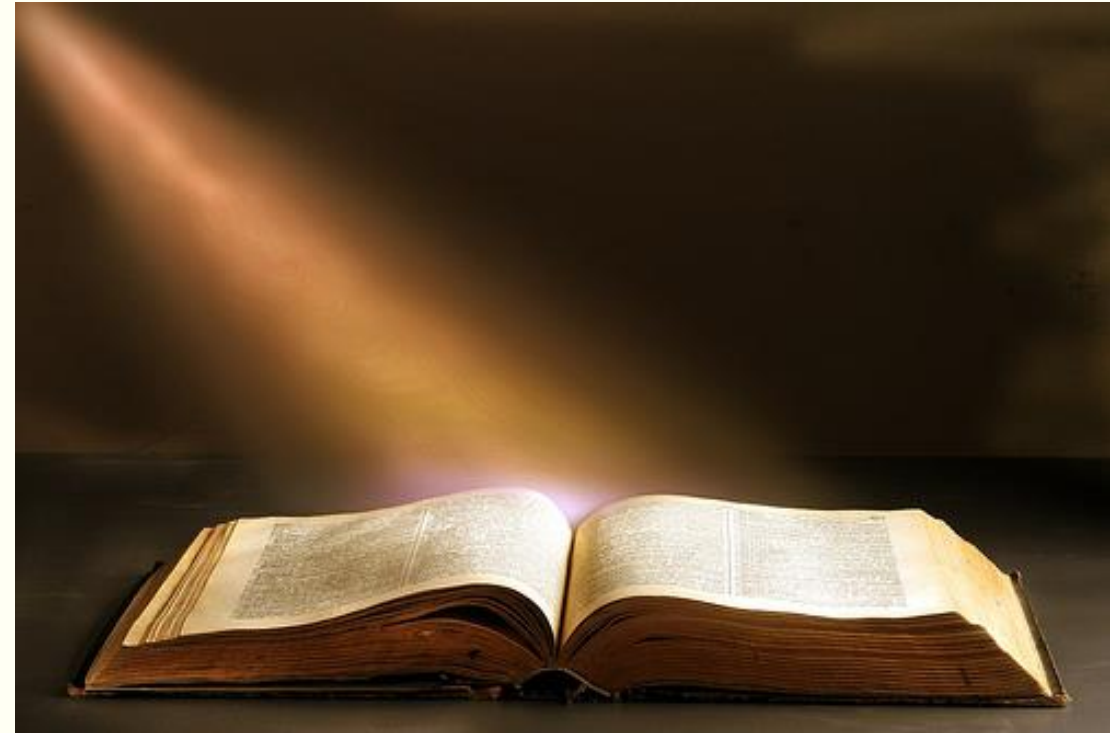
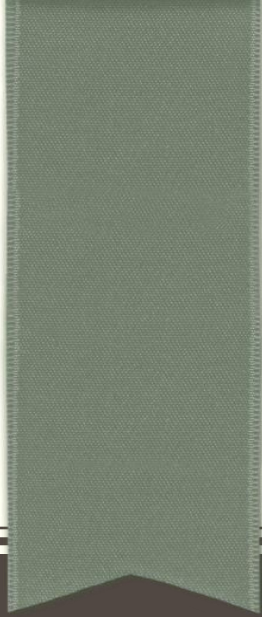




Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

Chapter 19





CHAPTER 19

The Triumphant Christ

Chapter 19



Primary purpose of our Bible study is to understand Jesus' message to His church AND its personal application for us today

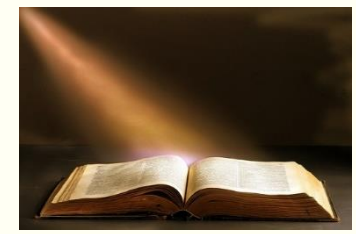
Heaven Exults

Marriage of the Lamb

The Triumphant Christ

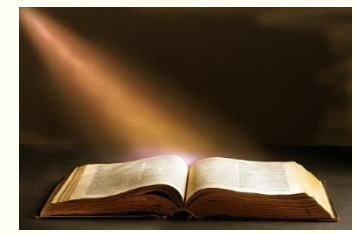
False trinity defeated

Revelation 19:1-10



1 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! **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.” **3** Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!” **4** And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!” **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!” **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! **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.” **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. **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.”

Revelation 19:11-21



9 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. **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. **13** He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. **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. **17** 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, **18** 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.” **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. **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 worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. **21** 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.

Heaven Exults

The scene shifts to the heavenly audience. There is joy in heaven and celebration over Babylon's fall, the end of the reign of evil and the deliverance of God's people.

The twenty-four elders and four living creatures which we saw at the inauguration of the Lamb as He began His ministry in the Holy Place (Rev 4 & 5) are also present when the great multitude stand before the throne (Rev 7 & 14)

Alleluia (or Hallelujah) – based on Hebrew for “Praise the Lord” occurs only four times in the New Testament here in Rev 19 (occurs 24 times in Psalms)

Halal – meaning to praise, and **Yah** (from Yahweh)

We see elements from the first angel's message of Rev 14: 6, 7. Fear of God, Worship to God, giving Him glory and praise for His righteous judgment

Babylon used sorcery to deceive the nations and corrupt the earth. Greek word for sorcery (pharmakeia means enchantment with drugs). Using satanic powers, the great harlot and master deceiver manipulated the world and political powers.

“It shall not be quenched night or day; its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; no one shall pass through it forever and ever.” – Isa 34:10

Like Edom, the ascending smoke indicates that Babylon's destruction is everlasting, complete and permanent



Marriage of the Lamb

The true church is now revealed. In contrast to the proud harlot, the bride of Christ emerges, and she is praised

Revelation 19:7 is the focal point of the entire plan of salvation. “Christ in you, the hope of glory” is fulfilled. His bride has made herself ready and the marriage of the Lamb has come.

Jesus used the wedding metaphor to describe His relationship to the church in several of His parables (Matt 22 & 25)

“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.**” - 2 Cor 11:2

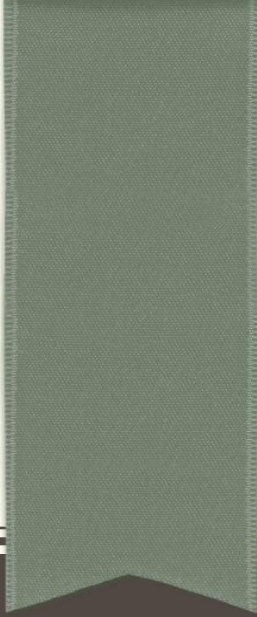
“These are the ones who were **not defiled with women**, for they are **virgins**. These are the ones who **follow the Lamb** wherever He goes.” - Rev 14:4

In the Old Testament, Israel is often described as a bride

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, **He has covered me with the robe of righteousness**, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and **as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**”
Isa 61:10

“**And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride**, so shall your God rejoice over you.”
Isa 62:5





“The preparation of the Lamb’s bride in Revelation 19 must be understood in the context of the ancient Hebrew wedding. The Hebrew wedding usually began with the betrothal at the house of the bride’s father, where the groom paid the dowry. The two were afterwards considered husband and wife. The groom then returned to his father’s house to prepare the place where he and his bride would live. During that time, the bride stayed at her father’s home preparing herself for the wedding. When both the place and the bride were ready, the bridegroom would return to take the bride to his father’s house where the wedding ceremony was to take place (Matt 25:1-10). The preparation of the Lamb’s bride in Revelation 19:7 reflects a typical Hebrew wedding setting.”

Marriage of the Lamb

The union of the Lamb and His bride is in stark contrast to the illicit union of the harlot (Babylon city) and her lovers (Satan, the kings of the earth and merchants)

“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.” – Matt 5:12

There is an announcement of the coming wedding supper in contrast to the supper of the great God where the birds would feast on the wicked. Those invited are blessed.

Christ left His Father’s house in heaven to come down to earth to betroth his bride (the church) to Himself. At Calvary, He paid the dowry with His blood. Then He returned to his Father’s house to prepare a place for her (John 14:1-3)

In the meantime, the church (His bride) remains here on earth, preparing herself for His return. God’s people can hasten the coming of Jesus by their readiness.

“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.” – Eph 5:27

Weddings are ready when both the bride and the place are prepared. The bride’s preparation is denoted by her white garment, bright and clean which are the righteous deeds of the saints. This is as a result of the Christ-like character developed by the grace of the indwelling Christ.

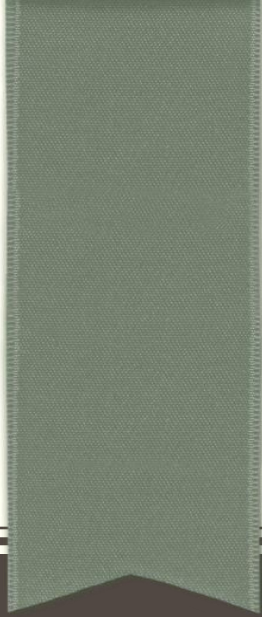
The bride is given the white fine linen indicating it was not her own righteous works which she earned, but the gift of Christ’s righteousness showing her redemption is entirely the result of what Christ has done for her and her intimate relationship with him.



Dual metaphors

Harlot = Great city of Babylon

Bride of Christ = New Jerusalem



“It must be again emphasized that John does not describe the marriage supper; he only proclaims that the time has come. The actual event is nowhere described, it is a metaphorical way of alluding to the final redemptive fact when the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them (Rev 21:3). This is why John can apply the same metaphor of the bride prepared for her husband to the new Jerusalem which comes down from heaven to dwell among men (Rev 21:2), and why the angel can refer to the new Jerusalem as the bride, the wife of the Lamb (Rev 21:9). As Jerusalem is frequently used in Scripture to represent the people of God (Matt 23:37), so in the vision of the new world, the people of God and their capital city – the church and the New Jerusalem – are so closely connected that the same figure – the bride – is used for both.”

George E. Ladd, page 249

The Triumphant Christ

Those invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb are those who make up the bride of the Lamb. This is the fourth of the seven beatitudes.

The bride is the unified church married to Christ and the guests are the members of the church who individually responds to the invitation

John is overwhelmed with joy and falls prostrate at the feet of the angel to worship Him...twice. But angel worship is forbidden which Lucifer coveted (Col 2:28)

“Then he said to me, “See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” Rev 22:9

The “**testimony of Jesus**” is used four times in the book of Revelation. It is equated with the **gift of prophecy**. **The testimony is the message from Jesus through His prophet.**

There is assurance that the prophetic ministry which John was given this special revelation from Christ would continue through the Christian age and possessed by God’s end-time church who have the testimony of Jesus (Rev 12:17)

“Now I saw heaven opened” indicates a new vision of the Second coming

The scene shifts in fast-forward motion to Christ’s coming with the armies of heaven. He has come to tread the winepress of the wrath of God on the wicked



The second half of Rev 19 illustrates the repetition and enlargement principle

The Triumphant Christ

Jesus is the Faithful and True Witness (Rev 3:14). His Word is eternal truth.

The bishop of Rome wears a triple crown as he claims he is the “king of heaven and earth and of the lower regions”. He is the counterfeit Christ.

Christ’s eyes like flames of fire has penetrating insight with the ability to judge rightly. He wears the royal diadem of many crowns to denote His complete Lordship, royal power and authority to exercise judgment and reign. He has come to destroy all counterfeit rule, authority and power.

“And has made us **kings and priests** to His God and Father” – Rev 1:6

There are aspects of Christ’s character too deep for us to understand (1 Cor 13:12) **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS** declares Jesus as **Conquering King of the Universe**.

His robe is dipped in blood of the victory He won at Calvary as He comes to avenge the blood of His saints in the battle of Armageddon (Isa 63:1-3)

The embodiment of the Word of God, in whom all things consist, which has long been persecuted and rejected, is now coming to reveal truth and eradicate evil

“He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.” – Isa 11:4

As the Good Shepherd, His staff has given comfort to His sheep. Now His rod of iron will smite the wicked nations (not just Babylon) who have waged war against Him and His bride (Psalms 2:9). It is a scepter, a symbol of royal authority.



False Trinity defeated

We see the final destruction of earth's political and military powers, and all the components of Babylon. The outcome is completely contrary to what the worldwide confederacy expected. Jesus appears personally to complete their overthrow.

Revelation questions are finally answered: "Who is like the beast, and who is able to make war with him?" (Rev 13:4) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Rev 6:17)

Fast-forward: The false trinity is defeated and exterminated. The beast and false prophet are thrown alive in the lake of fire burning with sulphur (brimstone)

"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." – Rev 20:10

This is not everlasting burning hell but a metaphor describing the complete destruction of sin, rebellion, sinners, evil, the devil and his angels at Jesus Third coming

"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming." – 2 Thess 2:8

So He said to them, "Wherever the body is, there the **eagles** will be gathered together."
Luke 17:37

The unsaved will be killed by the glory of Christ's power at His Second coming, and the whole earth will resemble a battlefield with corpses strewn everywhere. God's people will be resurrected or translated and taken to heaven for 1000 yrs of peace
2 Thess 1:7-10 and 1 Thess 4:16-18



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