

## Revelation - Chapter 18 & 19 Summary

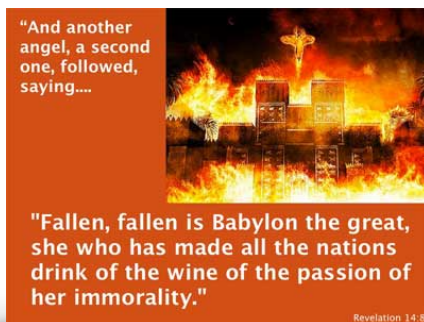
### Babylon Falls, Marriage Supper of the Lamb & Christ Returns

John has just seen God's final judgement, the seven bowls of wrath poured out on the earth by seven angels. God's final judgements are devastating to the entire earth and its inhabitants. The bowl judgements occur within a short period of time toward the close of the Great Tribulation.



John witnesses the destruction of Babylon representing the world's false religion. The Euphrates river is dried up preparing the way for the kings from the east to cross into Armageddon to wage war against the Lamb. A great earthquake renovates and reconfigures the earth in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom. The Lamb returns as King of kings and Lord of lords and overcomes the beast and the kings of the earth. Christ is accompanied by those who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior.

### Babylon Falls



John sees another angel coming down from heaven so splendid that the earth was illumined with his glory. Everyone will not only see him but also hear him as he loudly announces that Babylon is fallen. This time the actual city of Babylon will fall. It will fall because of its demonic activity and sensuality. This event comes late in the Great Tribulation, just prior to the second coming of Christ.

Babylon is now inhabited by the two hundred million formerly bound demons that were released at the sounding of the sixth trumpet (Rev 9:13-16), the demons released from the abyss at the sound of the fifth trumpet (Rev 9:1-11), those cast from heaven with Satan (Rev 12:4,9) and those previously on the earth. They were successful in inspiring extreme human wickedness, from sexual immorality to unbridled luxury.

Another voice from heaven calls God's people to flee the doomed city, just as His people were urged to leave Babylon in ancient days (Jer 51:46). Her judgement is announced as a double portion because she has glorified herself and willfully sinned against God.

Her judgement will come in one day and will result in Babylon's complete devastation: pestilence, mourning and famine. After the three plagues, Babylon will be burned up with

fire. The great city will be found no more (Rev 18:21) and will never rise again, as predicted by the Old Testament prophets (Isa 13:19-22; 14:22-23; Jer 50:13, 39: 51:37).

Those who profited from Babylon's wealth will mourn and wail hopelessly as the great city is devastated. The leaders including the ten kings who rule Antichrist's kingdom, the merchants of the earth, every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor that makes their living by the sea will be stripped of the key source of their finances. They will stand far off from the city because they fear the same judgment may befall them.

### **The Fourfold Hallelujah**

Heaven's response to the annihilation of Babylon which represents the destruction of everything that is evil and demonic in the present world system is, "Hallelujah." So loud it sounds like roaring waters and thunder it is cried out four times.



Hallelujah, a common Old Testament exultation simply means praise the Lord. In its first Old Testament appearance, Hallelujah also expresses praise for God's judgment on the wicked oppressors of His people (Psa 104:35).

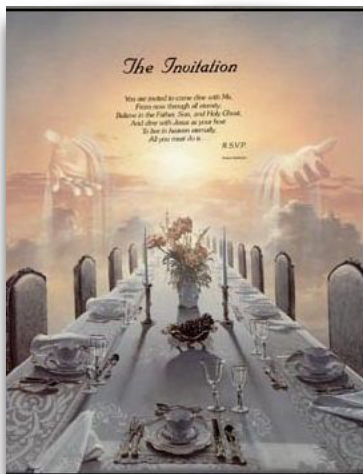
Hallelujah appears only four times in the New Testament all in Revelation chapter 19:1,3,4,6. Three groups cry hallelujah before God: the saints in heaven (Rev 19:1-3), the twenty-four elders before the throne of God (Rev 19:4), and the great multitude (Rev 19:6).

- Hallelujah! Full salvation has come. Babylon is gone and Jesus reigns. (Rev 19:1)
- Hallelujah! Justice has arrived. God's judgments are true and righteous as evidenced by the destruction of wicked Babylon. (Rev 19:2)
- Hallelujah! Rebellion is ended. Smoke "rises up forever and ever" indicates that this judgment is final and irreversible. The language is similar to that used of God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:28) and Edom (Isa 34:10). The destruction of Babylon marks the end of human rule. The rebellion that began in the garden of Eden is finally ended and there will be no more false religion or injustice.
- Hallelujah! God is in control. The evil world system has been destroyed and God's kingdom has come in its fullness. For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns.

## Marriage of the Lamb Announced

The great multitude continues to rejoice and an announcement is made that the marriage of the Lamb has come. A marriage was the single greatest celebration and social event of the biblical world and lasted for days sometimes several weeks.

It is time for the third major aspect of the marriage; the wedding ceremony and marriage supper. The bride or church has made herself ready and is wearing fine, bright and clean linen. Having been presented glorified and spotless before God's throne, her righteous acts may be part of the reward given at the judgment seat of Christ.



An angel gives the fourth of seven beatitudes in Revelation. The blessing is given to those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Since the bride does not receive an invitation to her own wedding, the guests are not the Church. The guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb are the redeemed of all the ages who were saved before or after the church age. The Old Testament saints will be there as guests as will all the Tribulation saints, glorified and still alive on earth and entering the Millennial Kingdom.

At Jesus' Last Supper on this earth He said to His disciples, "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom" (Matt 26:29). With the whole church glorified and united in the Kingdom of God, Christ will take His seat with the saints and enjoy that long-anticipated face-to-face fellowship with those He loves.

## The Second Coming of Christ

This time heaven opens not to let John in, but to let Jesus out. The time has come at last for the full, glorious revelation of Christ. Jesus is about to receive the kingdom that the Father promised Him.

The first time Jesus came to earth He appeared in obscurity. This time John sees Jesus in all His splendid glory and majesty. He is riding a white horse, the sign of victory and triumph, His eyes are a flame of fire that will burn up all that is false as he gazes upon peoples hearts and minds. He will be wearing many crowns symbolizing His sovereignty. His robe is dipped in blood representing divine judgment upon evil



people. A sharp word is flying from Jesus' mouth. Jesus will not triumph with physical weapons against His enemies, but with the Word of God, the one sure spiritual weapon.

His names are in keeping with His divine judgement that follows; Faithful and True, The Word of God, the name that no one knows except Himself, and KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Every knee will bow before Him when He returns to earth (Isa 45:23; Rom 14:11, Phil 2:10-11).



The armies in heaven dressed in fine white clean linen are following Him on white horses. An angel invites the birds to assemble for the great supper of God to eat the flesh of the kings of the earth and their armies which had assembled to make war against Christ and His army. The beast and false prophet are thrown alive into the lake of fire which is eternal hell and the rest

were killed with Christ's sword which came from His mouth.

Jesus speaks and all the armies are obliterated. The saints will come not to fight with Jesus, but to reign with Him. Just as He spoke the world into being, He will speak the evil out of the world. There will be no war at all, just a word spoken from Christ. And the vultures descend and cover the scene.

The brief but catastrophic day of the Lord will result in an unprecedented slaughter, with uncounted millions of dead bodies (14:20). Even after the birds have eaten, it will still take seven months to bury the bodies (Ezekiel 39:12). This present age reveals the grace of God and suspended judgment. The age to come, while continuing to be a revelation of the grace of God, will give conclusive evidence that God will bring every evil work into judgment and that those who spurn His grace must experience His wrath.

You too can be counted in the armies of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at His Second Coming. Today, the invitation is still open to those who will receive the grace of God by trusting in Christ and being saved from entering this awful period that may be impending for this present generation.

*“while it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.” (Hebrews 3:15, NASB95)*

*““For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, NASB95)*

*“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)*

## End Notes

1. *Revelation*; Walvoord, J. F., Revised and Edited by Philip E. Rawley and Mark Hitchcock; Moody Publishers, Chicago 1966, 2011; pg 231.
2. *Because the Time is Near: John MacArthur Explains the Book of Revelation*; MacArthur, John F.; Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition 2007; pg 278.
3. *Revelation*; Walvoord, J. F., Revised and Edited by Philip E. Rawley and Mark Hitchcock; Moody Publishers, Chicago 1966, 2011; pg 227.
4. *Because the Time is Near: John MacArthur Explains the Book of Revelation*; MacArthur, John F.; Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition 2007; pg 287.
5. *Because the Time is Near: John MacArthur Explains the Book of Revelation*; MacArthur, John F.; Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition 2007; pg 203-204.
6. *Revelation*; Walvoord, J. F., Revised and Edited by Philip E. Rawley and Mark Hitchcock; Moody Publishers, Chicago 1966, 2011; pg 247.
7. *Because the Time is Near: John MacArthur Explains the Book of Revelation*; MacArthur, John F.; Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition 2007; pg 292.
8. *Revelation*; Walvoord, J. F., Revised and Edited by Philip E. Rawley and Mark Hitchcock; Moody Publishers, Chicago 1966, 2011; pg 247.
9. *Agents of the Apocalypse: A Riveting Look at the Key Players of the End Times*; Jeremiah, David; Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition 2014; pg 198.