

The Return of Christ Revelation 19:1-21 (Part 26)

Key characters: The Bride (believers in Christ), the one sitting on a white horse (Jesus Christ).

Big idea of chapter 19: Jesus Christ fulfills His promise to return and redeem the earth for His second advent.

Revelation 19:1-2 *After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, 2 for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."*

Hallelujah: This is a transliterated word from Hebrew, meaning *Praise, the Lord*.

For his judgments are true and just: God's judgment on sin and those who refuse to repent are just and righteous.

Revelation 19:3-5 *Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever." 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" 5 And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great."*

Twenty-four elders and the four living creatures: This takes us back to chapter 4 where we are introduced to the 24 elders and 4 living beings worshiping by saying "holy, holy, holy" and seeking the Lamb to open the title deed to the earth.

1. We find fulfillment in praising God

Revelation 19:6-8 *Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.*

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns: The great promise of the Bible concerning the kingdom of God on earth and His victory over all evil is taking place. This is the climactic event of all human history.

Marriage of the Lamb has come: The symbolic view of Christ marrying those who have believed in Him as He redeems the earth and begins to reign.

His Bride has made herself ready: Believers have been made ready by the salvation and righteousness of Christ. They are ready to reign with Him on earth.

The Church as the bride: The bride is used as a metaphor for the Church with Christ as her bridegroom. All those who have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ comprise the Church.

2 Corinthians 11:2 *For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.*

Ephesians 5:25-27 *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.*

Jesus as the bridegroom: The word bridegroom is used in the Bible as a metaphor for Jesus Christ.

John 3:28-29 *You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' 29 The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.*

Revelation 19:9-10 *And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." 10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

Marriage supper of the Lamb: In the Jewish marriage ceremonies, the groom would provide a feast for his bride and his friends at his home that would last up to several days. This is symbolic of Christ and His redeemed believers celebrating on earth at the beginning of the 1,000 year reign or throughout the entirety of the reign.

For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy: The witness of Jesus is the truth.

2. Never direct your worship to anyone other than God

Revelation 19:11-12 *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.*

White horse: Symbolic of purity and power as Christ returns to claim the earth and bring justice.

Faithful and True: This rider is described as loyal, reliable, and trustworthy. This is a contrast with the Antichrist that has brought pain and suffering to earth.

He judges and makes war: Christ returns to judge the world and conquer the enemy.

Revelation 19:13-14 *He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.*

Robe dipped in blood: The blood being that of His enemies from treading the winepress is the most likely, blood of tribulation martyrs, or blood of the Lamb are other interpretations.

The armies of heaven: Accompanying Christ are all those who have been redeemed and even the angels. Though they join Christ for the battle of Armageddon they are mere spectators as Christ destroys all the enemies.

Revelation 19:15-16 *From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*

Sword: The Word of God and all of its prophecies concerning the second coming and reign of the Messiah will finally come true.

Rod of iron: Christ came as a humble servant the first time, He will come as a reigning king who will judge and rule with justice and truth.

Winepress of fury: The Messiah will complete the wrath of God upon Satan, the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and the unrighteous unbelievers.

Revelation 19:17-18 *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."*

The great supper of God: In direct contrast to the marriage supper of the Lamb is the great supper of God. Instead of men feasting at a banquet, animals will be feasting on their flesh.

Revelation 19:19-21 *And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.*

I saw the beast: The Antichrist and the seven remaining kings of the ten nation confederation who gave their power and authority to the beast.

Gathered to make war against him: This also refers the kings of the East (led and deceived by the 3 demonic beings) along with all remaining kings who now band together in this final battle against Christ.

These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire: The Antichrist and the False Prophet are both thrown into the lake of fire for eternal punishment and suffering.

The rest were slain by the sword: The redemption of the earth is complete with the final battle being won by the Word of God being spoken.

3. There is power in the Word of God