

CHAPTER 19

Revelation 19:1–5

[1] After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, [2] for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.” [3] Once more they cried out, “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.” [4] And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” [5] And from the throne came a voice saying, “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”

Notes:

CHAPTER 19

This chapter begins with the familiar phrase after this indicating a cause and effect relationship.

What John is indicating here is that the events of chapters 16-18 the seventh bowl judgement is what leads to what we are about to read from here out.

This bowl judgment made it possible for the Antichrist to move his forces out of Babylon and in turn it resulted in the destruction of Babylon. Babylon's demise paves the way for Christ's return.

The preparation for His return begins with the marriage supper of the Lamb that is described at the beginning of this chapter. And all of heaven rejoices at this moment because it has a moment that has been anticipated since the beginning of human history.

Heaven declares that salvation, glory and power belong to our God. And they praise God for avenging the righteous by destroying Babylon. In this moment there is also a moment of praise and worship for Who God is and what He has done to bring about the Kingdom.

John states that the elders and the creatures fall down and worship. Verse 5 is a call to the servants to worship as well. This is an indication that the saints in heaven already and that they are to fall and worship God at this moment. So the stage is set for Christ's return and next we see the preparations for that return.

CHAPTER 19

Revelation 19:6–10

[6] Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. [7] Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; [8] it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. [9] And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” [10] Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Notes:

CHAPTER 19

As we read this passage we see that a great multitude has cried out in praise that Christ reigns. The composition of this multitude is examined over the next few verses. The first group is called out from within the multitude is the Bride who has made herself ready for the Lamb. This is a reference to the "Bride of Christ" which is a reference to the Church saints.

Paul writes about the bride of Christ in Ephesians 5. In other places Paul compares the church's relationship to Christ as one of a bride to a husband.

Paul will define the word church to mean those who have been indwelt with the Holy Spirit. So this would be individuals who were saved between Pentecost and the Rapture of the Church. And this analogy makes sense in the sense of a Jewish wedding.

As we have received the Holy Spirit and called Jesus Lord of our lives, we have entered a betrothal period, a covenant. We are now in a period of waiting. It is when Christ comes back and raptures us and he comes to get us as a groom came for his bride. The marriage supper of the Lamb is a celebration of the joining together of the bride and the groom.

John says that the bride has been made ready. In other words, the saints receive bright clean linen to wear. This bright clean linen that adorns the saints reminds us of the righteousness of the saints through Jesus. So if that is the first group, is there another group?

CHAPTER 19

Well there are two ways of looking at verse 9. One is that this blessing pronounced upon those who are invited is indicative of anyone who is a part of the figurative bride. In other words, anyone who has called Jesus Lord of their lives.

But we can also look at this another way and say that since the church encompasses a period of history after Pentecost, this invitation could be for those to celebrate who were saints prior to Pentecost or those who were saved after the Rapture. We might say that they only watch as the church participates in this marriage supper of the Lamb. Up until now, they have not received resurrected bodies - they await their time of resurrection.

At this point John falls down in worship but the angel stops John and tells him that he is a co-laborer with him. The author of this message is the one who deserves true glory, not the deliverer of it. So at this point, John moves into describing the return of the Lord next, but there are some events on earth that are left hanging that we need to investigate.

If you remember, both Phase I and Phase II of the battle of Armageddon have been completed, so there is a final phase that has yet to play out. And this final phase involves three different locations. The Mount of Olives, Jerusalem and Bozrah (Petra).

If you go back to Daniel 11, you find that the Antichrist will dominate the world. We've talked a lot about that so far in our study. But when you arrive at Daniel 11:40, it says that in the end time kings will collide with him.

CHAPTER 19

This reference to the end time means at the end of tribulation. Two of the seven kings will attempt to take action against him. Daniel says that a king from the north and a king from the south rise up against him. They collide, or a better interpretation of the Hebrew word is press in.

These are the two kings that rise up against him that we talked about in Revelation 18. Daniel 11:40 states that they collide against him as he passes through other countries. Remember the Antichrist was headed toward Jerusalem and as he does these kings attack Babylon.

Daniel 11:41 says that the Antichrist will enter Israel and that Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon will be rescued out of his hands. This is roughly the area around present-day Jordan. This also includes an area called Bozrah or Petra as we talked about earlier in our study. Since these were rescued it means that the Antichrist must attack these areas in the very end. The prophet Jeremiah confirms that the Antichrist will attack this region in the very end in Jeremiah 49.

So the Antichrist's army is largely in two places. The first is around the Jezreel Valley, ready to attack Jerusalem. The second is a small group centered outside of Babylon who watched the city be destroyed. Jeremiah says that the Antichrist will request this army come and destroy the Jews that are in Petra. This is where the believing Jews are held up that had escaped Jerusalem that the Lord had provided protection for. At the very end of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will try to destroy these Jews as well. Even though he tries to destroy them, Jeremiah says that the Lord protects them.

CHAPTER 19

Daniel 11 continues this narrative as the Antichrist continues to attack the nations of the Middle East, he eventually pitches his encampment between the holy mountain of the temple and another sea, a place called Shephleah. So the Antichrist's deployment of forces to Petra and to Jerusalem is Phase III of the battle of Armageddon. His movements are in response to the news that comes from Babylon. As the Antichrist moves in on Jerusalem, he lays a siege of the city and destroys a part of the city and takes the lives of many individuals.

The prophets Joel and Isaiah both speak of Israel being under siege by the Antichrist. As a result of this siege, the inhabitants will anticipate death at any moment. And in their fear, they will bow their heads to the ground in humility and turn toward the Lord in prayer.

The prophet Zechariah speaks of God's defense of the city in Zechariah 12. God comes to the city's defense as they bow themselves before Him. So God preserves the city and defends them against the Antichrist. And this is the moment when the people of Israel have called out to God and this call is captured in Psalm 79 and 80 in which the nation calls for the Son who God has strengthened for Himself.

So in this moment, Israel calls for Jesus to save them from utter defeat and as they call out to Him, He returns to save them.

CHAPTER 19

Revelation 19:11–16

[11] Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. [12] His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. [13] He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. [14] And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. [15] From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. [16] On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Notes:

CHAPTER 19

John describes Christ's return as he sees it from heaven. John says that all of heaven is opened and is visible from earth. Jesus is seen at the front of the procession. His eyes are like flames and on his head are many diadems or crowns. Next John says that Jesus is riding a white horse. This is interesting because earlier, the Antichrist also rode a white horse. And the symbolism here is that of ruling. The Antichrist riding this horse was symbolic of a false ruler. But as Jesus comes to earth, we see the true ruler riding on it.

John says that he has a sword and will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God. And along with him are those who are clothed in robes in white. So these are the saints who were mentioned earlier. So for you and I, this will be our vantage point to as we return with Christ. Matthew 16 tells us that Jesus will also be accompanied by a large army of angels.

From the perspective of earth, we have to look to Matthew 24 to see what will appear. Matthew 24 tells us that at the end of tribulation all lights will be removed from the sky. In other words, there will be total darkness, but after that time the heavens will open and the Lord Himself will be the only light. There are two phases to Jesus' return to earth the first is that he wipes out the armies waiting at Petra to destroy the Jews. The reference to that can be found in Isaiah 34, 63 and Micah 2. And finally he destroys the army of the Antichrist in Jerusalem.

CHAPTER 19

As Jesus descends to the earth in Jerusalem, he comes to the Mount of Olives. And Zechariah tells us that when He descends, He splits the mount in two. Jesus and the armies that descended with him from heaven advance into Jerusalem and attack the armies of the Antichrist and completely wipe them out.

The destruction of these armies are carried out by Jesus' word only. His word alone is enough to utterly destroy and wipe out an entire army. So this completes both Phases IV and V of the battle of Armageddon.

CHAPTER 19

Revelation 19:17–21

[17] Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, [18] to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” [19] And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. [20] And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. [21] And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Notes:

CHAPTER 19

So now we returned to the heavenly perspective of what is happening on the earth. All of the prophets that we talk about gave a view from the earthly perspective, but John gives a view from the heavenly perspective.

At this point, John is seeing the aftermath of the battle of Armageddon and the carnage of everything that is occurred. In the aftermath, John sees the angelic cleanup.

Everything that remains on earth that was killed is devoured by birds that eat flesh according to John. John concludes this chapter with a description of what happens with the Antichrist and the false prophet.

John says that they were thrown alive into the lake of fire. These two have the distinction of being the first two individuals who are thrown into the lake of fire that burns forever.

So at this point we have reached the end of war on earth and in the next chapter we will talk about the Millennial Kingdom period.