

CHAPTER NINETEEN

“The Alleluia Chorus Sings”

Chapter 19 is exhilarating because it begins with a heavenly host singing an Alleluia chorus, and this is a Hebrew word meaning “praise Jehovah” or “praise the Lord.” **Chapter 19** contains the only mention of the term in the New Testament, and we will find it different times in the following six verses.

I. HEAVEN REJOICES OVER THE JUDGEMENT OF BABYLON. *Verses 1-6*

Verse 1: *And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:*

- A. John says, After what things? After the destruction of religious and political Babylon.
- B. Then what? Then he hears the tremendous sound of a multitude conducting a praise and testimony meeting in heaven.
 - 1. Probably led by the martyred saints of the Tribulation hour (**Revelation 7:9**), this group eventually includes all the redeemed in glory. They are rejoicing because
 - a. Evil has run its course
 - b. The Tribulation hour is concluding
 - c. Christ is preparing to return with His saints
 - d. The armies of the world are about to be demolished
 - e. Swords will then be remade into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks (see **Isaiah 2:4**)
 - f. Christ will soon establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth. Such “good news” would make anyone shout, “Amen! Praise the Lord!”
- C. After Babylon has been defeated, there is rejoicing in Heaven. God is due all praise, all honor, all glory, and He is all-powerful.
 - 1. God has never had the praise and honor due Him, but at this point and throughout eternity to follow He will be praised by the heavenly host, and His enemies will be in the lake of fire.
 - 2. The reason this praise is directed to One whose attributes are: Salvation, Glory, Honour, Power

Verse 2: *For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.*

- D. God is a God of love and mercy.
 - 1. We understand that because His love and mercy overwhelms us.
 - 2. God must be known also for His judgments because He is true and righteous.

3. His judgments are just and every wickedness and sin against God must be accounted for.

E. *Verse 3: And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.*

The refrain is repeated as God's people acknowledge the fact that Babylon's doom is eternal. Never again will religious or political alliances bring men into bondage. Never again will man be duped, deluded, and destroyed through pompous ceremonialism. No, Babylon's smoke ascends up for the ages of ages—forever and forever!

1. This is not only physical burning and smoke as we know fire and smoke, but this is spiritual burning... judgment from Almighty God... everlasting destruction.
2. This is not like a great city being consumed in a fire. The burning here is judgment of God on a kingdom of ungodliness, a system of debauchery, a gigantic organization both political and religious - the system of anti-God, made up of politics, business, and religion.

F. *Verse 4: And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.*

At this point the twenty-four elders (those we observed casting their trophies or crowns at Jesus' feet following the Rapture and Judgment Seat of Christ in **Chapter 4**) join the praise session. The world system that so harassed and persecuted them has finally been judged. The four beasts (identified as cherubim and seraphim in **Chapter 4**) also lend their voices in glorifying God. They are rejoicing over the fact that they did not follow Lucifer, the head angel, as so many of their group did when he rebelled against the Almighty (see **Isaiah 14:12-14**). Now they are eternally secure, whereas the fallen angels are everlastingly damned.

1. All Heaven – every creature from the least to the greatest – will join in the praises.
2. I feel sorry for the people who cannot endure a little noise and feeling in religion. I wonder what they will do on this great day of rejoicing?

G. *Verse 5: And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.*

This voice is undoubtedly an angel encouraging the heavenly host to continue the praise session. He is the celestial cheerleader at one of heaven's most momentous and climactic hours.

1. The throne of God puts its stamp of approval upon the rejoicing that is in progress in Heaven when Babylon is totally destroyed.
2. All the wicked are in terror; all the saints are filled with joy.
3. There is also a new cause for joy, a new ground of praise and adoration. The marriage of the Lamb is about to be announced that great event for which the church has been waiting and yearning for many centuries.

- H. **Verse 6:** *And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

This is the final chorus as all heaven joins together in song. The multitudinous voices resound so loudly that the roar is likened to the sound of many waters and mighty thunderings. Why not? The prayer of the ages, *Thy kingdom come*, uttered by millions upon millions through the centuries, is about to be answered. Thus, the exclamation: [Praise Jehovah!] *for the Lord God Omnipotent [soon] reigneth.*

1. John uses terms here that all can clearly understand. “The roar of many waters” or “mighty thunderings.” Think of it! Millions of the redeemed (the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, *Thy Kingdom come*, has come to final fruition) now the saints, the angels, and all the heavenly host will be praising the Lord God.
2. Declaring that God is holy and wonderful and is all powerful. That He reigns justly over His people.
3. The rejoicing continues and builds.

II. THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB - Verses 7-10

In the following verses we see that God is assuming His kingly power, the Lamb is taking His bride - the New Testament Church - unto Himself and the marriage is about to occur.

Verses 7-8: ⁽⁷⁾*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.* ⁽⁸⁾*And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

1. Expositors generally have taken **Verse 7** for granted that this marriage is so familiar to the readers of holy Scripture, and so well understood, as to need no explanation. Perhaps had they attempted to set forth in definite form what they pass as so plain, they would have found the task less easy than they thought.
 - a. Though the subject is common to both Testaments, there is not another of equal prominence and worth upon which so little direct attention has been bestowed by modern divines, or upon which clear ideas are so scarce.
 - b. In my study of it, question after question has come up, even with regard to some of the most essential points, which I find it very hard to answer satisfactorily. And if others have found it so plain and easy as to render the explanation of it a work of supererogation, they would have relieved me much, as well as an almost total blank in our theologies with regard to one of the most frequently recurring subjects of Holy Writ, if they had condescended to record the results of their examinations. As it is, we must examine for ourselves. Before doing so I would like to make a couple of points regarding the situation of the church of today.

- (1) At the hour of Christ's return to earth with His bride (the Church), His honeymoon is launched for 1,000 years. These verses are further proof that the Rapture is a pre-Tribulational event. The marriage of the Lamb takes place in heaven, not on earth.
 - (2) The Bride prepares herself at the Judgment Seat of Christ (which also takes place in heaven) before the wedding. These are time-consuming events. Then she returns with her lover—the Lord Jesus Christ—from heaven.
- c. The Saviour is the Bridegroom because He is *the Lamb of God*, [who] *taketh away the sin of the world* (**John 1:29**). The marriage partners at this glorious event include the Lamb (Christ) and His bride (the Church). Question: Where have they been during the Tribulation hour depicted in **Revelation 6–18**? The answer: Heaven!
- (1) You see, the Church was raptured in **Revelation 4:1** and has not been mentioned again until this point—the time of preparation for the wedding.
 - (2) During the seven years that earth dwellers suffered judgment from heaven, the Bride was being investigated in heaven, for **2 Corinthians 5:10** states: *We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.* **2 Corinthians 11:2** continues: *For I am jealous over you with Godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste [pure] virgin to Christ.*
 - (3) For many who were unfaithful to Christ during the engagement period (their years of service upon earth), this will be a time of humiliation (see **1 John 2:28**).
 - (4) Since we are then betrothed or engaged to Christ from the time of our conversion until the moment of the Rapture, God commands that we live consistently holy lives (see **1 Peter 1:16**). Then, immediately after we are called home in the “twinkling of an eye,” the pre-marital examination concerning our faithfulness as His sweetheart begins.
 - (5) Today's signs definitely indicate that the hour is near. Our next appointment has been scheduled. How heartbreaking the report should the Bridegroom say, “I have discovered a problem.” Child of God—don't be among the losers—live victoriously!
2. In preparation for the marriage ceremony itself, every believer will be attired in the wedding garment he made upon earth.
 - a. The material will be composed of the good works remaining after the Judgment Seat has occurred. Someone may ask, “Doesn't the Bible teach that believers are clothed in the righteousness of Christ?” Definitely (see **2 Corinthians 5:21**).

- b. This is how one becomes a Christian in the first place. However, the word *righteousness* in the original Greek of **Verse 8** is not singular—(righteousness based upon Christ’s work) but plural—(righteousnesses based upon the believer’s life and deeds upon earth).
 - c. *At the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10)*, every work—good or bad—will be investigated. Then those works will be placed in the fires of testing (see **1 Corinthians 3:13**). At that time *if any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss [of rewards]: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire [by the skin of his teeth] (1 Corinthians 3:14-15)*. The two texts just referenced describe the preparation of the bride of Christ (all Christians) for the wedding (the marriage of the Lamb).
 - d. Clearly, the wedding gown is composed of the believers’ righteousnesses (good works) performed on earth in honor of the lover of her soul. When this great moment arrives—undoubtedly soon, yes, perhaps today—what will you have? What will your wedding garment picture? Oh, I plead with you to live for Christ. Give Him your very best and all that you have. If you do, your rewards will be great, your joy complete, and your heavenly entrance abundant (see **2 Peter 1:11**).
 - e. The Lamb's wife (the New Testament Church) is identified with the heavenly Jerusalem (**Hebrews 12:22-23**) and is to be distinguished from Israel.
- B. Verse 9:** *And he saith unto me, Write, 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.*
- 1. The word “**write**” here indicates to all of us the importance of what is about to come.
 - 2. The friends are called to the marriage supper.
 - a. This verse discloses the fact that the marriage of the Lamb will include a reception with many guests invited. Please note that the Bride and the Bridegroom are never guests. They are the ones for whom the ceremony is performed. Who, then, are those in attendance at the Marriage Supper?
 - b. The guests include all believers up to Pentecost as well as the Tribulation saints. John—the disciple Jesus loved (see **John 19:26**) and the one who wrote the Book of Revelation—said, *He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled (John 3:29)*.
 - c. No wonder our text states: *Blessed [or happy] are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb*. So it is that these are the old Testament saints because they are friends of the Bridegroom. No doubt angels will be spectators.

Let me reinforce certain things about the Bride and the guest just to be clear. The bride is composed of all believers who become members of the body of Christ from the Day of Pentecost until the Rapture. Now we find that the guests are those who trusted in the Lord either prior to Pentecost or following the Rapture. Since the marriage takes place in heaven, and the Old Testament and Tribulation believers are part of the earthly group, their only hope of participating in this event of the ages is that the wedding reception and Marriage Supper take place on earth. This is exactly what happens.

The fact that the marriage takes place in heaven and the supper occurs on earth is beautifully portrayed by the parable of the ten virgins:

⁽¹⁾*Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.* ⁽²⁾*And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.* ⁽³⁾*They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:* ⁽⁴⁾*But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.* ⁽⁵⁾*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.* ⁽⁶⁾*And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.* ⁽⁷⁾*Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.* ⁽⁸⁾*And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.* ⁽⁹⁾*But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.* ⁽¹⁰⁾*And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.* ⁽¹¹⁾*Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.* ⁽¹²⁾*But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.* ⁽¹³⁾*Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh (Matthew 25:1-13).*

Notice that **verse 6** of the above text states: *Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.* The reason the emphasis is on the Bridegroom instead of the Bride is because the Lord Jesus is all in all. Even John says, *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come (Revelation 19:7).* Believers—members of the Bride—ought always to remember that the glory is His. He redeemed us. We would be nothing were it not for Jesus. These texts, then, explain the marriage, the supper, the guests, and the location.

3. The last part of the verse assures us that the information given can be depended upon.
- C. **Verse 10:** *And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*
1. Evidently John was overwhelmed by the communications he had just received from the messenger. He fell down on his knees to worship him.
 - a. If there were any portion of the Book of Revelation John would like to omit, this would be the verse. He has just done a foolish thing.
 - b. He being evidently overwhelmed allowed himself to become so enamored with the angel delivering the message that he began worshipping a created being. Such recording of human weaknesses proves that God wrote the Bible, for man would have omitted his mistakes. God, however, records them in order to show the world that *all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)*

2. As John bows his knee to this created being, the angel cries, “Don't do it. “Angels are but *ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14)*. Get up! I am only a servant of God, as you are.”
 - a. John has just learned an important lesson. Have you? Beware of any religion that honors or reveres angels—including the angel Moroni of Mormonism.
 - b. Such practice is wrong: *Let no man beguile you of your reward in... worshipping of angels (Colossians 2:18)*.
 - c. Even the angel's command in our text is, worship God!
 - d. Thus, it is obvious that we are not to worship men, women, angels, or idols (see *Exodus 20:4-5*). **Worship God!** and only God!

III. THE CONQUEROR AND HIS ARMY DESCRIBED— *Verses 11-16*

Verses 11-16: ^{11}And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. {12} His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ^{13}And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ^{14}And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ^{15}And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ^{16}And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.



- A. **Verses 11-16** record a very special and important scene. These verses graphically portray the coming of Christ to earth. This event is called “**The Revelation**” among theologians because this is the moment the Lord reveals himself to the inhabitants of earth.
1. There have been many and varied displays of the Lord Jesus thus far in Revelation. The same scene was observed in **Revelation 11:15**, as well. Remember, **Chapters 12 – 19** simply repeat the materials presented in **Chapters 6 – 11**.
 2. Here we do not have the Lamb of God on a throne. Instead, we see Him as the Great Warrior - King, victorious in battle, conquering in mighty power.
- B. **Verse 11:**
1. The first thing; John saw was the Lord Jesus upon a white horse signifying victory. The scene before us is a literal event because John sees heaven opened. This is thrilling. Heaven’s door is opened but twice in the Book of Revelation—once in **Revelation 4:1**, and now in **Revelation 19:11**.
 - a. **Chapter 4** Pictures the Rapture.
 - b. **Chapter 19** Pictures the Revelation.
 - c. The door was opened in **Chapter 4** to receive the saved.
 - d. Here the door is opened again in order that the saints may return with the rider on the white horse—the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
 2. Don’t let anyone tell you that there is but one appearing at Christ’s return. Two opened doors tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.
 3. Here is the appointed day about to dawn. The man ordained to judge in righteousness is the Commander-in-chief of the armies of Heaven approaching the earth.
 4. For centuries, the world has scoffingly cried, *Where is the promise of his coming?* (**2 Peter 3:4**). Now the mocking abruptly ceases. Why? Breathtaking signs accompany the One who sits on this white horse—as He comes to judge and make war on the world: ⁽²⁹⁾*Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:* ⁽³⁰⁾*And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.* ⁽³¹⁾*And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect [saved Jews and Tribulation saints] from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other (Matthew 24:29–31).*

C. **Verse 12:**

1. The Rider in **Verse 12** has “*eyes... as aflame of fire*” which are piercing and purging. He can immediately see through the sham and hypocrisy of men. These are the same eyes we viewed in **Revelation 1:14**.
2. As King, Christ has on His head the crowns of royalty, royal dignity and denotes absolute and supreme authority. His eye “*a flame of fire*” denotes omniscience - nothing shall escape the all seeing eye of the One who sits on the white charger.
3. “*He had a name written that no man knew but Himself.*” Until now He alone knows this name and its meaning. There are divine names such as God, Jehovah, Christ, Jesus, Lord, Saviour but here is a name not revealed to man, Christ alone can understand the fullness of who and what He is in the eternity behind us, of what He is in the present, and of what He will be throughout the eternity ahead of us. The finite mind of man cannot comprehend the fullness of the eternal God.

D. **Verse 13:**

1. In **Verse 13**, we see that the Lord wears *a vesture dipped in blood*—a picture of the judgment He is bringing to earth. None can doubt that this Judge is anyone but the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The blood on the garments of the rider of the white horse is not His own blood, but the blood of His enemies. He has come to deal with the opposing armies of Anti-Christ who have gathered themselves in war against the Lamb. There is no doubt concerning the victory of this battle.
3. This verse closes with “*His name is called the Word of God.*” Since His name is called the Word of God there can be no doubt as to His identity. John often called Him by this name. In fact, he was the only New Testament writer to use this title. **John 1:1** states: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* He again calls Christ *the Word of life* in **1 John 1:1**
 - a. From the pen of eight sacred writers, God gave us the New Testament. John is the only one of the eight who applies this title to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. Referred to as the **WORD**, CHRIST represents Jehovah God in His being (**John 1:1–14**), in His character and in His righteousness and holy works.

E. **Verse 14:**

1. This represents the heavenly attire of the saints that make up the Bride. It is clear that the Bride will accompany Christ when He returns to the earth.
2. This also is a fulfillment of the prophecy of Enoch: In **Jude 14-15** we read, “*...Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.*”

F. **Verse 15:**

1. This verse points out one very significant thing: The only weapon the heavenly host has is “*a sharp sword.*” The armies have no weapons, they will need no weapons. The battle is the Lord’s.
2. The Word of God smites, slays, destroys. The power of the Word is irresistible. God needs no hydrogen warhead or guided missiles for He is more powerful than all those things of man.
3. He shall rule “*with a rod of iron*” denotes that the ungodly, determined will of the nations must be broken and their power put down.
4. His treading the winepress also denotes the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

G. **Verse 16:**

1. His garment, the outward character of the Lord Jesus as beheld by others, bears a title of complete universal domination.
2. Instead of a sword on His thigh, the name is written there and the sharp sword is in His mouth.

Here it is! At this moment John sees the *Word of God* coming in judgment. He also observes a great host called *the armies* [of] *heaven* following Him upon white horses. Notice that they come from heaven; they are not already present on earth. They are the saints who were raptured in **Revelation 4:1**—the *Bride who made herself ready and [wore] fine linen, clean and white* in **Verse 8** of this present study. Tens of thousands—yea, millions upon millions in number—avoided the Tribulation hour and are now returning with the King for the conflict at Armageddon. They are privileged to stand with Him as He comes *to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds -which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him (Jude 15)*. The time of reaping has arrived.

As Christ returns to subjugate the earth dwellers, He does so with a sword in His mouth (see **Verse 15**). This sword is nothing less than the Word of God.

His Word always smites men in their consciences and lives. This is exactly what happened to the officers of the chief priests and Pharisees when they came to the Garden of Gethsemane, seeking Jesus, *As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground (John 18:6)*. Oh, *the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword (Hebrews 4:12)*.

We note in **Verse 15** that Christ and His Word alone smash the nations at Armageddon. The armies of heaven only observe as He treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. This moment brings the fulfillment of **Daniel 2: 34**, which predicts that *a stone... cut out without hands pulverizes* the image—the ten-nation confederacy. Then the stone instantly expands and fills the entire earth with a new kingdom, never to be destroyed. Its leader is the King of kings and Lord of lords. No one can miss Him, for His vesture and thigh coverings bear His title—King of kings and Lord of lords. The King has come! Oh, hallelujah! The King has come!

IV. THE GREAT SUPPER OF ALMIGHTY GOD, THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON - Verses 17-18

- A. **Verse 17-18:** *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; ⁽¹⁸⁾ 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.*
1. “*I saw an angel standing in the sun.*” This angel could be none other than the angel of the Lord. He is standing in the sun, denoting the center of governmental authority. He stands where all can clearly see Him, and where he can observe the whole scene of conflict.
 2. The devastating scene described in these verses is the result of the Battle of Armageddon (**Revelation 16:16**) fought in the valleys of Megiddo and Jehoshaphat.
 - a. This is not Russia’s invasion of Israel (see **Ezekiel 38 and 39**).
 - b. Russia made her move in the middle of the Tribulation hour. Why?
 - (1) The Antichrist came to power, made a false peace pact with the nations, and then broke it in the midst of the seven years (see **Daniel 9:27**).
 - (2) At that point Russia invaded the Holy Land, for she went *up to the land of un-walled villages; [saying] I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely (Ezekiel 38:11)*.
 - (3) Prior to the appearance of the Antichrist in **Chapter 13**, the nation of Israel is not at rest or dwelling safely.
 - (4) This situation changes when he comes to power, takes control, and initiates his peace plan. Then Israel and all the world proclaim, “Peace, peace,” but it does not last, *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction [comes] upon them (1 Thessalonians 5:3)*.
 - (5) Russia quickly takes advantage of the opportunity and moves against Israel, for she is at rest, dwelling safely. Moscow’s act of aggression, however, proves to be her “Waterloo,” for she is destroyed by the hand of God (see **Ezekiel 39:1-3**).
 3. Conversely, the battle described in this present chapter occurs as God destroys the Antichrist and his ten-horned empire. The following passages vividly portray the terrible, catastrophic judgment which occurs in preparation for, and fulfillment of, Armageddon:

⁽¹⁾For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, ⁽²⁾I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. ...⁽¹¹⁾Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. ⁽¹²⁾Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. ⁽¹³⁾Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down: for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great. ⁽¹⁴⁾Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. ⁽¹⁵⁾The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. ⁽¹⁶⁾The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. ⁽¹⁷⁾So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more (**Joel 3:1-2, 11-17**).

4. **Revelation 14:14-20** and **Revelation 16:17-21** already studied, also have to do with the Battle of Armageddon. Thus, we see that before the Marriage Supper of the Lamb becomes a reality, the supper of the great God occurs.
 - a. This event begins as the angel summons all the fowls (or vultures) of heaven to gather together for a feast, *For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together* (**Matthew 24: 28**).
 - b. At this gathering they eat the flesh of deceased kings, captains, mighty men, horses, their riders, and all men from every rank and position of life. What a horrible nightmare as men suffer the consequences of their rebellion against God.
5. Finally the one who made life so miserable upon earth, who gave men a number (**666**), who would not let them buy or sell without the number of his name, and who had millions of believers beheaded because they refused his number, is judged by God himself!
6. This great multitude of human beings were slain by one sharp sword - the sword of Christ who sits on the great white horse leading the teaming millions of white horses out of heaven. (*Note the Graphic Illustration on page 279, the Golden sword, the Word of God, spoken by Christ, that cuts asunder*)

V. THE TOTAL OVERTHROW OF THE BEAST, FALSE PROPHET, KINGS AND THEIR ARMIES; *Verses 19-21*

Verses 19-21: And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. ⁽²⁰⁾ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. ⁽²¹⁾ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

- A. He, John, witnessed the gigantic federation of the kings of the earth and the peoples of the earth - the greatest federation of people and kings ever held. What a conclusion!
1. Two world leaders—
 - a. One political, The other religious.
 - b. One posing as God, The other promoting him, the political.
 2. Finally they now discover that their charade is over.
 - a. They are cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.
 - b. They are cast in the final abode of all God-haters and Christ-rejecters for time and eternity.
 3. A thousand years later, when Satan joins them (*Revelation 20:20*), they are still suffering torment day and night.
- B. Oh, who is foolish enough to preach immediate disintegration or annihilation in the light of such plain texts?
- C. As we come to the conclusion of *Chapter Nineteen* in *Verse 21* John has thus witnessed the gigantic federation of the kings of the earth and the peoples of the earth - the greatest federation of people and kings ever held. This host will consist of multiplied millions.



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The Beast & False Prophet Being Cast into the Lake of Fire (*Revelation 19:20*)

1. The Beast is named first, and is the center of the movement against the Lamb of God.
 - a. We have the kings of the earth - the very kings who wailed, moaned over the destruction of Babylon.
 - b. The social and political authorities of religion unite with the Beast in this last tremendous attempt to overthrow God Almighty and His Christ.
 2. The armies are gathered together to a place named "Armageddon."
- D. Such a battle then is begun like men have never seen before.
1. As we have already noted in **Verse 20** This miracle working duo, that deceived millions, were taken and cast *alive* into the lake of fire.
 2. These two - the Beast and the false prophet - are not killed as are their followers. Physical death does not come to them; they are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone while still living in the bodies they possess during their ungodly reign.
- E. The beast and false prophet are overthrown.
1. The pride of the armies of the Antichrist lies in the dust of the earth in death, but not with bullets or bombs but from the sword of the Lord that proceeds from His mouth.
 2. The destiny of those who worship the Beast and join his army is revealed in **Revelation 14:9-11** and **Revelation 20:11-15**. We shall study that destination in detail when we come to it in **Revelation 20**.
 3. The Battle has ended. None is spared. The fowls of the earth are filled with the flesh of the enemies of God.

As we progress into **Chapter Twenty** we will see four outstanding things:

1. The Binding of Satan.
2. The reign of Christ and the Saints for a thousand years.
3. Satan will be loosed for a little season of testing.
4. In the last part of the chapter we see the "Great White Throne Judgment."