

Revelation 19 – Babylon the Great is Fallen!

By Holly Effiom

VV 1-3

From what perspective is this section of scripture taking place?
Who is singing “Allelujah”? Who might this group be?
Who is on the receiving end of their praise? Why?
Why are they rejoicing?
Why would the heavens be happy about Jerusalem’s fall? Isn’t Jerusalem the seat of government in the earth?

VV 4-6

Why is it noteworthy that the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures bow down and worship? Gen 1:24-27 (creature v. soul)
What is significant regarding the rejoicing of the voice of “many waters” and voice of “mighty thunders” as it relates to our understanding of Gen 1:24-27?
Of what are the 24 elders and 4 living creatures representative?
Who is on the receiving end of their praise? Why?

LESSON: The start of Rev 19 seems to pick up from Rev 18:20 from the perspective of heaven! What were the heavens doing the moment that judgment was meted out on Babylon? And you see it all right there, in these first 6 verses!

There is something significant in these verses featuring specific beings in rejoicing. All of the heavens were rejoicing, but these in particular are noted: “much people in heaven”, the 24 elders, and the 4 living creatures. There are “much people” in heaven! The 24 elders and 4 living creatures were in the throne before the battle even began, and they are representative of every living creature in the earth and in the air; however, we didn’t see “much people” in heaven until Rev 15 – those who had gotten the victory over the beast.

VV7-8 The Marriage Feast of the Lamb

Where else in scripture is the “marriage of the Lamb” mentioned?
Is this a literal marriage that will be taking place?
What is “virginity” as God uses it in scripture?
What is “harlotry” as God uses it in scripture?
Who are the principals in this marriage? The groom? The bride? The family
What is “marriage” as God uses it in scripture then? Rev 3:4-6
What does it mean “his wife has made herself ready”? In what way has she made herself ready?
What does “fine linen, clean and white” symbolize?
What does it mean “to her was granted”? Does this mean that his wife was deemed worthy to wear the fine linen? Is this what it means to be “without fault before the throne of God”? Rev 14:5
If this indeed is what it means to be found “without fault before the throne of God”, then who is his wife, and how does she “make herself ready”? Rev 14:1-5.

LESSON: As far as I can tell, this is the first mention of the marriage of the Lamb. There have been many mentions of the “day of the Lord” or “day” throughout the prophets; and there have been examples of the manner of marriage in the orient; and there have been multiple references to Jesus’s, the Lamb’s, return to earth; but, this is the first time I’ve read any mention of the “marriage of the Lamb”, Paul likened

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the church's relationship with Jesus as a marriage. I don't know if this is significant, but I consider it noteworthy.

The groom is Jesus and the bride is the earth, populated and dominated by the faithful saints of the Most High God – the perfected Adam and Eve. Just as Jesus was invested back into the Godhead in heaven in Rev 5, after having performed the will of the Father; in the marriage of the Lamb in Rev 19, the earth, the people over whom He rules, invests Him as King and God. He is King and God without the earth's approval; however, it is God's will that the "ruled" be vested in His rulership. This is God's way.

VV 9-10

To whom is John referring when he says, "And he says unto me..."?

What is the angel telling him to do?

Who exactly is imparting this information, even though it is via the angel?

What was John's reaction to this information? What was it about the angel's words that made John want to take that action?

How does the angel respond to John's reaction?

Why doesn't the angel accept John obeisance?

What does the angel mean when he calls himself a "fellow-servant"?

What does the angel mean when he says he's "of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus"? How is this similar to the mention of brethren in Rev 12:10-11?

What is the angel's absolute admonition?

In what way is the testimony of Jesus the "spirit of prophecy"?

LESSON: This is such an important section of scripture. Remember it was one of the angels given the responsibility of pouring out one of the vials of the wrath of God that is escorting John at this time and providing the interpretation of the visions he was given. Rev 17:1, 7

This angel is telling John that God Himself is sending the church the message that blessed are those whom He invites to the marriage supper of the Lamb. The parable of the marriage feast in Matt 22:1-14 talks about this marriage feast of the Lamb. Understanding this parable makes one understand the enormity of the privilege of this invitation.

The word of God is the "oracles of God" in John's heart, so his human inclination is to bow to the one who is bringing him these words, and I believe that this is the nature of man. Being "appreciative" of one who brings you good news is right; attributing god-like status to such a one is not good. This makes me question the intention of the angels who have come to accept such humility from man as their own right.

This angel, understanding the human inclination, immediately corrected John, explaining that he, too, is a:

1. "Fellow-servant" of God along with John. The angels must be viewed by man as fellow-laborers. Believing otherwise, on both parts, was the genesis of the disorder in heaven and earth.
2. "Of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus". This angel is saying he is a *Christian* along with John! The marvelous work God had done through Christ made mankind and the divine *kin*.

The angel admonishes John, and thereby the church, to worship God and understand that the gospel of Jesus Christ is indeed the whole point of prophecy! In Him the divine and flesh have become family. *Everything* the prophets ever wrote or the saints and apostles spoke about point to Jesus Christ – His

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advent, His judgment, His reign as King. Hallelujah! This is the will of God Almighty: “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil 2:10-11; Isa 45:23

V11

What is John seeing?

Who is it that he is seeing? What is He called?

In what way is the rider of this white horse Faithful and True? Rev 1:5-8

What is the rider of this white horse there to do, and in what way?

Is this the same rider on a white horse in Rev 6:2?

V12

What is significant about His eyes being as a “flame of fire”?

What is meant by His having “many crowns” upon His head? How is a “crown” different from a “horn”?

Where did the rider of the white horse get His “crowns”?

What is it to have a name written that only He Himself knew? Is this not Jesus? And, aren't there a lot of people named Jesus in the world? Or will all the “Jesus-es” be killed off in the wrath?

What is it to have a name? Go to Ex 3:13-14

LESSON: When Moses was asking the name of the One who was sending him to Egypt, God's response was: “I AM THAT I AM”. What an interesting response, as if God was saying “I exist”, which God deemed sufficient for what He was sending Moses to do. “I exist.”

When a child is born, he or she is named, saying to the world, “I exist” to my parents; within a family; in a town, in a nation. “I have inherent value because I exist; and, there is no one in the world like me... ‘I exist.’” From this perspective, having a name is similar to having your own “song” – a life experience that no one else in the world can sing.

Jesus is given a name that is not only above every other name, but is also not shared with anyone else in the entire world or even universe! “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil 2:10-11; Isa 45:23. Hallelujah!!! This cannot be repeated enough!

V13-14

What is significant about Jesus's vestments being dipped in blood? In what way were His vestments dipped in blood?

Whose blood is on His vestments? Is this a reference to Isa 52:15 or Rev 14:14-20? How do you know?

What shall He be called? In what way is Jesus the “Word of God”? John 1:1, 14

Was Jesus alone at His return? Who was with Him? What were they wearing?

Who gets to wear “white raiment” according to Rev 3:4-5?

What would this tell you about those who are part of the armies of heaven?

Is this scene the same as Rev 14:1? How do you know?

V15-16

What was protruding from Jesus' mouth? Why?

Is Jesus going to be a vintner? To what is this section of scripture referring?

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We are told that Jesus Himself treads the winepress. Why is this being said; why is it noteworthy?

Where else did we see an allusion to a winepress? Rev 14:14-20.

What does this allusion tell us about Jesus and what He is doing?

Does this explain the blood on His vestments?

Who is the Judge and Executioner in the earth, according to this section of scripture? How do you know?

What does this teach us about the job of a king?

VV17-19 (Ezekiel 39)

To whom is the angel standing in the sun speaking? Why?

What is the angel announcing?

Is this the same “supper” as the “marriage supper of the Lamb”? Is this the same “sacrifice” prepared by God in Zeph 1:7?

What is on the menu?

Where did we read about these kings being gathered together? Rev 16:13-16

Were these gathered together for a “good” purpose? What is their purpose? How do you know?

Where else in scripture is this “supper” prophesied? Ez 39:17-24.

Will this “supper” be a nice sit-down affair, where everyone is dressed prettily?

LESSON: “Marriage supper of the Lamb”

Throughout our study of this book, we have come to understand how God uses the concept of “marriage” in describing His relationship with Israel. And, we understood that God likened Israel’s descent into idolatry to “harlotry” – transgression of the marriage covenant. Now, we are being presented with an image of the “marriage” supper of the Lamb – the wedding of His Son, the only begotten of the Father; but the “wedding feast” related images we conjure today are very different from what God says in Ezekiel and Zephaniah.

In some traditional cultures, the marriage feast is preceded by a hunt which, when you think about it, is an event in which the two families participate together in catching and preparing the meal that they both sit down to share. Today, the hunting we do is to hire a caterer or cut out coupons and go *a-hunting* at Smart & Final or Costco, and this is usually done by one family – this marriage supper is much more tame and less *inclusive* by traditional standards.

What is the concept God is conveying in using the “marriage” metaphor?

We focus very much on the bride and groom when considering weddings, but at its heart, marriage is two “families” becoming one – the divine and the earthly becoming one family – *kin*. And, this was *only* possible through Jesus Christ. Consider this: why would anyone *settle* to have a mere affiliation with the angels, when God Almighty is offering the opportunity to be *part of His family*?

What is the concept God is conveying in using the “marriage supper” metaphor?

Ezekiel 39:17-24 foretells the great supper of the Lord and why it is done, it sounds very similar to Rev 19:17-19 supper of the great God. God is inviting all of creation – all who had been harmed by the selfishness and greed of a rebellious mankind and angels – to part-take in His victory meal, the carnage of the war He had waged, after vanquishing His enemies, His kingdom firmly in His hands. *This* is the marriage supper of the Lamb.

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VV20-21

What will happen to the beast from out of the sea and the false prophet – the beast from out of the earth?

What will happen to the kings and great men who gathered themselves to battle?

What is meant by being slain by the sword protruding from the Word of God's mouth? What is the understanding that God wants us to have?

Who will have killed these kings and great men?

Who got to eat the flesh of the dead?

LESSON: The great "day of the Lord", "supper of the great God", "marriage supper of the Lamb", prophesied by the prophets, apostles, and saints, will not be a dinner party – it will be a great slaughter upon which the birds of heaven will feed for a long, long time. Hallelujah!

The beast out of the sea – that last world empire, the 8th head, the "little horn" – and the false prophet – who deceived people into taking the mark of the beast – will not be given the honor of being fed on as carrion. These two will be cast alive into the lake of fire. Hallelujah!

The King of kings and Lord of lords will rule heaven and earth uncontested. Hallelujah!!!!

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