

In the preceding chapters we saw the beast, which is the Antichrist, destroy the prostitute Babylon, which is this world's governments opposed to God. The people of the earth mourn the loss of all the things they lived for. Chapter 18 ends with the world weeping and wailing but chapter 19 begins with the people of God praising Him for His righteous judgments. They have resisted the temptations of spiritual adultery with Babylon and are spared from God's wrath on her. Your elders' duty is to warn you against spiritual adultery and present you as a spotless bride to our groom, Christ Jesus.

¹ *After 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,* Revelation 19:1 We started our study in Revelation with the letters to the churches. Then we moved on to the tribulation period. In the first ten verses of this chapter, we have the end of the passage on the harlot that began in chapter 17. It is followed by a passage on the King and His kingdom 19:11-21:8. And finally we will have the passage on the bride here and also in 21:9-22:9. While this is still the end of the section on the harlot, it begins with the bride in heaven responding to the command in 18:20ⁱ to rejoice over the destruction of the harlot.

We saw this great multitude of verse 1 in 7:14ⁱⁱ, those who had washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb, and she will be identified as the bride in the passage starting in verse 6. The great multitude cries out with a LOUD voice, "Hallelujah!" They/we will give a shout that means praise be to God. Hallel is the Hebrew word for praise, and Jah is an abbreviation of Jehovah. In the Old Testament it is translated, "Praise the LORD!" It is used four times in this chapter and nowhere else in the New Testament. The rejoicing at the judgment of the wicked is seen in Psalm 104:35 which ends in "Hallelujah!" ³⁵ *Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!* Some Jewish authors saw this as the end-time demise of the wicked. The martyrs under the altar had asked how long until their blood was avenged (6:9-11ⁱⁱⁱ). This world's system that deludes people with idolatry and kills the saints seemed as if its evil would never end, but it finally will (Proverbs 11:10^{iv}). The saints' inquiry of how long has been answered.

The bride praises God because *"Salvation and glory and power belong to our God."* Salvation - we think of it as being saved from judgment for our sins, and it certainly includes that, but it is also salvation from this present evil world (Galatians 1:4^v), pictured as the harlot in Revelation.

Glory - the world had its own kind of fading glory (Matthew 4:8^{vi}), but eternally pure and holy glory belongs to God. Power - the world had power, nuclear bombs, political power, control over social media, but all that is temporarily borrowed from the Almighty from whom all power comes. Babylon presumed to have glory and power, but God showed her it was presumption. That is a reality check for us all. If you think the world holds the power, you will be discouraged. If you know all power is from God and He will take back that power from those who are using it for evil, there is hope for that coming day. And when it does come, we will shout, "Hallelujah!"

² *for 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."* Revelation 19:2 The praise continues because God's judgments are true and

just. Babylon is getting exactly what she deserved. It has been said that God's wheel of judgment grinds exceedingly slow, but exceedingly fine^{vii}. God knows all the factors involved, every action, every word. All His actions must be just (Isaiah 5:16^{viii}).

Babylon was judged for corrupting the earth, immorality, and for killing the saints. We see this corruption daily on the news. The world has rejected God's eternal standards and made up their own standards to justify their wickedness. It calls right wrong and wrong right and attempts to convince the masses it is so (Isaiah 5:20^{ix}). It promotes immorality through education and entertainment. It murders or imprisons the saints because they dare to call evil what it truly is. The godly ask how long until these actions are judged (Psalm 79:10^x). The wicked think it never will be.

³ *Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."* Revelation 19:3 Another shout of praise to God. This time it is because the smoke from her judgment will rise forever and ever. Jesus used similar expressions describing hell (Matthew 18:8^{xi}). That is because the torment of those who worshiped the beast goes on forever (14:11^{xii}). Hell lasts forever because God is infinitely great, and these that worship the beast will never bow to His majesty but will forever reject His authority and right to reign. They want to reign. There may be regret in hell, but there will never be repentance. When sin tempts us, remember this picture of the smoke rising forever. Temptations are lies that are meant to destroy us.

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!"* Revelation 19:4 John hears the twenty-four elders and the living creatures in heaven agreeing with the bride as they worship God by adding to their praise. God is seated on the throne, which is the ark of the covenant. I suppose the Shekinah is what John is referring to by the expression seated. That ball of light over the throne represents the manifest presence of God, though He is omnipresent. They fall down in worship, bowing before Him saying, "Amen!" That is like saying, "Yes indeed!" to all that the great multitude in heaven cried out. These nearest the throne of God agree that praise, salvation, glory, and power belong to our God. They raise a "Hallelujah!" because of His righteous judgments on Babylon because she corrupted the earth and killed God's servants. All of heaven is in agreement that the justice that God has dealt out is reason to praise Him (Isaiah 3:11^{xiii}).

⁵ *And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great."* Revelation 19:5 Then from the throne a voice came. By the context I assume it is the voice of Jesus. All God's servants who fear Him are commanded to praise God. Fear of God keeps us from fearing Babylon and her threats. Justice will be met. All who seemed to escape it while harming the innocent will finally meet true justice. For that we should praise God. We have seen world leaders and influential people lie for the sake of their own greed and lust for power. Their lies harm people which stirs a righteous indignation in us. Perhaps you know what I mean and feel the same way when you see people being hurt by their deception. We wonder how God could let this go on. How many children must suffer? How many must die from drug overdoses? How many people are harmed by this insane desire to protect the criminal and release him back to the streets to do more harm? These voices of saints and those around the throne are shouting Hallelujah because the day of accountability has finally come. Evil can no longer take advantage of the uninformed and the innocent. The drug dealer will no longer be able to sell his lie of contentment in a chemical. The politician will no

longer be able to deceive people for power that ends up harming them. The media will no longer be able to sell their airtime to deceptive advertising or promote a lie that increases their ratings. No longer will the con be able to rob the gullible or the hacker steal your information to sell it to those who would fleece you. Hallelujah!

No longer will our children be indoctrinated with ungodly propaganda nor will we be forced to pay for it with taxes. And companies that put addictive or harmful additives in their food products will be no more! But let me sum it all up with this: **sin will no longer be tolerated! Hallelujah!**

Praise and the fear of the Lord puts the small and the great on a level place, the sea of glass before the throne. The fire will have gone out of the sea for God's justice in the earth will have been satisfied (15:2^{xiv}). Our praise will be filled with a sense of relief that righteousness now reigns on the earth.

⁶ Then 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. Revelation 19:6 The voice of the great multitude in heaven is identified in the next verse as the bride. They cry out in unison with a mighty "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns." The sound is like the roar of many waters or peals of thunder. Have you ever stood beside a waterfall and tried to talk to the person next to you? Of have you felt the sound shock wave from a nearby bolt of lightning? That gives you a little idea of this volume coming from the saints.

Finally! After all these millennia of man trying to get it right and always revealing the corruption of the human heart, God finally takes over as King and Lord of all. The image of man from Daniel 2 has been struck by the rock, Christ Jesus, and the image is reduced to powder blown away by the wind. The rock is becoming a great mountain that is beginning to fill the whole earth (Daniel 2:44,45^{xv}). Injustice will not be tolerated. Evil will no longer be allowed to prevail. We get one thousand years to see how much better it is to live under the reign of God. Humanity will not be able to claim that if God reigned from the beginning with a heavy hand, we all would have loved Him. When Jesus takes over our cry will be, "Hallelujah!"

⁷ 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; Revelation 19:7 We will have one glorious reason to rejoice and exult and give Jesus all the glory. Exult is a compound word in Greek that means much jumping for joy. The Hebrew parallel word is to jump and spin. This is ecstatic joy! The marriage of the Lamb will finally take place. Jesus told the disciples that He is the bridegroom (Matthew 9:14,15^{xvi} also 22:1-14; 25:1-13). His bride, the church, will be complete. His work in us will be finished. By receiving His forgiveness we have made ourselves ready for this union (Ephesians 5:21-32^{xvii}). No groom has ever done so much to win His bride and help her be all she should be. So many fairy tales are based on this very real marriage.

Think of the story line in Sleeping Beauty. Snow White is tricked into taking a bite of the apple from the evil witch, which causes her to fall into comma like sleep. Only the kiss from the Prince can wake her. And of course they live happily ever after. We are Snow White, a name given to us because of what we will become in our future sinless state. Though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow (Isaiah 1:18^{xviii}). The evil witch gives her a poison apple. That should remind you of the tempter in the Garden of Eden. She falls into that deadly sleep. Paul writes, "Awake O sleeper, rise from the

dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (Ephesians 5:14^{xix}) The psalmist wrote, “Kiss the Son lest you perish from the way... (Psalm 2:12^{xx}). The seven dwarves are aspects of human nature. They are helpless to rouse her from the curse. But the Prince finds her, releases her from the curse with his kiss, and takes her to his kingdom where they live happily ever after. The author took the whole story line from the Bible.

Hamilton commented our text for today: *Never has a bridegroom done more to qualify his beloved to be his bride. Never has a bride needed her bridegroom more. Never has there been a wedding more significant than this one. Never has a prince with more authority taken a bride with less standing. Never has a bride had her prince die for her, rise from the dead for her, and give to her his own standing before the Father. Never has a bridegroom loved his bride more. Never has a bride waited as long for her bridegroom. Never has a bride sung more songs to her beloved. Never has there been a wedding with more guests than this one will have. Never has a wedding taken place on a more momentous occasion the end of the overlapping ages and the ushering in of the kingdom. Never has there been a marriage like this one.*^{xxi}

⁸ 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 19:8 What are these snow-white robes we are granted to be clothed in? *They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb* (Rev 7:14b^{xxii}). All our sins have been washed away by His blood, and that makes our wedding dress pure and spotless. It is only from the righteousness of Christ applied to us that any righteous deeds emanate (2 Corinthians 5:21^{xxiii}). We can see that it is her deeds and her preparation, but also that it is granted to her. She has taken Jesus’ advice in 3:4,5. *³ Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.*⁴ *Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy.*⁵ *The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.* What a contrast, the harlot whose smoke ascends forever and the spotless bride and her glorious groom (Isaiah 61:10^{xxiv}). Remember this imagery. It should burn in our hearts.

Greed turns to generosity because the Bridegroom has met our deepest need and will supply all our wants from his glorious riches. Lust gives way to contented joy in what we have because the Bridegroom offers pleasures more full and free than anything the whore has to offer. Sloth and laziness are turned to zeal for the kingdom because the Bridegroom, King Jesus, summons from us our best and most diligent efforts. Anger and vindictiveness become patient longing for the Bridegroom to enact judgment that is true and just. Envy is replaced by satisfied happiness at the joy of others because we know that the Bridegroom will give us what we need now, and we will lack nothing when he comes. Gluttony is turned to disciplined moderation because the Bridegroom satisfies our cravings. Pride vanishes and we boast only in the cross—the Bridegroom deserves all the glory.^{xxv}

What are these righteous deeds we are clothed with? The foremost is accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, which is also a work of God (John 6:29^{xxvi}). The rest are His work in and through us. Some Christians emphasize grace and claim that no righteous deeds are necessary. But if we are in Christ, we will walk in those deeds that

God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10^{xxvii}). Our sins have been dealt with on the cross and all that remains are those righteous deeds that He has done through us. We are in Him and He is in us and the result is a clothing of fine linen, bright and pure (Ephesians 5:25-27^{xxviii}; John 14:20^{xxix}).

⁹ *And 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."* Revelation 19:9 The angel made sure John recorded how blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb! God wants us to realize how blessed we are. The angel emphasizes this by saying, *"These are the true words of God."* **If we could increasingly realize how great our calling is, how do you think our lives would change? How joyful would we be?** How heavenly minded? How often would we speak of our Savior? Brothers and sisters, this is the real happily ever after and the true words of God our Creator and sustainer. Fix this reality ever before you. This vision will help us endure the light and momentary troubles of this life (2 Corinthians 4:17^{xxx}). No matter how perfect your relationship with your spouse is, it is nothing compared to what we have only begun to experience in Jesus.

¹⁰ *Then 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.* Revelation 19:10 John is so moved by the promise and the blessing that he falls before the angel to worship. If we truly grasp what is presented here, we would do the same. The angel refuses to let him do it, as he is just another servant of God like John's spiritual brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Kneeling is akin to worship in the original languages. We are to worship God alone for these great promises. The KJV translation is unfortunate as it can be read as the angel is one of his brothers^{xxxi}. ESV makes it clear that the angel is servant of God just as we are servants. In other words, he is saying servants do not worship one another, only their Master.

Then the angel defines the testimony of Jesus as the spirit of prophecy. What has been predicted has come to pass and will come to pass. I think this is saying that this blessedness of being the bride of Christ is certain, reemphasizing that the words are true. God wants our hearts to be assured of the outcome of enduring with Him.

We hold to the testimony of Jesus which is the spirit of prophecy. Prophecy is a compound Greek word meaning to speak forth the Word^{xxxii}. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14^{xxxiii}). His testimony is that He spoke only what the Father told Him to say (John 7:16^{xxxiv}; 8:28^{xxxv}; 12:49^{xxxvi}; 14:24^{xxxvii}). And we hold to what Jesus said. That is what our faith is based on. His words are what we believe and why we believe.

This passage looks forward to the fulfillment of the glorious promise that God spoke through Hosea to Israel, of which we have become a part through faith. Hosea 2:19,20 ¹⁹ *And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.* ²⁰ *I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.* Hallelujah! Never has a bridegroom done more to qualify his beloved to be his bride. Never has a bride needed her bridegroom more. Hamilton

Questions:

1 Who is in this great multitude in verse 1? 2 Why are they praising God? 3 Why is hell eternal? 4 What is the significance of the living beings and elders “Amen!”? 5 Why should we praise and fear God? 6 What is the reason for the “Hallelujah!” in verse 6? 7 Review the Hamilton “never has” quote. 8 What will we be clothed in? 9 How should we react to the phrase “These are the true words of God?” 10 What is Jesus’ testimony?

ⁱ **Revelation 18:20 (ESV)**

¹²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!”

ⁱⁱ **Revelation 7:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Revelation 6:9-11 (ESV)**

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.

¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

^{iv} **Proverbs 11:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness.

^v **Galatians 1:4 (ESV)**

⁴ who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

^{vi} **Matthew 4:8 (ESV)**

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

^{vii} Sextus Empiricus wrote, “The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind small.”

^{viii} **Isaiah 5:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.

^{ix} **Isaiah 5:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

^x **Psalms 79:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?” Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of your servants be known among the nations before our eyes!

^{xi} **Matthew 18:8 (ESV)**

⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.

^{xii} **Revelation 14:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ 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.”

^{xiii} **Isaiah 3:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him.

^{xiv} **Revelation 15:2 (ESV)**

² And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.

^{xv} **Daniel 2:44-45 (ESV)**

⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

^{xvi} **Matthew 9:14-15 (ESV)**

¹⁴ Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not

fast?"¹⁵ And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast.

^{xvii} **Ephesians 5:25-32 (ESV)**

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,³⁰ because we are members of his body.³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

^{xviii} **Isaiah 1:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

^{xix} **Ephesians 5:14 (NIV)**

¹⁴ for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

^{xx} **Psalms 2:12 (ESV)**

¹² Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

^{xxi} Hamilton- Preaching the Word - Revelation: The Spirit Speaks to the Churches.

^{xxii} **Revelation 7:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

^{xxiii} **2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)**

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{xxiv} **Isaiah 61:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

^{xxv} Hamilton- Preaching the Word - Revelation: The Spirit Speaks to the Churches.

^{xxvi} **John 6:29 (ESV)**

²⁹ Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

^{xxvii} **Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

^{xxviii} **Ephesians 5:25-27** ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

^{xxix} **John 14:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

^{xxx} **2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

^{xxxi} **Revelation 19:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ Then 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.

^{xxxii} from a compound of <G4253> (pro) and <G5346> (phemi); a *foreteller* ("prophet"); by analogy an *inspired speaker*; by extension a *poet* :- prophet. From Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

^{xxxiii} **John 1:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

^{xxxiv} **John 7:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.

^{xxxv} **John 8:28 (ESV)**

²⁸ So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

^{xxxvi} **John 12:49 (ESV)**

⁴⁹ For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.

^{xxxvii} **John 14:24 (ESV)**

²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.