

86. The Book of Revelation—19:9

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
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As we said last time—at long last we have emerged out of the valley of the shadow of death and destruction called the Tribulation Period.

The Antichrist's capital (Babylon) has been destroyed and his kingdom is in ruins.

The dark night of man's rebellion has finally come to an end and the glorious new day of Christ's reign has come in the Revelation narrative.

The redeemed have waited for this day for a long time when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever!

That's what we are waiting for—that is our glorious hope!

Unbelievers are looking to man to solve the problems mankind is facing—looking to science and medicine, technology, and politicians to figure out solutions for the problems and crises which this world is facing and bring 'utopia' to the earth—but to no avail. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3)

But the only One who can fix the mess that mankind has made is Jesus Christ when He comes back to establish His Kingdom and reigns over the whole world in righteousness!

Revelation 19:1 (NKJV)

¹After these things...

As we have pointed out already—the Greek phrase is "*meta tauta*" which occurs four times in this book—at the beginning of Chapters 4, 7, 18 and now Chapter 19.

Here at the beginning of Chapter 19 it is used to officially close out the events of Chapter 18 and introduce a brand-new section in Chapter 19—

Revelation 18:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.' ²⁰Rejoice over her, O heaven, and *you* holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

Revelation 19:1 (NKJV)

¹After 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 “**loud voice**” from a “**great multitude**”—is the same phrase used in Chapter 7:9 where the “*great multitude*” refers to the martyred dead of the Great Tribulation—in other words, these are ‘*Tribulation Saints*.’

For them in particular the judgment of Babylon is a great triumph—as those who killed them for their commitment to Jesus, have now been judged by God.

The only thing left for them is one last futile attempt to keep Jesus from coming to establish His Kingdom upon the earth (Revelation 19:19-21).

The word “**Alleluia**” is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew word ‘*Hallelujah*’, which means—“*praise the Lord.*”

The word ‘*Hallelujah*’ occurs frequently in the Book of Psalms but occurs only four times in the New Testament—all of them in the first six verses of Revelation Chapter 19 where they are reserved for the final victory of Jesus over His enemies.

It is reminiscent of Psalm 104:35—

Psalms 104:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord [hallelujah]!

Revelation 19:1 (NKJV)

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 is a song that is emphasizing God’s attributes—which is the proper way to honor and worship Him (modern ‘praise music’ is often ‘self-music’).

- Look, we don’t rejoice because sinful Babylon has been destroyed—we rejoice because Babylon’s destruction will bring glory and honor to God’s great name!!
- We do not rejoice because this wicked, apostate, evil city has been destroyed—we rejoice because God’s name has been vindicated!

Remember that during the reign of the Antichrist, his followers called the true God evil and unrighteous and blasphemed His name—while worshipping Satan as God (they worshipped the Dragon). But now He has proven Himself to be the True and Righteous God by defeating the devil’s kingdom on earth!

So, we rejoice that God is “*true and righteous*” (Revelation 15:3; 16:7; 17:6) and that He is glorified by His holy judgments—

Revelation 19:2 (NKJV)

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.****

Notice we are told that she (‘Babylon’—i.e., ‘the false world religion’) was judged by God for 2 main sins:

1. *She filled the earth with false doctrine turning many away from the true God to follow idols;*
2. *She killed many of God’s servants, filling the earth with their blood.*

So now, God is praised for having judged the great harlot and having avenged the blood of His servants shed by her hand.

J. Vernon McGee—

"If you don't think what God is doing is right, it is because you, not God, are wrong...God will be righteous in judging the great harlot."

Revelation 19:3 (NKJV)

³ Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

The second **"Alleluia"** is connected to the statement that the **"smoke of Babylon will continue to rise forever and ever!"** This cannot refer to the literal city of Babylon—because a literal city can't burn forever.

This is referring instead to the people of the world ('earth-dwellers') who identified themselves with the '*spirit of Babylon*'—those who worshipped her and participated in her wicked deeds and refused to repent of their sins.

They are the ones being referred to that will endure eternal judgment in hell—as Revelation 14 talks about:

Revelation 14:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." ⁹ 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.

Revelation 19:4-6 (NKJV)

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!"

The twenty-four elders first introduced in Chapter 4, along with the four living creatures now fall down and worship God and add their **"Amen! Alleluia!"** to the chorus of praise and worship being offered to God Almighty in heaven.

Take note—the **twenty-four elders** (representing the Church) and the **four living creatures** (representing all of the hosts of heaven—all angels from the least to the greatest) are introduced as worshiping God—but are separate from the **great multitude** spoken of in verse one.

In verse one, that great multitude are the martyred dead of the Great Tribulation (tribulation saints)—those who were killed by the Antichrist and his followers.

When commercial Babylon rose to power and caused the world to become drunk with her riches, power, sexual pleasures, and demonic deception (that the Antichrist is God)—it unleashed a wave of persecution against the people of God unlike anything in recorded history. (Matthew 24:21-22)

Now that God has judged and destroyed the Antichrist's empire, those martyred by the Antichrist thunder from heaven—**"Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"**

Understand that God has been reigning on the throne of heaven from the beginning of creation— but now Jesus is going to conquer the thrones of earth. Those that make up the kingdom of Satan and “*the beast*”—and Jesus will be King of kings and Lord of lords reigning over the whole earth from Jerusalem!

One author said—

“In His sovereignty, He has permitted evil men and evil angels to do their worst; but now the time has come for God’s will to be done on earth even as it is in heaven.”

That is exactly what Jesus taught us to pray in the model prayer He gave His disciples in Matthew 6—

Matthew 6:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.

That was ultimately a Millennial Kingdom prayer. (Hold on to that thought)

Revelation 19:7-8 (NKJV)

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.

The phrase “**for the marriage of the Lamb has come**” should actually be translated, “**for the marriage supper or feast has come**” (verse 9 reinforces this).

You see by this time we are already married to Jesus which is made clear by the statement in verse 7, “**and His wife has made herself ready**”—*ready for what?* Ready to be presented to the world officially as Jesus’ Wife—and ready for the **marriage feast or supper** which always followed the consummation of the marriage (check out last week’s study as we went into this in detail).

Revelation 19:9 (NKJV)

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."

Here we have the Lord Jesus mentioned—“**the Lamb**” (Bridegroom); we see the Bride mentioned—“**...His wife has made herself ready.**” (verse 7)—a reference to the Church.

But then in verse 9 we read, “**Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**”

The question is ‘*who are these referring to?*’—we have the **Bridegroom** (Jesus) and the **Bride** (the Church)—but who are these guests?

Some commentators maintain they are the Church, the Bride of Christ—but that is ridiculous:

One author had this to say—

“The recipients of this blessing are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. That they are invited guests marks them as a distinct group from the church, since a bride would hardly be invited to her own wedding.”

First of all, these guests represent Old Testament believers.

In both Matthew 8:11 and Luke 13:28, Jesus mentions that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be citizens of the coming Kingdom (Luke 13:28 also mentions the Old Testament prophets as being in the Kingdom).

In fact, all the heroes of the faith mentioned in Hebrews 11 (Old Testament saints) will be among the invited guests.

But so will John the Baptist, the last and greatest of all Old Testament prophets (Matt. 11:11; Luke 16:16), who described himself as the *'friend of the bridegroom'* (John 3:29)—also be one of the invited guests.

But this feast won't be limited to guests of the O.T.—I believe that all the Tribulation Saints, resurrected and glorified, at Jesus' return to the earth—will also be a part of the Kingdom and therefore guests at the **marriage feast**.

The **marriage** of the Lamb will take place in heaven, but the marriage **supper** will take place upon the earth. (Last week's study)

J. Vernon McGee—

"The marriage supper is evidently the Millennium. You talk about a long supper—this is going to be a long one! At the end of the Millennium the church is still seen as the bride. Imagine a honeymoon which lasts one thousand years! Yet that is only the beginning. What joy! What ecstasy! The angel puts God's seal on this scene: "These are the true words of God."

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

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