
Αποκάλυψη
REVELATION
19:1-6

OUTLINE

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- Lessons For Us

MAIN POINT

- Four praises to God
  - Angels praise him for judging and destroying Babylon forever
  - The angles sing the second praise with a Hallelujah
  - The third praise is by the 24 Elders have a simple song of praise
  - The fourth praise comes from the direction of the Throne and is a general call to praise God
- Some things to note about these praises
  - Praise God for his justice and judgment
  - God is removing a source of sin and evil (needed to bring in the Kingdom)
  - Simple prayers and praises
  - How long is the longest prayer in the Bible?
- Consider
  - Our attitude to prayer
  - Our motives for praying
  - What we are praying for
  - The interplay of faith and actions

THE VISION

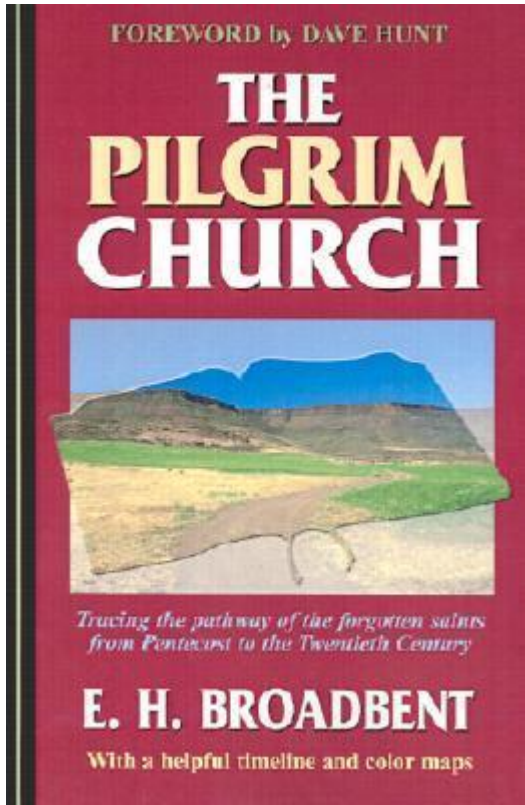


PRAISE FROM THOSE IN HEAVEN (V. 1)

- The conclusion to the events of the previous two chapters
  - Babylon shown for what she is
  - The totality and finality of judgment
  - God kept His promise to remove Babylon
  - Vengeance comes from God (**Romans 12:19**) and that should terrify us
- "Great voice"
  - Often used to denote angels in **Revelation**
  - Angels have give praise in **Revelation 4:8**, **11**; **5:12-14**
- Salvation, glory, honor, power
  - Only God could bring this about
  - Demonstration of His power over all
  - God was in control so much that He even used the Ten Kings

PRAISE FOR GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST BABYLON (V. 2)

- Why is God so awesome?
  - His judgment came against Babylon
  - God is perfect, so only He can judge perfectly
  - Only God has total knowledge and perspective, and only He looks at the heart (e.g., **1 John 3:20**)
- Can be seen in light of **Revelation 6:10**
  - Recall that a lot of people died, and not all of them were directly because of Babylon, but she was behind the system
  - Judgment was coming, but they had to wait
  - Vindication comes, but often not in our lifetime
    - Recall what faith is per **Hebrews 11:1-2**
    - The dark side of faith in **Hebrews 11: 35-40**
- Why does God allow Christians to suffer?
  - To glorify God (**Daniel 3:16-18**, **24-25**)
  - Discipline for known sin (**Hebrews 12:5-11**; **James 4:17**; **Romans 14:23**; **1 John 1:9**)
  - To prevent us from falling into sin (**1 Peter 4:1-2**)
  - To keep us from Pride (**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**)
  - To build faith (**1 Peter 1:6-7**; **2 Peter 1:5-7**)
  - To cause growth (**Romans 5:3-5**)
  - To teach obedience and discipline (**Acts 9:15-16**; **Philippians 4:11-13**)
  - To equip us to comfort others (**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**)
  - To prove the reality of Christ in us (**2 Corinthians 4:7-11**)
  - For testimony to the angels (**Job 1:8**; **Ephesians 3:8-11**; **1 Peter 1:12**)



SMOKE RISING FOREVER (V. 3)

- Similar language against Edom in **Isaiah 34:10**
  - Seems to be a Hebraic method of expressing permanent destruction (Thomas v2, p. 359)
  - Contrast with the prayers of the saints in **Revelation 8:4**
- Literal of figurative?
  - Flames always die out, and based on previous usage this likely is not a fire forever
  - There will also be a New Heaven and New Earth which negates that idea further
    - Could last for the Millennium (Thomas v2, p. 360)
    - Possible, especially if it is to be an object lesson, per previous studies
  - Spiritual death of those in Babylon will be eternal and aligns with **Matthew 3:12**, **Mark 9:43**, and **Luke 3:17**
  - The evil influence of Babylon is gone forever
    - Then how does Satan tempt people away after the 1,000 years?
    - People went against God before Babylon and will go against Him after Babylon
    - The rebellion then will be more open and honest; there will be no pretending there
    - The time of greatest evil?

WORSHIP OF THE BEASTS AND THE ELDERS (V. 4)

- Third song now brought forth by the Four Living Creatures and the 24 Elders
  - Similar to **Revelation 4:9-10**; **5:8**, **14**; **7:11**
  - Important persons in Revelation 4-5 but we have not seen much of them outside of **Revelation 11:16** and **14:3**
  - Their songs in the past deal with some theme in **Revelation** (Thomas v2, p. 361)
  - Thus, their brief song here is a summation of those ideas (Thomas v2, p. 361)
- Amen
  - Shows agreement with what has been said previously
  - Has become a cliche word in modern Christianity, but we should be careful what we are agreeing with (c.f. **Matthew 12:36**)
- This is a short and simple song/prayer
  - We do not need to overcomplicate things
    - When we pray or sing in around others, are we doing it for us or God?
    - Why do we use so many words when just a few suffice?
    - Do we become enamored with a prayer method and forget that we are communing with God?
    - Yes, we should treat God with the awe, majesty, and respect that He commands... But is that really what we are doing with the volume of our words?
    - Remember the lesson from **Luke 18:10-14**

A VOICE FROM THE THRONE (V. 5)

- Who is speaking?
  - Not from the Temple, but from the Throne
  - It is the direction of the voice, but it does not specify that the origin is from the Throne
  - Similar to **Revelation 1:10**; **10:4**, **8**; **14:2**
  - Not the Father given the context of the praise
  - An angel or one of the Four Living Creatures?
  - Something/someone else?
- A call to worship
  - All who follow God are included in this
  - A general praise that anyone can give and, in this case, are commanded to give
- Recall the context
  - Babylon has been destroyed
  - Near the end of the Tribulation period
  - Finally seeing the world prepared for the establishment of the Kingdom
  - The promises from the Old and New Testaments are about to be fulfilled
  - All very good reasons to give praise
- Very different response to those on the Earth

VOICE OF THE MULTITUDE (V. 6)

- Praising God for reigning
  - Looks forward to the future victory of Christ over everyone on the Earth
  - Close at hand
  - **Daniel 2:44-45** is about to be fulfilled
- The title used for God
  - Used in **Revelation 4:8**; **11:17**; **15:3**; **16:7**, and **21:22**
  - Can be seen as a direct refutation of Domitian who used the title, “our lord and god”
  - God is pointing out who is really in charge and that His kingdom will last forever
- People are obsessed with making a kingdom last forever
  - Various political ideologies
  - The End of History in various forms
  - Much of politics is devoted to how to make a political system last longer
  - All of them will have to confront the issue of sin, even if they do not acknowledge it as sin
  - Man cannot make something that last forever because he is sinful
- Only God can bring this about
  - Also explains why sin cannot be allowed in the Kingdom
  - It goes against God
  - It would rot the kingdom from inside

LESSONS FOR US

- We have developed a very shallow view of prayer
  - Either used to show off how “spiritual” we think we are
  - Or used as a shopping list for God
  - Almost never do we approach God correctly, with the right heart, or eve humbly
- Prayer and the farmer
  - A true example of faith
  - A demonstration of submission to God
  - Why are we praying, and what is our motive?
  - Are we going to be involved in what God is doing, or will He find someone else?
- God’s Kingdom requires perfection
  - Cannot let any sin in
  - Cannot let any evil and sinful influences remain to pollute His kingdom