

Revelation 19

In chapter 18, we witnessed the fall of Babylon and its consequences for the rest of the inhabitants on earth. Still, a voice from heaven echoed, saying, "Come out of her, my people." God considers every creature as God's own and worth saving. However, as the rest of the book records, those who remain with Babylon have positioned themselves as enemies of God. With eyes wide open, they stand opposed to their Creator. No one rejoices in their destruction. They have brought this upon themselves, yet heaven does not gloat over God's just and necessary cleansing of evil.

Read Revelation 18:1-6

1. With what phrases does the "loud voice of a great multitude" worship?
2. When the 24 elders and four creatures join in, what is it they say?
3. The "voice from the throne" adds what to the song?
4. And what is cried by "the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals?"

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb:

In ancient Jewish cultures, marriage involved two ceremonies celebrated at different times with a gap in between. First was the betrothal, followed by the wedding. During the betrothal, the woman was legally married, yet she remained in her father's home. The wedding signified that the betrothed woman, accompanied by a vibrant procession, was taken by her husband from her father's house to his home, and the legal bond was established and consummated. This division of marriage into two separate events originated in very ancient times when marriage was a purchase, both in its outward form and in its inner meaning.

Read Revelation 18:7-10

5. What might be the meaning of "his bride has made herself ready?"
6. This is not the first time John tries to worship an angel. What is the angel's response?

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7. What does it mean to you to “hold the testimony of Jesus? Testimony in Greek is **μαρτυρία**, better translated as: witness, from where we get the word **martyr**.

ANCIENT MARRIAGE, LIKE ANY OTHER PURCHASE, INVOLVED TWO KEY STEPS. FIRST, THE PRICE WAS PAID, AND AN AGREEMENT WAS MADE ON THE CONDITIONS OF SALE. LATER, THE BUYER TAKES POSSESSION OF THE ITEM. THIS METAPHOR IS WHAT THIS VISION REFERS TO. JESUS BOUGHT US (HIS BRIDE, THE CHURCH) WITH HIS OWN LIFE AND BLOOD AT CALVARY, BUT THE MARRIAGE IS NOT FINALIZED UNTIL HE RETURNS TO TAKE HIS BRIDE HOME. HOWEVER, WE WILL FIND THAT, UNLIKE JEWISH TRADITION, JESUS WILL BRING HIS HOME TO DWELL WITH US. JESUS’ FINAL ACT OF CREATION WILL BE TO BRING US INTO HIS DWELLING PLACE ON A RESTORED EARTH. IT WILL LITERALLY BE THE FULFILLMENT OF “THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.”

Read Revelation 19:11-16

8. Describe Jesus in this vision.
9. What are his names?
10. What is his weapon against Evil?

Read Revelation 19:17-21

11. What is the angel’s invitation in verse 17?
12. The hosts of Heaven get to dine with Jesus at his marriage supper, but who feasts at the other great supper of God?
13. What happens to the beasts?
14. What happens to the rest?