

# Revelation 19

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We're nearing the end of human government... it's been a long 6000 years and Man's government has always failed. The Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth where He will set up His Righteous government... He will rule with a rod of iron for a thousand years... absolute righteousness, law and order... and yet, even then... at the end of the thousand years... man will have failed... there will be one final rebellion... we'll see that next week. This week, we have the exciting return.

This is the end of the seven years of Tribulation, God has finished pouring out His Wrath, His plagues and judgments on the World that has hated and rejected Him and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a 2 chapter interval where God showed us the judgment of Babylon the Great... the World wide religious and economic system of Satan and the Antichrist.

Now Heaven rejoices over God's judgment of Babylon...

## Revelation 19

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

When Babylon the Great is judged, all Heaven cries out, '**Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!**'

For 6000 years, the false religious system of Babylon has sought to turn glory and honor away from the true God and give it to Lucifer, to demons and even to man himself.

The religious system of Babylon began in the Garden of Eden with the first temptation and sin...

Satan, as a serpent, led Eve to doubt the Word of God... doubt what He has said... He told her what every false religious system has said ever since... 'Look to yourself for wisdom, look within yourself for godhood... salvation lies within you... divinity is within you.'

Gen 3: Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Has God indeed said**, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, **nor shall you touch it**, lest you die.'" God didn't say that... she doubted what God said and then added her own words to it.

<sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it **your eyes will be opened and you will be like God**, knowing good and evil."

God is trying to keep something from you...He is trying to keep you from being like Him.

He is selfish and petty.

<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree **desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked.

What did Satan tell Eve... 'Has God really said... you must have misunderstood what He really meant...

First and foremost... doubt the Word of God. You can be like God... you can be a god... you can decide for yourself, good and evil. You have the **power** within you... you should be **honored** and **glorified**. Then... since you can decide for yourself, good and evil... you decide what constitutes grounds for salvation... salvation lies within you.

Honor and glory belong **only** to God... **He alone is worthy of glory and honor**. To doubt that is to shake the very foundation of a correct understanding and knowledge of God.

He alone has power... before Him, all must bow and submit... willingly or forcedly.

And... **Salvation belongs to our God**... this has been crucial for Satan to twist and confuse. Every false religious system teaches that salvation belongs to man... man saves himself through his good works and through his sacrifices.

God, in His Word, teaches us that only God can save... it is His work alone... only through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross can anyone be saved... and only God can keep one saved... only God can keep and preserve all those He has chosen and called to Himself... only He can finally present every one of us faultless and accepted before God's throne of Grace.

**Salvation belongs to God**... only God decides who will be saved... only He chooses for His own purposes... for His glory. Man does not decide who will be saved.

So... at the destruction of the false religious and economic system... all Heaven hears and cries out the truth which has been twisted for 6000 years...

**“Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!... ONLY to the Lord our God.**

John heard this from Heaven... now he will see a great scene in Heaven... what we've all been waiting and hoping for...

<sup>6</sup>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! <sup>7</sup>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.**” <sup>8</sup>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 marriage of the Bride... us... the true Church... to the Lord Jesus Christ has finally come.

The Tribulation has been happening on Earth and we have all been in Heaven... receiving our rewards. See what it says... **His wife has made herself ready.**” Does that mean she has made herself righteous and holy, that she has made herself acceptable? No, not at all... just like an Earthly bride makes herself ready, in the bride's room, before the ceremony... putting on her dress and makeup, doing her hair... the same is true here... she, we, are putting on our bridal clothing... what does it say... what are we dressed in... fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the **righteous acts** of the saints... acts for which we've received rewards.

After we arrived in Heaven, at the Rapture, each of us... all the millions of us, have been personally given our rewards from the Lord Jesus Christ... and the rewards we receive for what we have done here and now are what we are clothed in, then. Some will be clothed very elaborately; some will be clothed very simply... depending on what we have done in this body while we've been here on Earth.

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

Nor have entered into the heart of man

The things which **God has prepared for those who love Him**. 1 Cor 2:9

<sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, **that each one may receive the things done in the body**, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Cor 5:10

For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name Heb 6:10

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then **heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, **that we may also be glorified together.**  
Rom 8:18

And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, **he shall by no means lose his reward.** Matt 10:42

Each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because **it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work**, of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup> If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, **he will receive a reward.** <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, **yet so as through fire.**  
1 Cor 3:13

Daniel said, "I watched till thrones were put in place,  
And the Ancient of Days was seated;  
His garment *was* white as snow,  
And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool.  
His throne *was* a fiery flame,  
Its wheels a burning fire;

<sup>10</sup> **A fiery stream issued**

**And came forth from before Him.**

A thousand thousands ministered to Him;  
Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him.  
The court was seated,  
And **the books were opened.** Dan 7:9

The books were opened... each of our lives will be revealed... we will receive rewards for some things and we will suffer the loss of rewards for other things. When that whole process is finally completed... John hears this Word...

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.**" <sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"

Who are those called to the marriage supper of the Lamb? The invited guests. Is that us? No... we are the Bride. We are sitting in the middle of the head table with the Groom. We are not the guests... we are not called to the marriage supper... we are the Bride in the Wedding.

John the Baptist said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' <sup>29</sup> **He who has the bride is the bridegroom;** but the **friend of the bridegroom**, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled. <sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I *must* decrease. John 3:27

Only the true Church is the Bride of Christ... none before and none after. Only the Bride is married to the Groom... all others are friends and guests. Old Testament Saints, including the time of Jesus Christ before His crucifixion... and Tribulation Saints... these are those called to the marriage of the Lamb. That is not to say many of them won't be highly rewarded and glorified by God with exalted places in Heaven... many of them will be far more highly exalted than many of us, the Bride... but they are not the Bride...

Perhaps God is waiting until the last part of the Tribulation so that every Tribulation Saint who is to be killed will be in Heaven to be called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

This is not allegory... this is not simile... this is not... 'sort of what it will be like...'

He is giving us a true picture of what is coming!

Then John says, '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.***"

***The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy...*** what Jesus says is true prophecy... more true than what we now see with our eyes.

**This Revelation is the testimony of Jesus... it is all true... absolutely true.**

The Lord Jesus Christ on a White Horse

<sup>11</sup> 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.

No more grace for the World... the time has come for the final war... the final doom for all who have rejected God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

The armies of Heaven... it may mean angels, it may mean Old Testament Saints, it may mean us, the Bride... we don't know for sure... it may mean all of us.

One thing is sure... we are with Him.

Remember what Paul said in relation to the Rapture in 1 Thes 4...

<sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord (at the Rapture) will by no means precede those who are asleep. (those who have died) <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And ***thus we shall always be with the Lord.***

From that time on... ***we will always be with the Lord Jesus Christ.*** He has always been with us Spiritually, from the moment of our Salvation... He said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you... lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'

**From the moment of the Rapture, we will always be with Him physically as well... never separated.**

**We will be with Him when He returns to Earth at the end of the Tribulation... to the Battle of Armageddon.**

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

When He returns to Earth, He will set foot on the Mount of Olives; it will split in two from East to West.

'Then the LORD will go forth

And fight against those nations,

As He fights in the day of battle.

<sup>4</sup> And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,

Which faces Jerusalem on the east.

And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,

From east to west,

*Making* a very large valley;

Half of the mountain shall move toward the north

And half of it toward the south...

... thus the LORD my God will come,

**And all the saints with You.** Zech 14:3

A sword will go out of His mouth to kill all His enemies.

There is no reason to disbelieve this being literal. Remember... the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. If the Lord Jesus Christ says something... it is truer than our ability to even comprehend.

Millions will die in an instant... here we see Him again at the winepress of the Wrath of God... the blood flowing as high as a horse's bridle for 200 miles.

He will set up His Kingdom to rule from Jerusalem... we will rule and reign with Him for a thousand years and then forever.

<sup>17</sup> 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, 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."

Every bird of prey and every scavenger... a huge, dark cloud of birds descending on the Valley of Armageddon on the Plain of Megiddo... to be so filled with the flesh of the dead... probably unable to fly until they digest.

<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, (the Antichrist) the kings of the earth, (10 kings) and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who sat on the horse and against His army.

They are still so deceived as to think they could defeat the Son of God.

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.

The Antichrist and the false prophet are the first two to be cast into the Lake of Fire to be punished for all eternity. Eventually it will contain all the lost, all the condemned of all ages, including Satan, Lucifer himself and all fallen angels and evil spirits.

All the rest who are killed at Armageddon, their souls go to Sheol, the place of the dead, to Hades, the bad side... the same place the lost have always gone since the time of Cain... the same place where the rich man was while Lazarus was in the good side... Abraham's Bosom... Paradise.

All these dead will remain there until the end of the thousand years of Jesus Christ's Kingdom on Earth.

Then they will all be raised to the final judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment of the Lord Jesus Christ where they will all be cast, one by one, into the Lake of Fire to be punished and tormented forever.

Then God will destroy the present Heavens and Earth and create a new Heavens and a new Earth over which we will rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ forever.