

WEEK 19: Victory!..... Revelation 19

• **Last week**

- John witnesses the final fall of Babylon
- Ch 17 showed the destruction of religious Babylon
- Ch 18 revealed the collapse of its political and economic power
 - o And its collapse will happen quickly

"For in a single hour your doom has come!" – 18:10

"...in a single hour such great wealth has been destroyed!" – 18:16

• **Out with the old, in with the new**

- God is eliminating every vestige of Satan's kingdom
- He is preparing for Christ's coming kingdom
- Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- Antichrist will be the earthly ruler of this world
- But Christ, the true King will establish His Kingdom
 - o The old

Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! – 18:2

Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! – 18:10

What city was like the great city? – 18:18

- o The new

"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!" – 18:20

Babylon will be replaced with something better

• **Crying out**

- John hears another response to the fall of Babylon
- But unlike the cry of the kings, merchants, and sailors, this one is positive
- What is it that the great multitude are saying?

Hebrew: *halal* – praise *Yah* – God

- The Greek transliteration is *Alleluia*
- This is the only place in the New Testament where this word shows up
- First appears in the Old Testament is the psalms

*May sinners disappear from the earth,
and the wicked vanish!*

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Praise the Lord! – Psalm 104:35 NLT

- Salvation, glory and power
 - o This is not referring to man’s justification or sanctification
 - o It refers to the final phase of God’s redemptive plan
 - o And it begins with the return of Christ and the establishment of His earthly Kingdom
- Amen! Hallelujah!
 - o **amen** – literally: So be it!
Let it be fulfilled!
 - o Directly tied to the Greek word for “believe” – **amam**

- **The marriage of the Lamb**

- What is this and why is it important?
- It will involve the body of Christ, the church
- We are the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- But the marriage has not been consummated
- Currently, the church is betrothed to Christ

*For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since **I betrothed you to one husband**, to present you as a pure virgin **to Christ**.* – 2 Corinthians 11:2 ESV

- But what is betrothal?
 - o A traditional Jewish wedding had several stages:
 1. **Betrothal** – like an engagement period
 - A legally binding contract between the parents
 - Could be broken only by a legal divorce
 - This stage could last for years
 2. **Presentation** – took place prior the ceremony
 - The groom would go to get his bride
 - He would take her to his father’s house
 3. **Ceremony** – this was the final stage
 - It would finalize the marriage
 4. **Celebration** – a time of feasting and joy
 - Guests were invited to join the celebration

- Does the bride get herself ready?
 - A bit misleading
 - Paul clarifies what will actually take place

*Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word, **so that he may present the church to himself as glorious**—not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but holy and blameless. – Ephesians 5:25-27 NLT*

- What are the righteous deeds of the saints?
 - What a contrast

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. – Isaiah 64:6 NLT

- Anything we do of value is because of Christ in us

And because of him [God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” – 1 Corinthians 1:30-31 NLT

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV

- Who are the guests at the wedding?
 - An invitation goes out, but it is not to the church
 - The church is the bride
 - The guests refers to the believing Old Testament saints
 - And the 144,000 redeemed Jews
 - As well as the Tribulation saints
 - And all the martyred Tribulation saints

- Something to consider
 - Why is believing Israel not considered the bride as well?
 - Because Israel is the wife of God

***For your husband is the one who made you—**
*the Lord who commands armies is his name.
 He is your protector, the Holy One of Israel.
 He is called “God of the entire earth.” – Isaiah 54:5 NLT**

- But she had proven to be an unfaithful wife

“Adulterous wife, who prefers strangers instead of her own husband! All prostitutes receive payment, but instead you give gifts to every one of your lovers. You bribe them to come to you from all around for your sexual favors!” – Ezekiel 16:34-35 NLT

And the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods...” – Hosea 3:1 NLT

- But God will be a faithful and loving husband

*For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness **in the latter days**. – Hosea 3:4-5 NLT*

- **Rider on a white horse**

- Should sound familiar

And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer. – Revelation 6:2 ESV

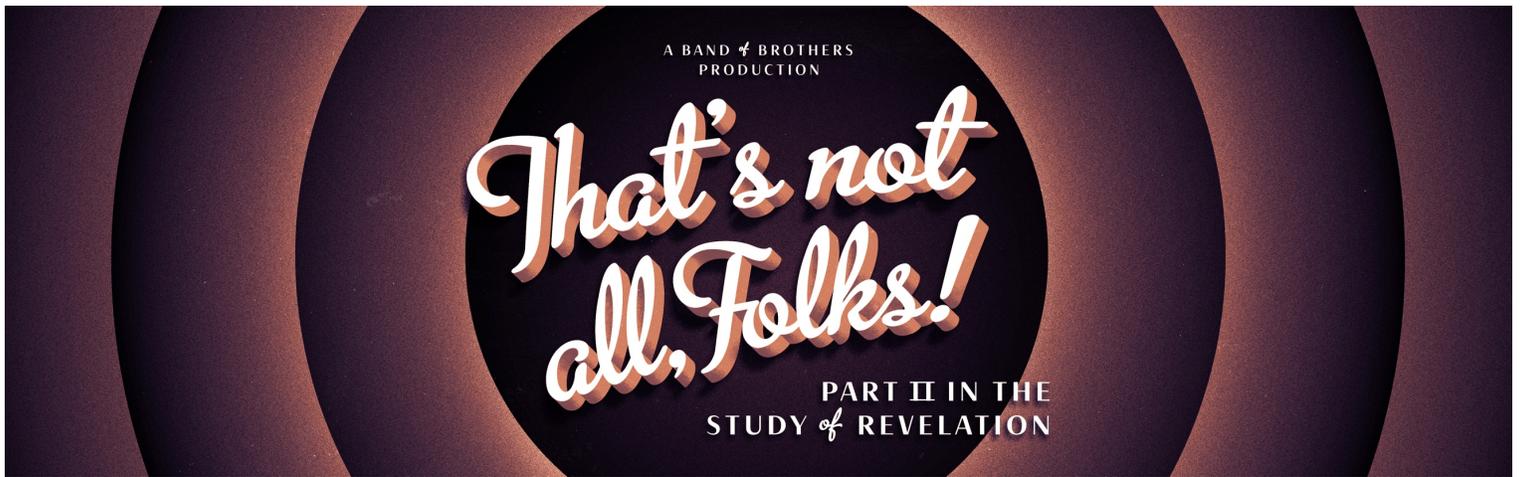
- This was a vision of the coming Antichrist
- He would attempt to do what only Christ can do
- The names of Christ
 - One only He knows – His mystery and transcendency
 - The Word of God – His deity (the incarnate Word)
 - King of kings and Lord of lords – His sovereignty

- **A second feast**

- A second feast with a different group of guests
- In this case, the guests are the menu
- This pictures the battle of Armageddon
- Rather than celebration, it features annihilation
- This passage raises some interesting questions
- So, we’ll pick it up here next week

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The Old Testament saints, the 144,000 redeemed Jews and all the Tribulation saints will be guests at the marriage of the Lamb to His bride, the church. Why do you think they will find this occasion one worth rejoicing over?
- John describes the bride of Christ being clothed in fine linen or the righteous deeds of the saints. What do you think refers to?
- We started out talking about the Hebrew phrase halal Yah or praise God. Close your time by each sharing one praise to God.



Week 20 Homework: Let Righteousness Reign. – Revelation 20

- Read Revelation 20. Also read pages 178-189 of the Devotionary™ study on Revelation.
- According to the opening verses of this chapter, what does God intend to do with Satan and what do you believe is significant about this action on God’s part?

What do you think is important about the phrase, “he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended”?

Based on a cursory reading of verses 4-5, what does this passage seem to say is going to happen at this point in time on God’s redemptive calendar?

- Read the following passage and write down what they teach about the resurrection of the righteous”
Luke 14:14 _____

Acts 24:15 _____

Based on verse 14 of this chapter, what is the second death?

Is this something believers need to fear? If not, what are some verses that support that view? _____

Why do you think it is important that Christ rule on earth from Jerusalem for a period of 1,000 years? Read the following passage to help.

Psalm 2:6-9 _____

Daniel 2:25 _____

Jeremiah 30:50-8 _____

- Read verses 7-10. What do the events described in this passage tells us about the nature of humanity? Keep in mind that Satan will have been bound for 1,000 years. There will be no demons to tempt or torment. Christ will have reigned for 1,000 years in perfect righteousness, and yet, people will choose to side with Satan.

- Read verses 11-15. Rather than spending a lot of time trying to figure out all that is happening in these verses, take some time to consider how what you see in these verses impact you, then write down your impressions here.