

Lesson 31

Revelation 19:1-10 (NASB)

¹ After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;

² BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."

³ And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER."

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

⁵ And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."

⁶ Then I heard *something* like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

⁷ "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

⁸ It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

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

¹⁰ Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he *said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

L. The song of hallelujah in heaven ([19:1-10](#))

1. THE HALLELUJAH OF THE MULTITUDES IN HEAVEN ([19:1-3](#))

[Revelation 4-18](#) dealt primarily with the events of the Great Tribulation. Beginning in [chapter 19](#) there is a noticeable change. The Great Tribulation is now coming to its end and the spotlight focuses on heaven and the second coming of Christ. For the saints and angels it is a time of rejoicing and victory.

[19:1](#). Beginning in [chapter 19](#) a chronological development is indicated by the phrase **after this** (*meta tauta*). Literally this phrase means "after these things," and refers to the events of [chapter 18](#). Accordingly John **heard what sounded like the roar** of many people **in heaven** praising God, obviously because of the judgment on Babylon. Interpreters have shown much confusion in understanding the order of the events in [chapters 19-20](#); thus it is important to note that this praise in [19:1](#) follows Babylon's destruction in [chapter 18](#).

The word "roar" (*phōnēn*) is literally a "sound," modified by the adjective "great" (*megalēn*). This loud noise is from a **great multitude**, the same phrase used in [7:9](#) where the "great multitude" refers to the martyred dead of the Great Tribulation. For them in particular the judgment of Babylon is a great triumph. The Greek word for **Hallelujah** is *hallēlouia*, sometimes translated "alleluiah." The word "hallelujah" is derived from the similar Hebrew word in the Old

Testament. It occurs in the New Testament only four times, all of them in [Revelation 19](#) (vv. 1, 3-4, 6). This is the biblical "Hallelujah Chorus."

[19:2-3](#). In expressing their praise of God, God's glory and power resulting from and caused by His salvation are mentioned along with the fact that **His judgments are true and just**. The destruction of **the great prostitute** (cf. [17:1, 4](#)) is a proper act of vengeance for her martyring the **servants** of God ([17:6](#)). The judgment that is wrought on her, however, is only the beginning of the eternal punishment of the wicked, indicated in the statement that **the smoke from her goes up forever and ever**.

2. THE HALLELUJAH OF THE 24 ELDERS ([19:4-5](#))

[19:4-5](#). The 24 elders and the 4 living creatures also sing a hallelujah chorus. This is another reminder that the 24 elders, representing the church of the present Age, are distinguished from the Tribulation saints, described in [verse 1](#) as "a great multitude." The 4 living creatures, previously introduced in [4:6-8](#), seem to refer to angels who praise God. Still another voice of praise, apparently coming from an angel, also praised God and exhorted **all you His servants** ([19:5](#)) to join in this praise.

3. THE PROPHETIC PROCLAMATION OF THE WEDDING OF THE LAMB ([19:6-9](#))

[19:6-8](#). The fourth and final hallelujah of this chapter, according to John, sounded like a **multitude** of people, **rushing waters**, and loud **thunder**. Here the rejoicing is prophetic for what is about to happen rather than for the judgment just executed.

The second coming of Christ is anticipated in the words, **for our Lord God Almighty reigns**. John used the word "Almighty" (*pantokratōr*; also in [1:8](#); [4:8](#); [11:17](#); [15:3](#); [16:7](#), [14](#); [19:15](#); [21:22](#)). Along with the exhortation to **rejoice**, announcement is made that **the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready**.

In Scripture, marriage is often used to describe the relationship of saints to God. In the Old Testament Israel is pictured, as in Hosea, as the unfaithful wife of Yahweh who is destined to be restored in the future kingdom. In the New Testament, marriage is also used to describe the relationship between Christ and the church, but the illustration contrasts with the Old Testament, for the church is regarded as a virgin bride waiting the coming of her heavenly bridegroom ([2 Cor. 11:2](#)).

The **fine linen** with which the bride will be adorned is explained as representing **the righteous acts of the saints** ([Rev. 19:8](#)). (In the OT the high priest's clothing included linen: [Ex. 28:42](#); [Lev. 6:10](#); [16:4](#), [23](#), [32](#).) While some think this refers to the fact that the saints are justified by faith, the plural expression "the righteous acts" seems to refer to the righteous deeds wrought by the saints through the grace of God. Though all this has been made possible by the grace of God, the emphasis here seems to be on the works of the bride rather than on her standing as one who has been justified by faith.

This is the last of 14 outbursts of praise to God in the Book of Revelation by saints, angels, the 24 elders, and/or the 4 living creatures. The hymns or shouts of praise are in [4:8](#), [11](#); [5:9-10](#), [12-13](#); [7:10](#), [12](#); [11:16-18](#); [15:3-4](#); [16:5-7](#); [19:1-4](#), [6-8](#) (see the [chart](#) near [4:8](#)).

[19:9](#). The angel who commanded John to write ([14:13](#)) commanded him again to record the message, **Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!**

One of the false interpretations that has plagued the church is the concept that God treats all saints exactly alike. Instead, a literal interpretation of the Bible distinguishes different groups of saints, and here the bride is distinguished from those who are invited to the wedding supper. Instead of treating all alike, God indeed has a program for Israel as a nation and also for those in Israel who are saved. He also has a program for Gentiles in the Old Testament who come to faith in God. And in the New Testament He has a program for the church as still a different group of saints. Again in the Book of Revelation the Tribulation saints are distinguished from other previous groups. It is not so much a question of difference in blessings as it is that God has a program designed for each group of saints which corresponds to their particular relationship to His overall program. Here the church, described as a bride, will be attended by angels and by saints who are distinct from the bride.

Expositors have debated whether the wedding will be in heaven or on earth. While the difference is not that important, the interpretive problem can be resolved by comparing the wedding described here to weddings in the first century. A wedding normally included these stages: (1) the legal consummation of the marriage by the parents of the bride and of the groom, with the payment of the dowry; (2) the bridegroom coming to claim his bride (as illustrated in [Matt. 25:1-13](#) in the familiar Parable of the 10 Virgins); (3) the wedding supper (as illustrated in [John 2:1-11](#)) which was a several-day feast following the previous phase of the wedding.

In [Revelation 19:9](#) "the wedding supper" is phase 3. And the announcement coincides with the second coming of Christ. It would seem, therefore, that the wedding supper has not yet been observed. In fulfilling the symbol, Christ is completing phase 1 in the Church Age as individuals are saved. Phase 2 will be accomplished at the Rapture of the church, when Christ takes His bride to heaven, the Father's house ([John 14:1-3](#)). Accordingly it would seem that the beginning of the Millennium itself will fulfill the symbolism of the wedding supper (*gamos*). It is also significant that the use of the word "bride" in [19:7](#) (*gynē*, lit., "wife,") implies that phase 2 of the wedding will have been completed and that all that remains is the feast itself. (The word commonly used for "bride" is *nymphē*; cf. [John 3:29](#); [Rev. 18:23](#); [21:2, 9](#); [22:17](#).)

All this suggests that the wedding feast is an earthly feast, which also corresponds to the illustrations of weddings in the Bible ([Matt. 22:1-14](#); [25:1-13](#)), and thus will take place on earth at the beginning of the Millennium. The importance of the announcement and invitation to the wedding supper, repeated in [Revelation 22:17](#), is seen in the angel's remarks, **These are the true words of God.**

4. THE COMMAND TO WORSHIP GOD ([19:10](#))

19:10. So impressive was the scene in heaven with the four great hallelujahs and the announcement of the coming wedding feast that John once again fell down to worship the angel, as he had done before ([1:17](#)). Then, however, he was worshipping Christ, which was proper. But here the angel rebuked him, urging him to worship only God and not him since he was **a fellow servant** with John. The angel added, **For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**, that is, the very nature or purpose of prophecy is to testify of Jesus Christ and to bring glory to Him. In the present Age one of the special functions of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ and to inform believers of "what is yet to come" ([John 16:13](#)). The tremendous revelation in the first 10 verses of [Revelation 19](#) is a fitting introduction to what is about to be revealed, the second coming of Jesus Christ, the subject of the entire book ([1:1](#)).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

Open it

1. Who is one Christian leader or authority that you respect? Why?

Billy Graham, years of teaching

2. What is one hymn, praise chorus, or spiritual song that summarizes how you feel about God?

I am so glad that Jesus loves me

Explore it

3. What was the roar that John heard coming from heaven? ([19:1](#))

Something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven

4. Why were the inhabitants of heaven praising God? ([19:1-2](#))

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."

5. How did the creatures closest to God act? ([19:4](#))

They fell down and worshiped God

6. Why did the great multitude urge everyone to be happy? How? ([19:6-7](#))

"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

7. What is the significance of the fine linen worn by the bride of Christ? ([19:8](#))

It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

8. Who is called "blessed"? ([19:9](#))

'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he *said to me, "These are true words of God."

9. What was the angel's instruction to John? ([19:10](#))

Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he *said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Get it

10. What does "hallelujah" mean?

Used to express joy or praise, an exclamation in a song of praise or worship to God, a general expression of gratitude or adoration

11. What is the value in praising God?

We let him know how much we love him, and the things he has done for us

12. What difference does it make to you that God's judgments are true and just?

Knowing all that he does is for OUR good

13. In what ways ought we to act as people "engaged" to Christ?

Talk better, live better, show others why we do this

Apply it

14. What is one way you could become a more worshipful person in how you participate in worship services at church?

be more honest in what I do during this time

15. In what way can you honor Christ in your conversations with others?

Do as Jesus would do to them.