

Pastor Grady Covin

The Mission

August 27, 2025

Revelation 19

You know as we go through life we all make promises along the way, probably more than we even realize. We take a job and we promise to show up on time and we promise to work hard and to do our very best; or we sign a mortgage or buy a car and we promise to make payments. And while we have every intention of keeping our promises, sometimes things happen that prevent us from following through with our commitment.

And whether it be a health issue, or a death in our family or some other tragedy, things sometimes happen that prevent us from keeping our promise.

But God doesn't have those limitations. And when He makes a promise, it's as good as done, because God's promises never fail.

Now, I want you to think about something. This is probably something most of you didn't know. For every biblical reference to the promise of Christ's first coming, there are eight references to His second coming! And so if we believe that He came the first time like God's word says, then we have to also believe He's

coming back! In fact, we can count it! Jesus is coming back one day!

And here in Revelation chapter 19, the Apostle John has been given a glimpse into the future and what that's going to look like. And he's of course sharing what he saw in that vision with us here in these last few chapters of the Bible.

Now, rather than read the entire chapter and then go back, for times sake, I'm just going to read one or two verses at a time and then with the help of the Holy Spirit explain them the best I can.

And so look at verse 1. Look at the first three words. John says,

Revelation 19:1, After these things

After what things?

Well, after the last vision. And what was the last vision? It was the destruction of Babylon. Remember?

So after the last vision which was the destruction of Babylon which we read about last week in chapter 18 comes this new vision. And this is just before the physical return of Christ, which is going to come in verses 11-21 in this chapter.

And so as the evil city of Babylon along with its economy and false religion, as all that fades away never more to be seen or heard from again, the hallelujahs begin to ring out from heaven. And that's how verse one begins. John says,

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!”

Now, we’re not told exactly who this loud voice is, but most likely it’s angels. Whoever it is, they’re referred to as a multitude. And since the saints are encouraged to join in later in verses 5-8, then this just about has to be a multitude of angels.

Now, that term, Alleluia, in your Bible; it may have the word Hallelujah. Either way it’s an exclamation of praise, but not just any praise. In fact, the Greek word that John uses here is only used in this chapter in the New Testament. And it’s the praise lifted up to God for God’s judgement against the wicked.

In other words, the angels themselves here are praising God for avenging the saints of God. Just like all of heaven rejoices when a lost sinner is saved today.

And so the angels are rejoicing because salvation has come to God’s people and because God has dealt with the enemies of our faith. And because of that, the glory and the power of God is now evident to all.

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.”

Heaven also rejoices because God's judgements are true and righteous. And the fact that God has destroyed the wicked is cause for praise! Friend, this is going to be a joyous time like no other time in history. You just think you were happy when you got saved, but here finally your going to receive all the rewards that come along with your salvation. No more trouble or trials; only joy will we experience from this time forward, because the wicked have been defeated. The saints have been delivered and Jesus is about to come forth to reign forever.

And then in verse 3,

3 Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”

Now, who is her? Well, that's Babylon. That's the wicked. That's all the unbelievers and all the corruption and all the false religions in the world; and the fact that their smoke rises up forever and ever, means it's finally and forever finished. This is the end. This judgement is final and this judgment is forever. And there'll be no coming back from this.

And then in verse 4

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”

The twenty four elders we learned earlier in our studies are representatives of the church. And the four living creatures are cherubim, which are high ranking angels. And all throughout the book of Revelation we've witnessed these two groups praising God and worshipping God.

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

Again, though we're not told, we're safe I'd say to assume that this is also the voice of an angel, since he refers to God as "our God". And here he's inviting all of heaven to join in and to rejoice. He invites both small and great which refers to every creature in heaven.

And then in verse 6, that's what John hears.

6 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!"

Again all of heaven is rejoicing and praising God for what He's done. And then in the next verse, another reason is given to rejoice. Verse 7 says,

7 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.”

The long awaited marriage of the Lamb has finally come and of course the Lamb is Jesus Christ. The “Bride”? Well, that’s us, the church.

The church if you’ll remember was taken to heaven at the rapture, just before the tribulation period began. And now it’s time for the wedding ceremony. The church is about to be “married” to Christ, who is the Bridegroom.

Jesus Himself talked about it and the Apostle John wrote about it back in the Gospel of John.

John 3:29, He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

Well, the time for that long anticipated wedding has finally come.

And then in verse 8.

8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts or deeds of the saints.

In other words, God is going to reflect your service to Christ in your wedding garments—much like a high school or college graduate might wear a special ribbon on their gown, we're going to be recognized for our service by what we wear to the wedding.

And though the good works you do for Christ here on this earth don't earn your salvation, they do earn rewards, and you will receive special recognition for what you do for Christ.

Now, do we deserve it? No! But we don't deserve the mercy and the grace He gave to us either.

And so the marriage of the Lamb is the final step in the wedding process. It's the official and final union between the Lord, who is the Bridegroom, and the church who is His bride.

Now, to fully understand what all this means, we have to understand how the marriage between a Jewish man and woman was established back in the first century

A marriage back then actually happened in three stages. The first stage was the betrothal, which is a formal engagement to be married. And that engagement period between the Lord Jesus and the church, really began in eternity past. It was settled even before the foundation of the world! And today we're still in that first stage. We're still in that engagement or promise stage.

Now, the second stage in a Jewish wedding is the presentation. That's when the bridegroom would arrive to take his

bride back to his father's house, where he would have added on a room or two for he and his new bride to live in.

And this stage, of course, corresponds to the rapture of the church, which is when Christ will come and takes His bride, the church, back to His Father's house in heaven. And that could happen any minute now! And of course Jesus also in the Gospel of John reinforced that promise to the church.

John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

And then the next stage is of course the wedding ceremony itself. And this stage involved the exchanging of gifts and the legal joining of the couple. And this ceremony between the Lord Jesus and the church will follow the judgment seat of Christ. That's where the presents or the rewards will be handed out by the Lord Jesus to His followers.

And of course Paul wrote about the judgement seat of Christ more than once. In

1 Corinthians 3:11, For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

2 Corinthians 5:10, For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

And so here in the 19th chapter of Revelation, we see the bride at this ceremony and she's wearing garments that represent her "righteous deeds."

And since we know that the judgment seat of Christ will immediately follow the rapture of the church, then we know also that this wedding ceremony will be held in heaven. And it will take place sometime toward the end of the tribulation period.

And of course that's what John's talking about in verse 9. This is the wedding feast. Verse 9 says,

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.”

10 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.”

And so here an angel offers a special blessing and he says, **“Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”**

Now, who is talking about here?

Well, it can't be the bride, because the church is the bride. And there can't be a wedding without a bride and so the bride's a shoe in. The bride don't have to be invited. She's definitely going to be there!

So who are these guests who will be given this special invitation?

Well, they just about have to be all the Old Testament believers, because everybody else is already going to be there, right?

And so most likely, this wedding feast is going to begin at the very end of the tribulation, which will also be at the very

beginning of the millennial kingdom. The millennium we're told is the 1000 year reign of Christ, which will begin after Christ returns; after the tribulation period is over. And so here at the wedding feast, every Old Testament believer and every New Testament believer and all the tribulation believers are going to gather together and celebrate.

And so this is a joyful, and glorious, and magnificent scene that John is witnessing; so much so that he's so overwhelmed that he falls down to worship at the angel's feet.

But the angel says to him, **“Don't do that! He says, I'm a fellow servant just like you and your brothers in Christ.**

And so that scene closes and then when the curtain opens in verse 11; this is what John sees.

Christ is on a White Horse

11 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.

The gates of heaven open and out comes Jesus riding on a white horse. He's not on a donkey this time. He's not come to humbly die for the sins of the world this time. This time He's come to judge and to conquer sin, once and for all. And He's earned that right by His very name here. He's been faithful, and He's been true, to what God called Him to do. He never wavered

or backed down. He accomplished fully God's purpose and plan. And He's here now to finish off what He started.

Verse 12 says,

12 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.

Nothing will be hidden from His eyes. He's coming to search out and to find any and everything that represents evil, or is evil. And He's come to judge that evil and destroy it.

The crowns on His head here express royal dignity and absolute and supreme authority.

The dragon, if you'll remember, we read about him trying to mimic Christ by wearing seven crowns or diadems. And then the beast did the same thing only he wore ten. But here, the Bible says, Christ wears **many!** Which signifies that Jesus is greater! He's greater than any government. He's greater than any religious system. And he's greater than the dragon and the beast and the devil and all his demons put together. And all power and authority will crumble under His mighty hand.

It also says that **He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.**

The truth is, though we know Christ by many names, like Jesus, and Lord, and Savior, and many other names, all which

express Christ's relationship to the Father, still in our finite minds, we can't comprehend this name because we can't comprehend the eternal nature of Christ.

Christ, in the fulness of His nature and eternal existence can only be understood by God, and Himself. Only Christ can fully comprehend who He was in eternity behind us, and who He is in the present, and what He will be in the future. And so this is a name that only He can know and comprehend.

And then in verse 13 John sees that Jesus

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

In John 1:1, 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

In other words, Jesus is the living word. Jesus is God's word come to life.

And the blood on His garments? Well, it's not His blood. It's the blood of His enemies as He's come to deal with these armies of the antichrist. And then in verse 14.

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

So Jesus is not the only One who'll be riding a white horse. You and I will too! And so if you don't know how to rise one, you might better be practicing.

So this is no doubt the Bride of Christ, the church, who will accompany Christ when He returns at His second coming. And notice something else! There's no blood on their garments. Their garments are still white as the driven snow, because Jesus is the only One fighting. We're just following! And if you think about it, that's how we ought to be living our lives today. We ought to be letting Jesus do all the fighting. And we just need to be following! Amen!

And so this is a fulfillment of **Jude 14 and 15 where we read**

14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

So thousands of thousands of years before Enoch prophesied what would happen at Christ's second coming. How amazing is that? And then in verse 15 John saw

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.

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Notice the only weapon Jesus uses is a “sharp sword”.

And again, this is a fulfillment of prophecy.

In Isaiah 11:4, But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

In other words, it will be the Word of God, the words of Jesus is all it's going to take to put His enemies and our enemies in their place.

Friend, if you don't think there's power in the word of God, well, here's your proof. There's nothing more powerful than God's word. It has the power to save, and it has the power to judge, and it has the power to set right, what is wrong.

In John 18:5, when Jesus was betrayed by Judas and they came for Him. Remember what happened?

They asked Him if He was “Jesus of Nazareth.” And he said to them, **“I am He.” And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. And then in verse 6 it says, Now when He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground.**

The very words of Jesus put them on their backs. And those same words, from this same Jesus will put Satan and all of his evil followers in their place as well.

And so that’s where we’re going to leave off and when we come back next time, we’ll hopefully finish up as we see how this all ends. Amen.