

**Revelation #47****July 9, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: Hallelujah! The Heavenly Celebration Has Come! Revelation 19:1-10**

When John received the Revelation on the Island of Patmos he was quite old. Though he did not join the other apostles in being persecuted unto death he certainly was no stranger to suffering. John, like Paul, bore in his body the marks of Christ (see Galatians 6:17). Along with the other apostles he had been under great pressure by the religious leaders to stop preaching Christ as Son of God, Savior of the world, and Lord of Heaven and earth! Besides being threatened in Acts 3, beaten in Acts 5, if Foxe's Book of Martyrs is correct, he was boiled in oil presumably some time before he was exiled to Patmos!

It is most likely that more painful than the physical sufferings of beatings, hunger, homelessness and exile, was the heartache that accompanies the unbelief of the Gospel message. And as we learn from John's gospel and from his epistles, the primary point of unbelief teetered on the Deity of Jesus, the eternal Word of God, the Son of God, becoming human, sent by God as His Messiah (Christ) for the salvation of a people chosen by God before the foundation of the world. Therefore, John's primary purpose in His ministry as an apostle was to make Christ known so that those who have ears to hear, "would believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing" those who hear "would have Life in His Name."

But over time, the church found itself being persecuted by both Jewish leaders and by Rome, and subsequently by peoples and nations through the ages. Not only so, but from within the church heresies had begun taking hold and the church was experiencing a crumbling of the foundations of faith! And as evidenced by the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation, the church of Jesus Christ was under attack and beleaguered. Yet, at just the right time, at the point when John, the defender of the Deity and Sonship of Jesus, was in the twilight of his life, God brought to him the glorious revelation that we have before us in the book of Revelation. What an encouragement this must have been to John and to the saints who have received this message down through the generations! That message being, that He who sits on the throne in heaven and the Lamb of God vindicate His Name, His Christ, His faithful believing people, and will vanquish His foes, namely Satan, his empire and all who join him in rejecting the Supremacy of God and His Christ over all creation! God will crush the Usurper of God's authority and rule and will reclaim His creation!

Revelation 19 signals a dramatic shift! We enter the courts of heaven and hear resounding "hallelujahs," and join in the chorus of a great multitude shouting highest praise to God for the culmination of history has come! The great prostitute has been condemned and defeated and the smoke from her goes up forever and ever! All heaven rejoices because Christ will remove Satan, sinners, and all things that cause

sin from His Kingdom! All heaven rejoices because “God will be properly honored, Christ enthroned, and the earth restored to its lost glory!” (MacArthur) In this chapter the long expected Second Coming of Christ has come, and the marriage of Lamb and His Church takes place. And soon, at the dawning of the millennial Kingdom the wedding feast of Lamb will be celebrated!

Revelation 19:1-10 gives us opportunity to anticipate the heavenly celebration and discover why heaven rejoices at this time! In these verses there are four dramatic praises that rise up to the throne of God. First, that the fullness of salvation has come to God’s people. Second, that God has judged with finality. Third, that God is the Sovereign Reigning Ruler. And, fourth, the marriage of the Lamb is completed!

**I. (19:1) Rejoicing in Heaven because the fullness of Salvation has come to God’s people!**

- A. This fullness of salvation is incomparable to anything presently known, and has been long anticipated.
  - 1. Romans 8:18
    - a) “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”
  - 2. Romans 8:19-23 describes what all creation has been waiting for: future glory
    - a) “The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”
- B. The great multitude in heaven, who shout, “Hallelujah,” who are they?.
  - 1. No doubt this includes the four living creatures
    - a) Revelation 4:8
  - 2. The twenty-four elders
    - a) Revelation 4:9-11
  - 3. The myriads upon myriads of angels
    - a) Revelation 5:11-12
  - 4. But probably **does not include the redeemed saints of God**
    - a) Why? Because the redeemed are not addressed until **19:5-9**
      - (1) The Church is called the Bride in 19:7
      - (2) The OT saints and the Tribulation saints are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb, 19:9.
- C. The Hallelujah (You all Praise God) because “Salvation and glory...belong to our God”
  - 1. In previous chapters the Lamb is praised for His saving work of redemption (Rev. 5:9)

2. Here, “salvation is probably in the broader sense that personal redemption (i.e., justification), but includes the rescue of all creation, and especially the earth, from the corrupting influence of the Harlot.” (Garland) (see also Rev. 5:13)
  - a) This is because the context for the Hallelujah includes 19:2, which speaks of the condemnation of the prostitute who corrupted the earth!
  - b) But, it no doubt encompasses the “redemption of the bodies” of the Church, which takes place at the Rapture, as well as OT saints and Tribulations saints who receive the redemption of their bodies at the end of Tribulation.

## II. (19:2-3) Rejoicing in Heaven because God has judged the rebellious empire with finality!

- A. First, The same attributes ascribed to God the Father here in 19:2 are attributed to the Lamb, who rides out on a white horse in 19:11.
  1. 19:11: “...whose rider is called Faithful and True. With righteousness He judges...”
- B. We learn something from these descriptive words in 19:2 and 19:11
  1. God’s judgment is *true*, *just*, and because God is righteous, the judgments are **required**. God’s righteousness **must** judge all sin and all unrighteousness.
  2. **The Severity of God’s judgments “are a testimony to His righteousness”**
    - a) **Because He is Faithful and True, and His judgments are True, we learn that He truly knows the depth of sin He is judging justly!**
  3. **Application: God is described as both “just” and “the justifier”**
    - a) **He is just in that He will punish all sin: both deeds and thoughts**
      - (1) **Genesis 18:25c: “Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”**
    - b) **He is justifier in that only through faith in Christ is God propitiated. Only thru Christ are we justified; Without Him we suffer justly.**
- C. This is illustrated by the description of the condemnation of the Prostitute, Babylon.
- D. All heaven rejoices with “Hallelujah! ([You all] Praise God)
  1. Sometimes God is judged as being unfair. But in 19:3, all heaven is in agreement with God’s *righteous and true* judgment.
  2. **Application:** There are no exceptions, all, including everyone who refuses to submit in faith to Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord will agree with the Psalmist, “Righteous are You, O Lord, and upright are Your judgments.” (Psalm 119:137)

## III. (19:4-6) Rejoicing in Heaven because God is the Sovereign Reigning Ruler!

- A. The shout of the twenty-four elders who give assent to God’s just judgments
  1. Remember that the twenty-four elders are thought to represent the raptured Church?

a) In response to 19:2-3 they say, "Amen! Hallelujah! (So be it! [you all] Praise God!)

(1) On behalf of the Raptured Church. And, like the 24 elders, when we see the glory of God, we too will agree with God's just judgments on all who rejected Christ, the sinless Lamb of God!

(a) Now, we often question the severity of God's judgments.

B. This is the last time we see or hear from the 24 elders. They represent the raptured Church. But from this point on in Revelation the Church will be called the Bride as it becomes the Bride of Christ.

1. Church, or *ekklesia* in Greek, means "called out ones". Jesus called out His believing people. The Church is called out of the world's system while on earth. And at the Rapture, the Church is called out of the world before judgment begins.

C. (19:5-6) Now that judgment is recognized as final "The Lord God Almighty reigns!

1. Now it is time; God is about to reign supreme over the earth.

a) God, in one sense, has always and will always reign supreme.

b) But, in another sense, the physical reign of God on earth has been usurped by Satan and corrupted by fallen man.(Garland)

c) But, now, we are fast approaching the coming of God's kingdom to earth!

(1) Matthew 6:9-10: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven."

#### IV. (19:7-10) Rejoicing in Heaven because the marriage of the Lamb is completed AND the marriage supper of the Lamb is announced!

A. The timing of the marriage of the Lamb

1. As long as the Great Babylon (Satanic/ Antichrist empire) was operational the marriage of the Lamb could not take place.

a) But, after the Lamb rides out in conquest and conquers, in 19:11-21, then, the marriage of the Lamb will take place in Heaven.

(1) All that remains is the Campaign of Armageddon (19:19-21)

B. The Parallel of the biblical Jewish wedding and marriage, with the wedding and marriage of the Lamb: (the following points come from John MacArthur). **Four stages:**

1. The Jewish wedding:

a) The first was the betrothal, or engagement.

(1) Contract arrangement

(a) The parents arranged the marriage between their children long before they were old enough to marry

(b) It was a binding contract

(2) Preparation

(a) The young man would spend years preparing for his bride

- b) The second of the wedding was the presentation
      - (1) The Bride would be presented at the home of the groom's father.
    - c) The Third was the wedding ceremony
      - (1) At the end of the presentation festivities, the Groom goes to his bride and takes her to the ceremony where the wedding ceremony transpires.
    - d) The fourth: The wedding supper, great celebration
  - 2. The wedding of the Lamb
    - a) The betrothal
      - (1) Contract arrangement
        - (a) The Father gave the Son a people before the foundation of the world whose names were written by the Father in the Book of Life (See Revelation 13:8 ESV).
        - (b) Preparation: Jesus, the Groom: John 14:2
    - b) The Presentation: The Rapture
      - (1) Jesus calls His Church to the home He prepared (John 14:3)
    - c) The Wedding Ceremony
      - (1) In heaven
    - d) The Wedding Supper
      - (1) All the OT saints, including John the Baptist, and the Trib saints
- C. (19:7b-8) The Preparation of the Bride for her marriage to the Lamb.
  - 1. "She has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.
    - a) The wedding clothes are not her own. The Father gave them to her.
      - (1) **At salvation** believers in Christ are clothed in Christ's righteousness, which is **imputed** to them by God.
      - (2) But now, having been brought into heaven by Christ, having been given a new body like His glorious body (Phil.3:21), believers will have an imparted righteousness, an intrinsic holy righteousness!
- D. (19:9) "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"
  - 1. These are invited guests, friends of the bridegroom
    - a) This is not an invitation to the Church– the Bride. She has been wed.
    - b) Who are these guests?
      - (1) OT believers: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the prophets (Lk.13:28)
      - (2) The "Heroes of Faith" mentioned in Hebrews 11
      - (3) John the Baptist, a friend of the Bridegroom (John 3:29)
      - (4) All the Tribulation saints, those glorified and those who are still living at the end of the Tribulation and coming into the Kingdom.
  - 2. Refreshing words to a weary apostle: "These are the true words of God."
- E. (19:10) The Testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
  - 1. The OT predicted the coming of the Lord Jesus.

2. The NT preaches that the Lord Jesus Christ has come and is coming again!

- F. Summary: There will be a great, eternal celebration around the throne when the enemies of God are finally judged and the Redeemed live with the Lord in His house forever!