

A SERIES THROUGH THE REVELATION

Revelation 19 —THE WEDDING, AND THE WAR / 10.20.22

I. INTRODUCTION (Revelation 19:1-21)

- A. Here in **Revelation 19** we have the clearest juxtaposition of the two-fold nature of Jesus that we find in the whole of the Bible. In this chapter the glory Jesus is on full display, both the Bridegroom, but also the King and Judge. It's right here, in one chapter, that God's family must wrestle with, grapple with, and lay hold of, not by reason, but by faith!
1. Faith in, this is what the Word of God says, faith in Who the Holy Scriptures present, faith in how a God breathed Book presents Jesus in His entirety (**2nd Tim.3:16**).
- B. **Revelation 19** presents the perfect unity between both the wedding and the war. The wedding is about the Lamb marrying the bride eternally, and the war is about Jesus removing everything that hinders love. The first 10 verses about the wedding (**Rev. 19:1-10**), the following 11 are about the war (**Rev. 19:11-21**).

II. THE WEDDING (Revelation 19:1-10)

- A. **Revelation 19:1-3** *“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!” 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. Again, they said, Alleluia her smoke rises up forever and ever.”*
1. Well, *“After these things...”* John says there was a massive celebration in heaven, but *after what things?* The corruption and collapse of Babylon that we saw so vividly in **Revelation 17-18**. The rejoicing is over the destruction of this global economic, political, and religious system that was fueled by demons, and satan himself.
 2. I Heard A Loud Voice Of A Great Multitude In Heaven, Saying Alleluia (Hallelujah)! Salvation, and Glory and Honor and Power Belong To The Lord Our God!—This is the only time that the word ‘hallelujah’ appears in the New Testament (**Ps. 113-118**). It's a word of celebration meaning, *“praise the Lord, for the death of the wicked has come.”* It's also a globally accepted word that's said the same way in every language.
 3. (Saying) For True and Righteous Are His Judgements, Because He Has Judged The Great Harlot Who Corrupter The Earth With Her Fornication—Look, those that see Jesus and eternity clearest are in agreement with God's judgments on the earth. So why is the Church often ashamed of God's judgments? I think for two reasons.
 - a. Firstly, because the earth has never seen a global civilization that's unified in their rage against God. I think that the songs we sing, the sermons we preach, and the way we lead will be vastly different then, than it is today. We will live differently, when their a fully demonized man leading the nations.
 - b. Secondly, because we are too attached to the sophisticated secular culture to shout over its evil and fall. The Church often turns a blind eye towards evil because it's profiting them, it's helping them, and to call it out, would cause the profits to cease (*we can't see the forest for the trees*).
 - c. The Church MUST shout in agreement with heaven, because the end of man's power and reign on the earth, is the start of God's! *It's a revelation issue, it's a true (true as in the Bible) sight issue.*

- B. **Revelation 19:4-6** “And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, Amen! Alleluia! Then a voice came from the throne, saying Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great. And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thundering, saying, Alleluia! For the Lord God omnipotent reigns!”
1. The Twenty-Four Elders And The Four Living Creatures Fell Down Saying Hallelujah—Again, within this group (24 elders, 4 living creatures) we see the whole of God’s council celebrating His judgments. Beloved, though it’s not popular, though it’s not common, even among the Church, it doesn’t mean we should shrink back from talking about them.
 2. A Voice Came From Heaven Saying, Praise Our God, All You His Servants and Those Who Fear Him, Both Small And Great. And I Heard The Voice Of A Great Multitude As The Sound Of Many Waters Saying, Hallelujah! For The Lord God Omnipotent Reigns—This is one of the great antiphonal (*back and forth, call and response*) songs in the whole of the Bible. The call is given from heaven, and I think God’s family, the Church responds with a thunderous song of praise.
 - a. All of heaven (24 elders, 4 living creatures, angels, seraphim and cherubim) and God’s family (*the Church, made up of every nation, tongue, people and tribe*) are now singing the new Egyptian halal!
 - b. Revolution, after revolution, after revolution have failed, and now, earth’s greatest opponents, the Harlot Babylon and the beast have also failed. The only One standing at the end is Christ, the only Kingdom that remains is His! The only authority on the earth that remains, is Him! He alone reigns!
- C. **Revelation 19:7-10** “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. 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. 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. 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.”
1. Well, up to this point God’s family has been called many things through the Revelation. We’ve been called *a faithful witness, the martyrs of Jesus, the saints, apostles, and prophets, those that keep the testimony of Jesus, but here*, is one of the most prized titles for God’s family in the whole of the Bible, that of a bride.
 2. Some have asked why Jesus never got married, and to that I say, “*He didn’t, but He’s going to.*” Jesus’ wedding is still forthcoming.
 3. The Marriage Of The Lamb Has Come And The Bride Has Made Herself Ready—We have to ask the question, did God make the bride ready, or did the bride make herself ready for the wedding? The answer is yes! It’s both. God has done His part, which is a part WE CAN’T DO. But she has done her part, which is a part God WON’T DO.
 - a. **Proverbs 21:31** “A horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the Lord.” Just because the victory belongs to the Lord, doesn’t mean that the horse isn’t prepared for it. The preparation is up to us, and the victory is up to Him.
 - b. The Holy Spirit isn’t called the “doer” He’s called the “Helper.” God can’t read our Bible for us, He can’t fast for us, He can’t wake up for us, He can’t say no to sin and compromise for us. God gives us the power, the strength, and the grace to do what we could never do for ourselves, that’s His part. Our part is to access Him, to agree with Him, to lean on Him, to depend on Him.
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4. And To Her (the bride, the global Church throughout world history) It Was Granted To Be Arrayed In Fine Linen, Clean and Bright, For The Fine Linen Is The Righteous Acts Of The Saints—Look, as we’ve discussed so much throughout the SOTM, we aren’t trying to live Jesus’ way TO BECOME CHRISTIANS, we are living Jesus’ way BECAUSE WE ARE CHRISTIANS.
 - a. These righteous acts aren’t being done to BECOME SOMETHING but BECAUSE WE ARE SOMETHING.
 - b. These wedding garments, these fine linens aren’t available for purchase with money, but with our lives, with our response of devotion to Jesus because of His great love for us. How we live right now, will determine what we wear in the age to come (**1st Cor. 15:35-49**). Jesus told the Laodiceans to purchase both gold, and garments from Him (**Rev. 3:18**).
 - c. Though the bride must work out her salvation while on the earth, the garments she receives in heaven, must be given to her. These wedding garments are made white by being washed in the blood of the Lamb. But it’s not just the initial washing at salvation, it’s the continual washing of sanctification.
 - d. **Revelation 7:14** *“And I said to him, sir, you know. So he said to me, these are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”* The idea is that they have plunged their garments into His blood, time and time again, until they are made white!
5. And He Said To Me These Are The True Sayings Of God—In the midst of unparalleled evil, deception and selfishness John hears this clear promise. It’s as if God is saying to John, *“Look, I get it, this all seems too good to be true. I know you’ve heard lots of rhetoric, but John, listen to Me, I’m telling you the truth, these promises about an age to come that’s free from evil, are real. Trust Me! John, they are the true sayings of God.”*
6. I Fell At His Feet To Worship Him, But He Said To Me, Do Not Do That! I Am your Fellow Servant, And Of Your Brethren Who Have The Testimony Of Jesus—It’s important to remember that John is a very mature apostle of Christ. He has spent years with Jesus in person, written several books of the Bible, and has been leading the apostolic Church since around 70 A.D when Paul died.
 - a. But John does something that we also do, he was so touched by the message that he started worshipping the messenger. We are never to worship the messenger. The messenger isn’t the part that are called to get hung up on, but rather the testimony of Jesus that is coming through the messenger.
 - b. But, like any true encounter with a godly angel, they should only be pointing us to Christ (**Gal. 1:8-9**).
7. For The Testimony Of Jesus Is The Spirit Of Prophecy—Could it be that the testimony of Jesus is more than something you say, or stand up and speak in a service/meeting, but rather something you possess? The angel says, that he is like John, *“...(those) who have the testimony of Jesus.”*
 - a. Having the testimony of Jesus is to have the right now of God, it’s to possess the very thing that the Spirit is saying or doing. It’s prophecy because it’s being breathed by God in the moment.

III. THE WAR (Revelation 19:11-21)

- A. **Revelation 19:11-13** “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on it was called faithful and true, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 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. He was clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God.
1. Well, these remaining verses in **Revelation 19** tell us that life isn’t moving towards a democracy, or totalitarianism, but towards a theocracy, where God will rule all things, no longer from heaven, but from earth. This means when He comes, He will tear down, and disrupt every other empire throughout world history, chiefly the Harlot and the beast.
 2. The shaking that the earth feels today, and will continue to feel is simply the proximity of His return, and His nearing the earth to rightfully, and forcefully take over all things.
 3. Now I Saw Heaven Opened, And Behold, A White Horse. And He Who Sat On It Was Called Faithful And True—Heaven is about a Person! This fourth opening (**Rev. 4:1; 11:19; 15:5; 19:11**) isn’t a door, or the tabernacle of the testimony that’s open, but **HEAVEN ITSELF!** And when heaven is opened, John doesn’t see demons, or angels, or martyrs, or the beast, but a Person, Jesus Christ.
 - a. When a king rode into a city on a donkey (**Zech. 9:9-10; Matt. 21:7**), they were sending a message of peace, but when they rode into the city on a horse, a white stallion, they were sending a message about a coming war.
 4. In Righteousness He Judges And Makes War—People throughout history say there’s no such thing as a holy/just war, but there’s one coming. Jesus is coming as a Man of war to judge and fight. And He’s not just flexing His muscle for the sake of flexing, or some measure of personal over the top vengeance, but rather “...In righteousness He judges and makes war.”
 5. His Eyes Were Like A Flame of Fire—This fire in His eyes will mean different things to different people. For those that are unrepentant and hardened in their hearts, it will be His fierce resolve to establish righteousness among the nations. But for those who love Him, these eyes will be His deep commitment to His bride, whom He purchased with His blood.
 6. On His Head Were Many Crowns—This is a funny picture, but in the ancient world it wasn’t uncommon for kings to wear more than one crown, representing the many territories or lands they were king in. Well, Jesus is King over all the lands!
 7. He Had A Name Written That No One Knew Except Himself—Beloved, He’s not ashamed of who He is. The Father has given Him His identity, and He’s not looking to anyone else for His approval.
 - a. Also consider the fact that we’ve been given so many names for Jesus (*Bread of Life, Savior, Redeemer, Healer, Mighty Counselor*), yet He still possesses a name that nobody knows. He’s inexhaustible in Himself!
 8. He Was Clothed In A Robe Dipped In Blood—This word for dipped means to *wash, to dip, to dye, to dip in or under, dyed material, to immerse, or to sink the ship*. The root word here for dipped, is where we get the word baptize. Beloved, Jesus is here, pictured as baptized in the blood of His enemies, and He’s totally unapologetic for it.
 - a. **Isaiah 63:1-6**
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- B. Revelation 19:14-16** *“And the armies of heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 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. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written; KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”*
- And The Armies Of Heaven, Clothed In Fine Linen, White And Clean Followed Him On White Horses—Some assume that this army that’s mentioned are angels, but I believe them to be the very ones that were just mentioned in **Revelation 19:7-9**, the bride, who were invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
 - 1st Thessalonians 3:13** *“...so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”*
 - 1st Thessalonians 4:14** *“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”*
 - Out Of His Mouth Goes A Sharp Sword, That With It He Should Strike The Nations—Jesus always fought with His words. The only weapon that Jesus ever needed was the words of His mouth. These are the words that framed the worlds (**Heb. 1:1-4**).
 - And He Has On His Robe And On His Thigh A Name Written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORD—Look, every king has a King over them. Even Jesse Ventura, the former Governor of Minnesota got it wrong when he said, *“I love being king. I got nobody over me.”* Beloved, ruling over Jesse Ventura, and every other earthly king, is the King above all kings!
 - One commentator referred to Jesus here in **Revelation 19** as, “UFC thug Jesus.” He’s tattooed (*got a name written on Him*), He’s covered in blood, and He’s making war. Jesus will never take a beating again like He did on calvary! He will never be humiliated again!
- C. Revelation 19:17-18** *“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, 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.”*
- The reality is, Jesus is preparing two meals. And every person, without exception will partake at one of them. They will either dine with Christ in the marriage supper of the Lamb, or they will be dined upon at the supper of the great God! They will either eat or be eaten (**Luke 14:15-24; 1st Tim. 2:1-7**).
 - It does sound so bizarre that God would be calling in the birds of the air to come and eat the flesh of so many people, but it’s not the first time He’s done it:
 - Jeremiah 19:7** *“...before their enemies and by the hands of those who seek their lives; their corpses I will give as meat for the birds of the heaven and the for the beasts of the earth (**Ezek. 39:17-20**).”*
- D. Revelation 19:19** *“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.”*
- 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—The beast, and the false prophet will have so deceived the nations, that untold billions (*most likely*) will think that they can actually win a fight against the Lamb!
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- E. **Revelation 19:20** *“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 worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”*
1. This is one of the most terrifying verses in the whole of the Bible to me. This is the battle of Armageddon, where the beast and the false prophet have dragged the nations into one final battle. But suddenly, their leader, the peoples champion, the beast and the false prophet are apprehended publicly, and thrown into the lake of fire (forever).
 - a. Can you imagine the terror, the pain, the shock, the sudden moment when the nations, *“... (the) kings, the captains, the mighty men, horses, all people, free, slave, small and great...”* realize they’ve been deceived, and now there’s nobody standing in-between them and the Lamb.
 1. **2nd Thessalonians 2:8** *“And the lawless (the beast, the antichrist) one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming (appearing).”*
- F. **Revelation 19:21** *“The rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds of the air were filled with their flesh.”*
1. Well, the, *“The rest were killed with the sword...”* are the people mentioned previously, *“...the 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...”*
 2. And beloved, they don’t just vanish, or disappear, or suddenly cease to exist, they are killed, not by an angel, not by hail, but by the word of God that proceeds from Jesus’ mouth. No wonder the birds of the air were called in.
 3. Jesus clamed the storms with His words (**Mk. 4:35-41**). He framed the worlds with His words (**Heb. 1:1-4**). He brought Lazarus out of the grave, with His words (**Jn. 11:1-44**). He overcame demons by saying, come out (**Matt. 12:43-45**). When they asked if He was the Christ, he said, I am He, and they all fell (**Jn. 18:6**).
 4. Friends, Christ victory isn’t won here, it’s consummated here. The victory was won on Calvary, when He said, it is finished. This is why Darrell Johnson calls this a, *“Fight-less fight.”*
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