

“How Will It All End?”
The Revelation of Jesus Christ—Part 26
Revelation 19:1-18

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

2 Peter 1:19

1. Praise the Lord! He has judged His enemies!

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever." The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!"

Revelation 19:1-4

Points to consider:

The praise of chapter 19 is in response to the call of Revelation 18:20.

Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you. Revelation 18:20

The “great multitude” is clearly those who gave their lives during the tribulation.

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Revelation 12:11

The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders rejoice!

He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. Revelation 5:7-8

The fact that these are introduced separate from the great multitude seems to confirm the identity of the “great multitude.”

The twenty-four elders represent the church.

2. Praise the Lord! God Almighty reigns!

Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!" Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Revelation 19:5-6

Points to consider:

All of this praise takes place before the actual battle!

All this praise takes place before the actual return of Christ.

This rejoicing happens because they know, "Salvation and glory and power belong to our God..."

Revelation 19:1

There is another celebration that must take place before Christ returns as conqueror.

3. Praise the Lord! The feast has begun!

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me,

"Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he

added, "These are the true words of God." At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he

said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold

to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of

prophecy." Revelation 19:7-10

Points to consider:

There are several distinct stages in the ancient Jewish marriage tradition: **A) The betrothal** **B)**

The presentation

C) The wedding ceremony and feast.

The church's marriage to Christ reflects the ancient Jewish customs. A) Ephesians 1:4 B)

Matthew 25:1-13 and 1 Thessalonians 4:17 C) Revelation 19:7-8.

Where does the wedding take place?

How does the bride make herself ready?

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:25-27

In justification, God declares us righteous.

In sanctification, God works in us to bring our spiritual state up to the level of our position in Christ.

May the God of peace... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ...

Hebrews 13:20-21

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

The invited guests are distinguished from the bride.

Only God is worthy of our worship!

4. Stand in awe! Christ returns!

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called

Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great." Revelation 19:11-18

Points to consider:

Jesus is the rider of the white horse. We know this by His names: Faithful and True... He has a name only God knows... He is the Word of God... He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Christ wins the battle by the word of his mouth.

The armies of heaven come with Christ to conquer.

The armies of heaven are clothed just like the Bride of Christ.

Christ conquers and rules.

Life response: Love! (Matthew 22:37-40) Grow! (2 Peter 3:18) Serve! (Ephesians 2:8-10 and Galatians 5:13-14)

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