Revelation 19

Hallelujah, the Marriage of the Lamb, and the King of Kings

OBSERVATION · INTERPRETATION · APPLICATION

"These were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."

Acts 17:11

CHAPTER THEME

Heaven bursts into praise because God's judgments are true, the Bride is made ready, and the King of kings rides out to end the rebellion with a word. The question every reader has to answer: which supper am I invited to?

Ed Smith · Started 20 October 2026

00 The Text

REVELATION 19 (KJV), MARKED

Gold God — His character & actions
Green Command / instruction
Sky Key repeated word
Rose Sin / warning
Violet Promise / blessing
Amber Time / place / contrast

1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Marked in the text

- **v1** Alleluia *(every occurrence)*
- **v1** Hallelujah *(every occurrence)*
- **v1** the Lord our God
- **v2** true and righteous are his judgments
- **v2** the great whore
- **v2** avenged the blood of his servants
- **v3** for ever and ever
- **v5** Praise our God
- **v6** the Lord God omnipotent reigneth
- **v7** Let us be glad and rejoice
- **v7** the marriage of the Lamb
- **v7** made herself ready
- **v8** fine linen *(every occurrence)*
- **v9** Blessed
- **v9** marriage supper of the Lamb
- **v10** worship God
- **v11** heaven opened
- **v11** Faithful and True
- **v12** many crowns
- **v13** The Word of God
- **v15** sword *(every occurrence)*
- **v15** rod of iron
- **v16** KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS
- **v17** the supper of the great God
- **v18** flesh *(every occurrence)*
- **v19** make war
- **v19** the beast *(every occurrence)*
- **v20** the false prophet
- **v20** deceived
- **v20** lake of fire

Marks are drawn on the KJV text. The NASB's "Hallelujah" is the KJV's "Alleluia"; both are marked.

01 Observation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

KEY VERSE · REVELATION 19:11 (KJV)

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Setting

"After these things" — after Babylon's fall (ch. 18) — John hears heaven answer the call of 18:20, "Rejoice over her, O heaven." The scene moves from heaven's worship (vv1–10) to heaven opened (vv11–21).

Structure

- vv1–5 — **three hallelujahs over Babylon:** a great multitude cries, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; because His judgments are true and righteous" (vv1–2). He has judged the great harlot and avenged the blood of His bond-servants. "Her smoke rises up forever and ever" (v3). The twenty-four elders and four living creatures fall down: "Amen. Hallelujah!" (v4). A voice from the throne: "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants" (v5).
- vv6–10 — **the marriage of the Lamb:** the multitude sounds like many waters and mighty peals of thunder: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns" (v6). "The marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready" (v7). She is given fine linen, bright and clean — "the righteous acts of the saints" (v8). "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb" (v9). John falls to worship the angel and is stopped: "Do not do that … worship God" (v10).
- vv11–16 — **the Rider on the white horse:** heaven opens. He is called Faithful and True; in righteousness He judges and wages war (v11). Eyes a flame of fire, many diadems, a name no one knows (v12). A robe dipped in blood; His name is The Word of God (v13). The armies of heaven follow in fine linen, white and clean (v14). From His mouth comes a sharp sword; He will rule with a rod of iron and tread the wine press of the fierce wrath of God (v15). On His robe and thigh: "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (v16).
- vv17–21 — **the great supper of God:** an angel standing in the sun calls the birds: "Come, assemble for the great supper of God" (v17), to eat the flesh of kings, commanders, mighty men, horses and all men, free and slaves, small and great (v18). The beast, the kings and their armies gather to make war against Him (v19). The beast is seized, with the false prophet who deceived those who took the mark; both are thrown alive into the lake of fire (v20). The rest are killed with the sword from His mouth (v21).

Repeated words

Hallelujah (vv1, 3, 4, 6 — its only appearances in the New Testament); fine linen … clean (v8 "bright and clean," v14 "white and clean"); supper (vv9, 17); horse / sat on the horse (vv11, 14, 18, 19, 21); flesh (vv18,

21); sword out of His mouth (vv15, 21); name (vv12, 13, 16).

Contrasts

the harlot (v2) ⟷ the bride (v7). The marriage supper of the Lamb (v9) ⟷ the great supper of God (v17). The harlot's purple and scarlet (17:4) ⟷ the bride's fine linen (v8). The first white horse that conquers by deceit (6:2) ⟷ the true Rider, Faithful and True (v11). Earth's armies gather (v19) ⟷ not one battle is described — one word from His mouth ends it (v21).

Chapter theme (my words)

Heaven bursts into praise because God's judgments are true, the Bride is made ready, and the King of kings rides out to end the rebellion with a word. The question every reader has to answer: which supper am I invited to?

02 Interpretation

WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

KEY VERSE · REVELATION 19:7–8 (KJV)

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Why hallelujah now? (vv1–5)

Guzik: the multitude is likely the martyrs whose cry "How long, O Lord?" (6:10) has now been answered. "Hallelujah" is Hebrew — *hallelu-Yah*, "Praise the LORD," a command — and Revelation 19 is the only place the New Testament uses it. Heaven praises God for His *works*, especially His righteous judgment. Guzik notes the voice from the throne is probably an angel rather than Jesus, since it says "our God." The Hallel Psalms (113–118), sung at Passover, end the same way: praise for deliverance.

The marriage of the Lamb (vv6–9)

Guzik traces the bride through Scripture: Israel as God's often-unfaithful wife (Hosea; Isa 54:5; Ezek 16) and the church as Christ's betrothed (2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:25–27). Mounce, in Guzik: the church, "espoused to Christ by faith, now awaits the parousia." In a Jewish wedding the groom came for the bride after the betrothal and the feast followed — the highest joy a village knew. Spurgeon pictures the church as a Cinderella bride, overlooked now, revealed in glory then. Spurgeon also warns: "We ought not to worship God in a half-hearted sort of way."

The bride's dress (v8)

Notice the order: "it was *given* to her." The fine linen is "the righteous acts of the saints," but even those acts are a gift — God works in us and then clothes us with what He has worked (Eph 2:10; Phil 2:13). Johnson, in Guzik: *katharos* (clean) speaks of purity and faithfulness; *lampros* (bright) of radiant glory. Compare the harlot's purple and scarlet — expensive, but dirty.

"Do not do that" (v10)

Even John, overwhelmed, bows to the wrong one. Robertson: John "either felt that the angel represented God or he was beside himself with excitement." The angel calls himself a fellow servant. Only God receives worship — and Jesus *does* receive it (Matt 14:33; John 9:38; Heb 1:6), which tells us who He is. Hocking, in Guzik: "Any teaching of prophecy that takes our minds and hearts away from Him is not being properly communicated." That is a word for anyone who studies Revelation: the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

The Rider (vv11–16)

This is the Second Coming — the climax of the book and the answer to Isaiah 64:1, "Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down." The white horse is the conqueror's horse. His names tell who He is:

- **Faithful and True** (v11) — the opposite of the deceiver on the first white horse (6:2).
- **A name no one knows** (v12) — there is always more of Him than we have grasped.
- **The Word of God** (v13) — the same title as John 1:1.
- **King of kings and Lord of lords** (v16) — written where every eye can read it.

Walvoord, in Guzik: once grace is spurned, "there is nothing more inflexible than divine judgment." Clarke: His wars are "righteous in their principle and in their object." The many crowns are *diadēmata*, crowns of royal rule — the dragon wore seven (12:3), the beast ten (13:1), but He wears many. The robe dipped in blood may be His own (the Lamb who was slain) or His enemies' (Isa 63:1–3). The armies with Him carry no weapons; they are dressed for a wedding, not a war. The only weapon is the sword from His mouth — Johnson: "Christ conquers by the power of His Word."

The other supper (vv17–21)

Guzik notes Newell's four suppers: the supper of salvation (Luke 14:16–24), the Lord's Supper, the marriage supper of the Lamb, and the great supper of God. Everyone attends one. "Flesh" is repeated five times in v18 — man who lived for the flesh is given over to it. Walvoord: judgment is "no respecter of persons or station" — kings and slaves alike (v18). The kings still gather to fight Him (v19) — Newell calls it "the incurable insanity of sin." Barnhouse: "the laughter of God against the climax of man's arrogance" (Ps 2:1–4). There is no battle, only a verdict. The beast and false prophet are thrown *alive* into the lake of fire — the first ever sent there, a thousand years before the devil joins them (20:10).

Word study (Greek)

- **hallelujah — *allēlouia* (G239):** from Hebrew *hallelu-Yah*, "Praise the LORD" — a command to praise.

- **true — *alēthinos* (G228):** genuine, real, the true as opposed to the counterfeit (vv2, 9, 11).
- **avenged — *ekdikeō* (G1556):** to vindicate, to do justice for someone.
- **reigns — *ebasileusen* (from *basileuō*, G936):** aorist — "has begun to reign," the kingdom has arrived.
- **marriage — *gamos* (G1062):** a wedding and its feast.
- **made ready — *hetoimazō* (G2090):** to prepare; the same word as John 14:2–3, "I go to prepare a place."
- **clean — *katharos* (G2513):** pure, without stain.
- **bright — *lampros* (G2986):** radiant, shining.
- **righteous acts — *dikaiōma* (G1345):** deeds that are right; plural.
- **fellow servant — *syndoulos* (G4889):** a slave alongside another slave.
- **diadems — *diadēma* (G1238):** the crown of royal authority, not the *stephanos* (G4735) wreath of victory.
- **Word — *logos* (G3056):** the same title as John 1:1, 14.
- **rule — *poimainō* (G4165):** literally "to shepherd" — He shepherds the nations with an iron rod (Ps 2:9).
- **seized — *piazō* (G4084):** to arrest, take hold of.

Cross-references

Ps 2:1–12; Ps 45:3–7; Ps 113–118; Isa 11:4; Isa 61:10; Isa 63:1–6; Isa 64:1; Ezek 39:17–20; Zech 14:3–5; Matt 22:1–14; Matt 24:29–31; Matt 25:1–13; John 1:1, 14; John 14:2–3; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:25–27; 2 Thess 1:7–8; 2 Thess 2:8; Rev 6:2, 10; Rev 17:14; Rev 20:10.

03 Application

HOW DOES IT CHANGE ME?

KEY VERSE · REVELATION 19:9 (KJV)

9 And he saith unto me, Write, ★ Blessed are they which are called unto the ★ marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Command to obey — "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants."

Heaven's worship is loud, full and focused on what God has done. Spurgeon was right that half-hearted worship doesn't fit a God like this. This week I'll praise Him out loud for His specific works — what He has judged, what He has delivered me from — not just hum along. For the men I disciple, "small and great" means there is no man too broken to be called to praise.

Sin to confess — bowing to the wrong thing

If John, at the end of the Bible, could fall at the wrong feet, so can I. Good things become idols: ministry, study, even prophecy itself. Do I get more excited about the timeline than about the King? The angel's word is my correction: "worship God."

Warning to heed — two suppers

Every man will attend one: the marriage supper of the Lamb (v9) or the great supper of God (v17). The invitation is open now (Luke 14:23; Rev 22:17), but the day comes when the door shuts (Matt 25:10). This is why I share the gospel with the men I serve — not to scare them, but because the feast is real and so is the other table.

Promise to trust — the Bride's dress is given

"It was given to her" (v8). I can't weave my own wedding garment. Christ's righteousness covers me (Isa 61:10), and then He works righteous acts through me. For the man who feels his past disqualifies him: the dress is a gift.

Example to follow — Faithful and True

My King keeps His word and judges rightly. I want to be a man whose name means the same thing — faithful to my wife, true to my word, steady with the men who are counting on me.

Worship

The armies of heaven ride behind Him dressed for a wedding, not carrying weapons. He wins with a word. I don't have to fight the final battle; I only have to be found with Him when He rides out.

Prayer

King of kings and Lord of lords — Faithful and True — thank You that Your judgments are true and righteous. Clothe me in what You have given, keep my eyes on You and not on the scenery of prophecy, and make me ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb. Use me to carry the invitation to every man who still can come. Hallelujah. Amen.

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