

7. Joy of Victory - 19.1-22:21

a) Joy in heaven: destruction of Babylon - 19.1-21

1. Joy in heaven: Rev 19.1-10

First we see a 'great multitude' (19.1) in heaven praise God. We saw this great multitude before, in Rev 7.9-10, where they represented Christians from all nations and tribes and languages. In Rev 6.9-10 we saw them praise for vengeance. That has now come.

'Hallelujah'. (19.1, 3, 4, 6) This is the only occurrence in the New Testament, and in the New Testament it is linked with God's judgment.

Discuss why God is praised in Rev 19.2-3.

Again we see the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures fall down in their liturgical worship. (19.4). We saw them earlier in Rev 4.4-10 and 5.8-10. The worship in the heavenly temple is the permanent theme in Revelation.

In Rev 19.6 it seems the great multitude in heaven bursts out in praise again, at the impuls of a worship leader (Rev 19.5). They praise God because the Marriage of the Lamb has come.

What is this marriage of the lamb? See Matthew 22.1-10; Ephesians 5.22-32; 2 Corinthians 11.1; Rev 21.2.

Discuss: How can 'the bride' be clothed in 'fine linen, bright and pure'? (Rev 19.8)

John then falls down to worship the angel. Was that not incredibly strange of him? (Rev 19.10, and again in Rev 22.8). This underlines the absolutely monotheistic character of the Christian faith. But in this regard, see Rev 1.17 and Rev 5.8.

2. Rider on a white horse: Rev 19.11-16

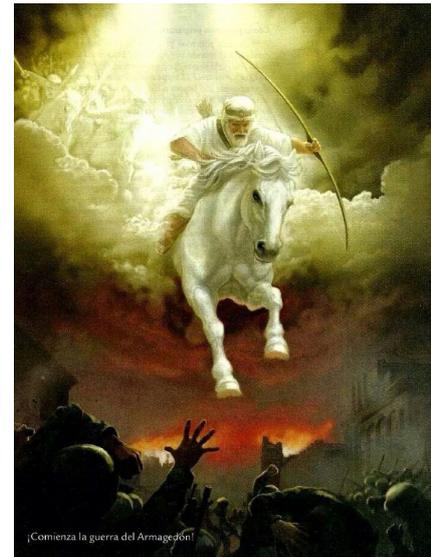
Christ then rides out on a white horse. He is Faithful and True - see Rev 3.7,14.

What does it mean that his 'robe is dipped in blood'? (Rev 19.13) Compare with Isaiah 63.1-6, where God treads the winepress and is splattered with enemy blood.

Why is He called 'The Word of God'? (Rev 19.13) How does this compare with the words that he 'has a name that no one knows but he himself'? (Rev 19.12)

Christ is followed by the 'armies of heaven' (Rev 19.14). Who are they? (See also Rev 3.4)

Christ and his armies come to judge the nations and to rule the world. (Rev 19.15-16). Notice that the imagery in these verses has been used before by John, for instance Rev 1.16; 2.27; 12.5)



3. The Beast and its enemies defeated: Rev 19.17-21

Another feast of food is described now. This is like the reverse of the marriage feast of the Lamb. The birds of the air are invited for a great supper - of the bodies of God's enemies. (Rev 19.17-18)

The beast, the kings and their armies have been lured to fight against Christ. (See Rev 16.14. This is the battle of Armageddon). The words 'assemble' (Rev 16.14) and 'gather/gathered' (Rev 19.17, 19) are all conjugations of the Greek verb *synago*.

The persecutors of the church - the beast and his prophet (see Rev 16.13) are finally and foregood dealt with. They are 'thrown alive in the lake of fire'. All others were 'just' killed and eaten by the birds. Meaning: they would not have a proper burial.

