

## Chapter 19

### Heaven Exults over Babylon

**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!"

The 'great multitude' is not the same as heard in Chapter 7; the unnumbered multitude, but rather this is the entire host of Heaven. This is all the angels, all the creatures on other planets and all living creatures that have spent the last several millennia watching the horrors of this earth now raising their voices together to champion their God. He is said to be the 'owner' of all "(s)alvation and glory and honor and power", he alone is the author of our salvation that has brought him glory and honour. His power, is therefore absolute, as all the universe stands on his side in both respect and reverence.

The judgement we have spoken about in the last few chapters, it is now revealed, is expressly at this command. His authority to do this is through his blood that authored salvation. By his blood he redeemed the world, and those redeemed became "His servants" and any attack or brutality on them He has the right to "avenge(d) on her".

The outpouring of respect and reverence for God is, again, absolute. The 4 living creatures, most powerful created beasts in the universe, fall down to show their reverence to the saviour. The 24 Elders, chief advisors to the Throne bow down out of respect. All things great and small join the reverence and respect. None in heaven is exempt from demonstrating their reverence.

**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.

The language of marriage here is interesting and new, but not out of keeping with the rest of the chapter. We know that religious groups have been addressed as women through the chapter, it makes sense that there would be a blushing bride to contrast the harlot, just as there is a good church to counter the Devils evil one.

Here, we must interrogate Jesus' own words on marriage. We find them in Mark chapter 10;

*"<sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' <sup>7</sup> 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, <sup>8</sup> and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."*

Jesus is clear that marriage, as far as God is concerned, is an eternal and unbreakable joining of 2 individuals. There is no reason to believe that his association with the Church would be any different. The bride has remained faithful to the Lamb, has not fornicated with the other woman like the kings of earth did and has not had any dealings with her that were not holy and in keeping with God's teaching. The harlot, instead, has had filthy liaisons with everyone, and has abused and tortured Christ's bride and has tried to blame her for the evils in the world.

What is also clear from Jesus' language on marriage is that it cannot be retracted or repealed. It is eternal. That means that Jesus is making his arrangements for all time; this woman will be tied to him for eternity. The events of this world will never be forgotten as Christ himself will be tied to his people for eternity; and they will be an example of Christ's mercy and faithfulness. Not an object lesson in rebellion.

The timeframe of the 'marriage' is covered a little later.

*<sup>9</sup> 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."*

The people called to the Marriage Supper are blessed because they are locked in place. They have been given the privilege of being alive to see this marriage supper. This is also a tie-in with the close of probation; the closing phase of the earth. The

marriage supper, as we saw in Chapter 7, relates to the 144,000; the saved of earth who were tempted and tormented by the harlot but who did not fall to her seductions and were not killed by her wiles. You cannot be married to a dead person, so "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (from 14:14). These are those called, permitted, invited, asked to survive through all the pain and torment that God's people endured and now stand beside Christ for all time.

<sup>10</sup> 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."

We might have forgotten who John is talking to here. He's referring to one of the angels who poured judgement out on the harlot. If we refer back to Chapter "17 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters". This has been John's companion throughout and so moved was John by seeing salvation laid out he tried to worship that angel. But he stopped him, stipulating again that **GOD ALONE** is worthy of worship. The angel is, rightly, very assertive in his direction to John.

Incidentally, we have already covered the line "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" in another chapter so it needs no review here.

## Christ on a White Horse

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

<b>White crown</b> The White Crown symbolised the pharaoh's control over Upper Egypt, and was worn on occasions involving Upper Egypt only. 	<b>Red crown</b> The Red Crown symbolised the pharaoh's control over Lower Egypt, and was worn on occasions involving Lower Egypt only. 
<b>Double crown</b> The Double Crown was a combination of the Red Crown of Lower Egypt and the White Crown of Upper Egypt. It symbolised the joining of the two lands, and the pharaoh's control over the two lands. 	<b>Blue crown</b> The Blue Crown (the Khepresh) was a blue cloth or leather headdress decorated with bronze or gold discs. The Blue Crown was worn in battles, as well as on ceremonial occasions. 
<b>Atef crown</b> The Atef Crown was a white headdress decorated with ostrich feathers. It was worn during some religious rituals. 	<b>Nemes Headdress</b> The Nemes Headdress was a blue and gold striped head cloth. 

Jesus steps forward, the bridegroom triumphant on a white horse. He is the one that has all possible positive qualities; Faithful and true, fearless and righteous. John reflects back to Chapter 1 by referring to his eyes (vs 14); a reinforcement that the message of the entire book is from Jesus himself, and a large collection of crowns denoting his authority over many lands. This type of crown would reflect that of the Egyptian one, where the Upper and Lower Egyptian lands were denoted by the different parts of the Pharaoh's crown; only Jesus' would have many more parts.

He is said to have a name written that nobody except He knows which, in relation to the crowns is probably his divine title that is unknown on this world.

He is said to be wearing a robe dipped in blood – no doubt his own blood. He is demonstrating his authority over his sacrifice inasmuch as it was his choice to sacrifice himself in the first place.

John also connects his name to the Gospel of John Chapter 1 with the Greek word for 'word', 'Logos' being used in both cases. The use of this connection, as stated previously, is another support that the author John here is also the same author of the Gospel.

3056 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]
Logos	tou	Theou
Λόγος	τοῦ	Θεοῦ
Word	-	of God
N-NMS	Art-GMS	N-GMS

<sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND  
LORD OF LORDS.

Now all of heaven pours out to follow him to the wedding, clothed in pure white and on white horses but marching as an army. His bride has been abused and tortured by a harlot and while she has been judged and defeated, the power that put her up to it has not. Jesus steps forward to assert himself as the saviour over the world to claim

his bride and rule the world “[with a rod of iron](#)”, unyielding and unbending. He is written in as the author of the salvation linking this to Chapter 14 when the language was written in connected to the Second Coming.

That is what all this has been building to. This is the moment of Christ’s glorious return. All have come to reap the holy and marry the true church. He has done all that needs to be done to be formally crowned as “[KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS](#).” This is the moment of Christ’s greatest triumph!

## **The Beast and His Armies Defeated**

[17](#) 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, [18](#) 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.”

The angel is standing in the sun, the source of all anti-God worship throughout history. All those who have not worshiped God have replaced it with the most obvious replacement, the sun. But this is not a nice and happy angel, nor even a commanding one. This one isn’t even trying to be polite. They simply call all the birds together to eat the dead that will be left in the wake of the marriage supper of the Lamb. Come and devour “[the flesh of kings, ...captains, ...mighty men, ...horses and of those who sit on them, ...all \*people\*, free and slave, both small and great.](#)” Come together to get fat on the deaths of all those who are not invited to the marriage supper. Come and join your own feast!

[19](#) 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. [20](#) 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. [21](#) 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.

Ah, “the beast” is clearly still around! After absorbing the fallen Roman Church, it is now the one who stands with “the kings of the earth” and who has now replaced the woman as the person who those kings are ‘working’.

Some new characters are introduced here that makes the story of this very interesting!

We have already met the beast and we can make something of an educated guess who the kings of the earth and their armies are, and we know Jesus is who is sitting on the horse and his armies are all the forces of Heaven, but then we have a new person step into the mix.

Only met the “false prophet” briefly in Chapter 16. If we reflect back on Chapter 13, the language that was used there looks very much like an individual evangelically spreading the word of the Beast. It makes sense that he is the one who “deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.”

Logically, this makes sense. The intention is clearly to “deceive” and it makes sense that the Devil would use the same tools as the God’s church uses. God has used a variety of structures and generally spoken through prophets; it makes sense that the Devil would try and use those same tools to impersonate His message. Paul has already told us that God no longer uses those tools; he said so in Hebrews 1. “**1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds**”. This would indicate that God no longer uses Prophets in the same way that he did in ancient times; instead choosing to speak through the words of Jesus himself.

For Adventists, this can present an issue; we acknowledge Mrs White as a prophetess. But we should consider what Mrs White actually said and wrote. In reality, she gave no new doctrine and added nothing new to scripture. She redefine and reinvented existing understanding and returned doctrines to those as they were at the time of Christ – like the Sabbath Truth. She presented a better understanding of how the bible system works, rather than offer a new selection of doctrines like Muhammad or Joseph Smith did. We give her the respect of the title ‘prophet’ but rather, she was more like ‘God’s review editor’.

What we can draw from this is, around the time that the Beast presents his mark, a prophet of the Beast rises and starts performing ‘miracles’ that are used to make the claim that the beast is the replacement of the Roman Church and, vicariously, the heir to Christ’s authority on earth. It is this that was discussed in Chapter 13, and it is this that is often discussed as an opportunity for Christ to be ‘personated’ or to have someone come and claim to be Jesus himself returned from Heaven.

Clearly the ruse will work for the Beast to become the dominant power. And when they are the dominant power, they will move to make war on Jesus and his people. We've seen this building throughout and now it comes to fruition. In Chapter 16, when the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl was poured out, the false prophet and the "three unclean spirits" gathered the kings of the earth to this fight at 'Armageddon'. That fight will be only ended when Christ himself steps in with his army to claim his bride.

It will not be an easy fight, clearly there will be many casualties and if the language about "shed(ding) the blood of saints and prophets" all throughout the book is even remotely literal, then all of Mrs White's warning about the fight in the last days don't come close to how bad it will get.

Fortunately, never in doubt, Christ will win. And when he does, "the beast ...and ...the false prophet" will be "cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone".

Everyone else alive who is not on Christ's side will be "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" Nobody will be alive at the conclusion of Christ's second coming except those on their way to Heaven with Christ himself. Theoretically there will still be animals but that's a pretty open discussion without any real evidence.

**20** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

To conclude this section, we dip into Chapter 20 and find that the Devil is bound onto the earth for 1,000 years. Clearly, this is after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming; it can't not be. It fits after the destruction of Satan's earthly power and after the elimination of any chance of him rebuilding any powerhouse on Earth again.

As to if the 1,000 years is literal or symbolic, that is debatable but also completely pointless. As this clearly comes after the marriage of the Lamb – ergo the Second Coming – those who are with Christ are in heaven with him and everyone else is dead. Time is now meaningless. We can chalk it up to just being a long time.

What is important is that the Devil is locked up. He cannot do anything to upset God's people and he cannot trouble the nations anymore. The nations no longer exist. They have abandoned Christ and they have been eliminated for it.