

## Revelation 19 and 20

Revelation 19:1–21 (ESV)

### Rejoicing in Heaven

**19** 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,  
<sup>2</sup> 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.”

<sup>3</sup> Once more they cried out,

“Hallelujah!  
The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”

<sup>4</sup> And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” <sup>5</sup> And from the throne came a voice saying,

“Praise our God,  
all you his servants,  
you who fear him,  
small and great.”

### The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

<sup>6</sup> 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.  
<sup>7</sup> 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;  
<sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself  
with fine linen, bright and pure” —

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

<sup>9</sup> 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." <sup>10</sup> 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.

19:1: Having seen God's vindication and righteous judgement – and keeping His promises to His people to deliver them – the multitude (remember that cannot be counted!) cries, "Hallelujah!" It occurs only four times in the New Testament, all of them in Revelation 19:1-6). The word is a combination of two Hebrew words that occur frequently in the Psalms, meaning "Praise the Lord!" (note: "Alleluia" is the Latin transliteration of the Greek transliteration of "Halleluah." Which again is the Hebrew).

God is praised for His salvation (rescue), glory (which overcomes all evil), and power (His ability to execute over all things).

The cry of the martyrs for vindication, issued in Revelation 6:9-11 (please review), has finally been answered!

God keeps His promises.

Vs. 2: "by His true and just judgment upon the harlot, the corrupter of His very good creation (the earth and the dwellers therein), and by His vindication of His slaughtered servants. Their cry for vindication, stilled into patience at 6:9-11, has not been answered." (Franzmann, 125)

"the great prostitute" (17:1) = identified with Babylon (17:5) likely personifies Rome. The original audience would have easily associated this great prostitute with the goddess Roma, whose image could be seen throughout the empire (TLSB 2224).

Vs 3: The smoke forever and ever symbolizes eternal consequences (eternity) of judgement.

Vs. 4: 24 Elders (church as a whole if you recall): 12 (OT) and 12 (NT) and the four living creatures (cherubim representing God's Word and reign to the four corners of the world).

"Amen" = "Yes, it is true."

Affirmation that all being said is true.

Vs. 5:

The voice is unidentified, but may be the various possibilities: general "out of heaven" or an angel speaking on behalf of God, or God (if so, think of the Lord who speaks to the Lord in the Psalms, e.g. Psalm 110:1).

“Fear” = filial that knows proper fear.

Vs. 6: The multitude, all of heaven, cries again, “Hallelujah!”...rejoicing that the wedding of the Lamb has come (v. 7).

Vs. 7: Marriages are the bookends of Scripture.

LifeLight: “The Bridegroom has come to take His bride into His house, where she will live with Him forever.

The Bride of the Lamb is the Holy Church (us).

Vs. 8: She is clothed in fine linen, bright and pure = we are clothed in Christ (when?) and what flows from our Holy Baptism? Good works, “the righteous deeds of the saints”...not our salvation, but never forgotten by God. Note the contrast of her dress compared to the prostitute (purpose and scarlet).

Vs. 9: Fulfillment! See Isaiah 54:5-7; Hosea 2:19-20, and Matthew 22:1-14, 25:1-13 is now made reality.

Vs. 10: John is overwhelmed, but here we learn about our proper relationship with angels. They are never to be worshipped!

### **The Rider on a White Horse**

<sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

<sup>17</sup>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, <sup>18</sup>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.” <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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.

This is the final defeat of God's enemies (Rev. 19:11-21):

Vs. 11: Christ appears. He is here a Warrior, riding out to warfare to bring His enemies down to defeat. This contrasts the white horse in Rev. 6:2 which was not Christ.

Vs. 12: Christ wears many crowns...these are the true and holy ones as opposed to the dragon and beast. He is called, "Faithful and True" See Revelation 3:14. Why this title of Christ here? Again, vindication. God keeps His promises. The fulfillment found in Jesus Christ, the King of kings, the Lord of lords. His name is ineffable...His name is wonderful!

Vs. 13: This is how He goes into battle for His people. Jesus' defeats Satan through His blood. He is the Word of God! Amen!

Vs. 14: The army not dressed for battle, but garments of victory. The garments are the bride's garments of the Lamb.

Vs. 15: The sword is the Word of God. In this case what is emphasized, Law or Gospel? Law! Review Rev. 14:17-20. Fulfillment of John 5:22.

Vs. 16: Beautiful! Philippians 2:10.

Vs. 17-18: This is a different supper. His people attend the wedding supper of the Lamb, but those who are against Christ are the meal itself (recipients of wrath) of the anti-supper.

19-21: The Antichrist and the one who served him and deluded the world through false miracles are captured and thrown into the fiery lake that burns with sulfur. This lake is GEHENNA, hell. This is the second death. At this point, Antichurch (Second Beast), Antichrist (false prophet), and anti-Spirit (prostitute, the world against God) have fallen, what remains is the devil himself.

Revelation 20:1–15 (ESV)

### **The Thousand Years**

**20** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. <sup>2</sup>And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup>and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

<sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus

and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

### **The Defeat of Satan**

<sup>7</sup>And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup>and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup>And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, <sup>10</sup>and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

### **Judgment Before the Great White Throne**

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup>And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup>Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Vs. 1: Who is the angel? Michael? Jesus? Simply an angel acting on the Lord's behalf.

Vs. 1: "Holding the key" God's authority. Think of "the keys"...God looses and binds.

Vs. 1: "bottomless pit" = Rev. 9:1, Satan's realm, not yet hell to come.

Vs. 2 Four titles of our enemy.

Vs. 2: first of six references to 1000 years...we are back to our introductory material...what is the 1000 years in apocalyptic numerology?

Vs. 3: Satan confined, but released "for a little while" towards the end. It gets worse before it gets better, but keep in the mind what else God will do in the

end times...think of Pentecost and how the Church will be equipped. Acts 2:17-18.

Vs. 4: The martyrs live! This soulish reigning is the first resurrection, it is conversion that continues from earth to heaven.

Vs. 5: “the first resurrection”

Vs. 6: “Second death” is condemnation at the great judgment of God.

Vs. 7: begins the Final Battle.

Vs. 7: details of “little season” = a great apostasy in the world.

Vs. 7-8: Armageddon...forces against God are Gog and Magog taken from Ezekiel 38-39. All anti-Christian forces on earth. The ungodly powers of the world opposed to Christ, His Word, and His Church.

Vs. 9: God is victorious. Think of Elijah and the prophets of Baal.

Vs. 10: Now Satan is thrown into hell.

Vs. 11: Christ’s judgment seat on the last day.

Vs. 12: There is a universal resurrection.

Vs. 12: Two books. “According to what they had done.” Explain.

Vs. 13: Again, universal judgment.

Vs. 14: “the second death”

Vs. 15: “Book of Life” = Christ is our book of life.