

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Message #23
Revelation 19 – The Return of Christ
(2/7/2010 PM)

After 7th Bowl Judgment is poured out Jesus Christ will return in His glorious second coming to the earth as revealed in this chapter. This is the focal point of the book, the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world. The Second Coming of Christ to the earth brings an end to the Tribulation Period. This chapter bridges the Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom.

1. **The Rejoicing in Heaven (1-10)**

The Vision Shifts to Heaven

(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!’”

This appears to be in response to the call of 18:20, “Rejoice over her O heaven.” This is however a new vision as John again uses the phrase “After these things”. This rejoicing is in anticipation as Christ is about to break forth from heaven.

J. Vernon McGee, “The somber gives way to the song.” The heavenly chorus opens with the word “Alleluia!” This chapter is the only place this word appears in the New Testament. The Greek word is a transliteration of a Hebrew phrase made up of the verb *halal*, “to praise” and the noun *Yah*, “God”. Its first appearance in the Old Testament is in Psalm 104:35, “May sinners be consumed from the earth, and the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!”

This Psalm is about God’s sovereign majesty over His creation.

- **Heaven rejoices because God has judged the Antichrist and his kingdom**

(2-3) “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.” Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”

God is just in judging the harlot, Babylon, for she has polluted the earth with her sins and killed the saints of God.

The earth dwellers mourned when Babylon was burned with fire. Now heaven rejoices over the destruction of the final kingdom of man. Satan’s worldwide deception through the Antichrist and his kingdom has come to an end. Now wonder the corridors of heaven echo with praises to God.

The Rebellion that Began In Eden Is Coming to an End

- **Heaven rejoices because God Almighty reigns**

(4) “And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”

This is the same group as in chapter 4. They are seen worshipping God throughout the book (4:8-11; 5:8-12, 14; 7:11; 11:16-18) The elders represent the church and the living creatures represent the angels.

(5-6) “Then a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!’ 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!’”

The voice is most likely a mighty angel calling upon all of God’s servants to praise Him. All of heaven is ringing with praise to God and to John it sounds like rushing

water and great thunder. The sound of Niagara Falls would be a small example of what John hears.

Halleluiah, What a Savior!

- **Heaven rejoices because the Marriage of the Lamb Has Come**

(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.”

The church is presented in scripture as the bride of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2, “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.”

The New Testament views this imagery through the stages of an oriental marriage.

(1) The Betrothal Stage:

The bride is selected, Ephesians 1:4, “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love”

The dowry is paid, 1 Corinthians 6:20, “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

(2) The Presentation Stage:

(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.”

The groom goes to the house of the bride and leads her in a procession back to his father's house, John 14:2-3, “In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself.”

Jesus is coming for His church at the Rapture,

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. After the Rapture the church will appear before Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The wedding garments seem to be assigned at this time.

2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

It appears that we are preparing right now what we will wear then.

(3) The Celebration Stage:

After a private marriage service a public marriage supper would take place. (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.’”

This is the fourth of the seven beatitudes in the book. The angel instructs John to write down this vision. The guests are most likely Old Testament and Tribulation saints.

(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.’”

John is so overwhelmed by what he has witnessed that he was about to worship the angel. The angel rebukes John and reminds him that God alone is to be worshipped. The angel's final statement to John reflects the title of the book.

Jesus Christ Is the Central Theme of All Scripture and the Focal Point of All Prophecy

Walvoord, “This means that prophecy at its very heart is designed to unfold the beauty and loveliness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

2. The Return of Jesus Christ to Earth (11-21)

History Is Truly His Story

Pentecost, “That to which all scripture looks forward and to which all history presses.”

MacArthur, “The second coming of Jesus Christ is thus the culmination of redemptive history.”

In this event there is complete silence concerning the translation of living believers which the New Testament has predicted, [I Corinthians 15:51-54](#) & [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#).

The Rapture of the Church and the Second Coming of Christ are two separate events associated with Christ’s return.

- **The revelation of the Lord Jesus**

(11) “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.”

All of the symbolic language represents different real aspects of Christ at His coming. Jesus came the first time in humility riding a donkey. Now he comes as a conquering ruler on a white charger. Jesus is “Faithful and True” in contrast to Satan the father of lies. Jesus is faithful to keep every promise He has made to us. Even in judgments Christ is righteous in all that He does.

(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.”