

I. Review – (Rev. 17-18)

- A. In our last few sessions we were given great insight into a world-wide ideological system that held sway over world-wide government, economics, and religion. This ideological system has been in the hearts of selfish humanity since the beginning and has been allowed to flourish in the these last days. We learn that Jesus is going to allow this system to function in order to bring his bride into the fullness of love.
- B. When the timing is perfect Jesus will bring eternal judgement to the glory of humanism on behalf of His people who have been persecuted and martyred because of this of this wicked ideology.

II. Heaven Rejoices over Babylon's Destruction (Rev. 19:1-5)

- A. This jubilant celebration of declarations and worship is unparalleled in the book of Revelation. To say that heaven is rejoicing is an understatement, we do not see this type of celebration and triumphal worship in any other place in the book. We must set our hearts to connect to this great celebration that is sure to come upon the bride in the days to come.
 - 1. I believe this great hour of rejoicing that encompasses heaven and earth is bigger than simply the judgment of the Harlot even though it is greatly emphasized. This is the beginning installation of the kingdom in its fullness that humanity has longed for since the original promise was given to restore all that was lost. Our hearts can hardly connect to this event because we rarely spend time dreaming and hoping for it. This coming day only seems fantasy for most as its becomes swallowed up in ages of waiting and the tyranny of the urgent aspects of life.

“Heaven is always heaven, and unspeakably full of blessedness; but even heaven has its holidays, even bliss has its overflowings; and on that day when the springtide of the infinite ocean of joy shall have come, what a measureless flood of delight shall overflow the souls of all glorified spirits... We do not know yet, beloved, of what happiness we are capable.” (Spurgeon)

- B. One of the main things we can glean from this scene is the understanding that the bride will have in the days to come. In other words, we can see the mindset and heart posture of the church in the final days.
 - 1. Understanding Alleluia - This wonderful word, occurs four times in this chapter but nowhere else in the New Testament. It belongs here – because God's people rejoice without restraint at His victory over Babylon. Alleluia is Hebrew for “Praise the Lord,” we are so used to this expression

that it has lost its original meaning. Today it might be better to say “Go Crazy” or “Lose yourself” in worship and praise.

“Anselm of Canterbury, considers Alleluia an angelic word, which cannot be fully reproduced in any language of man, and concurs with St. Augustine that the feeling and saying of it embodies all the blessedness of heaven.” (Seiss)

2. Understanding the Fullness of Salvation – The biblical expectation of salvation involves Jesus destroying actual works of darkness not just giving the believer the ability to overcome them through the cross. We have only just touched the edges of the salvation promised that Jesus will accomplish on our behalf. We are assured through this future scene that the Holy Spirit will impart this understanding worldwide in the bride in the days to come. (Is. 25:9-12, 62, 63:1-6; Rom. 13:11; 1 Thes. 5:1-10)
3. Understanding and Agreeing with His Leadership - The first thing the Bride expresses when Jesus judges the Harlot is her agreement with Jesus’ leadership namely she trusts it and agrees with it. This is a deep expression of her admiration and love for Jesus.
 - a) True and righteous: True (Fair) and Righteous (Just) - Jesus’ judgments are seen as true and righteous, not cruel, unfair, or rash. They never contradict love, and they always result in the magnification of His name.

III. The Hour of the Wedding Has Come!

- A. John hears three reasons for current humanities hope as he witnessed the future rejoicing that will come. Jesus will openly manifest His reign on the earth; the marriage of the Lamb will come; and His Bride will be made ready.

“Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 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.” (Rev. 19:6-7)

1. The Lord God Omnipotent Reigns - The first reason of great rejoicing us that the time has come when Jesus will openly display His leadership over every nation. We rejoice now and take heart in His omnipotence (unlimited power/ability to do anything) and rest in the truth that He causes all things to work for our good. The fullness of the truth of this outworking of His omnipotence is a bride made ready. (Ps. 93:1; Rom. 8:18-30)

2. The Marriage of the Lamb has Come – The second reason this great multitude is so filled with praise is because the time has come for the Lamb of God to be joined to His people, in a ongoing union so close it can only be compared to the marriage of a man and a woman. This union with us is the great dream of His heart and our wholehearted devotion and partnership is the reward of His suffering. (Mat. 9:15, 22:2-14, 25:1-13; Mk 2:19-20; Lk. 5:34-35, 14:15-24; Jn. 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32)
 - a) The bride will see herself as belonging to the bridegroom who won her heart by becoming the lamb on her behalf. He became the lamb because He has the desire of a bridegroom for us. I believe that the understanding of Jesus as our bridegroom will be the primary identity of Jesus in the church worldwide preceding His return.
 - b) In Biblical times a marriage involved two major events, the betrothal and the wedding. These were normally separated by a period of time during which the two individuals were considered husband and wife and as such were under the obligations of faithfulness. The wedding began with a procession to the bride's house, which was followed by a return to the house of the groom
 3. His Bride has Made Herself Ready - John emphasized the role of the individual believer's freewill to choose (made herself ready) obedience in cooperating with God's grace. We must choose, voluntarily, to love God. In turn God grants us power (granted to her) to match and equip our YES to Him.
 - a) The saints will receive garments that reflect their righteous choice, we will wear and be adorned with our love for the Bridegroom. Jesus will reward all the small choices we make for righteousness in our desire to love Him with everything. How we respond to temptation, difficulty, mistreatment, disappointment, and boredom really matters. We make ourselves ready by our agreement with Jesus and then He grants us power to transform our character, understanding, and actions. (1 Cor. 15:10; Phil 2:12-13; Col. 1:28-29)
- B. In Summary - We are to trust His leadership related to His judgments and activity in our lives (19:1-3) and to trust that His power will cause all things to work for our good (19:6). We rejoice in the hope that His reign will be openly manifested on earth (19:6), that we will participate in the marriage of the Lamb, that the Bride being made ready is certain (19:7), and that our righteous choices will be honored on that day (19:8).