

Revelation 19

The Wedding Feast and the Fall of the Two Beasts

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The key to understanding the revelation is enhanced by several things John tells us in the first three verses of chapter 1.
1. It is a revelation of Jesus Christ. 1:1
 2. It is a book involving symbols and signs. 1:1
 3. It is concerning things that would “shortly come to pass.” 1:1
 4. The time, during John’s day, was “at hand.” 1:3

Hallelujah — Praise — Worship

Verses 1-5

- A. Chapter 19 begins with a rousing series of HALLELUJAH CHORUSES praising God for His salvation, glory and power in judging the Harlot.

Verse 6

- A. The Lord is praised as reigning NOW (then—in John’s day).
1. How ridiculous to maintain that:
 - a. The Lord isn’t reigning in the 21st Century.
 - b. Or, that He began reigning in 1914, as the Jehovah Witnesses teach.
 - c. Or, that He hasn’t even established His kingdom yet.
 2. He was reigning in the First Century, and continues to reign today.
- B. Proof positive the Lord reigns today, our day, and the kingdom is here NOW, is found in the following passages of Scripture:
1. **Colossians 1:13** - He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”
 2. **Hebrews 12:28** - Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
 3. **Mark 9:1** - And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."
- C. The Harlot, BABYLON, the Great City, (Rome) has been announced as FALLEN.
1. Now, for the fall of the Sea Beast and Earth Beast! Again, the symbols are as follows:
 - a. Babylon, the Great City, represents the worldliness of Rome.
 - b. The Sea Beast represents the civil persecuting power of Rome (emperor worship).

- c. The Earth Beast represents the False Prophet who made people worship the Sea Beast (Rev. 13:12).
- d. The Dragon—Satan who empowered them all.

Verses 7-8

- A. Marriage Supper.
- B. It's time for the wedding of the Lamb, But where is the bride?
 - 1. She is told to get ready for tie wedding with white garments, which were the "righteous acts of the saints."
 - 2. And WHO is this bride? **The church!**

Verse 9

- A. Happy are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Verse 10

- A. John is instructed to worship only God (see Matthew 4:10).
- B. Next the voice from the Throne (Rev. 19:5) in Heaven (Rev. 4:2) reveals that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy!
- C. What is amazing are the strange claims some make about the spirit of prophecy.
 - 1. Prophecy without Jesus is worthless.
 - 2. The testimony of Jesus, indeed, is the spirit of prophecy!

THE VICTORIOUS CHRIST

Verse 11

- A. With the opening of Heaven we see a warrior on a white horse.
 - 1. We have seen this symbol before in the breaking of the first seal of the seven sealed book (Revelation 6:2).
 - 2. In chapter 6 we found Jesus going forth conquering and to conquer in the Gospel.
- B. Now we have Jesus as the conquering warrior who is called "Faithful and True."
 - 1. He judges and makes war on the enemy.
 - 2. We should not be surprised.
 - 3. This is exactly what Revelation has been revealing throughout the book—an unveiling of Jesus at work among the nations—judging and making war, and also saving and giving victory to His people. Now,
- C. Again we emphasize how the book of Revelation must be understood in a figurative or symbolic manner. Attempts, as so many have made, to literalize foundation.

Verses 12-13

- A. Jesus' eyes are a flame of fire (figuratively, **all seeing and piercing**—not a literal blow torch).
- B. He wears many crowns (diadems) symbolic of His universal rule of all nations!
- C. His garments are sprinkled with blood.
 1. Where did the blood come from?
 2. Answer: His own, because of Calvary? His enemies? or both? His name is called the Word
 3. No question, it is Jesus (

Verse 14

- A. Heavenly armies followed Him on white horses (victory), and the armies were clothed in white representing the overcomers (those who died faithful unto death).

Verse 15

- A. Out of Jesus' mouth came a sharp two-edged judgment sword (not the sweet Gospel sword).
 1. With this sword He smites the nations, and He rules them with a rod of iron
 2. He also treads the winepress of God's wrath (judgment on Rome).

Verse 16

- A. And He bears the name King of kings and Lord of lords on His garment and thigh.

Verse 17

- A. An angel announces this supper in a loud voice while standing in the sun (brilliant - very visible).
 1. He calls to invite all the birds of heaven to the great supper of God to eat the flesh of the wicked (kings, captains, mighty men, horses and their riders, and the flesh of all mankind).

DOWNFALL OF THE TWO BEASTS: SEA BEAST (PERSECUTION) AND EARTH BEAST (FALSE PROPHET)

Verses 19-20

- A. Both armies (Satan's and the Beast's) aligned against Christ (sitting on His white horse) and His army.
 1. The battle ends, God wins and the Sea Beast was taken along with the Earth Beast (the false prophet who deceived the people who had received the mark of the Beast and worshipped his image).
 2. They both were cast alive into the lake of fire that burns with brimstone.

Verse 21

- A. The rest were slain with the Lord's sword which came out of His mouth.
 - 1. All the birds (invited to the great supper) were filled with the flesh of the wicked (the many enemies of the Christians).
 - 2. They were cast alive (not dead) into the lake of fire.
- B. The Harlot is defeated (gone).
 - 1. The Earth Beast and the Sea Beast are now also gone.
 - 2. As in every case, we get ready to see the battle, and the battle is over.
 - 3. Christ brings victory and Satan goes down to defeat, and we never see the battle!
 - 4. All we see is the VICTORY. Praise God for victory in Jesus!

CHRISTIANS REIGN IN THREE WAYS

- A. Christians reign with Christ in life—over sin (Romans 5:17).
- B. Christians reign in death with Christ for a 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4).
 - 1. The 1,000 year reign in Revelation does not refer to a specific number of years, but **symbolizes that the Christians who died, would live and reign with Christ for the same period of time that Satan was bound from deceiving the nations.**
 - 2. Note: Jesus actually reigns for eternity, not just a 1,000 years (Revelation 11:15).
 - 3. Realize that the actual number of years would vary according to when a person died
 - 4. However long it is from the time a Christian died until the loosing of Satan is the symbolic 1,000 year reign.
 - a. The number 1,000 works so well, because it is like an “x” factor in algebra that stands for whatever the time would be.
 - b. It is used in the same way in Psalm 50:10 where it says that the cattle on a 1,000 hills belong to God. There are far more than a 1,000 hills with cattle in the world and the cattle count changes moment by moment through births and deaths, yet, they all belong to God.
 - 5. Today we can apply this reign to Christians who have problems and difficulties, and die in life's 'battle.' They can be assured that life does not end, but that there is a victory and a living and reigning with Christ following this life.
- C. Christians reign in eternity, forever and ever (Rev. 22), and so does Jesus (Revelation 11:15), not just a 1,000 years.