

Ministry of Grace

Revelation Chapter 19

¹After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, ²for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants." ³Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever." ⁴And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"

⁵And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great." ⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." ¹⁰Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

¹¹Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Notes

This chapter is divided into two parts. The first ten verses describe the celebration in heaven over the destruction of the great harlot, Babylon (both the religious and the political/economic system). The remainder of the chapter describes the final battle, that which we know as Armageddon.

Revelation 19:1

¹After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

“**After this**” – These words are from the Greek *meta tauta*, meaning “after these things.” This gives us a sequencing clue. The events described in chapter 19 occur after the destruction of the city of Babylon. The events of chapter 18 occur after the seven bowls of God’s wrath have been poured out which must have occurred while the three spirits of **Revelation 16:13, 14** are gathering the kings of the earth to the battle of Armageddon.

While the most devastating events of all time are being thrust upon the inhabitants of the earth, the heavenly chorus is joined together in joyful celebration that our righteous God has finally judged the wickedness of mankind.

“**voice**” – This is the Greek word *phōnē*, which literally means “a sound” or “a noise.”

“**multitude**” – This is from the Greek word *ochlos*, which means “a crowd” or “a multitude.”

“**Hallelujah!**” – In the New Testament, this word only occurs in the book of Revelation. It is a transliteration of the Hebrew word made up of the imperative form of *halal*, meaning “to praise, to commend, to boast, or to shine.” The root meaning may be to shine but could also be to shout. The word most often means praise and is associated with the ministry of the Levites who praised God morning and evening. The second half of the word is *yah*, which is, “a neuter pronoun of God, a shortened form of Yahweh, often translated LORD.” Hence, the meaning of Hallelujah (or Alleluia) is “Praise God,” or “Praise Yahweh!”

The book of Psalms is said to contain ten different types of songs, the greatest of which is the Hallel, or song of praise. Nearly every language on the earth has a form of this word. Even the North American Indians, in their times of worship, proclaim “*halleluyah Ye ho wah.*”

Here it is a great song of praise, sung by many in heaven, unto our God for His attributes of salvation, glory, honor, and power.

Revelation 19: 2

²for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

Here is the first of three additional reasons for the outburst of praise to God; He is true and righteous in His judgments. The bases for His judgment are absolute truth (the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth) and righteousness (that which is right and just, returning that which is appropriate for that which was done.) As a result of His true and righteous judgments **He has judged the great prostitute.**

“**the great prostitute**” – As we saw in chapters 17 and 18, this is a reference to all false religion, in the form of the apostate churches and religious practices, as well as the world system which places the acquisition of power and riches as the highest form of attainment for mankind. Both of these forms of the great harlot place the desires of man above those of the Creator of all things.

“**corrupted**” – This is translated from *phtheirō*, which means “to corrupt” or “to destroy.” It is expressed here in the imperfect tense, indicating past, ongoing action.

“**has avenged**” – From the Greek word *ekdikeō*, which literally means “to judge out.” It is an expression that indicates retribution for things done. God is fulfilling His promises of vengeance as we are instructed in both the Old Testament and the New Testament:

Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.' For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free. Then he will say, 'Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge, who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you; let them be your protection! "'See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever, if I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand takes hold on judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and will repay those who hate me. I will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh-- with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired heads of the enemy.' "Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land." (**Deuteronomy 32:35-43**)

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." (**Romans 12:19**)

Revelation 19:3, 4

³**Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."**

⁴**And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"**

As a result of the exultant proclamations of the heavenly chorus the four living ones and the twenty-four elders (the church) bow before God and worship Him.

“**Once more**” – The Greek text reads “and a second time.”

“**smoke from her goes up forever and ever**” – This is probably a reference to the smoke from the destruction of Babylon:

For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her." (**Revelation 18:8**)

However, it may also be a reference to the eternal judgment of all unbelievers in the Lake of Fire that burns for all eternity:

And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name." (**Revelation 14:11**)

“**the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures**” – As we have learned previously, the twenty-four elders represent the church present in God’s throne room. Therefore, this is a reference to the church and the four “living ones” who surround the throne.

Revelation 19:5

⁵And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great."

“**from**” – Literally “out of.”

This chorus of praise from the heavenly host accompanied by the worship of the four living ones and the church is followed by a proclamation (either from an angel or from God, Himself) instructing all of God’s people (all of the redeemed from all ages of time) to join in the praises of God.

Revelation 19:6

⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns."

“**Almighty**” – This is from the Greek word *pantokratōr*, which is made up of *pas*, meaning “all” and *kratos*, which refers to “strength” or “power that is actively demonstrated.” Thus, it literally means “all powerful” or “almighty.”

“**reigns**” – From the Greek word *basileuō*, meaning “to reign, to rule, or to be king.”

This is the announcement of the next reason for praise. As the chorus of praise reaches a deafening crescendo, all voices join together proclaiming the wondrous truth that, FINALLY, **The Lord God Almighty reigns!** The evil world system ruled by Satan and his forces has been defeated and the Lamb of God (the little lambkin) who takes away the sins of the world is coming to destroy those who oppose Him.

Revelation 19:7, 8

⁷Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

“**Let us be rejoice**” – This is the command form of *chairō*, meaning “to rejoice, to be glad, or to be full of cheer.”

“**exult**” – This is the command form of *agalliaō*, which is made up of *agan*, meaning “much” and *hallomai*, meaning “to leap.” Hence it means “To celebrate.” Literally, it means to show one’s joy by leaping and skipping, showing excessive or ecstatic joy and delight.”

“**marriage of the Lamb**” – This is a picture of the presentation of the bride to her husband (see description of the marriage ceremony described below.) The Lamb of God is about to take His bride to Himself.

Now, in addition to the praise of God for who He is and what He has done, the entire heavenly throng is told to be glad and to jump for joy because, **the marriage of the Lamb has come**. The bride of the Lamb is none other than the resurrected church, represented by the twenty-four elders. Notice that the bride has already made herself ready (she has already been judged and found righteous through the blood of Christ) and it already has been given to her to be arrayed in linen, clean and bright.

“**his Bride has made herself ready**” – The bride of Christ, the church (believers of the church age, between the crucifixion and the rapture) is shown as having already been made ready. This is because at the time of the rapture, all members of the body of Christ appear before the bema seat (judgment seat of Christ) where works are judged and rewards are given. Since all sins were paid for at the cross, the bride is “without sin” and she has her victor’s crown(s) on display. She is fully ready for presentation to her husband.

“**bright**” – From *lampros*, which comes from the verb *lampō*, meaning “to shine.” Hence this word means “radiant, brilliant, bright, resplendent, or magnificent.”

“**pure**” – From *katharos*, meaning “clean, pure, and unsoiled.”

The picture is of the bride in a brilliant white garment displaying her holiness and purity. In the Bible, marriage is presented in three stages; the betrothal, the presentation, and the ceremony. The betrothal is when the binding contract is made between the parents. This often happened years before the boy and girl were of marriageable age. With regard to Christ and His bride, this occurred before the foundation of the world when God chose who would be saved.

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love, (**Ephesians 1:4**)

The presentation phase occurs just before the ceremony. The groom and his attendants go to the home of the bride and take her and her attendants to the home of the groom where the bride is presented in all her purity and beauty, followed by as much as a week of joyous celebration. This phase of the marriage of the Lamb begins at the rapture of the church (**1Thessalonians 4:17**) when Christ comes to the home of the bride and brings her to His Father’s house where the church is presented to the Father, pure and without sin (**1Thessalonians 3:13**).

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we shall ever be with the Lord. (**1 Thessalonians 4:17**)

so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. (**1 Thessalonians 3:13**)

The ceremony phase begins as the bride is given to the groom and is followed by a wedding feast after which the consummation takes place. This phase of the marriage of the Lamb is described in this chapter of Revelation and those which follow. The marriage ceremony has come and the bride is shown in all her beauty and holiness.

Revelation 19:9

⁹And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Now that the bride has been given to the Lamb there is a great marriage supper. This time of celebration and joyous fellowship will continue throughout the millennium and will end with the consummation when the new heavens and new earth are created and the eternal union of the Lamb and His bride becomes reality.

“Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb” This is a distinct group, different from the church, since a bride is never invited to her own wedding. This group of invited guests most likely includes all the Old Testament saints as well as the tribulation saints. Daniel describes the resurrection of these Old Testament saints:

"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
(Daniel 12:1, 2)

The following verses show that the patriarchs and the prophets will exist in the kingdom that comes immediately after the events of Revelation chapter 19:

I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, **(Matthew 8:11)**

In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. **(Luke 13:28)**

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. **(Matthew 11:11)**

John the Baptist even announces himself as the friend of the bridegroom:

The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. **(John 3:29)**

Revelation 19:10

¹⁰Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Who is the one before whom John is bowing? We have to go back a couple of chapters to discover this:

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,
(Revelation 17:1)

John is overwhelmed by the enormity of the praise and celebration that is engulfing him through all his senses. With the angelic proclamation of **“These are the true sayings of God”** John falls to his knees in worship of the messenger.

“You must not do that!” – Literally, “see not!” which is a common idiom meaning, “Don’t do that!” The angel commands John not to worship him (the angel) because he is a fellow servant with John.

Jesus proclaimed that only God is to be worshipped:

Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." (**Matthew 4:10**)

And Paul taught that the worshipping of angels is wrong:

Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, (**Colossians 2:18**)

“the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” – or, “the witness of Jesus is ...” The word “prophecy” is most likely being used here as the forth-telling of God’s truth, not the foretelling of events to come. What the angel is saying is that proclaiming the truth about Jesus Christ is the very essence of our message to the world.

Revelation 19:11 - 13

¹¹Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

“Then” – More correctly, **“And”** from the Greek word *kai*. This is not an indication of time sequence (a new event), but of continuity with what has just been said.

Finally, we see our Savior mounted on a white horse in full vestment, prepared to slaughter the armies of the earth. The return of the King! Here’s how this event is described in Matthew’s gospel:

For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (**Matthew 24:27-31**)

“in righteousness He judges and makes war” – We are told here that He is judging and making war (both present tense, active voice, indicative mood, indicating current action) in righteousness. This is God directly making war against man and He does so without sin

because it is what man deserves. It is part of mankind's judgment to ultimately be defeated by God. In fact, the righteous holiness of God demands that he judge sinful mankind.

“His eyes are like a flame of fire” – When Jesus came the first time he came as a peaceful, merciful savior. When He comes the second time He comes with righteous judgment, vengeance, and retribution.

“many diadems” – When He came the first time he was crowned by man with a crown of thorns and though the song says to “Crown Him with many crowns” He will come already having been crowned with many diadems. The word diadem used here is *diadema* which is the ruler's crown. He has many diadems to signify that all the ruling power over all peoples of all times is His and His alone.

“clothed in a robe dipped in blood” – When He came the first time it was to shed His own blood to pay the price of sin for all mankind. When He comes the next time he will come to shed the blood of those who rejected His own blood offering. Here's Isaiah's description of this event:

Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."

Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress?

"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth." (**Isaiah 63:1-6**)

Revelation 19: 14

¹⁴And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

There are some who claim the armies accompanying Him will include four groups:

1. **The church** (the bride of Christ) - Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (**Revelation 19:7, 8**)
2. **The tribulation saints** - After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, (**Revelation 7:9**)
3. **The Old Testament Saints** - "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be

delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. (**Daniel 12:1-3**)

4. **The angelic host** - When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (**Matthew 25:31**)

However, after further analysis, this seems unlikely. Since this takes place as the final battle of the tribulation period (the battle of Armageddon), the tribulation saints who have not been killed could not be both on the earth and in the accompanying army at the same time. It is possible that the tribulation martyrs are included in this group, although it appears from **Revelation 20:4** that they are resurrected after the battle, so it probably does not include them.

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (**Revelation 20:4**)

It is possible that this includes the Old Testament saints, because they will be resurrected and will be part of the Millennium as promised in numerous Old Testament prophecies. However, it appears that these events described below will occur after the destruction of the permanent earth dwellers. These appear to be descriptions of the Millennial reign of Christ.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. (**Isaiah 40:1-6**)

On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one. The whole land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. But Jerusalem shall remain aloft on its site from the Gate of Benjamin to the place of the former gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security. (**Zechariah 14:8-11**)

Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. And if the family

of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

(Zechariah 14:16-19)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim. But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east. They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them. And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt. **(Isaiah 11:1-16)**

But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall

not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD. (**Isaiah 65:18-25**)

Based on all these verses, it appears that the only ones who accompany Christ as He comes to conquer the armies of the world at Armageddon are Christians.

Revelation 19:15, 16

¹⁵From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

“From his mouth comes a sharp sword” – The first time He came his words were words of peace and comfort. The next time He comes, His words will be words of death. He will **“strike down the nations”** in judgment and wrath for their steadfast refusal to listen to His words of warning and rebuke. Now they will hear his words of condemnation and they will eternally forfeit their lives and peace for their stubbornness.

“sword” – This is from the Greek word *romphaia*, which is a long broadsword, used with a swinging action to strike down an enemy. The Messiah is also said to have a *romphaia* in **Revelation 1:16** and **Revelation 2:23**. In **Ephesians 6:17** we are told that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. However, in **Ephesians 6:17**, the word **“sword”** is translated from the Greek word *machaira*, which is a short dagger-like sword, used in a stabbing action. This is also the word translated **“sword”** in **Revelation 6:4** where the rider on the red horse is given a **“great sword”** (*machaira megalē*).

“he will rule them with a rod of iron” – During the Millennial reign which begins right after this slaughter He will rule the nations on the earth and His rule will be characterized by swift and severe retribution for sin and rebellion. In His promise to overcomers (members of the church), Christ said that they would rule with Him during this time:

The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. (**Revelation 2:26, 27**)

“He will tread the winepress” – This is the same imagery declared by Joel in describing the coming of the Messiah:

Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great. Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. (**Joel 3:13, 14**)

This is the judgment of the grape harvest described in Revelation chapter 14:

Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your

sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia. (**Revelation 14:17- 20**)

“On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written” – This could also be translated as “He has on His robe, even on this thigh, a name written:” Some see this as a banner draped across his shoulder, down to his thigh with the name written on it. This is unlikely since it would probably have been described as being on a banner. Whatever the case may be, it is clear that our conquering King is above all earthly rulers and supreme Master of the entire universe.

“King of kings and Lord of lords” – This is the same title given to the Lamb in chapter seventeen, only in reverse order:

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful. (**Revelation 17:14**)

This same title is given to God in the Old Testament:

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (**Deuteronomy 10:17**)

The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery. (**Daniel 2:47**)

Revelation 19:17, 18

¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."

The announcement of this angel is strikingly similar to Christ’s own description of His return:

For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. (**Matthew 24:27, 28**)

Ezekiel also describes this carnage consumed by the birds:

"As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of the field, 'Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood. You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth--of rams, of lambs, and of he-goats, of bulls, all of them fat beasts of Bashan. And you shall eat fat till you are filled, and drink blood till you are drunk, at the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for

you. And you shall be filled at my table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all kinds of warriors,' declares the Lord GOD. "And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid on them. The house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God, from that day forward. (**Ezekiel 39:17-22**)

Revelation 19:19

¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.

“gathered” – From the Greek *sunagō*, meaning “to gather together.” This word is in the perfect tense indicating that they have previously gathered and are now in a state of having been gathered together.

John sees the armies of the beast and the ten kings who rule under him gathered to battle against God. The perfect tense of the verb indicates that they have already been gathered together before Christ appears in the sky. It is likely that these have gathered together around Jerusalem to finally annihilate the Jews and to wipe them from the face of the earth. Instead, God will do precisely that to them.

Revelation 19:20

²⁰And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

Before the slaughter, God deals with the two beasts. The anti-christ and the false prophet (the beast out of the sea and the beast out of the land depicted in Revelation chapter 13) are captured and cast alive into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is originally prepared for the Devil and his fallen angels:

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (**Matthew 25:41**)

But, the devil is not cast into the lake of fire at this time. Instead, he will be incarcerated in the abyss until the end of the Millennium:

And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while. (**Revelation 20:2, 3**)

After the millennium the Devil will be cast into the lake of fire:

and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (**Revelation 20:10**)

Revelation 19:21

²¹And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Now John describes the slaughter very simply, in a word, that is, the word of God.

Here's what John Phillips in his book *Exploring Revelation*, said of this event.

Then suddenly it will all be over. In fact, there will be no war at all, in the sense that we think of war. There will be just a word spoken from Him who sits astride the great white horse. Once He spoke a word to a fig tree, and it withered away. Once He spoke a word to howling winds and heaving waves, and the storm clouds vanished and the waves fell still. Once He spoke to a legion of demons bursting at the seams of a poor man's soul, and instantly they fled. Now He speaks a word, and the war is over. The blasphemous, loud-mouthed Beast is stricken where he stands. The false prophet, the miracle-working windbag from the pit is punctured and still. The pair of them are bundled up and hurled headlong into the everlasting flames. Another word, and the panic-stricken armies reel and stagger and fall down dead. Field marshals and generals, admirals and air commanders, soldiers and sailors, rank and file, one and all – they fall. And the vultures descend and cover the scene. (Phillips, 2001)

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