

>>>>>> Lesson 27 <<<<<<<

- 1) The scene in Revelation now shifts from earth, where it has been since chapter 6, to heaven.
- 2) The intervening chapters have detailed God's judgment on the sinful world.
- 3) The final target of God's wrath was the Antichrist's worldwide religious, political, and economic empire, symbolized by its capital city of Babylon.
- 4) Now, is the time for rejoicing!
- 5) Some might think heaven's rejoicing over Babylon's destruction to be insensitive and uncaring.
- 6) The reality is that those sinners will have had the greatest opportunity to repent of any people who have ever lived.
 - a) They will have experienced the unprecedented disasters of the Tribulation, which they will acknowledge to be God's judgments (6:17).
 - b) They will also have heard the most powerful preaching of the gospel in history:
 - i) from the 144,000 Jewish evangelists
 - ii) the two witnesses
 - iii) the host of the redeemed saved during the Tribulation
 - iv) and finally, in chapter 14, we even see them being told by a powerful angel.
- 7) Yet despite all that, they will remain unrepentant to the very end.
- 8) They are hardened in their unbelief and defiant hatred of God.
- 9) The heavenly rejoicing is not over the damnation of these who reject God, but because Jesus Christ will soon remove them from the world and begin His reign.

Rev 19:1-3 (NIV)

- 10) As the beginning text of chapter 19 unfolds, five reasons for heaven's joy become evident:
- 11) The **first** rejoicing is praise and honor to God.
- 12) The **second**, God has made no mistakes His judgements are true.
- 13) **Third**, He has provided salvation for all those who would accept it and turn to Him.
- 14) The **fourth** cause for rejoicing being spelled out is that the worst rebellion against God and His Son that has ever been, is now ended.
 - a) Even though God allowed it, it is still cause for rejoicing when it ends.
 - b) Included in that is the specific destruction of the source of that rebellion – the Babylonian empire.
- 15) **Fifth and final**, not only is it destroyed, but we also see from the statement “The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever” that the destruction is eternal – an empire or force of this nature will never exist again.

Rev 19:4-10 (NIV)

- 1) As John continues relaying the vision before him, he sees the praise continue.
- 2) In this passage, there are two major points of praise.
- 3) The **first** is that God is in control.
 - a) He is now and forever has been.
 - b) Through this entire description of the destruction of Babylon, God has been in control.
 - c) He was in control when he allowed it to come into being.
 - d) And equally in control thru the destruction.
- 4) The **second** praise in this passage is because the marriage of the Lamb is prepared.
- 5) The indication here is that the bride is prepared, the saints are all home.
- 6) Verses 6-10 describe the marriage supper of the Lamb, but the event does not occur at this point.
- 7) This foreshadows the actual event, and its appealing description is meant to invite the readers to take part in the banquet.
- 8) In Jewish tradition, a wedding had three stages.
 - a) First, the two families would agree to the union and negotiate a betrothal.
 - b) Second, they would make a public announcement.
 - i) At that point, the couple would be "pledged."
 - ii) This is similar to engagement today, except that it was much more binding in ancient times.
 - iii) At this point, even though the couple was not officially married, their relationship could be broken only through death or divorce.
 - c) This second step lasted a year. During that time, the couple would live separately.
 - i) This waiting period would demonstrate the bride's purity.
 - ii) In a sense, that betrothal time for the bride is like the present days for the bride of Christ, the church.
 - iii) The church is presently in that waiting period between the betrothal and the actual wedding banquet, described by John here. We will see a fuller description of this in chapters 21 and 22.
 - d) The third and last step is the wedding banquet and the union of the couple.
 - i) In Old Testament times, it was customary for wedding guests to be given special clothes to wear to the banquet.
 - ii) It was unthinkable to refuse to wear these clothes.

- iii) That would insult the host, who could only assume that the guest was arrogant and thought the clothes were unnecessary, or that he or she did not want to take part in the wedding celebration.
- iv) The wedding clothes picture the righteousness needed to enter God's Kingdom — the total acceptance in God's eyes that Christ gives every believer.
- v) Christ has provided these clothes of righteousness, but each person must choose to put them on in order to enter the King's banquet (eternal life).
- vi) This clothing also pictures "the righteous acts of the saints" (19:8).

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9) It is now time for a final cleanup before Christ's millennial reign begins.

1) I think that here, John MacArthur's introductory comments to this section of chapter 19 are right on point and truly set the stage for what we are about to see.

“A century ago most people believed that history was progressing inexorably toward a man-made utopia. The Industrial Revolution, the march of scientific discovery, and the increasing pace of social reform seemed to augur nothing but brighter days ahead. Today, however, two world wars; innumerable regional, civil, and national wars; countless acts of terrorism and senseless violence; and the nearly complete collapse of moral values make such rosy optimism seem quaintly naive.

The Bible teaches that things will be wonderfully better, but only after they become unimaginably worse. There is only one solution for the world's problems: the return of its true King, the Lord Jesus Christ, to establish absolute monarchy and unilateral authority in His earthly kingdom. Only under His rule will there be peace instead of war, justice instead of inequity, and righteousness instead of wickedness. But that glorious event will not occur without fierce opposition from Satan, his demon hordes, and the world of wicked sinners. The Tribulation, the seven-year period immediately before Christ's return, will see the greatest of all human world empires, headed by the evil genius known as the Antichrist. The earth will be infested with demons, those who have been here all along, those cast from heaven with Satan (12:9), and those released from imprisonment during the Tribulation (9:1-10,14-20). The Tribulation will also be a time of escalating human wickedness, despite the unprecedented outpouring of God's wrath in the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments. Stubbornly hardening their hearts against the truth of the gospel, people even then will obstinately refuse to repent (9:20-21; 16:9,11). Even the destruction of the Antichrist's magnificent capital city of Babylon (chaps. 17-18) will provoke loud laments, but no repentance.”

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Revelation – NOTES – 2021

- 2) As we proceed thru the remainder of chapter 19 and the beginning verses of chapter 20, we need to emphasize again, a few of the precepts we have been using during this study.
 - a) First, symbolism – we need to continue to try not to get too bound up in the literal view of the symbols.
 - i) Keep the big picture in mind along with the results.
 - b) Second, overall view – we have taken the futurist view of revelation throughout the study.
 - i) Simply stated (again) this means that John’s visions and writing here are relevant to all who have had and will have access to them until the seals are broken and God’s final plan unfolds.
 - c) Third, millennial view – we have been approaching the study with a premillennial view.
 - i) The basic idea being the there will be a defined tribulation beginning with the passing of the scroll to Christ and the opening of the seals and ending with a second coming and a defined 1000-year reign.
 - ii) That will be followed by the judgement and the passing away of the old earth and the creation of the new heaven and new earth.
- 3) As I have said numerous times, there are other perfectly legitimate views of the Revelation.
 - a) All of them including the one we have taken have varying degrees of challenge in reading, interpreting, and applying the writings.
 - b) Paramount must be the realization that God is in charge and that however He literally has these events unfold, we, His children, and faithful followers, win and will be with Him and His beloved son forever!

4) With that, starting in verse 11 >>>>>>

Rev 19:11-21 (NIV)

- 3) Common sense would dictate that one fantastic way to put your enemy on shaky ground would be to capture their commander.
- 4) Many times throughout history when this has occurred, the troops simply scatter.
- 5) Here, the first actions of this war were the capture of the Beast (the Antichrist) and the false prophet.
- 6) They were taken completely out of the action.
- 7) Next, as overwhelming as the vision must have been and is even to us, the rest were killed with the sword.
 - a) The word rest here refers to “the kings of the earth, and their armies.”
 - b) Christ told the church at Pergamum this was going to take place in chapter 2

Rev 2:16 (NIV)

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- c) We of course can't know the actual mechanism that would be used to accomplish this (not that we probably would want to).
 - d) I think the idea here is that the destruction of all who opposed Christ at the battle of Armageddon was total, final, and instantaneous!
- 8) We are now almost ready for the millennial reign to begin – we have one last order of business to attend to.

What is the big thing that is left to do?