

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 19

Heaven's Hallelujah — Christ Comes in Power

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Chapter 19 — The Marriage of the Lamb and Christ's Coming in Glory

We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ and await our heavenly portion when He comes for us. The meanwhile, we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth and do not seek a continuing city (1 Pet. 2:11; Heb. 13:14). Great Babylon, the false church, sought her portion in the world and thus comes under God's judgment of the world.

Chap. 19:1

A great multitude in heaven (God's house will be full — Luke 14:23) celebrates the righteous judgment of God upon Babylon.

Chap. 19:2-3

Her guilt by both corruption and violence is again announced. The heavenly saints rejoice and again shout 'Alleluiah' (Praise ye Jah).

Chap. 19:4

The figure of the 'four and twenty elders' appears for the last time. They are symbolic of the heavenly saints (those of the Old Testament and the church of the New Testament) caught up at the coming of Christ (1 Cor. 15:23). Now the Bride is to be seen distinctly in glory and so the figure that merged the New Testament saints with those of the Old disappears. The Bride is seen separately from those 'called unto the marriage supper' (v.9).

Chap. 19:5

From the place of power comes the call to praise and a great crowd responds with the resounding 'Alleluiah'. What a scene! and sinners saved by grace will all be there! (v.6).

Chap. 19:7

The great event, the marriage supper of the Lamb, is proclaimed and He Who was alone on the cross will have with Him for eternity His wife who is seen here as having 'made herself ready'.

Chap. 19:8

Faithfulness will be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ. The fine linen depicts 'the righteousnesses' of saints (JND translation). All that His grace has wrought practically in the saints will meet its reward then (for contrast see Isa. 64:6). The only place in Scripture where the judgment seat fits in, is between the coming of Christ for His saints and His coming back with them.

Chap. 19:9

Gives us the guests at the marriage, i.e. the Old Testament saints (see John 3:29).

Chap. 19:10

Angels, no matter what their message may be, are not the objects of worship. They are faithful servants and direct worship to God, not to themselves (Col. 2:18). All Scripture testifies of Jesus, the prophetic as well as other portions (John 5:39).

Chap. 19:11

The day of Christ's power has now arrived and the heavens which now conceal Him 'in counsels deep and wise' are opened and He is seen on a white horse (not now meek and lowly on an ass and its foal — Matt. 21:1-5), the symbol of victorious aggressive power. It is the fulfillment of Psalm 45:3-4.

Chap. 19:12

He has the attribute of searching, intelligent judgment. Many diadems adorn His brow, not now a crown of thorns in mockery. The inscrutability of His blessed Person is declared (see Matt. 11:27).

Chap. 19:13

His vesture is dipped in the blood of vengeance, not now the blood of atonement (Isa. 63:1-3). He is the 'Word of God', the full expression of what God is in righteous judgment as He is also the full expression of His grace (John 1:1, 14-18).

Chap. 19:14

The fine linen identifies the armies of heaven as the glorified saints (v.8). If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him (2 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Thess. 1:7-10).

Chap. 19:15

The Father does not judge any man but has committed all judgment to the Son. Christ is here seen fully equipped to smite and rule the nations (Psalm 2).

Chap. 19:16

The MAN of Sychar's well, of Gethsemane and of Calvary is here displayed as having supreme authority over all, 'King of kings and Lord of lords' (1 Tim. 6:15)!

Chap. 19:17-21

The powerful armies of western Europe will be gathered at Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2-4 and 14:2-4). Gentile might will be assembled; all the resources of peaceful occupation will be converted to war (Joel 3:9-11). The prayer of the godly remnant is stated at the end of verse 11, 'thither cause Thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord.' Verses 12-17 are God's answer in Joel, and this is what we have in Rev. 19 in the verses under consideration. Joel no doubt goes further in that all the nations are called to judgment, whereas in Rev. 19 it is the Western powers only. That is, God's judgment falls on the Roman Empire, this being a righteous principle in God's ways, since it was the soldiers of the Roman Empire that mocked the Son of God and put Him on the cross! Judgment of the other nations will follow, but for that we would have to go to Isaiah, Daniel and other prophets. In God's grace there were two men in the Old Testament, Enoch and Elijah, who were caught up to heaven without dying, and now in God's righteous judgment two men, the Beast and the False Prophet, are to be cast alive into the lake of fire. They are caught 'redhanded' in open rebellion against the Lord and against His Anointed. God has made us His friends in letting us know what He is going to do in the earth. This should turn our hearts heavenward to listen for the voice that will soon call us home to glory.