

Return of the King

Revelation 19:1-21

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Review: Rev 18, Fall of Babylon

The things that are wrong with human government will be replaced with a much better system... a theocratic dictatorship headed by the Lord Jesus Himself.

- Try this out on your liberal friends: tell them that you long for the day when we have a world-wide, theocratic dictatorship on earth (just kidding).

All people agree that the world is broken... we just disagree over how it may be fixed.

- Collaborative human effort (Mystery Babylon) versus trusting in and following Jesus Christ

Revelation 19:1-10 – Heaven Exults over Babylon

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!"² 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."³ Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"⁶ 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!"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."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.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."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."

v1-2 – What is heard from heaven?

A "loud voice of a great multitude in heaven" (Old Testament saints, the church, and holy angels) giving praise to God for judging Mystery Babylon.

Why was Mystery Babylon judged?

- *corrupted the earth with her fornication* – deceived people into embracing idolatrous religions instead of the Creator-Savior-God
- *the blood of His servants shed by her* – persecution & martyring of the saints

v3 – How is it the smoke of Mystery Babylon will rise up forever?

Those who trusted in the false human religions will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire...

Revelation 14:9-11 – *Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb."¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."*

v4 – Who praises God here & how is He praised?

the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures – leader/representatives of the church/O.T. saints and the holy angels

- *Amen!* – agreeing with the great multitude in heaven
- *Alleluia!* – praise God!

v5 – Whose voice was heard from the throne?

It had to be from one of the leaders of the great multitude either the elders or living creatures.

What does it mean to fear God?

To know Him and thus respect Him... have a relationship with Him.

Who are the small and great?

- Great – those who were greatly used by God like Paul; in contemporary times those like Billy Graham and Ravi Zacharias
- Small – those who knew Jesus as their Savior but touched fewer lives like the thief who died on the cross next to Jesus; people recognizing Jesus as their Savior on their death bed

v6-7 – What praise for God is made here?

The great multitude praises God recognizing His omnipotence (almighty power), His being in control and His marriage to His Church-Age followers

Why is the voice described as the “*sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings*”?

Different languages from all nations & powerful in being united.

What is the marriage of the Lamb?

This is the fulfillment of the promise Jesus made to the church about His return and our eternal relationship with Him...

John 14:2-3 – I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

The disciples understood this to be what Bridegrooms promised their betrothed... that the Bridegroom would go to His Father's house to make a place for them to live together and would return when their place to live was completed.

Why is it taking so long for the Bridegroom to return for His bride?

The Bridegroom is still preparing more places for His bride in heaven... more people are being added to the church. When the number of people who will come to Christ during this Age is complete, the Bridegroom will return.

v8 – What is the bride given?

arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright – a symbol of the righteousness we have because of Jesus paying the penalty for our sins

How is it that this clothing is referred to as *the righteous acts of the saints*?

It recognizes the good works followers of Christ have done.

- Note that apart from having a relationship with Christ, it is not possible to have good works that merit being a part of the bride of Christ arrayed in white linen.

v9 – Who will be at the marriage supper of the Lamb?

- J. Vernon McGee says the marriage of the church to the Lord will be in heaven but the marriage supper will be the Millennial Kingdom on earth.
- The Bride is the church. The resurrected Old Testament saints will be at the marriage supper as honored guests and so will the mortal saints who survived the Tribulation.

v10 – What faux pas did the Apostle John commit?

He started to worship his angelic tour guide of heaven.

How did John's angelic tour guide describe his relationship to church members?

fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus – like us in that we both serve God and have a relationship with Jesus, the Son of God

Why is the study of prophecy important?

- It is a critical part of the testimony of Jesus. Apart from understanding prophecy, you do not have a full picture of who Jesus is.
- When you neglect prophecy, you cannot have a complete understanding of Christ and thus it will impact your fellowship with Him.

Revelation 19:11-16 – Christ on a White Horse

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. 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. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

v11-13 – How is Jesus described?

- Riding a white horse – the true conquering hero
- called Faithful and True – faithful to His promises; speaks the truth, the personification of truth
- in righteousness He judges and makes war – is right in His pouring out wrath and going to war against His enemies
- eyes were like a flame of fire – He sees all in His exercising judgment

- *many crowns* – the ultimate ruler, in control
- *a name written that no one knew except Himself* – many things about Him will remain a mystery to even His followers
- *clothed with a robe dipped in blood* – dispenses final judgment on His enemies
- *His name is called The Word of God* – He is the revelation of God to mankind; Jesus is how we can know God...

Hebrews 1:1-2 – *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son*

v14 – Who follows Jesus when He returns to earth?

The armies of heaven... certainly angels but also us saints, the church who was just arrayed in white linen per verse 8, and Old Testament saints...

Jude 1:14 – *Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints*

How will the church-age saints travel back to earth?

On white horses just like Jesus.

What will the coming of Christ look like?

The great multitude of people arrayed in white linen riding white horses will look like He is coming with clouds...

Mark 13:26 – *Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory*

Rev 1:7 – *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him*

v15 – What does Jesus do when He returns?

He speaks destruction on the nations who opposed Him. He will rule with a rod of iron dispensing justice and evil-doers. He executes the wrath of God destroying all who have opposed Him.

v16 – What is written on His robe and on His thigh?

Who He is, King of kings and Lord of lords.

What does that title tell us about Him?

There is no one over Him. He is the power behind all authorities. He is the Almighty, Omnipotent ultimate authority in all creation.

Revelation 19:17-21 – The Beast & Armies Defeated

¹⁷ *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper*

of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.” ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

v17-18 – What does the angel standing in the sun do?

He invites birds of prey to feast on those enemies of God Jesus destroyed in His coming.

v19 – Who is it that Jesus makes war with when He returns?

The Antichrist, the rulers under him and the armies gathered against God and His army (us).

What is the distinction between the armies of the Antichrist (plural) and the army of God (singular)?

The Antichrist will have a multitude of warriors following him but there are many things that divide them (like race and brand of religion). The army of God is united despite being made up of all races because our religion of following Jesus is the only true religion.

v20 – What became of the Antichrist and the False Prophet?

cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone – no ceremony, no court proceedings, just sent to the Lake of Fire (eternal hell)... the first occupants of this eternal home for all who reject God

v21 – What happened to everyone else on earth who rejected God when Jesus Returns?

They are killed by the Son of God and the birds feasted on their bodies.

What is the blessing in this revelation of Jesus returning to earth?

- That He returns to rule!
- Justice will be done
- We will return with Him to rule with Him.
- God will fulfill His promises to the church