87. The Book of Revelation—19:10-11

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier (7-27-22)

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As we come to Chapter 19 in our study of the Book of Revelation—we come to the end of the 'dark night of man's rebellion' (which started in the Garden of Eden), and we finally come into the light of a new day—Christ's reign upon the earth and the glorious Kingdom Age.

This 'Day' is prophesied about numerous times in both the Old and New Testaments:

Malachi 4:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ "For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. ³ You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do *this*," Says the LORD of hosts.

Romans 13:11-14 (NKJV)

¹¹ And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

Revelation 19:1–10 (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! 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."

John, apparently overcome with the excitement and emotion of the moment—falls at the feet of the angel showing him these things and worships him.

The angel responds—"See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God!..."

The word 'worship' is a contraction of the word 'worthship'—only God is worthy of our praise and worship.

As powerful and glorious as angels are—they are still created beings and therefore not worthy of worship—which belongs only to God.

This is in contrast with Jesus, who throughout the Gospels we see people worshipping—

Luke 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

John 20:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Matthew 14:33 (NKJV)

³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

Yet Jesus never says, "Don't worship Me. I'm just an angel"—No, He accepts worship because He is God! Jesus is the Creator of all things—including the angels.

He is not a created being; He is the Creator—God incarnate:

John 1:3, 14 (NKJV)

- ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...
- ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Colossians 1:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Therefore, the contention of the Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses that Jesus is nothing more than an angel is completely erroneous.

Jesus receives worship because He is more than an angel—He is Almighty God Incarnate—angels worship Him!

Hebrews 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

At the end of verse 10 the angel declares, "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." This means that the true purpose of prophecy is to bear testimony to the Person and work of Jesus Christ. But in fact, that is the purpose of the entire Bible—as Jesus said, "The volume of the Book is written of Me." (Psalm 40:7)

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "You search the Scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life, but they testify of Me..." (John 5:39)

The whole Bible is testifying and pointing to Jesus Christ in clear statements, in type—but especially in *prophecy*.

There are three hundred thirty-three prophesies of His First Coming; and five hundred of His Second Coming—truly the volume of Scripture is all about Jesus!

That would make sense since the theme of the entire Bible is the redemption of fallen mankind—and that redemption was made possible by God becoming a Man in the Person of Jesus Christ and dying in the place of sinful man (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Again, verse 10 tells us—"For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

One author said—

"Some people think that the purpose of prophecy is to open a window on the future. But no, the spirit and essence of prophecy is to bear witness to Jesus. He is the central figure of all Scripture — and of all history. We are not to focus our attention on future events but on the One who will bring them to pass. Our focus of worship is the Lord Jesus Christ!"

Again, the purpose of prophecy isn't to know 'what' is coming, but to know "Who" is coming and how soon He, the Lord Jesus Christ, will be here—and that should cause me to constantly evaluate my readiness for His return.

If you only look at prophecy as an informational window into the future—you're missing the whole point.

- Very soon I'm going to see Him face to face—am I ready?
- Will I rejoice at His coming or will I be ashamed at His appearing? (1 John 2:28)

I think that all depends on how much I love Him—because that will determine how much I put Him first and live for Him. (Mark 12:30)

As Jesus said, "Whatever you truly treasure will control your heart and life." (Matthew 6:21)

Revelation 19:11a (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened...

It is only in the Book of Revelation that we see the door of heaven open—and it is opened twice:

- In Chapter 4, verse 1, the door is opened to allow the raptured Church to enter into heaven as God evacuates us off of the earth in preparation for His wrath and judgment to be poured out on this Christrejecting world.
- Then, here in Chapter 19, the door is opened again, but this time to allow the glorified Church to *exit* from heaven seven years later when she returns to the earth with Jesus at His Second Coming.

The Church has been missing from the earth starting in Revelation 4:1 (before the Tribulation Period begins)—and she doesn't reappear in the narrative until Revelation 19:14 when she appears with her Husband, Jesus Christ (another case for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church).

This will be the climax of redemptive history and the answer to the prayer of every Christian who has ever prayed to God—"Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

I don't have to tell you that right now God's will isn't being done on earth as it is in heaven—why? because of man's rebellion. This doesn't mean that during the Millennial Kingdom everyone living will desire to do God's will and obey Jesus perfectly.

The Bible prophesies that there will still be some rebellion on the earth during this period of time (only among those born during the Millennial Kingdom).

The difference between man's rebellion now and mankind's rebellion then will be—Jesus will be reigning then upon the earth and will not tolerate open rebellion in His Kingdom:

Psalm 2:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

Revelation 19:15 (NKJV)

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.

The world is getting progressively more and more wicked, rebellious, and violent.

As Christians we are longing for the time when Jesus comes back, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our God and His Christ (Messiah) and He will reign forever and ever! (Revelation 11:15) Then and only then will God's will in heaven be truly and completely and consistently acted out upon the earth!

When Jesus finally reigns upon the earth, He will not allow crime, violence, injustice—or rebellion of any kind against His laws and His reign!

He will rule with a rod of iron and peace and righteousness will fill the earth!

Revelation 22:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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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