

Revelation Chapter 19 Handout

This provides a remarkable contrast to the mourning of those who had gained great wealth and power through their association with the beast/Babylon. Here we will hear the ever increasing song of joy which will ultimately include all who live in heaven.

1 After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power to our God,
2 for his judgments are true and just;
he has judged the great whore
who corrupted the earth with her fornication,
and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

3 Once more they said,
"Hallelujah!
The smoke goes up from her forever and ever."

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who is seated on the throne, saying,
"Amen. Hallelujah!"

5 And from the throne came a voice saying,
"Praise our God,
all you his servants,
and all who fear him,
small and great."

Hallelujah - there is great celebration in heaven and it moves from the outer circle to the inner circle. Recall that on the outside of the circle around the throne is the multitude which cannot be numbered, then there are the twenty four elders and four living creatures, then on the throne is the lamb. These are exodus psalms reminding the people that God is a liberating God.

Salvation and glory and power - this is the theme of this whole book. God is the only one with the power to save his people... because their captivity is not merely political, though it may be that, it is also spiritual and economic.

Fear him - this is a righteous fear... because he does have the power to bring down those who are against him... yet he is faithful to the thousandth generation to those who fear him

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out,
"Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;

8 to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure"--
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

*Hallelujah - this is the final Hallel psalm (Psalm 93:1; 97:1; 99L1) in which the people are preparing for the coming of the new king. This is the new coronation.
Marriage - compare this with the image of the prostitute and the reaction of those who lived off of her. There was no loyalty and only bitterness. The relationship was about using one another get something. This new relationship is about faithfulness and love. The bride is pure (white) and holy (linen).
Righteous - meaning that the saints, the holy ones, had kept themselves from relationships with the prostitute Babylon.*

9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of God." 10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb - this is the fourth of seven beatitudes. This is the beginning of the celebration of the new life that is coming to those who are faithful...for that is those who will be invited.

*Words of God - this is a blessing from God and not from the angel
I fell down- John finds himself committing spiritual adultery. He is worshipping a creature and not a creator. Fear of angels may be an appropriate response but not worship*

*You must not do that - the angel understands. He is merely a fellow servant
Worship God - this is the heart of all of the book. God alone through the testimony of Jesus is to be worshipped.*

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God.

Heaven opened - again we have the image of immediate connection between heaven and earth. There is nothing to stop the powers of heaven from invading the earth.

White horse - purity

Faithful and true - this is the one who has never moved away from completely following the will and command of God.

In righteousness he judges - this is not done out of spite or vengeance, this is done because it is right and true.

Makes war - as we shall see this is not a physical war... this is a war by way of the spiritual power of God to defeat his enemies.

Flame of fire - again purity

Many diadems - meaning great power. We could count the diadems on the heads of the beasts but these are so many they cannot be counted.

A name...no one knows - this means that no one can have power over him. He alone knows what is good and right to do.

Robe dipped in blood - this is the blood of the lamb which saves and makes clean

The word of God - this comes from the opening of John's gospel... and the word was made flesh

14 And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Armies of heaven - the rider does not come alone. Notice they too are wearing the clothing of the bride. These are the martyrs who are at his side.

From his mouth - the sword which slays is not a physical sword but the very word of God. This harkens to Genesis where the word of God called all things into being...and now it is reforming the earth...renewing the earth.

Rule them - this is Christ's role...he is to rule the world as King. Remember Isaiah 11:3.

King of Kings and Lord of Lords - this is the station that Christ holds... there is no one who can guide and direct the actions in righteousness other than the one king

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly in midheaven, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of the mighty, the flesh of horses and their riders--flesh of all, both free and slave, both small and great."

Angel - again we have a pronouncement that is worth hearing.

Great supper of God - this is a horrifying vision... but one with which most of the people of the time were familiar. After a battle the corpses would rot in the sun and the birds would come and pick the bones clean.

Kings, mighty... slave - all of those who had committed adultery would find themselves at risk. This was all the way down to the slaves. Status and station did not make or break one in terms of committing prostitution... that was a matter of whom you chose to follow.

19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against the rider on the horse and against his army.

Make war - those who know they are about to lose everything will not go quietly.

20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed in its presence the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who

worshipped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were killed by the sword of the rider on the horse, the sword that came from his mouth; and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Beast was captured - so much for the battle of Armageddon. This is hardly a big deal. It is hardly a big deal because in the end the beast has no power. He is up against the King of Kings. The battle was won at the cross... not on the battle field.

The false prophet - the rest of the cast goes down as well.

Thrown alive into the lake of fire - there could be no more terrible punishment than that.

Killed by the sword of the mouth - the very word of God kills them... the cross is victorious.