns.

Verse 7

Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him honour for the marriage of the Lamb is come and His wife has made herself ready.

For thousands of years God has desired to enjoy His creation as He originally purposed. He made creation to worship Him and to enjoy the wonders of heaven and the delights of His love, but as we know Satan tempted Eve and sin became a reality. I have no doubt God's heart was broken; He had to give His only Son to make a way back to God. Since those very early times it was God's plan and purpose to bring man back to God. If by defeating Satan. Now at the end of the age Satan has brought in the great whore and the Antichrist and the false prophet to fight against God, all of them the author of sin and wickedness. They will be condemned to everlasting hell and with sin and wickedness out of the way the marriage supper of the Lamb can be enjoyed. The marriage of the trinity to the redeemed Church to spend eternity in heaven. No wonder we are exalted to be glad and rejoice *'For the marriage of the Lamb is come and His wife has made herself ready'*.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

We know the Bridegroom is Jesus; He is the Kings Son, the one who opened the Book of Life, but who is the bride?

The Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapter 5 is speaking about the conduct of husbands and wives, likens Christ to the husband and the Church to the wife. He concludes in verse 32 by saying this is a great mystery. It is a spiritual fact that a believer can become one with Christ as a member of His Body symbolised by the relationship of a husband and wife. Paul is clearly indicating that the perfect picture of the relationship between the Lord Jesus and His true Church is that of bride and bridegroom. When a person accepts Jesus as Saviour and Lord, he or she becomes a member of the Church, the true Church, not just the building on the street corner but the invisible true Church; they are automatically engaged to Christ. This engagement or courtship like any natural earthly courtship enables us to get to know Jesus, to read His letters to us, to talk to Him in prayer and get ourselves ready. This includes purity and Holiness and clean living and this will make us worthy to be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb when we become his bride. We can become worthy only through the blood of Jesus. Not of our own attempts at righteousness or holiness. We are saved through faith not of works this is part of our working out our salvation with fear and trembling as Paul puts it in Phil: 2. That said, we are to live holy lives as Jesus said be ye Holy for I am Holy. We are in heaven at this point so the Marriage Supper is after the Rapture and just before the Lord comes to earth called His Glorious Appearing. We are not His bride until then.

Revelation 19: 7-9

Let us be glad and rejoice and honour Him for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the Saints. And he said unto me, write, Blessed are they which are called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Who are the guests at the wedding? They are not the Bride or the Groom they are friends of the Bridegroom, not friends of the Bride, the Church, but friends the Bridegroom Jesus. John the Baptist was one of the Old Testament Saints and he indicated in John 3: 29, he was a friend of the Bridegroom. These Old Testament Saints will be in heaven, they will have their reward so they will not be the Bride from the Church age, nor will they be the Church who is the Bride, they will be the friends of the Bridegroom who at this time are invited guests to the Wedding Supper. I believe that all those dead believers from Adam to the last person saved in the tribulation many who will have been martyred during the tribulation for the sake of the testimony of Jesus will be guests at this feast. Therefore the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is an experience reserved for the Body of Christ and for the Old Testament friends of God who are also invited.

So the order of events appears to be that at the end of the tribulation on earth, the marriage and the marriage supper of the Lamb takes place in heaven, then the Lord returns to earth called 'The Glorious Appearing' on a white horse to set up His Kingdom. (Rev: 19:11). The marriage and the marriage supper takes place in heaven because they both take place after the Rapture and the Rapture took all the Saints to heaven to be with the Lord.

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands love your wives even as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it. That He might sanctify and cleans it with the washing of water by the Word. That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but it should be Holy and without blemish.

All brides look beautiful but that is on the outside! And they look beautiful to the Bridegroom and onlooker but when Jesus looks into the heart He sees the sin and blackness that we don't. It is the same with the Church; on the outside we see the golden imagery, the pomp, the colour the display. When we look at the Church today we have to admit there is a lot to be desired. However the Church presented to God will be without spot or blemish and it will be Holy and blameless after the judgment of Christ and the Church believers will have been completely cleansed and made whole. We will be given white linen robes of righteousness to make us presentable to the Father. The Priests in Old Testament times would wear garments of bright coloured material to make them noticeable and recognised to the people of Israel. But when they went into the Holy of Holies to meet with the Lord they wore pure white linen garments representing the righteousness of God. God wants us to be clean, pure and Holy when we come to Him He is not interested in our 'Sunday Best', humbleness of heart is what He is looking for. All Christians who have trusted in God during the age of grace, from the day of Pentecost to the return of Christ will make up His Bride at the Marriage Supper.

Verse 7 speaks about the bride making herself ready. At any wedding if you have the privilege of seeing the Bride just before the service you will see an almost panic with the bridesmaids all fussing around with shouting and laughter and lots of excitement and the bride longing to see her bridegroom. You know we the Church should be no different, we not only should be full of excitement laughter and anticipation looking forward to seeing the Bridegroom our glorious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, but more importantly keeping short accounts with Him, keeping ourselves Holy and pure, reading His love letters to us. Talking to Him constantly, listening to His voice and getting to know it.

Revelation 19: 11.

And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse and He who sat upon him was called Faithful and True and in Righteousness He does Judge and make war.

Even in our wildest imagination can we visualise this tremendous event, the Prophet Zechariah in chapter 14 he describes this event in a detail that makes us sit up and take notice.

Behold the day of the Lord comes, and your spoil shall be divided in the midst of you for I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to Battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished: and half the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

The day of the Lord presents this day as beginning with the second coming and lasting until the end of the Millennium. At that time begins the Day of God and will continue eternally. (1 Cor.15:24-28. Eph.1:10. 2 Peter 3: 10-13)

And your spoil shall be divided in the midst of you refers to the Antichrist coming against Israel.

Revelation 19: 11.

And I saw Heaven opened and behold a white horse and He who sat upon him was called Faithful and True and in righteousness He does Judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire and on His head were many crowns and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with vesture dipped in blood and His Name is called The Word of God.

In the midst of the noise of war and destruction here on earth Heaven opens to the sound of singing, shouting and praising God, there is a pause on earth to the sound of alleluias and praises to our God from the vast multitude of Heavenly hosts and out of the doors of Heaven comes a mighty warrior dressed in pure white linen whose eyes are ablaze with fire that can see right through a man to his heart, and on His head are many crowns showing He is the King of all realms and of all nations and His garment is stained with the blood that was shed at the cross.

Verse 14

And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses clothed in fine linen white and clean.

What a glorious sight that will be, millions upon millions of believers washed in the blood of the Lamb, all dressed in white linen sitting on pure white horses. This vast white army has been in heaven waiting for God to pour out His wrath upon the ungodly. Now in verse 15 we are told He speaks a sharp word from His mouth that will smite the nations and He shall rule them with a rod of iron. Christ will destroy all unbelievers, Matt 25: 41, 46, 2 Thess.1, 8, 9. 1 Cor. 15: 24:25. He is coming to earth to take over as Supreme Ruler so His name is KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Verse 17

And I saw an Angel standing in the sun and he cried with a loud voice saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of Heaven, come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God. That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses and those who sit on them, and the flesh of all men both free and bond, both small and great.

Let your imagination go wild. Remember this is the end of the end of time as we know it. God wants to make all things new, and to do that He must get rid of the old. The old did not work, the old has been given enough time to bring happiness, to bring peace, to bring love and respect. All the old has given us is war, spitefulness; theft, dissention, mistrust, and a whole lot more. Right at the end man will put his trust in a fellow man called Antichrist, who will also cheat, lie and destroy, and bring his fellow man to utter destruction. This time he will be under the demonic power of Satan and his fallen angels.

This is why I, with your pastors and leaders, those who have had a personal experience with Jesus, encourage you to give your heart to Jesus and become a follower of Him. We have read and studied God's written Word and I have kept as close to His Word as possible, you cannot afford to take a chance and live your own life, your way. Any day, at any moment you may be taken out of this world to meet Jesus in the next. According to the Bible unless you have given your life over to Him you will go straight to hell. In the light of our subject there is no point in making it sound pretty or nice, the end times in the Bible are not 'nice', we have had 2000 years of 'nice' now its shape up time, be a man for Christ time, make a choice for Jesus or Satan there is no middle ground.

In the last few verses of Chapter 19 we are told the armies of Satan and the Antichrist and God and His armies get together to make war. This will be the biggest and the worst war ever! Millions will fight and millions will die.

Revelation 14: 20

And the winepress was trodden without the city and the blood came out of the winepress even unto the horses bridles by the space of about thousand six hundred furlongs.

Blood will flow on this battlefield up to the horses' bridles some four to five feet high; this blood river will flow from the veins of the multitudes slain in the battle and also from the hail and rain that will fall from heaven and flow as a river approximately the full length of Palestine. There is no doubt this battle will be the most horrifying the world has ever seen.

Verse 20 tells us all those who had the mark of the beast and those who worshipped him were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

10 ways the Antichrist and his armies will be destroyed.

1. By the brightness of Christ's coming, 2 Thess. 2; 8-9.
2. By Angels 2 Thess. 1; 7-10
3. The Saints Rev. 19: 14.
4. By cloudburst Ezek. 38: 22.
5. Great Hailstones Ezek. 38: 22.

6. Fire and Brimstone Ezek. 38: 22
7. Pestilence and blood Ezek. 38:22
8. Jewish army Zechariah 14: 14.
9. Self- destruction. Zechariah 14: 13.
10. Christ's sword Rev. 19; 15. Isa: 11:4.

And all those who have given allegiance to him and have taken his mark will die also. Also those who have rejected Jesus Christ as their Saviour and in those days to come they will certainly need a saviour from all that's going on.

All the armies of Antichrist will be slain every one of them. I guess there will be millions of people scratching at their bodies trying to remove the Mark of the beast which is 666. There will be millions of people regretting that they accepted the mark of the Antichrist as they see him break his promises and his covenant and enjoy the killing spree that has taken hold of his twisted mind. But it will be too late that mark will not come off and you have made your choice which will not be changed! The Gospel has been preached for hundreds of years, the way of escape from all of this destruction has been offered to every man woman and child but that Gospel has, in the main been refused and Jesus has been rejected. Don't you think it would be wise to make Jesus your Saviour today, now, before it is too late?

Revelation verse 19, 20.

And the beast was taken and with him the false prophet who wrought miracles before him with which he deceived them who had received the mark of the beast

...and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

What a come down, from millions of people with his own mark upon them, an image of him made and worshipped, kings of nations held under his spell, being supported by Satan. The body of this powerful Godless man in the hands of Almighty God ends up as bird seed!

The Psalmists ended some of their chapters and verses with the Hebrew word Selah, translated 'just consider that' 'Stop and listen'

We would do well to stop and consider what we have just read and to ask the Lord how He wants us to respond.

Blessings

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Be blessed

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