

Armageddon (Rev 19)

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Introduction - So what have we covered so far?

- **Chapters 1-3, The Church**

- *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place;*
 - This is a message to true Christians (his bond-servants)
- *3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and [b]heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*
- *Behold [Jesus] is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be, Amen"*
- *I, John was on the island called Patmos, and was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, 11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches"*
 - So the entire book is written to all the seven churches, not just each individual part. This is how we know all of Revelation is written to us.
- The specific letter to each church identifies characteristics of each that requires attention.

- **Chapters 4-5, The scroll**

- *I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice ... speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."*
 - In other words, at the end of the church age
- *I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?"*
 - The scroll is representative of what? The title deed to earth (the universe)
- *"The Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."*

- **Chapters 6-7, the Seal Judgements**

- *The Lamb broke one of the seven seals, I looked, and behold, a white horse (peace)*
- *When He broke the second seal, a red horse, went out (war)*
- *When He broke the third seal, behold, a black horse (famine)*
- *When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, behold, an ashen horse (death)*
- *When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw the souls ... of those who had been slain ...and they cried out with a loud voice (what do they say?) (why they need to wait?)*
- *I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black ... the whole moon became like blood; 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth.*
- *After this I saw another angel saying ... "do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand*

- *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*
- *When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*
- **Chapters 8-11**
 - The Seven Trumpet Judgements
 - The Two Witnesses in Jerusalem
- **Chapters 12-18**
 - The allegory of the woman (Israel) clothed in the sun about to give birth to a son
 - The war in heaven and the Dragon is thrown down to earth.
 - The two beasts, one from the sea (Antichrist), one from the earth (False Prophet)
 - The earth is reaped by Jesus and an Angel, taking out the withered and dried up:
 - The reaping introduces the Bowl Judgements
 - The Dragon calls all the kings of the earth to gather at Har-Magedon for a battle!
 - The harlot Babylon (the wicked world system) is revealed and destroyed by fire.
- **And that leads us to Chapter 19**

Before we get into this week's lesson, I want to take a closer look at a very special verse:

- Much of Revelation is about the saints overcoming and standing strong amid severe persecution and trials. What if we face terrible trials, how can we be sure to overcome?
 - *Rev 12:11, And they overcame him (Satan) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.*
 - QUESTION: According to Rev 12:11, What are the *three weapons* we need to overcome the enemy?
 - Blood of the Lamb
 - **QUESTION: What does the blood of the Lamb do? (sinless blood)**
 - *Rev 1:5, He released us from our sins by his blood. Truly saved.*
 - Also, the life is in the blood. Whose life is in Jesus' blood?
 - Reference the Lord's Supper, what's the implication?
 - Word of their testimony
 - **QUESTION: What is the word of our testimony?**
 - His life working in us. Our obedience to him.
 - Our willingness to **share the outworking of His life in us**.
 - *Rom 10:9, confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord* (supreme)
 - They did not love their life even when faced with death.
 - **QUESTION: What does this mean to love not our life?**
 - Unbelievers are afraid of death, and they should be!
 - In many ways, believers should welcome death!
 - Our very lives are entirely in His hands. More worth than birds!
 - *Mat 16:25, For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but **whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.***
 - QUESTION: How did Jesus live? Exactly the same way!

Chapter 19

Rev 19:1-3, After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; 2 because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her."

- QUESTION: After what things?
- After the Bowl Judgements, and the destruction of the idolatrous, greedy world system.
- It becomes obvious that God will prevail in this end-time struggle, and heaven rejoices!
- This "great multitude" seems to be the heavenly host (heaven's angel armies).
- God is about to defeat the last forces rallied against him, and throw Satan into the abyss.
- QUESTION: What are the specific reasons for the praise?
 - *Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.*
 - *His judgments are true and righteous.*
 - *He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality.*
 - *He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.*
 - What does a harlot do? Is there seduction involved?
 - She seduces the unbelieving world into believing Satan's lies.
- QUESTION: can you think of any lies that are being told to us today?
 - Political
 - The border is secure.
 - We can fix the border if congress will just pass the new border bill.
 - Vaccination stops the virus from spreading.
 - The unvaccinated are spreading the virus.
 - The COVID vaccination is safe and effective.
 - The national debt is not a problem.
 - "I did not have sex with that woman."
 - Abortion is a women's health issue. After all, it is her own body!
 - Our justice system is fair.
 - DEI and Social Justice are about caring for the underprivileged.
 - Joe Biden has done nothing wrong. Donald Trump has done nothing wrong.
 - Undocumented migrants are not criminal aliens.
 - Christian Nationalists are a threat to our "democracy".
 - Parents upset about the education system are domestic terrorists.
 - The earth will be uninhabitable in 12 years (this one I actually believe)
 - Religious
 - God is dead. Jesus is not God. There are many ways to get to heaven.
 - We can earn God's favor through good works.
 - The universe was formed by a big bang.
 - The earth is 4.5 billion years old.
 - We all evolved from slime.
 - The bible is just a book of stories and fables.
 - Noah's Ark is just a children's story. Destruction of all flesh a children's story!
 - Do I need to go on?

Rev 19:3-4, And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever." 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"

- Babylon will never be rebuilt, just like Sodom and Gomorrah have never been rebuilt.
- QUESTION: Why is all heaven rejoicing at the downfall of Babylon?
 - It's the destruction entire world political and religious system that opposes God.
 - What kind of system is that?
 - It opposes God, it promotes human achievement, it rewards greed.
 - Let's just take the United States, for example:
 - The biblical morality that this country was founded on is gone.
 - John Adams said, *"Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."*
 - No one knows how many laws are on our books.
 - Half a million reported rapes are committed each year in the US
 - 1.2 million people are in prison in the US
 - We have nearly 1 million police officers and police support staff
 - With correctional officers game wardens, and security guards, it's 2 million!
 - *"More than 100 million cases are filed each year in state trial courts, while roughly 400,000 cases are filed in federal trial courts. There are approximately 30,000 state judges, compared to 1,700 federal judges."*
 - *"Man is lawless; he will do what you let him do if not restrained. And in order to try to restrain him we have countless laws, millions of litigating cases, a million police, spend trillions of dollars, and at the top of the pile is a justice department that we don't trust because it's full of the same kind of mentality as the criminals at the other end of the system. So just a little hint: if you're trying to get justice in the world, that is a fool's errand. We do the best we can." - John MacArthur*
 - **What does the bible have to say? God is the righteous judge. Justice has come.**
 - *Rom 1:18-31 NLT, But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. 19 They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. 20 For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*

21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. 22 Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. 23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

24 So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. 25 They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead

of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. 26 That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. 27 And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved.

28 Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. 29 Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. 30 They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. 31 They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. 32 They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

- *2 Tim 3:1-7, But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. 6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

- So, the praise is because God's justice is finally coming

Rev 19:5-6, And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." 6 Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

- Now the glorified saints take up the praise.
- *Psa 96:10-13, Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with [a]equity." 11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; Let the sea [b]roar, and [c]all it contains; 12 Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy 13 Before the Lord, for He is coming, For He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness And the peoples in His faithfulness.*
- *Psa 97:1-6, The Lord [a]reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many [b]islands be glad. 2 Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. 3 Fire goes before Him and burns up His adversaries round about. 4 His lightnings lit up the world; The earth saw and trembled. 5 The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. 6 The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples have seen His glory.*

QUESTION: Will things in this world ever get any better? Will we have to keep putting up with wars and crime and murders and injustice everywhere?

- *Isa 11:1-5, Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; 4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. 5 Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.*

Rev 19:7-10, Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.” 10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

- QUESTION: Who is the bride?
- QUESTION: What does this mean, has made herself ready? How does a bride get ready?
- QUESTION: And the clothing metaphor? What is the linen made from?
- QUESTION: Who chose the bride, and the bride said yes, right?
- QUESTION: Who dresses the bride and makes her ready for the wedding?

Then he said to me, write:

- QUESTION: who are the guests of the bride? The bride is not a guest. She invites the guests!
- It makes sense that these are not the same as the bride. “Then he said to me, write”
- See page 118 of the book.
- There seems to be a very clear distinction between the bride and the invited guests.
- QUESTION: If Jesus is the only way to heaven, what about Old Testament Saints, and even those who never witnessed or fully understood the cross of Christ? How are they saved?
 - Parable of the Wedding Feast, Mat 22:1-10
 - Parable of the Ten Virgins (bridesmaids), Mat 25:1-13
 - *Mat 8:11, I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*
 - *Luke 13:28-29, “... when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out. 29 And they will come from east and west and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.*
 - **A distinction is made between the heroes of the faith and us!**
 - *Heb 11:39-40, And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 because God had provided something better for us, so that **apart from us** they would not be made perfect. **Who is us?***

- So, the bride is the church, the guests are invited to the party to rejoice with the bride.
 - The distinction seems to be pre-church vs. church, which began at Pentecost!
- The testimony of Jesus is the “spirit of prophecy”.
 - “The central; theme of OT prophecy and NT preaching is the gospel of Jesus”

Rev 19:11-16, And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

- So, heaven opens again, this time for Jesus to come out!
- QUESTION: What does “eyes a flame of fire” mean?
 - *Heb 4:12-23, For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*
- Many Diadems, kingly crowns
- A name no one knows. QUESTION: Do we know everything about Jesus? No!
 - *1 Cor 13:12, For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.*
- Robe dipped in blood, this symbolism is either his blood or the blood of his enemies.
- His name is called the “Word of God”. Jesus is the living Word. John 1:1.
- QUESTION: Who is with him?
 - The “armies which are in heaven”
 - The Bride of the Lamb
 - Tribulation believers martyred during the seven years
 - Old Testament Saints
 - *Dan 12:1-2, “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.*
 - Holy Angels
- QUESTION: What comes from his mouth? And what’s it used for?
- QUESTION: And how does he rule the nations?
 - A rod of iron. Do you think he will acquit the guilty or condemn the innocent?

Rev 19:17-18, Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

- An Angel standing in the sun (or in front of it). Everyone sees and hears this angel!
- Calling to the vultures to gather and that there will be a great feast.
- QUESTION: What will they be eating? Corpses!

Rev 19:19-21, And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

- Psalm 2, Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do they devise a vain thing?
- What is done to the beast and the false prophet? What about the dragon (Ch 20).
- *Rev 14:20, And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.*
- *Eze 39:12, For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.*

This final slaughter marks the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom, which we will talk about in more detail next week.