

Rejoicing in Heaven

Revelation 19:1-10

I. Introduction:

A. Future events

1. Book of Revelation is predominately prophetic w/ Chapters 4-21 about future events.
2. Book of Revelation reveals culmination of God's plan for humanity and all creation.
3. Rapture: This current church age will come to an abrupt end w/ rapture of the church.
4. When time's right, Jesus will appear & call His bride, His church out of this world.
5. Tribulation: Rapture will be followed immediately by 7 years of tribulation on earth.
6. The antichrist will come to power and rule over the world.
7. The false prophet will lead the world to worship antichrist as god.
8. God will judge the world directly through 7 seal, 7 trumpet, & 7 bowl judgments.

B. End of the Tribulation

1. Near the end of the tribulation God will destroy the kingdom of the antichrist.
2. False Religion: Chapter 17 describes God's direct judgment & destruction of false religion. This false religion of the antichrist is referred to as a harlot who will lead the world astray with her religious fornication.
3. God will destroy false religious system of antichrist. God will judge all false religion.
4. Kingdom: Chapter 18 describes God's direct judgment of antichrist's kingdom.
5. The worldly kingdom of antichrist is referred to as Babylon.
6. God will destroy all the elements of antichrist's worldly kingdom.
 - a. The religious component
 - b. The political & military component
 - c. The economic component

II. Rejoicing in Heaven (Revelation 19:1-4)

Raptured church & angelic hosts of heaven rejoice as God judges antichrist & the wicked world.

A. After these things

The reasons for this celebration in heaven are listed here.

1. – Salvation has come in full.
 - a. This speaks to the completion of God's salvation with the glorification of the saints and the arrival of the kingdom of our Lord.
2. – God's judgments are true and righteous.
 - a. Question: "How can angels and saints rejoice at the death and destruction God will rain down on people in the tribulation?" The answer is "**true and righteous.**"
 - b. People of tribulation have greater opportunity to be saved than any other group.
 - c. They will witness direct supernatural revelation from God.
3. – God's judgment is just. (Revelation 19:2b)
 - a. Throughout human history God's people have been treated unfairly.
 - b. Redeemed of Christ have been persecuted & taken advantage of in every generation.
 - c. The Jews are most maligned, persecuted, & abused ethnic group to ever live on earth
 - d. Nero, Emperor of Rome in the first century, slaughtered Christians for entertainment
 - e. The tribulation period will see the greatest persecution of God's people.
 - f. God is the righteous judge and His judgments are perfect and just.

B. The judgment of God (Revelation 19:3)

- *There are three things to note here about the judgment of God.*

1. – The judgment of God is final.
 - a. Those who are cast into the lake of fire will be there forever.
 - b. Hell is a literal place with literal pain and suffering.
 - c. The angelic host & saints rejoice because the wicked will never be heard from again.
2. – No appeal
 - a. Finality of God's judgment is further emphasized being there's no appeal process.
 - b. The lost will not be able to plead their case or ask for mercy.
 - c. Those who are cast into hell will never have another day in God's court, no appeal.
3. – The only deliverance
 - a. Only deliverance from wrath & judgment of God against sin is available in this life.
 - b. Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary as payment for the sin of the whole world.
 - c. God extends grace, mercy, and forgiveness to all people in this life.
 - d. If we will confess our sin to God w/ repentant heart, we can place our faith in Jesus & ask for His forgiveness. God will forgive the sin of any person who will ask Him.

III. The 24 elders (Revelation 19:4-5)

A. Definitive group

1. Amidst all the praise and worship of heaven, another group is specifically identified.
2. These are the 24 elders which were seen back in **chapter 4**. They represent the raptured church around the throne of God. (see **12th message in the series, May 3, 2020**)
3. The raptured church is described here as joining in the worship of our Lord.

B. The four living creatures

1. These are the Cherubim that encircle the throne of God. They are high ranking angelic creatures who circle the throne of God continually voicing praise to Him.
2. They'll join in worship of heaven as God brings judgment & justice upon the wicked.

IV. Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6-10)

A. Marriage of the Lamb

1. This is the consummation of the marriage of Jesus Christ to His bride, the church.
2. The church is often spoken of as the betrothed one to Jesus. (**2 Corinthians 11:2**)
3. This picture or pattern is set in the traditional Oriental pattern of marriage.
 - (1) – Betrothal
 - a. This is the legally binding commitment of the woman to the man.
 - b. The husband has paid the dowry and the wife to be is committed to Him.
 - c. Church: We were betrothed to Jesus the moment we were saved.
 - (2) – Presentation
 - a. There was appointed a celebration where the woman was presented to the man.
 - b. Church: The rapture is when we will be presented to Jesus.
 - c. We'll be transformed into our pure & sinless resurrection bodies at the rapture.
 - (3) – Marriage supper
 - a. Vows were exchanged & there was a marriage supper before the bride and groom departed to consummate the marriage.
 - b. Church: Marriage supper of the Lamb in this passage is final stage in the wedding

B. Blessed are those who are called to attend.

1. – That means guests
 - a. Old Testament saints are not the bride. Tribulation saints are not the bride.
2. – The bride
 - a. Blessed are those who are saved now and betrothed to Jesus.