

“God’s Glory, Babylon’s Fall & Bride’s Beauty!” Revelation 19:1-10

19 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God! ² For true and righteous *are* His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her.” ³ Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!” ⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!” ⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”

⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷ 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.” ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Revelation 19:1–10 (NKJV)

I. Proclaiming God’s glory for salvation and justice –

1. What we have first in this chapter is a loud, heavenly worship service –

19 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God! Revelation 19:1 (NKJV)

Note about this worship –

A. The word “voice” is singular, despite the fact it is a great multitude of people, this is one unified VOICE!

B. *The Greek word used here for voice is one that you all know φωνή (phōnē), voice, cry, shout, this phone will outdo whatever level of iphone or android men might rise to!*

C. *The voice is the voice of praise - **Alleluia!** Which is Hebrew for “praise the LORD”*

D. **“Salvation”** *is credited to God, and ONLY to God!*

22 “Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. Isaiah 45:22

(NKJV)

Free-willers look to God and say, “He cannot save me, not unless I use my free will to respond” they look up, and say “no, I cannot look up” “I must look within myself for salvation!” We cannot save ourselves, a look within shows us a will and a nature enslaved to sin! Give God the glory for your salvation!

**Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!
Revelation 19:1**

2. God deserves glory, honor and praise not only for those He saves, but also for those He righteously condemns -

2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.”³ Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”

⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”

Revelation 19:2–5 (NKJV)

God sees and knows all, even the hearts of the wicked, here the great harlot is the unity of all those who follow Satan, who rebel against God and His word, who have persecuted His servants, we see examples of God’s justice in other parts of Scripture, for example –

A. *Haman builds a gallows for Mordecai –*

¹⁴ Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet.”

And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made. Esther 5:14 (NKJV)

B. Yet he is hung on the very same gallows he built –

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai... Esther 7:10 (NKJV)

3. God is not only just in punishing sin, but His judgment is fierce and FOREVER and for this also He is praised -

³ Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!” Revelation 19:3 (NKJV) *This is smoke of torment* - ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, ... Revelation 14:11 (NKJV)

II. Babylon’s Fall due to her sin – (God is in no way cruel or wrong when He judges)

1. Sin has a weight that will bring us / them / anybody down –

Revelation 18:21 (NKJV) ²¹ “... a stone like a great millstone” “The law of depravity is a lot like gravity, it always pulls us down, down , down. Down into sin, down to death and finally down to Hell’s fires ...

2. Our so called “righteousness” has no weight (no power) at all –

¹⁰ As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” Romans 3:10–12 (NKJV)

A. Historical Babylon’s last king was judged as a light-weight -

²⁶ This is the interpretation of each word. MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; ²⁷ TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; Daniel 5:26–27 (NKJV)

B. Not only light, but filthy and light, blown away ...

⁶ But we are all like an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousneses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6 (NKJV)

3. *God is righteous, right to JUGDE sin, and here in Revelation 19, He is praised for it -* **³ Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!” Revelation 19:3**

4. *Even our sinless Lord, Jesus Christ, was brought down to the grave by sin, not His, but ours, but He rose again –*

³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, ... 1 Corinthians 15:3–6 A (NKJV)

III. God and the Lamb’s Power brings about the Bride’s Beauty –

⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! ⁷ 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.” ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.” ¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:6–10 (NKJV)

1. *Note in verse :6 the LOUD praising of God’s POWER and sovereignty -*

⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunders, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

- A. *Omnipotent means God is all powerful!*
- B. *Reigns, means He is King, He is in control!*

- 2. *God’s power is displayed in our salvation, Jesus Christ is the Arm of the LORD –*

53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is* no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:1–6 (NKJV)

- 3. *Here He (the Arm) is the Lamb - for the marriage of the Lamb has come ... :7 ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV) *His power is taking away our sin!**

- 4. *His power is lifting us up, changing even our hearts, establishing us in a good and righteous way –*

² He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. ³ He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see *it* and fear, And will trust in the LORD. Psalm 40:2–3 (NKJV)

5. *His power is in what people would normally consider weakness and even foolishness, that is self-sacrifice, the cross –*

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18 (NKJV)

6. *His power is what we NEED, because we have no power to overcome sin on our own –*

²³ Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil. Jeremiah 13:23 (NKJV)

7. *Even as believers we STRUGGLE with sin and NEED Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul writes –*

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! ... Romans 7:21–25 A (NKJV)

Jesus says, ⁵ **“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NKJV)**

IV. This is the Lamb’s (Jesus Christ’s) wedding and the church (we who are truly saved) are His bride - and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸ **And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Revelation 19:7-8 (NKJV)**

A. She makes herself ready, this is what we do as Christians, as God’s children

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of

God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1 John 3:1–3 (NKJV)

Purifying ourselves, as individual Christians, corresponds with the entire body of Christ, the church, making herself ready – 1 John 3:3 B compared to Revelation 19:7 B

B. This is the sweet sanctification that our Lord Jesus Christ prays for, the passage below is part of Jesus' high priestly prayer that He prayed for His church, immediately before His death on the cross –

¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:13–17 (NKJV)

C. For her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen –

⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

D. The Church, which is Christ Bride is washed, and made ready by her husband, Jesus Christ –

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ “*For this reason a man*

shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Ephesians 5:22–32 (NKJV)

E. Our Good works are a result of God’s grace –

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

F. By Jesus Christ’s death on the cross, we dwell in the realm of grace –

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, ... Romans 5:1 A (NKJV) *We stand, we dwell, we live in the realm of God’s grace ... the place where God provides for all our NEEDS!*

WHY? ↓

⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6–8 (NKJV)

G. He prepares His bride and He prepares a place –

14 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² 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. ³ 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. John 14:1-3 (NKJV)

“ONE OF THE MOST CHARMING CHARACTERS in all of the world’s literature is a young lady in Leo Tolstoy’s *War and Peace*. Everyone who sees her falls in love with her. Natasha Rostov, the lovely girl’s name, is eventually betrothed to the noble and upright Prince Andrey Bolkonski. Because she is young, the marriage is delayed for one year. Natasha is a character who wins the

heart of every reader, and readers of *War and Peace* want joy and happiness for her.

Finally, Andrey returns to claim his bride. Natasha has waited faithfully for him the whole year, but on the last night she is wooed by a worthless rake named Anatole, who is already married. As I read the story, I wanted to warn her; I wanted to shout to her to wait for Andrey! Anatole is a charmer, but it is clear that he will ruin her life. Natasha is completely swept away. She agrees to elope with Anatole, but at the last minute she is rescued from certain destruction. However, Prince Andrey cannot forgive her, and they never marry.

Need - We are all like Natasha—easily dissuaded from what is best for us—and we all need to be convinced that the one who is coming for us is worth the wait so that the seducers who would ruin our lives don't make us unforgivable when the one to whom we are betrothed comes for his bride.

Main Point - This passage contrasts the fall of the harlot with the beauty of the bride so that we will live to be the bride, not the harlot. The harlot is a symbol of the world's idolatry and immorality, while the bride is the symbol of the church. John wants to move his audience to live for the church and not the world, for righteousness and not smut, for Christ and not Satan; so he sets side by side the judgment of the whore and the glory of the bride." J.M. Hamilton

²For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:2 (NKJV)

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