

APOCALYPSE: The Return of the King! Pt. 1

Revelation 19

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

I. The **ANTHEMS** of Joy (19:1–9)

II. The **ARMIES** of Jesus (19:10–16)

III. The **ANNOUNCEMENT** of Judgment (19:17–21)

I. The **ANTHEMS** of Joy (19:1–9)

- **Reason #1 - The Lord is **JUDGING** in Justice!** (vv. 1–4) *"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! 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.**" 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!**"*

"Alleluia" is mentioned in the NT only here, and it's mentioned 4 times. Alleluia is Hebrew for "Praise the Lord," saying it in the *imperative* sense. It is an encouragement and an exhortation to Praise the Lord!

Heaven rejoices at the fact that the Lord has judged Babylon the Harlot, because of her **spiritual idolatry**, and her **persecution/murder of Christian** saints.

Is it ok to rejoice at the judgement and destruction of evil? How do you/did you feel when you heard about the "judgement" that fell upon:

Saddam Hussein - Dec 30, 2006?

Osama Bin Laden - May 2nd, 2011?

Adolf Hitler - April 30, 1945?

School Shooters...?

ISIS...Boko Haram... Hamas or Hezbollah??

YES!! This is echoed in the heart of GOD Himself, Who is opposed to wickedness and evil continually, as a natural part of His righteous and holy character.

Psalm 5:4-6 - *"For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You. The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man."*

Gen 6 - God **judged a wicked world**, full of murder, violence, and demonic activity.

Gen 9 - God **declared the death penalty** to judge 1st degree murderers.

Exo 15 - God **judged the Egyptian Pharaoh** and overthrew their entire army.

Joshua 1 - God pronounced **judgment on the Canaanite cultures** for infanticide.

John 2 - God **judged the hypocritical and thieving** religious establishment.

Rev 19 - God **judges and makes righteous war** upon evil forces.

- We should **LOVE** what God loves, and we should **HATE** what God hates! GOD loves **JUSTICE**, when evil receives the proper punishment it deserves.

Deut 32:3-4 - *"For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He."*

Isaiah 30:18 - *"For the Lord is a God of justice; Blessed are all those who wait for Him."*

1 Kin 3:28 - *"..all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice."*

1 Kin 10:9 - *"Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."*

Amos 5:15 - *"Hate evil, love good; establish justice in the gate."*

We should love justice **IN THE PRESENT**, because Heaven will rejoice for justice **IN THE FUTURE!**

- **Reason #2 - The Lord is RULING in Power!** (vv. 5–6) *"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!**"*

- **GOD has always been in control.** However, in the Tribulation He will let evil men and evil spirits have much more freedom than even now. But this is the end of that Day of the Lord, and He takes complete control. The scroll is taken, opened up, and He reigns in a worldwide sense, and Jesus comes back to the earth!

"Omnipotent" means having all power, all rulership, being unlimited. Many times we have a problem and we carry our problem and our limitation over onto God. In Genesis, God asked this probing question: **Is there anything too hard for the Lord?** Difficulty must always be measured by the capacity of the agent doing the work. For you it may be impossible. But if you factor God in - no problem!

Jer 32:17 NLT - *"O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!"*

Jer 32:27 NLT - *"I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?"*

Won't it be a wonderful day when the Lord steps back in to human history and takes **DIRECT CONTROL** of human events once again? How many times have we longed for that to happen, and cried out for Jesus to intervene in history?

- **Reason #3 - The Lord is MARRYING in Love!** (vv. 7–9) *"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."*

The marriage of the Lamb, is a picture used frequently throughout the Scriptures. In the Old Testament, **Israel** is presented as God's wife, who is often unfaithful (Hosea 2:19-20, Isa 54:5, Eze 16). In the New Testament, the **Church** is presented as the fiancé of Jesus, waiting for this day of marriage (2 Cor 11:2, Eph 5:25-32).

"In Biblical times a marriage involved two major events, the betrothal and the wedding. These were normally separated by a period of time during which the two individuals were considered husband and wife and as such were under the obligations of faithfulness. The wedding began with a procession to the bride's house, which was followed by a return to the house of the groom for the marriage feast. By analogy, the church, espoused to Christ by faith, now awaits the "parousia" or the heavenly appearing, when the heavenly groom will come for his bride and return to heaven for the marriage feast, which lasts throughout eternity." - Mounce

"..His wife has made herself ready." - What do we do to make ourselves ready for this wedding? Ultimately, this is a work God does in us, through the election from the Father, the salvation from Christ, and the sanctification from the Spirit. From beginning to end, we stand clean and pure before the Lord, because of what HE has done for us! (Eph 2:8-9)

"..the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints." - However, there is another aspect that John makes reference to here. He speaks of the "righteous acts" of the saints, referring to our good works and acts of service for Christ while on earth. John sees that the way a Christian lives on **EARTH** determines their condition in **HEAVEN**. Our quality of devotion and service **HERE** determines our identity **THERE**. John sees that the saints are called to use their **EARTHLY POSITION** to create **HEAVENLY PROVISION**.

1 Cor 3:11-15 NLT - *"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will*

receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames."

1 Cor 9:24-25 NLT - *"Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! 25 All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize."*

2 Tim 3:6-8 NLT - *"The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me - the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing." (T-4 - *Who do you want to be in the Kingdom?!?*)*

On that day, everyone will see the church for what she really is: the precious bride of Jesus Christ, who He infinitely loves, and has eternally chosen!!

*"**The Bride of Christ is a sort of Cinderella now, sitting among the ashes. She is like her Lord, 'despised and rejected of men'; the watchmen smite her, and take away her veil from her; for they know her not, even as they knew not her Lord. But when he shall appear, then shall she appear also, and in his glorious manifestation she also shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of the Father.**" - Spurgeon*

II. The *ARMIES* of Jesus (19:10–16) - *"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. 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. 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. 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. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS"*

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III. The *ANNOUNCEMENT* of Judgment (19:17–21) - *"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." 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."