

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bible with me to Revelation 19 –

We are continuing our study through the book of Revelation.

We have seen God's wrath poured out on those that rejected the Lamb – and all of this will occur during the seven year period known as the great Tribulation.

Over the last two weeks, we have been looking at the destruction of Babylon – which consists of the false church and the economic system that the antichrist will set up here on earth.

Both of these things are going to occur within the seven year period.

Tonight, the seven year period comes to an end with the triumphant second coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Let's pray...

[Rev 19:1-21 NKJV] 1 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!

In our last week, we saw the world mourn over the fall of Babylon.

And we started to see the contrast of what is happening in heaven toward the end of the chapter where there was no mourning in heaven but instead – there will be rejoicing.

And the reason for the rejoicing is not because they witness the 100 lb hail stones land on people.

Or because every island sinks into the ocean

Or even because Babylon is consumed in flames.

You see, those on earth – all they see is the devastation, all they feel is the pain of being burned alive by the hot sun or the pain from the sores of God's judgment.

But those in heaven – they see everything from a different vantage point.

Everything will seem brilliant, perfect and righteous from heaven's perspective.

The reason for the rejoicing is because for those in heaven, the full picture becomes clear.

Think of when we undergo trials – most of us, when we go through trials, we only think about the pain that we may be going through – and we may even begin to question why God is allowing it.

However, when we get to heaven – we will get a different perspective of the trials we went through – as we see the big picture – “God allowed this in my life because the trial was developing my faith / my trust in Him.”

I had you make a note of the word Alleluia –

This word is found four times in the New Testament and all 4 times, here in the first six verse of Revelation 19.

The word Alleluia is the Greek form of the Hebrew word Hallelujah – which we find in some of the Psalms.

Hallelujah means, “Praise to Yah”; which is the shortened form of God’s name Yahweh = ”I am”

Now, who is singing this in heaven?

The Great Multitude –

This includes those

- The church – that was raptured at the start of the Tribulation
- The Tribulation Saints – those that defied the antichrist by not taking the mark of the beast and were killed
- Angels – the 24 elders and the four living creatures

This multitude is the one rejoicing at the fall of the antichrist and the system he established on the world.

2 "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."

This is from the perspective of heaven.

Those in heaven are watching all the things that have gone on down on earth.

And they declare that God is completely correct in all His judgment.

No one is questioning whether God was just in raining down 100 lb hail stones on people.

Is it because there is a "Don't question God sign in heaven"?

No – once again, it is because those in heaven see the entire picture.

3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

The her is verse three – refers to Babylon.

As we saw in our previous studies – Babylon persecuted those during the Tribulation Period that accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

[Rev 17:6 NKJV] 6 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.

So the proclamation here is that Babylon is destroyed and will never be rebuilt and will continue to burn forever.

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" 6 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!"

When John gets this vision at the beginning of Revelation – he is in the island of Patmos.

And there are some historical books that record that he was exiled there by the Roman Emperor at the time – Domitian - the most powerful person on the earth at the time.

John was causing too much trouble for Rome – giving hope to the early persecuted church – they tried to boil him in oil – no luck. So they send him away.

Now, the entire reason for the book of Revelation is to comfort John and the church by revealing to us that God wins in the end – that Jesus Christ returns in victory – just like He said.

So, John as he has received this vision, he sees these beasts wandering the earth, he sees the saints being persecuted and executed, he sees the abominations of the antichrist and the false prophet **but now, he is comforted with this song from heaven**

"Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

Alleluia – Praise to Yahweh. This is the 4th time that it is used.

For the Lord – He is Master of all

He is God

He is Omnipotent – “all powerful”

He reigns – meaning, He alone is King and is in control.

John needed to be reminded of that & so do we!!!

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.

In order to fully grasp these two verses, we need to first have an understanding of the different stages of a Hebrew Wedding.

People didn't simply go to Vegas on a Friday night to get married – there was a process with different stages.

Now, as I describe the stages – I want you to see if any of these sounds familiar.

1. Betrothal – In this first stage, the groom traveled from his father's house to the home of the prospective bride and pays the purchasing price – thus establishing the marriage covenant.
2. The groom returns to his father's house and remains separate from his bride during which time he prepared the living accommodations for his bride in or near his father's house.
3. The groom comes for his bride at a time not known exactly to her; she lived in expectation until he surprises her on his return.
4. He returns with her to the groom's father's house for the wedding ceremony – and part of the wedding ceremony is the wedding feast where for seven days the bride was to remain in her bridal chamber until they were married.

Right now – March 3, 2021 we are in stage two.

The rapture occurs in stage 3

Revelation 19 is stage 4.

Now, the bride is supposed to be ready –

How do we become ready???

By how we live – by how we respond to grace –

But also notice the grace in - **And to her it was granted** -

Ultimately, it is a work that God does in each of us -

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."

The he here – is most likely an angel – maybe even one of the ones that poured out the bowl judgments.

He tells John to write – and John is so blown away by what he sees that falls down on his knees and starts to worship the angel – and the angel stops him and tells him that only God should be worshipped.

Now, this is important because Mormons and Jehovah's witnesses teach that Jesus was not God – but simply an angel and therefore should not be worshipped.

Yet, in the gospels, we have at least two accounts of when Jesus was worshipped.

[Luk 5:8 NKJV] 8 When Simon Peter saw [it], he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

[Jhn 20:28 NKJV] 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus never said – “Don’t worship me because I am an angel”

He received worship because He is more than an angel – He is God Incarnate.

11 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.

This is it – the Second Coming!

Here John sees a white – this is fitting because a white horse would be the one that would carry the victorious general during the victory parade that was thrown in his honor when He returned triumphant from battle.

And the identity is Jesus Christ.

12 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.

This is the reason why Jesus can make righteous and just war, because nothing escapes His sight and as the Sovereign One, His is the right to execute justice!

Romans 2:16 speaks of the day when Jesus will judge the secrets of men.

You see church, God looks beyond just our actions to the motives behind them. He knows what’s in our hearts, and that is the basis of His judgment.

I asked you to make a note of crowns –

Because in Revelation 6 – we saw another individual riding a white horse and a crown was given to him.

The rider in chapter six was the antichrist.

The words that are used for crowns in chapter 6 and here in chapter 9 are different.

The crown that the antichrist received was a crown that was given to an Olympic athlete – however, the crown that Jesus is wearing here is one reserved for a King.

And the name that is written on it – nobody knows – we will find out when we follow Him at His second coming.

Just remember that we are going to spend eternity learning many things about Jesus Christ – His holiness, His love, His nature -

13 He [was] clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Jesus is riding a white horse and His robe is dipped in blood.

The question becomes, whose blood is it?

There are some that believe that this is Jesus' blood and then there are those that believe that this is the enemies blood.

I believe that this is the enemies blood – why?

Because the scriptures tells us so.

Remember, the bible is the best tool to translate the bible.

Turn with me to Isaiah 63 —

[Isa 63:1-3 NKJV] 1 Who [is] this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This [One who is] glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?—“I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” 2 Why [is] Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 “I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one [was] with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.

A few weeks ago – when we covered Rev 14, we saw that God is going to set up His winepress outside the city. This was the winepress of His wrath.

Therefore, the blood on His robe appears to be from those that were crushed in the winepress.

By the way, the armies in heaven is us – notice that we will be an unarmed army – because Jesus is going to do all the fighting. We are there as witnesses.

15 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.

This sharp sword is symbolic.

Jesus is not going to have a physical sword coming out of His mouth.

I don't want you picturing Him as a sword swallower.

The word for sharp is the word for quick or swift.

In the NT, there are two words that used for swords.

One word is used to describe swords that are used in hand to hand combat – and that same word is used to describe the Word of God.

[Heb 4:12 NKJV] 12 For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

[Eph 6:17 NKJV] 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

The word that is used here in our text for sword is a different word – it is the word for big sword.

It's still His Word, it's just the Industrial-Strength version, the one that comes right from His mouth.

So when Jesus comes back – He is not messing around, He is using His big sword.

And that means that the battle of Armeggedon is really not a battle at all because it will be over instantly.

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

Besides the mystery name that will only be revealed at the Second Coming, Jesus bears the name – “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

In v. 12 we saw that Jesus wore many crowns.

Not only did a conquering king claim the crown of the vanquished foe, he also gained his titles.

Jesus is the King over all kings, and the Lord over all lords.

17 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."**

Earlier we saw a reference to the marriage supper –

Here we see another supper being prepared – we do not want to be part of this supper.

Because this supper is for all the scavengers – and they will be feasting on the millions of corpses of those that went to battle against the Lord.

19 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. 20 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. 21 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.**

With just a word, the antichrist and false prophet are taken, judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire.

The rest of the combatants are slain immediately – their spirits waiting to be judged at the Great White throne judgment a thousand years later, which we'll cover next week as we see Satan bound, we will see the Millennial Kingdom – the 100 year period where we will reign with Christ here on earth, we will see Satan's rebellion once again and the Great White Throne judgment.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

