

## REVELATION: HELP FOR LIVING, HOPE FOR LEAVING

### Sermon no. 21

## THE CONQUERING KING AT ARMAGEDDON

Revelation 19

Would you rather have dinner or *be* dinner? That's the question for us in chapter 19 in the account of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the buffet of the birds of Armageddon. One is glorious and beautiful, the other bloody and brutal. Reservations are now being taken. You can only be in one of these. We highly recommend the first.

Chapter 19 takes place after the destruction of Babylon—the political and commercial center of the world. It begins with a celebration of God's triumph over the empire of the anti-Christ, reveals the plans of heaven for the church, then highlights the glorious return of Christ as king – the most prophesied and exciting event in the whole Bible! Welcome to the turning point of the book of Revelation:

### 1. CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER BABYLON (vv. 1-5)

- “Hallelujah” occurs four times here and nowhere else in the New Testament. Hallelujah is Hebrew for “Praise the Lord” in the *imperative* sense. Praise is the heartfelt response to God by those who love him. The more you get to know God and realize what he has done, the more you will respond with praise.
- The people of earth mourn the destruction of Babylon, but heaven rejoices. Why? In heaven, the full picture is clear, and that which seemed so terrible on earth will seem brilliant, perfect, and righteous from the vantage of heaven. The same is true regarding trials in our lives. Why doesn't the Lord just show us the whole story now? Because He is teaching you and me to walk by faith and not by sight.

### 2. CHRIST'S VICTORY FOR THE CHURCH (vv. 6-10)

#### a) The Wedding Supper of The Lamb (Vv. 6-9)

- Today, the church is “engaged” to Christ (1 Peter 1:8). One day, He will return and take His bride to heaven (John 14:1–6; 1 Thes. 4:13–18). At the Judgment Seat of Christ, Christ will reward us according to our faithfulness, and the rewards we receive make up your “wedding gown.” Has it ever occurred to you, that at the marriage of the Bride to the Lamb, each of us will be wearing the wedding garment of our own making?
- The church returns to earth with her Bridegroom at the end of the Tribulation. The Wedding Supper is the Millennium. This wedding reception is going to last 1,000 years!

### **b) The Wrong Response of John (v.10)**

- When we focus on the messenger, we have forgotten that it is God's message. We forget that the messenger is nothing more than God's instrument, using the abilities God gave him (1 Cor. 3:4-7). John was clearly reminded: the very purpose of prophecy is to testify of Jesus Christ and to bring glory to Him. Christian, don't make the same mistake as John.

## **3. CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER THE ANTI-CHRIST (vv. 11-21)**

### **a) The RETURN of The King (vv.11-16)**

- This is the great climax of all history. This is the once far-off divine event toward which all human events since the beginning of time have moved -- the revelation of Christ as king of kings and Lord of Lords.
- Jesus is called "Faithful and True" (v. 11), "Word of God" (v. 13), and "King of all kings and Lord of all lords" (v. 16), but no name can really do him justice (v. 12). He is greater than any description or expression the human mind can devise.

### **b) The ROUT at Armageddon (vv. 17-21; Rev. 14:14–20; 16:13–16).**

- As Jesus returns with believers from heaven, there is no weapon in the great army that follows Jesus. Jesus will end it all by Himself. Even angels are uninvolved.
- The "sword" that comes from the mouth of Jesus is His Word (Heb. 4:12). Men would not bow to His Word; now they are slain by that same Word. The followers of the Beast are "marked men"; the mark of the Beast on their bodies seals them for certain judgment.
- The Beast and false prophet are advanced into the lake of fire 1,000 years ahead of all humanity. Those who choose the way of evil never get away with it. Ever.

### **Final Thoughts:**

This is where it all turns around. At the Second Coming of Christ, there's nothing but excitement for the believer, and nothing but judgment for the unrepentant. If the Rapture happens today, which supper will you find yourself in?