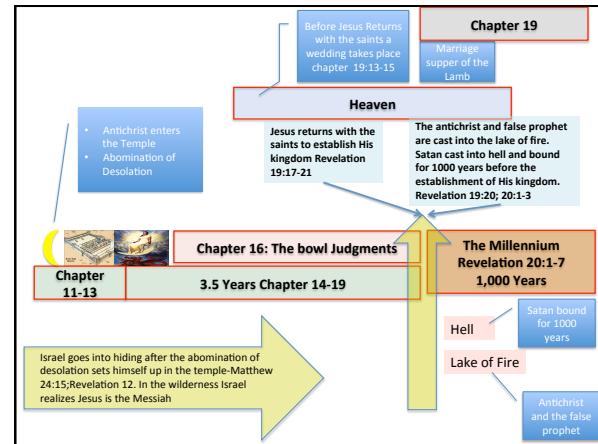


Revelation

Chapter 19



Introduction

- In Revelation 16, John was shown the pouring forth of the final seven bowls which contained God's wrath.
- At the pouring of the seventh bowl, God's voice was heard from the Temple saying, "It is done!" (Rev. 16:17).
- Even though judgment is said to be complete at the pouring of the final bowl, several more chapters were still ahead before the kingdom of God finally arrives on earth and Satan is bound in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom(Rev. 20:1-3).
- Revelation 17 and 18, provide additional background about the judgment of God upon Babylon and the overthrow of the kingdoms of man in favor of the kingdom of God and His Christ (Rev. 11:15).
- In Revelation 19, there is a big celebration party in heaven at the destruction of the enemies of God and the false religious and economic systems.

- Meanwhile Heaven is opened up and John sees the "Bride of the Lamb", who has made herself ready for her marriage to the Lamb.
- The Second Coming of Christ is perhaps the most spectacular event in Scripture and it ends the continually downward trend of history.
- Sin and death remain for another one thousand years (Isa. 65:20-25).
- The coming of Jesus to the earth starts in history the reign of Jesus and Israel's prominence over the nations.
- "The age of the Millennium on earth demonstrates what all of earth's history *should have been*—with truly righteous rule by a righteous Man. Even this, in all its fullness, is to be surpassed in the final state when both sin and death are vanquished and the new heavens and new earth become the final abode for the righteous of all ages with full communion with God (Rev. 21:4)".-Garland

Revelation 19:1-3

"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! "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." Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

The Celebration

- A transliteration of the Hebrew, [ha^llū-yāh], is a command and means: *You all praise Jah!*
- "Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the Gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise. Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD!"-**Psalm 106:47-48**
- The first time "alleluia" is used in the Old Testament: "May sinners be consumed from the earth, and the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!"[alleluia].
- This is the destiny for all believers in Christ to participate in this celebration. We can either be a part of the mourning of chapter 18 or we can be a part of this celebration.
- Most important part of the celebration is that the bride is ready for the union of God and His people Israel.

The Great Multitude

- The great multitude praising God would include the saints killed in the first half of the tribulation.
- These saints are seen when the 5th seal is opened in **Revelation 6:9-11**.
- They receive white robes and are told to rest, "until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed."- **Revelation 6:11**.
- It would also include the raptured believers.
- Jesus makes it clear that there is a generation of believers who will not see death: "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. **He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.** Do you believe this?"-**John 11:25-26**

The Burning Of Babylon

- The smoke of the Great Harlot, "...rises up forever and ever!"
- .From the time of her destruction and throughout the Millennial Kingdom the area which was once Babylon will be a burning pitch and a prison for demons (Rev. 18:2).
- " Its [Babylon's] streams shall be turned into pitch, and its dust into brimstone; Its land shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night or day; Its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; No one shall pass through it forever and ever."-**Isaiah 34:9-10**
- "Forever and ever" Implies : that the destruction of the city is permanent—it will never be found again; those destroyed in her will suffer eternally in the Lake of Fire; the area occupied by the city will forever burn until the new heavens and the new earth and when the first earth passes away (Rev. 21:1).

Revelation 19:4-6

“And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!” Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!” 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!”

The Twenty-Four Elders

- The scene is similar to Revelation 4, when the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures are praising God.
- The number of the elders, *twenty four* is seen by some as symbolizing the twelve tribes of Israel (written on the gates of the new Jerusalem, Rev. 21:12) and the twelve apostles of the Lamb (written on the twelve foundations of the city, Rev. 21:14). Thus, they suggest twelve of the elders represent OT saints and the other twelve NT saints.
- The **ELDERS** REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF GOD, ESPECIALLY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. The 24 courses of the priesthood represented all the priests (1 Chronicles 24), and the 12 tribes and the 12 Apostles represent *all* the faithful.

- **Elders**: *presbuteros*, in NT are the highest officials in the church
- They are men not angels, **they wear victory crowns** angels are never crowned nor know redemption
- **White robes**: The clothing the elders wear, “white robes” is the dress of “Overcomers” (Revelation 3:4,5,18; 6:9, 7:9,13,14; 19:14). White robes are promised to the victorious saint.
- “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, **dressed in white robes**, with palm branches in their hands.”-Revelation 7:9

- In Revelation 5:9-10, the twenty-four elders sang a song of praise to Jesus, and they cried out: ***for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.***
- In this passage the twenty-four elders clearly spoke as representatives of all God's people of the great company of the redeemed.
- Since the elders, the redeemed saints, wear crowns the event known as the “Judgment seat of Christ” (1 Cor. 3:11-15) would probably be represented. This judgment is not for salvation but for rewards. Similar to an award ceremony in the Olympics when the winners are given their “Stephanos” crown of victory.

The Thrones Of Power In Heaven

- THE THRONE OF GOD THE FATHER
- THE THRONES OF THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS



Praise In Heaven

- While Babylon burns forever there is a contrast in heaven where all the servants great and small worship God.
- "The company of the redeemed knows no boundaries and includes those who have had considerable influence and power in life, as well as those who are entirely unknown to the world. The cross of Christ is the great equalizer among men." -Garland
- This fulfills the 22nd Psalm which pictures Jesus as Suffering Messiah whose hands and feet were pierced, and garments divided one day leading the redeemed in praise of the Lord.
- "They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots..... I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!"-Psalm 22:16-18;22-23

- Now will have come the moment of the fulfillment of Matthew 5: 10, 12. "Blessed are those which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven."
- The multitude of people will roar like Niagara Falls saying "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!" This verse marks the coronation ceremony of Jesus Christ.
- Next, we will see that the Lamb takes His wife.

Revelation 19:7-8

"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." 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."

Who Is The Bride?

- Almost all churches in Christianity have taught throughout history that the Church is the “bride of Christ”.
- However the phrase “bride of Christ” does not appear anywhere in Scripture.
- **Doctrinally to claim that the Church is the “bride of Christ” is a to not understand the Churches position in Jesus and Israel’s position in relationship to God.**

The Churches Position In Jesus

- "...and you are **complete in Him**, who is the head of all principality and power." - **Colossians 2:10**
- "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present **every man perfect in Christ Jesus.**" -**Colossians 1:28**
- "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to **present you faultless** before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy...." -**Jude 24**
- "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**" -**Ephesians 2:8**

- "...giving thanks to the Father **who has qualified us** to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light." -**Colossians 1:12**
- We can never be more "ready" than He Himself has made us. The language in Revelation 19:7, is wholly foreign to the perfect standing of the church, which is in grace.
- The language of Revelation 19:7, by stating “.....His wife has made herself ready” does not indicate a completeness or standing of perfection recorded in Scripture about the Church through the work of Jesus upon the Cross.

Israel’s Position In God

- "Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD; '**for I am married to you.** I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion." -**Jeremiah 3:14**
- "For **your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name;** and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. For the LORD has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, **like a youthful wife** when you were refused," says your God. For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. **With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," says the LORD, your Redeemer.**" -**Isaiah 54:5-8**

- The little wrath that Isaiah is referring to is the Great Tribulation or the "Time of Jacob's Trouble" that God uses to refine Israel during the seven years.
- "For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name. You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; **for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.**"-Isaiah 62:1-5
- In reading these verses from the Old Testament it clearly identifies Israel as the wife and the incompleteness of the people of Israel before God as opposed to the completeness of the Church as the body of Christ.

The Traditional View

- **Made herself ready...** How the church will make itself ready for the wedding supper of the Lamb is through the judgment seat of Christ.
- "Believers have to make themselves ready ere they enter on their eternal glory. That is, the story of earth has to be gone over again in the presence of Him who is Christ (2Cor. 5:10). The light of the throne will be cast over and upon every moment of our lives, discovering the hidden, and bringing out the true character of acts, and words, and service. . . . This, and more is the application of the judgment seat of Christ to the heavenly saints and *precedes* the marriage. . ."- Scott

- "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 for the marriage feast. By analogy, the church, espoused to Christ by faith, now awaits the *parousia* when the heavenly groom will come for his bride and return to heaven for the marriage feast which lasts throughout eternity." (Mounce)

The Church Is His Body

- "For as we have many members in **one body**, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are **one body in Christ**, and individually members of one another."-Romans 12:4-5
- "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the **body** of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one **body**; for we all partake of that one bread."-1 Corinthians 10:16-17

- “For as **the body** is one and has many members, but all the members of that one **body**, being many, are one **body**, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one **body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”-**1 Corinthians 12:12-13**
- “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of **the body**.”-**Ephesians 5:23**
- “For we are members of His **body**, of His flesh and of His bones.”-**Ephesians 5:30**

The Jewish Wedding

- “In order to fully comprehend what is happening in Revelation 19, it is first necessary to understand the Jewish wedding system that was common in Jesus’ day and was still used among Jews until the beginning of the twentieth century.”-Fruchtenbaum
- “There were three separate stages or parts to an oriental marriage. First, the marriage contract was often consummated either by one or both the fathers of the young man and lady. This was called the “betrothal” and was legally binding. The second phase of the oriental marriage came when the young people became of marriageable age and the young man would say, ‘Fetch me the bride to whom I am espoused and present her to me.’ This was called the presentation. The third stage of the oriental marriage was the marriage feast. All the bridegroom’s friends were invited to the supper at which time the bridegroom would show his bride and they would rejoice together.”-Epp
- The betrothal was at least a year or more.

The Marriage Of The Lamb Has Come

- According to Luke John the Baptist would: “.....**turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God**. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to **make ready a people prepared for the Lord**.”-**Luke 1:16-17**
- John came to reveal Jesus to Israel: ““The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me. I did not know Him; **but that He should be revealed to Israel**, therefore I came baptizing with water.””-**John 1:29-31**

- John presented Jesus, **the bridegroom**, to Israel, **the bride**, and his joy was fulfilled.
- “John answered and said, ‘A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, ‘I am not the Christ,’ but, ‘I have been sent before Him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.”-**John 3:27-29**
- John explained to his followers that he was like the best man at a wedding; he isn’t the bridegroom. He isn’t to be the focus of attention, but to supervise the bringing of two people together.
- The fact that the bridegroom represents Jesus is another way the Bible says Jesus is God. In the Old Testament, it was only **Yahweh** who was the husband of Israel. “The Baptist would have been well aware that in the Old Testament Israel is regarded as the bride of Jehovah.” (Morris)

The Wedding Feast

- “The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, *and refined, aged wine*. And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. And it will be said in that day, **“Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”**—Isaiah 25: 6-9

- “Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone. And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.”
- At the wedding feast of the Lamb the reproach of Israel will be removed. They have waited for their bridegroom to bring safety in the house of the Lord.

The New Covenant

- “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, **though I was a husband to them, says the LORD**. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”—Jeremiah 31:31-34

- Jesus shed blood initiates the New Covenant: “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”—Matt 26:28
- Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant: “And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant....”—Heb. 9:15,12:24
- The New Covenant restores Israel to intimacy with God.
- The laws will be written on their hearts.
- They will all know God intimately.

The Nation Of Israel Has A Special Relationship To God

- Some people teach that Israel has been replaced by the Church as a consequence for their rejection of Jesus.
- This is known as replacement theology an is lie from the pit of Hell.
- “For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.”-**Romans 9:3-5**
- Paul is emphasizing that the nation of Israel holds a special relationship to God Based on the following reasons:

1. The adoption of Israel as a nation by God.
2. God's glory resided with Israel.
3. The covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic, Land, and New) were given to Israel.
4. The Law was given to Israel.
5. The service of God.
6. The O.T. promises of Israel's restoration in the Land.
7. The father's of the faith (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) come from Israel.
8. Jesus came through Israel according to the flesh.

- “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, **lest you should be wise in your own opinion**, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. **And so all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: **‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’** Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.”-**Romans 11:25-28**

Revelation 19:9-10

“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.” 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.”

Blessed Are Those Who Are Called

- John is reminded once again of his commission to "write" what he sees. (Revelation 1:19)
- The angel tells John that, "Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb".
- Matthew 22 is seen as a wedding and Luke 14 as a great banquet with many invited guests. In both Matthew and Luke the attending guest are results of an original group's refusal to attend the banquet. The attending guests are pictured as those who accepted the invitation of salvation.

• "Just as in an earthly family there are the Husband, the Wife, the Children, the Relatives, the Friends, the Visitors, and the Servants, yet all in the same mansion and all one household; so in the glory there will be the Christ and the Church which is His Body; the Lamb and the Lamb's wife; the "friends of the Bridegroom" (John iii. 29); the "virgins" that be the Bride's "companions" (Ps.45: 14); those who are "called" to the marriage supper; the "servants"; the great multitude of Rev. 7.; the 144,000 of sealed ones; and of all, it is true, that they are "blessed." For the angel goes on at once to announce this in the most solemn and formal manner, which calls forth the adoration of John."-Bullinger

Jesus Is The Spirit Of Prophecy

- "Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."-Luke 24:44
- We know that Jesus is the subject of the Revelation given to John. (Revelation 1:1)
- Jesus is at the center of all Scripture.
- The spirit of prophecy is all about Jesus.

Prophetic Inquiry

"Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things which angels desire to look into."-- **1 Peter 1:10-12**

- Peter makes it clear that it was “the Spirit of Christ who was in the prophets that made known the time of Jesus. The Spirit of Jesus was the empowering source of their testimony.
- “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. **And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place,** until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” **-2 Peter 1:16-21**

"Of this salvation **the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,** searching what, or what manner of time, **the Spirit of Christ** who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things which angels desire to look into." -- **1 Peter 1:10-12**

Scoffers

- Peter also reminds us that scoffers will appear within the church scoffing at Biblical prophecy.
- Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), **that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets**, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, **knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days**, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, **"Where is the promise of His coming?"** -- 2 Peter 3:1-4
- A scoffer is: "One who has an expression of scorn or contempt; to ridicule" Webster's Dictionary
- Whenever a person scoffs at the study of prophecy he is holding the Word of God in contempt spoken by the holy prophets about Jesus Who is the spirit of prophecy.

"For this **they willfully forget: that by the word of God** the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved **by the same word**, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." -- 2 Peter 3:3-7

- Jesus Said in John 10:35 that the Scripture cannot be broken..." -- John 10:35
- Scripture, the “Word of God” is predetermined to be fulfilled when God’s patience runs out.

Be Careful Of A Spirit Of Stupor

- “God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day.”--- **Romans 11:8**
- Stupor: “numbness, suppression of sense” [Webster's]
- “God has given them a spirit of stupor...”
- This is speaking of Israel today.
- A “spirit of stupor” is apathy to the things that are important to God.

- A “spirit of stupor” seeks out God on and by our own terms.
- A “spirit of stupor” changes God's word to fit our thinking.
- Peter said, “**But the end of all things is at hand**; therefore **be serious** and watchful in your prayers.”—**1 Peter 4:7**

The Testimony Of Jesus

- We need to take note because John is witnessing to the “testimony of Jesus”.
- The Book of Revelation carries all the authority of Jesus and the word of God
- **“This means that prophecy at its very heart is designed to unfold the beauty and loveliness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”** (Walvoord)
- The angel is telling John that Jesus is at the center of all worship and scripture.

- Jesus is the One revealed by the testimony of prophecy in Scripture.
- John was banished to Patmos “for the **testimony of Jesus Christ**”—**Revelation 1:9**
- When the fifth seal is opened, John sees martyrs “who had been slain for **the word of God and for the testimony** which they held”—**Revelation 6:9**
- The saints who overcome Satan do so by **the (spoken) word of their testimony**—**Revelation 12:17**

- The enraged dragon goes forth to make war against those who “have the testimony of Jesus Christ” –**Revelation 12:17**
- At the start of the Millennial Kingdom, John sees “the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus” –
Revelation 20:4

Revelation 19:11-13

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.”

Heaven Is Opened

- Following John’s witness to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, John now witnesses another amazing event, the sky opening and Jesus returning with the armies of heaven.
- Opened is in perfect tense: having been opened. Heaven had been opened at some point in the past and was still open when John saw it.
- The word for heaven used here is “ouranos” which is the region where the seat of order of things eternal and perfect where God dwells and other heavenly beings
- John sees the heaven opened as the spiritual realm of heaven descends to the physicality of earth.

The White Horse

- The crown that is on the Antichrist head in Revelation 6:2 is “stephanos” which is a victor’s crown or trophy.
- The crown that is on Jesus’ head here in Revelation 19:12, is “diadem” which is a royal crown of a king.
- The Antichrist in Revelation 6:2 goes forth conquering with a “bow” a weapon of warfare.
- Jesus will conquer by the Word of God that comes forth from His mouth.
- At His first coming, Jesus was crucified and he entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey at His second coming He will ride on a heavenly white horse.

He Was Called

- “Faithful and True”
- How can we rest assured that One day this world will change and the promises in Scripture fulfilled?
- When we know the character of God we know that He can be relied upon.
- Jesus is called “faithful” and we can rest in the hope that His word can be trusted.
- “Without the last book of the Bible, other parts of Scripture would lose much of their significance.....Man's ruin is complete in other parts of the Scripture; man's redemption is perfect in Revelation.” [Barnhouse]

- The Lord is in control of the world and we can rely upon Him fulfilling the things which He said He would do in His word
- In looking at the landscape of history we can see that God is moving His plan of redemption in a specific direction and will fulfill faithfully that which He has promised.
-God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”-Hebrews 6:17-19
- God swore an oath to Himself guaranteeing the promises by way of the truth of His character that He cannot lie.

He Judges In Righteousness and Makes War

- Both “judges and makes war” are in the present tense “He is judging and making war”.
- “...Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty. And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness....”-**Psalm 45:3-4**
- “For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.”-**Psalm 45:13**
- The armies of the Antichrist have gathered at Armageddon in rebellion and they will be judged according to their actions. The war against the Lamb will justify the Lamb’s war against them.

His Robe Is Dipped In Blood

- When Jesus was crucified he wore a scarlet robe splattered with His blood. The blood came on the robe as they placed a crown of thorns on his head.
- At His second coming Jesus will return with a robe, “dipped in blood”, being blood stained from judging the nations.
- “Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?— “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; and My own fury, it sustained Me. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth.”-**Isaiah 63:1-6**

The Cup Of God's Wrath

- The cup of God's wrath is referred to in the Bible 13 times.
- "For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: "Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it."-**Jeremiah 25:15**
- "For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth drain and drink down."-**Psalm 75:8**
- This cup of wrath is what Jesus wanted to avoid but instead took willingly on behalf of mankind thus transferring the Father's wrath to Himself.-**Matthew 26:39**
- "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but **the wrath of God abides on him.**"-**John 3:36**

- For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; and My own fury, it sustained Me. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth."-**Isaiah 63:1-6**

- "The Rider on the white horse is not the Gracious Saviour in His work of saving His people from their sins; but the Righteous Judge who avenges them on their enemies."-Bullinger

- "[M]en's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. "-**Luke 21:26-27**
- "But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter **you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.**"-**Matthew 26:63-64**

His Name Is The Word Of God

- Jesus Is The Revealed Word Of God: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."--**John 1:1-3**
- "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."--**John 1:14**
- "The *Logos* or Word is the expression of God's nature in understandable terms, and whether those terms be mercy or judgment they are both equally the message of God".-Tenney

God's Word Does Not Change

- God simply says, "This is the way it is going to be."
- If we want to find out how God has settled things we need to read His Word.
- No one regardless of how clever they may be will be able to change the Word of God because it is linked to the Person, Jesus Christ, whose name is the Word of God.
- Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." (Mt. 24:35)
- When all of this stuff around us is gone. God's Word will remain.

Revelation 19:14-16

"And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.

And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

The Armies From Heaven

- The armies of heaven follow Jesus upon their own white horses.
- Horses and heaven seem to be linked together as weapons of war.
- "Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.-2 Kings 2:11

- This is the event Jude prophesied about: "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes **with ten thousands of His saints**, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."- **Jude 14-15**
- The heavenly army will be made up of both angels and saints.
- ".....since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven **with His mighty angels**, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."-2 **Thessalonians 1:6-8**

- We also know from what the angel previously told John that: "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and **those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.**"-**Revelation 17:14**
- So it would be safe to presuppose that the heavenly army would consist of both angels and believers.
- "We have Anti-Christ against Christ. Angels against angels. Superhuman beings against glorified saints. Mortals against mortals. The whole kingdom of God opposed to the whole kingdom of Satan."-Bullinger

The Word Of God Judges

- The Word of God judges and is the standard by which He rules the world.
- We are told by the writer of Hebrews that the word of God "**...Judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**"
- The Word of God is the standard by which God judges or evaluates the heart and the life of the believer and judges the world.
- The enemies of Jesus will be slain twice. At His second coming where they are killed in their earthly bodies and at the great white throne judgment where they are cast into the lake of fire which is the second death of unbelievers. (Rev. 19:21; 20:6,12)

- "It is neither necessary nor wise to explain away any portion of God's Word. Neither is it safe: for there are many things in heaven and earth which have never entered into man's imagination; and it is childish and absurd to measure and judge of everything by our own limited experience. Things are not unreal, unlikely, or impossible merely because we have never seen them. It is both wiser and safer to believe God."-Bullinger

He Rules With A Rod Of Iron

- Jesus will rule with a rod of iron over the nations during His 1,000 year reign from Jerusalem.
- “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.” -Daniel 7:13-14
- “The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!” -**Psalm 110:1-2**

King Of Kings And Lord Of Lords

- This is a carry over statement from the Old Testament.
- “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome....” - **Deuteronomy 10:17**
- “Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever!” -**Psalms 136:3**
- All kingdoms that have rejected Jesus and His word will be in the end subjected to the true and only King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Revelation 19:17-18

“Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, “that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.”

Supper For The Birds

- Jesus said that when He returns at His Second Coming the birds would have feast upon the dead bodies: “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together” - **Matthew 24:27-28**
- William Newell in his commentary on Revelation states there are Four suppers mentioned in the Bible:
 1. The supper of salvation, alluded to in Jesus’ parable (Luke 14:16-24)
 2. The Lord’s supper for remembering His sacrifice upon the cross
 3. The marriage supper of the Lamb
 4. The supper of the great God

- If you reject the supper of salvation then the supper of the Lord's sacrifice will mean nothing to you. Then you will not be present at the marriage supper of the Lamb. By rejecting the supper of salvation you will be there for the supper of the great God.
- There is a choice that begins at the supper of salvation offered to man freely to come and eat. If man chooses to reject the offer of salvation then they will be present for the final supper of God's wrath. The choice is to eat or be eaten no one is exempt.

Birds Feast Upon Flesh

- In verse 18, the word flesh is repeated 5 times indicating the enormous dinner offered up for the birds to feast upon.
- This same grouping of people are hiding in caves wanting the rocks to fall upon them because they don't want to face the wrath of the Lamb in chapter six. (Revelation 6:15-17)
- "The repetition of the word flesh, occurring five times over flesh, is very revealing. The race has walked in carnal enmity against God, living after the flesh, and now the day of His patience is at an end".-Barnhouse

The Destruction Of Gog

- "It will come to pass in that day that I will give Gog a burial place there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea; and it will obstruct travelers, because there they will bury Gog and all his multitude. And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every sort of bird and to every beast of the field: Assemble yourselves and come; gather together from all sides to My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you, a great sacrificial meal on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams and lambs, of goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. You shall eat fat till you are full, and drink blood till you are drunk, at My sacrificial meal which I am sacrificing for you. You shall be filled at My table with horses and riders, with mighty men and with all the men of war," says the Lord GOD."-Ezekiel 39:11,17-20

Revelation 19:19-21

"And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh."

The Beast And The Ten Kings

- This is the end game for the Beast and the ten kings who trusted and followed him. The ten kings gave their power and authority to the beast to guide them.
- Their purpose is to engage the Lamb in a war. (Revelation 17:13-14)
- They are cast into the lake of fire where there is no end to their torment.
- "And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD. And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."-Isaiah 66:23-24

The Lake Of Fire

- "Today, no one is in the Lake of Fire (hell). The Lake of Fire becomes populated as follows:
 1. The Beast and the False Prophet are cast alive into the Lake of Fire at the Second Coming of Christ (Rev. 19:20).
 2. After the Second Coming, immediately prior to the Millennial Kingdom, the non-believing *goats* among the nations are sent "into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Mat. 25:41).
 3. The devil is cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:10). His angels, having been imprisoned in the scorched regions of Babylon and Edom during the Millennial Kingdom (*Revelation 18:2*), are probably also cast into the Lake of Fire at this time (Mat. 25:41).
 4. After the Millennial Kingdom and the Great White Throne Judgment, the unsaved dead, who are not written in the *Book of Life*, are cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:15). These awake from the dust of the earth to everlasting contempt (Dan. 12:2)."-Garland

Where Do The Dead Go Today

Abraham's Bosom also known as Paradise and God's Presence.
The Righteous Abode
Awaiting Heaven For Eternity

Hades, Hell, Perdition,
Gehenna
The Unrighteous Abode
Awaiting The Lake Of Fire For Eternity

Luke
16:19-31