

ENTER THE LION – Revelation 19

In **Chapter 19** we have the *triumphant* return of Christ! In **(v.1-10)** we find the prelude to His return. In **(v.11-21)** we see the Lord's *physical return* to the earth! This is that **great day**, the *culmination* of human history and the *expectation and rejoicing* of the all His saints!

Read: (v.1-5) - In these verses we find **four** alleluias. The word "alleluia" is the Greek form of the **Hebrew word "hallelujah" which means: "Praise the Lord"** – it's a phrase **only** found here in the New Testament; it's an expression of great *joy and adoration*. Each alleluia in **(v.1-5)** holds a *special* meaning.

(v.1) The first alleluia speaks of redemption. "Salvation, glory, honor, and power," *belong to our God alone!* **(Acts 4:12) "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."** Who is this great multitude? It's you and I, the church (saints), Jews and Gentiles, from every, tribe, tongue and nation, just as we saw in **Revelation 7:8, 9.** **The second alleluia speaks of righteous retribution.** **(v.2, 3).** The prayers of the tribulation saints have been answered (**Revelation 6:9-11**) – "*How long?*"

The third alleluia speaks of God's greatness. **(v.4, 5).** "Amen" (so be it!). The command is given for all who believe, both *small and great*, to **worship and praise the Lord!** This is the only **true** response to the *greatness* of our God – *the occupation of every believer!* **The fourth alleluia speaks of God's power.** **(v.6)** He's Omnipotent – all powerful! By His power alone, the "marriage of the Lamb" has now come! **His wife is the church; the Lamb (groom) is Christ.**

Read: (v.7-10) Here we find the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb**. A basic understanding of ancient Jewish weddings enables us to have a better understanding of what's taking place here. In ancient Jewish marriages there are *basically* **four** steps: **1) Betrothal (covenant).** – **Hebrews 9:15** – The church is betrothed to Christ by a **new covenant**, a covenant of grace, *through faith in Christ!*

2) Groom returns to His Father's house. In ancient times the groom was separated from his bride for as long as *twelve months*; during this time he prepared a place for his bride and himself in his father's house. **(John 14:2-3) In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**

3) Groom comes for His bride. According to *ancient* Jewish tradition, he would come at a time unknown to the bride. **In the same manner, Christ will come at an *unexpected* time for His bride (church); it's an event *yet future*, a.k.a. the rapture of the church! **(1 Thessalonians 4:16-18) 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. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words.****

4) Groom takes the bride to his father's house. According to ancient tradition, there he would *consummate* the marriage and *celebrate* the wedding feast. **This is the scene described in (v.9).** The church has been

“consummated” in Him by being one with Him, *and is now gathered at the wedding feast – the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb!***

Many have wondered, what will the church be doing after the rapture?
“PARTYING” WITH JESUS! *While the world is going through a seven-year tribulation period (the outpouring of God’s wrath), we will simultaneously be celebrating the **Marriage Supper of the Lamb** for seven years!* What is interesting is that the length of this celebration (seven years) is *reflective of the seven-days – the length of time for ancient Jewish wedding feasts!*
“Blessed” (happy) are those who are called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb! (biblestudytools.com – bible.ca/marriage/ancient – myjewishlearning.com)

“Worship God!” (v.10) – “For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”
God has *interwoven* a Messianic theme throughout scripture from Genesis to Revelation – a red (scarlet) cord, *a testament of Jesus!* **“Worship God!” For God, alone, has provided for our atonement, even when we were His enemies! (Romans 5:6) For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**

The testimony of Jesus, not our testimony, is the only true anchor of our souls! The testimony of the church is flawed, but as Pontus Pilate said, after examining Christ, *“I find no fault in this Man.”* Preach His testimony, point to His testimony (His faithfulness); for in it mankind is without **“excuse!”** **Notice:** **the angel rebukes John.** *John, like many today, was tempted to “worship” the instrument, rather than the creator of it!*

Now in (v.11-21) we come to the scene we’ve all been waiting for, the **“second advent”** (coming), of Jesus Christ! **Read:** (v.11-16) – **No foal of a donkey here; He now comes riding on the white horse of triumph!** Here

John mentions four aspects of Christ's coming! **1) His Character. (v.11a)** "Faithful and True." **By His character satan was defeated, and we were redeemed!** **2) His Superiority. (v.11b, 12a)** With His first advent He was unjustly judged! But here He's the **supreme court**, Judge, over all! Judging in righteousness! The *U.S. ninth circuit court of appeals, congress, every known authority on earth*, will be powerless to *overturn* His decisions!

With "eyes of fire," and many "crowns," (*an expression related to His supreme authority*), there will be **no** appeal and **no** debate! "**He had a name written...known only to Him**" because He's the **indescribable One!** But it *also* speaks of the intimate oneness Jesus has with *our* Father; it's the same oneness He desires with us! **(Revelation 2:17)**

3) His Attire. (v.13) At His *first advent* they stripped Him and gambled away His garments! But now He returns *clothed* with a robe dipped in blood! *Those who would gamble against Jesus* **only** gamble away their souls! **For His robe is a robe of divine judgment!** **4) His Name. (v.13b)** He has an indescribable name, but also a **known** name: "**The Word of God!**" **(John 1:1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** With His *first advent* the religious leaders identified Him as being "Beelzebub" (the devil). Since that time, mankind has identified Him as a teacher, philosopher, a religious figure. But when He returns, the world will no longer be able to deny who He is! **God incarnate!**

In (v.14-16) The Lamb returns as a Lion, with "King of Kings and Lord of Lords," written on His robe and thigh! He returns with an army! **This is an angelic army!** Some believe it may be *comprised* of both angelic beings and saints. However, according to **(Revelation 20:6)**, the saints are to have more

of a governing role, rather than a conquering role. Paul prophesied, regarding Christ's return, as well. **(ttt) 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10.** In **(v.15a)** the phrase, ***"out of His mouth goes a sharp sword..."*** is a metaphor related to His word! *Jesus will **not** have to wrestle with His enemies to defeat them, but simply speak the word. By His word, the slaughter of those gathered at Armageddon, and the subjugation of nations, will take place!*

Isaiah declared, **(Isaiah 49:2) And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me."** Paul *also* said that Christ would destroy the **"lawless one" (anti-Christ) with the "breath of His mouth!"** **2 Thessalonians 2:8.** In **(v.17, 18)** the angel invites *all* birds to dine at **"Restaurant Armageddon" in the aftermath of this horrific battle.**

In **(v.19-21)** we have the **defeat and sentencing** of both the beast (anti-Christ) and false prophet. *The false prophet somehow survives the overthrow of his phony religious system, but fails to escape the wrath of God! Both are thrown into an eternal hell! In fact, they are the **first two** occupants of hell; **more will follow (chapter 20).***

APPLICATION: The Lamb will return as a **victorious Lion!** This is the light of truth the world continues to deny! Jesus said, **(John 3:19) And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.** *The world hates the light but the Light of God is exactly what the world needs! But equally important, it's what we need, as followers of Jesus living in a dark world!*

I was reading an article entitled: "Scientists Have Found A Way To Levitate Objects With Light" "Turns out the key to making things lighter than air is...light. California scientists think

they've found a way to make objects levitate using concentrated light — a theory that could even propel spacecraft farther than they've ever traveled before, according to a report. Researchers at the California Institute of Technology believe that by covering the surfaces of objects with microscopic nanoscale patterns specially designed to interact with beams of light, they (objects) could be propelled without fuel — and potentially by light sources millions of miles away, [according to Phys.org.](#)" (Fox News 3/21/19)

It's always great to see when science *finally* catches up with God. Jesus said, **(John 8:12) "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."** He came to elevate life, not destroy it! Even scientists now *testify* to the fact that it is light, rather than darkness, which has the capacity to lighten and propel objects. **Jesus came to "lighten" and "propel" lost souls toward eternal glory! (Matthew 11:29-30) "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."**

Spiritual **liberty** (freedom), and **propulsion** (power), is a matter of *abounding in the knowledge of Christ — placing your life under His yoke, His restraint and guidance, which are easy and light!* However, *as with the science of "light technology," we must **expose** (yield) the entire surface of our hearts to the Lordship of Christ! Only then can we truly benefit from the light!*

CONCLUSION: Christ, *the Lion and the light of the world*, is our only hope against the judgement to come! *He invites all to His wedding feast.* The question is, *"Have you accepted His wedding invitation?" John 3:16.*