

## End Times week 11

## Revelation 19-20

Revelation 19 picks up with a celebration in Heaven due to the fall of Babylon we spoke about last week. Babylon, as you will remember is the system of government, society, and religion that is set-up against the Kingdom of God.

You see the shout of Hallelujah four times. Hallelujah is a Hebrew word meaning “praise you Jahweh”. This is the only place in the New testament the word is used.

It seems there is a lot of celebrating in Heaven. One of those celebrations was about you. The Bible says all of Heaven rejoices when someone comes to Christ. This is the celebration for all of those who have come to Christ and waiting for His coming.

***Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.*** Rev. 19:7

All of the struggles, doubts, temptation, challenges, pain in this life is all about to be rewarded. I think of a couple getting married and all the details and they are both so frazzled by the wedding but then they are pronounced man and wife and the reception and honeymoon can begin.

This is also the meal Jesus has been waiting to have with us since the Last Supper when He said, ***I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.*** Mark 14:25

The next scene we see begins in verse 11 with a description of Jesus riding on a white horse to do battle. We see several names describing the various attributes of Christ.

***I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup>He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.*** Rev. 19:11-13

I am particularly drawn to the last title the “Word of God”. This is the first title John gave of Christ in His gospel is now the last title. ***“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God.”*** John 1:1

This title is significant because it describes how Jesus will subdue His enemies.

***Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.*** Rev. 19:15

***For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.***  
Heb. 4:12

***“It was not by material weapons, but by the power of the Gospel, that Christ conquered the pagan Roman Empire; by that same power He has continued to conquer in history, and will conquer in the end.” F.F. Bruce***

It was by His word He overcame and it is by His word that we overcome as well. We need to grasp the inherit power of God's word.

Another title is, ***KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*** v.16

I can't help when I read this to think of the climatic ending to Handel's Messiah.

“And He shall reign forever ever and ever,  
King of Kings, Lord of Lord,  
and He shall reign forever, hallelujah.”

Now a very dark contrasting scene when an angel invites the birds of the air to come another meal and the vultures gather and are about feast on the people who stand against God.

What looks like a momentous battle one word spoken out of the mouth of Christ and all the enemies are defeated and the beast and the false prophet are captured and tossed into the abyss from which they came.

Rev. 20 begins with what one writer called it, *“the most mystifying chapter in the most mystifying book in the Bible.”*

***And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. <sup>2</sup>He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. <sup>3</sup>He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.*** Rev. 20:1-3

Some major questions and many others are presented to us in Rev. 20.

- Is it a literal 1,000 years?
- When does the return of Christ take place?

Let me try to break this down and give you some of the views. I'll do my best to try to give an answer that I feel best fits the overall context of scripture but you can hold any of these views still be an orthodox believer.

### **1. Is this a literal 1,000 period?**

1. A literal 1,000 period of time.
2. Jewish numerical symbolism 10 x 10 x 10. Ten (completion) x 3 (perfection) “the right time”
3. The time period from the resurrection of Christ to His return.

**When does the return of Christ take place? Three differing views:**

**Pre-Millennial** – Jesus comes before the 1,000 years of peace.

Most literal view (always take the most literal view when another view is not clear).

**Post- Millennial** – Jesus comes after the 1,000 years of peace.

Church will advance, overcome evil in the world and establish the kingdom on earth ushering in Jesus return to rule.

**A- Millennial** – There is no actual 1,000 years but Jesus returns for His bride and to judge at same time.

The millennium describes the period of time from the resurrection of Christ till His return.

Get the book **Three View on the Millennium**, published by Zondervan, for a thorough treatment of the topic.

**One passage that ties together this idea of Satan being bound and released and Jesus' coming from the Apostle Paul's perspective.**

*Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup>not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. <sup>3</sup>Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for (that day will not come) until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. <sup>4</sup>He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.*

*<sup>5</sup>Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? <sup>6</sup>And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. <sup>7</sup>For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. <sup>8</sup>And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. <sup>9</sup>The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup>and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 2 Thess. 1:10*

What we do know for sure is that at the end of this 1,000 years Satan is loosed for a short time. He rallies people to himself and again wants to start a war with God. Again, there is not no battle, simply fire from Heaven that consumes all of Satan's armies and He is thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Let me just address this idea of Hell and the Devil and people burning forever. First of all, the Devil and immortal men are at this point spiritual creatures not human. They will not be affected by some as earthly and literal as fire. I believe Hell will be about isolation and torment at knowing what they could have had. Satan and everyone that followed him thought they were in charge and refused to submit to God. They now see their failure to believe has separated them from God for eternity.

The final section describes what is known as the Great White Throne judgment. Everyone who has ever lived will stand before God and his eternity will be determined by whether or not his name is written in the Book of Life.

Paul said, in 1 Cor. 15:26 that the ***“last enemy to be destroyed is death.”***

All men & women who have lived on the earth will stand before God and will be judged for their deeds or works. For the believer there will be no judgment because there are no merits we are claiming good or bad for entrance in the Kingdom of God.

First of all, we were already made citizens of Heaven when we gave our lives to Christ.

Secondly, Jesus shed blood has washed away our sins so there are no works or sins God sees. When He looks at us He only see sons and daughters clothed in His righteousness.

This is a great thought to carry as we move into a time of worship and you have the opportunity to receive communion. Communion is a celebration of Jesus sacrifice that allows us to stand before God.