

Revelation 19

“Here comes the King”

MAIN IDEA:

With heavenly “hallelujahs” resounding, Christ will return to earth as the conquering King where He will vanquish the Antichrist’s armies as He readies for the wedding feast with His bride.

Within these chapters Jesus will be portrayed as a Bridegroom, a Warrior King and a Judge

Revelation 19 brings us not only to the close of the Tribulation period but to that which the whole Bible has been pointing to and the heart of man throughout the ages has been longing for...

The Return of Jesus Christ to make things right and set up His eternal kingdom

- This is something Bible writers have been anticipating

Daniel 7:11-14

“I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

“I was watching in the night visions,

And behold, One like the Son of Man,

Coming with the clouds of heaven!

He came to the Ancient of Days,

And they brought Him near before Him.

Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,

That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion,

Which shall not pass away,

And His kingdom the one

Which shall not be destroyed.

The enemies of God are vanquished and the eternal kingdom of God is established.

- This is described by John in Revelation 19

John is not so much prophesying of these events as he is describing them. He was translated to the future where he watched the events unfold and he writes about them as an eyewitness would describe an historical event.

19:1 - "I heard"

19:6 - "I heard"

19:11 - "I saw"

19:19 - "I saw"

20:1 - "I saw"

20:4 - "I saw"

20:11 - "I saw"

Once again we are translated into the heavenly scene where we will observe 3 major events

One: John describes a heavenly worship scene.

Revelation 19:1-5

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!" 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!"

- All heaven breaks out with the loudest praise because judgment has finally been meted out upon the earth.

Revelation 19:2

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.”

- We spent ample time earlier in our study through Revelation discussing the equity of God’s judgment. Here the reasons for judgment are summed up as

“Corrupting the earth”

And

“Avenging the blood of the martyrs”

God does not take it lightly when someone leads another person into sin or when His children are targeted.

“Corrupting the earth”

- We use the word “Predator” to describe a person who takes advantage of someone who is weak.

Dictionary Definition

Predator - A person or group that robs, victimizes, or exploits others for gain

Jesus put it this way

Matthew 18:6

“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

This passage is repeated in 3 of 4 Gospels

- God will bring judgment against those who victimized others in order to push forward their agendas or get what they wanted.

The human heart cries for this kind of justice and heaven celebrates it when it is finally realized

“Avenging the blood of the martyrs”

- God does not take it lightly when His children are abused

Saul of Tarsus is not in the Biblical narrative when Jesus is arrested, condemned and crucified. He appears on the scene as the church begins to grow and spread the Gospel.

He was the prominent opponent of the Christian movement and was responsible for the arrest, imprisonment and even death of many followers of Christ. When He encounters Jesus for the first time we read;

Acts 9:4

Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

Jesus took it personally when His children were mistreated.

- This too is the cry of the human heart.

When a person mistreats a child, it is all that we can do to control ourselves. How many times have we heard the phrase or something like it; "just let me in the room with them for 5 minutes"?

- The final judgment meted out upon the earth will be a righteous judgment upon humanity

The way of escape is through trust in Christ for salvation

Romans 5:9

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Two: John describes a wedding feast

Revelation 19:6-10

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! 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."

- The Bible writers are guilty of mixing metaphors

A metaphor is a figure of speech used highlight or illustrate a truth

- The Bible is filled with metaphoric language to help us better understand God and our relationship with Him

Christ is Lord and we are servants

Christ is King and we are subjects or in subjection to Him

Christ is teacher and we are disciples

God is Father and we are His children both begotten and adopted

But perhaps the most intimate of all the imagery is Christ as the Groom and we as His bride

- This imagery is used

By John the Baptist as he described Jesus as the Groom, His followers as the Bride and himself as the friend of the bridegroom

By Paul when he addresses the marriage relationship and declares

Ephesians 5:32

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

And when he encourages godliness in the life of the Corinthian believers

2 Corinthians 11:2

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

- The church is the bride of Christ and we are awaiting the time when we will be united together with Him

Just as there was a betrothal period in biblical times during which the bride and groom were separated until the wedding, so is the bride of Christ separate from her Bridegroom during the church age. Her responsibility during the betrothal period is to be faithful to Him

- John speaks of something that the church or bride has done and of what will be done for her

What the bride has done

“She has made herself ready”

Like all brides the church in anticipation of our wedding day is to be focussed upon being ready

A bride gets ready for the wedding day by

- Dreaming of that day
- Planning for that day
- Preparing for that day

Her appearance becomes paramount.

The church is to do the same

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

The word of God addresses both spots and wrinkles

Spots might be considered the mars we are born with and wrinkles the ones we pick up along the way

The church is to prepare herself for the wedding day by allowing the Word of God to purify us and wash us

Jesus said,

John 15:2-3

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

Jesus prunes us with His word

As a result of getting herself ready the bride is clothed in fine linen

Revelation 19:8

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.

Her garments are created from her righteous acts

As a believer our righteousness comes from 2 places

- First it is imputed to us

Imputed righteousness

Philippians 3:9

and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Romans 3:21-22

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

- Second it is the result of our efforts to live pleasing to Christ

Jesus spoke of the way of righteousness and fulfilling righteousness as well as hungering and thirsting for righteousness, seeking righteousness and being persecuted for righteousness

Luke wrote of the believers in Acts living in the way of righteousness

Paul wrote of the fruit of righteousness, the armor of righteousness and the need to awake to righteousness.

All of these refer to the actions of the child of God

We are made righteous through faith in Christ and then we live out our righteousness as way to please God, experience the blessed life and to be a living witness to the world around us

- After describing the Bride John declares;

Revelation 19:9

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."

- Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb

After the Bride and Groom are united the celebration begins

- Who is invited?

After a Roman centurion expressed great faith in Christ Jesus declared;

Matthew 8:10-11

When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

During the last supper Jesus said;

Luke 22:15-16

Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Jesus also told a parable using the imagery of this feast to speak of those who God desires to be saved

Matthew 22

Some of the key features of this story are

- God's desire for people to come

Sends out invitations

Sweetens the deal describing the great feast

Sends servants to the highways to find both the good and the bad

- That which makes a person unworthy for entrance

First, an unwillingness to respond to the invitation

“Those who were invited were not found worthy”

- Second, an unwillingness to be clad in the proper attire, or trying to get in your own way

Two: Watches as Christ Returns

Revelation 19:11-16

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. 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 with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in 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.

- This is not the first time Jesus has come to earth.

Christmas is the celebration of his first coming where Jesus was clothed in humanity.

Philippians 2:7-8

but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

He came in humility, raised in obscurity, lived in poverty and died sacrificially

Jesus explained the purpose of His coming this way

Luke 19:10

for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- Now John writes of His second coming

He will be clothed in glory and coming to judge

He rides upon a white horse (in contrast to the donkey He once rode

Isaiah 64:1

Oh, that You would rend the heavens!

That You would come down!

That the mountains might shake at Your presence—

He does not ride alone (the armies of heaven ride with Him)

The armies in heaven likely include

- The angels (elsewhere referred to as the “host” of heaven or Heaven’s armies)
- All those who have followed Christ
- Saints from Old Testament
- The church
- Those saved during the tribulation period

Notice the wardrobe of the armies (keep in mind they are headed with Jesus into battle)

Revelation 19:14

And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Their armor is visibly absent

Why?

Perhaps because the most important weapon we have against our enemy is imputed righteousness.

Also, it is unnecessary for the believer to be armed when Jesus has a sword in His mouth

Revelation 19:15

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.

- That Sword is the Word of God that will be wielded in judgment against the Christ rejecting world

We can allow the word of God to judge us now or we can allow it to judge us later but no one will be able to hide from its judgment

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Three: John watches as the armies of earth gather to battle against God

Revelation 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, 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."

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. 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. 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.

- This is often referred to as the Battle of Armageddon

Revelation 16:16

And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

Literally "The Hill of Megiddo"

This refers to the Jezreel valley in Israel

- In a futile attempt to rid the influence of God from the world the armies gather

- This is not the first time men have rebelled against God or attempted to rid the world of God
 - The Bible opens with the story of rebellion
 - Before Cain murdered Abel he rebelled against the ways of God
 - The Tower of Babel was a concerted effort to rid God from man
 - Throughout the Biblical narrative we read of the attempts to silence the prophets or remove the word of God

- One of the most memorable is when Jeremiah sent a copy of his prophecies to Jehoiakim
- The king lashed out in an attempt to destroy the Word of God

Jeremiah 36:23

And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

- Jeremiah was the instructed to write another copy

Jeremiah 36:27-28

Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words which Baruch had written at the instruction of Jeremiah, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying: "Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned.

- Man's rebellion reached a climax at the time of Christ
 - Jesus addressed this in parables where he described the people as wanting to kill the Son so the earth could be their own or when those entrusted with care of the earth respond

Luke 19:14

But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'

Regardless of the human instruments the Sword in the mouth of Jesus remains the same

- Fists, clubs, swords, arrows, muskets, rifles, tanks, or drones the Sword remains the same
- The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but they are powerful

The result

- The beast and false prophet are captured and cast into the lake of fire
- The devil is chained in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years
- Mankind is brought before the throne of God to face judgment for sin