

Revelation 19

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Sunday, 10-11-20

Recap;

Vision of Jesus-

Church Age-

Seal Judgments are complete

Trumpet Judgments are complete

Bowel Judgments are complete

Destruction of Babylon in Chapters 17-18 should be ringing in our ears...

Rev 18:24 *And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."*

One of the things that we discussed in our study of the destruction of Babylon in Chapter 18:2; *And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!*

We discussed in this verse that the geographical area of Babylon will become a physical prison for all manner of foul and wicked demonic spirit.

The importance of this is that there will be containment of evil during the Millennial Kingdom.

Would it surprise you to know that there is also a "containment" or restraint of evil during the Church Age?

2Th 2:1 *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,*

2Th 2:2 *not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.*

2Th 2:3 *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*

2Th 2:4 *who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

2Th 2:5 *Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?*

2Th 2:6 *And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his*

own time.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

2Th 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

We, the Church, have no frame of reference to what God is restraining, or holding back, or containing by His presence (the Holy Spirit) through His indwelling presence in the Church.

The unimaginable things that take place from Chapter 4 onward, take place because evil is given free reign with no restraint. The only restraint in this period is time!

Mar 13:19 For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.

Mar 13:20 And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

Evil will be given free reign, but only for a short time;

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Rev 17:10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

As bad as things look to us now, God is still restraining the wholesale release and onslaught of evil in the world through His church.

The Church is TO BE salt and light;

Mat 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

Mat 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Mat 5:15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

John 9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Salt preserves by preventing corruption (rotting)...

Light restrains by eliminating darkness...

The horrors of Revelation cannot happen until the restraint is

removed at the beginning of Chapter 4.

Rev 19:1 After these things (*meta tauta*) 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!"

Alleluia is the Greek translation of Halleluia, which is the Hebrew word.

Means "Praise YHWH"

Is found only 4 times in NT, all of them here in Chapter 19.

"Law of First Mention";

1Ch 16:4 *And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD God of Israel:*

The first time we see this construct "Halleluia" is in relation to the Ark (which symbolized God's presence) in the midst of His people.

In Chapter 19 we see the voices in heaven singing or saying, Alleluia for distinct reasons.

He has judged the great harlot- 19:1-4,

He is reigning- 19:5-6

The Bride is ready- 19:7-10

Rev 19:2 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."

In Chapter 18:20 they were commanded to rejoice over the harlot's destruction. We see them doing so here! The Church is commanded not to avenge ourselves in Romans 12:19; the praise demonstrated (and commanded!) here is because God had judged against the wicked.

Rev 19:3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

Rev 19:4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

The Throne room (Temple) of God, which was closed in Chapter 15:8, is open!

Rev 15:1 *Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.*

Rev 15:8 *The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.*

Isa 26:20 *Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past.*

Isa 26:21 *For behold, the LORD comes out of His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain.*

This is the last time the 24 Elders are referenced directly. They are representative of and included with The Bride from here on. Their praise of Amen! to Alleluia! adds a unique finality. So let it be done! Alleluia!

Rev 19:5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

Rev 19:6 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!"

Rev 19:7 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."

The command is given to rejoice and give the Father glory, for the marriage of the Lamb- His Son- has come!

"And His wife has made herself ready"

How has the Bride made herself ready?

Rev 19:8 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.

She "is granted"- is given to be arrayed in fine linen,

It is a gift, not earned.

"for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints". Does this mean the fine linen is their works?

Isa 64:6 *But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.*

John 6:40 *And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."*

Now let's talk a bit about the Bride - the Lamb's wife.

Marriage begins with a betrothal- sealed by a purchase price.

At the betrothal, the marriage is binding. *Mary and Joseph...*

The Groom goes back to the Father's house to make preparations, and when the Father decides it's time, He sends the Son to fetch His Bride, who has made herself ready with the garments and supplies *provided by the Father*, and is waiting in expectation for the call "Behold! The bridegroom cometh!

When the Groom collects His bride, He takes her back to the place He has prepared for her where she is sequestered for 7 days. The Groom can tend to business, but the Bride does not leave the bridal chamber for those 7 days.

Immediately after the 7 day consummation, the wedding couple is presented to the Feast guests as husband and wife, and the Marriage Supper commences.

Who is, and who is not the Bride?

The Church is called the virgin bride of Christ;

2Cor 11:2

Ephesians 5:22-23

The Church is betrothed (bought with a price) to Jesus even though we have not seen Him;

1Cor 6:19-20

1Peter 1:3-12

The Church is to be waiting in expectation, ready for Jesus to return to collect His Bride;

John 14:1-3

1 Thess 4:13-18

The Church is to be taken from where she is to be with the Groom where HE IS!

also seen in John 14.

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

At this point in Revelation, the Bride is already with the Groom in His Father's house!

Now, briefly, who the bride is NOT.

The Bride of Christ is not Israel!

Israel is described as the Wife of YHWH. She is the Father's wife.

Often unfaithful, but still His wife.

Isa 54:1 "Sing, O barren, You *who* have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You *who* have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman," says the LORD.

Isa 54:2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes.

Isa 54:3 For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.

Isa 54:4 "Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore.

Isa 54:5 For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

Isa 54:6 For the LORD has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused," Says your God.

Isa 54:7 "For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you.

Isa 54:8 With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," Says the LORD, your Redeemer.

She is called an adulterous wife and a harlot in Ezekiel 16, with promise of judgment on their harlotry, but also promise of redemption in the end:

Eze 16:59 For thus says the Lord GOD: "I will deal with you as you have done, who despised the oath by breaking the covenant.

Eze 16:60 "Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.

Eze 16:61 Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed, when you receive your older and your younger sisters; for I will give them to you for daughters, but not because of My covenant with you.

Eze 16:62 And I will establish My covenant with you. Then you shall know that I am the LORD,

Eze 16:63 that you may remember and be ashamed, and never open your mouth anymore because of your shame, when I provide you an atonement for all you have done," says the Lord GOD.' "

She is portrayed as being divorced by God:

Jeremiah 3:8,14

Hos 2:14-19

Isaiah 54:4-9

She is pronounced a widow;

Lam 1:1

Isaiah 54:4

The book of Hosea is a description of her desolations and temporary chastisement, with ultimate restoration and reconciliation with her husband.

Romans 9-11 depict a clear understanding that Israel, National Israel, (BTW, Israel is mentioned 73 times in NT: all cases referring to National Israel) will be saved and not cast away permanently.

Also seen in Hos 1:9-11

Hos 1:9 *Then God said: "Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.*

Hos 1:10 *"Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.'*

Hos 1:11 *Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together, And appoint for themselves one head; And they shall come up out of the land, For great will be the day of Jezreel!*

And in Zech 12:

Zec 12:10 *"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*

And in Isaiah 62:5

Isa 62:3 *You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God.*

Isa 62:4 *You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; For the LORD delights in you, And your land shall be married.*

Isa 62:5 *For as a young man marries a virgin, So shall your sons marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.*

Isa 62:6 I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent,

Isa 62:7 And give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

Here's my point:

Leviticus forbids the High Priest from marrying a divorced or widowed woman!

Leviticus 21:7, 13,14

Lev 21:14 A widow or a divorced woman or a defiled woman or a harlot—these he shall not marry; but he shall take a virgin of his own people as wife.

Who is our High Priest?

Jesus!

Jesus is not to marry His Father's wife, but procure a chaste virgin wife of His own!

The Bride was purchased by the Father (who gave His own son as a purchase price)

The Son paid the price for the sins of all mankind, which INCLUDES the bride of the Father, as well as the bride of the Son!

Rev 19:9 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."