

Read Revelation!

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” (Revelation 1:3)

Chapter 19: The Return of Christ!

Jesus Christ is coming again to set up the Kingdom of God on earth! As we have learned, the process of establishing the kingdom will have several phases. First Jesus will come for His saints in the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:15-17, II Thessalonians 2:1). Then He will pour His wrath out on the earth in the Tribulation (Matthew 24:21). Finally He will return to earth with His saints to destroy His enemies and reign as King. We have looked long and hard at the Tribulation period in Revelation 6 through 18. In Chapter 19 we will see what the saints in their glorified bodies will be doing in Heaven while the Tribulation is happening on the earth. We will also see them come back to earth with Jesus to rule and to reign!

I. The Marriage (verses 1-10).

The chapter opens with the “Alleluia chorus” sung by the saints in their glorified bodies after the Rapture. They sing about the Kingdom of God coming on earth. They praise God for judging *“the great whore”* Babylon and avenging the blood of the martyrs. They rejoice in the arrival of the *“marriage of the Lamb”*! While the earth experiences the Tribulation, raptured believers will be enjoying *“the marriage supper of the Lamb.”* The *“wife”* of the Lamb is the church of Christ, assembled in Heaven. Before the Rapture, the church is a local institution, an assembly of baptized believers in Christ working to fulfill His Great Commission under the leadership of divinely-appointed pastors. The word *church* (which does not appear in the Bible after Revelation 3–Revelation 4:1 indicates the Rapture) is translated from a Greek word that means “congregation” or “assembly.” The congregation of glorified saints gathered to Christ at the Rapture will make up the Lamb’s bride. Her white gown is the righteousness Her Bridegroom provided for her. Read about this in Ephesians 5:25-27. We saw in Revelation 4 that individual believers will receive crowns at the Judgment Seat of Christ as rewards for faithful service. After this rewarding and the casting of the crowns at the Lord’s feet, we will enjoy a “honeymoon” with our Bridegroom.

“Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” (verse 9)

II. The Return (verses 11-16).

At the right time, the Lord will have us mount a multitude of white horses, and follow Him as an army to meet His enemies in the last battle. Jesus will come to earth as “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” He will destroy the assembled armies at Armageddon in northern Palestine (Revelation 14:14-20, 16:12-16). His weapon will be

His all-powerful Word (v. 15–Hebrews 4:12).

III. The Victory (verses 17-21).

The gruesome descriptions of the Battle of Armageddon underline how foolish it is to fight against God.

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.” (verses 17 and 18)

Look at the other description in Revelation 14:14-20.

In this battle, the Antichrist and the False Prophet will be sent to a place called *“a lake burning with brimstone”* (v. 20). People who die unsaved today go to a Hell in the heart of the earth (Luke 16:19-24). In the Book of Revelation, this is called the *“bottomless pit”* (Revelation 9:1). The lake of fire is the permanent dungeon of the damned that for men will come after the *“resurrection of damnation”* and the final judgment (John 5:29, Revelation 20:11-15). There people are *“tormented day and night for ever and ever”* (Revelation 20:10). It is the future destination of the Devil! Jesus Christ will win, and the Devil will lose. One reason God has given us the Book of Revelation is so that we can see which side is going to win!