

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

## Hallelujah! Our God Reigns

### Revelation 19:1-6

#### INTRODUCTION:

Revelation was written so Christians could see what is happening spiritually behind the scenes in order to make sense of the physical things that are happening around us.

This has been revealed to us in the first 18 chapters of Revelation. We have walked through many dark and disturbing passages explaining the judgments that are being brought upon the earth due to sin.

But now we are about to enter into the judgment of evil and the victory for those who have overcome.

For reasons known only by God, Satan has been allowed to work through the **Beast** to persecute the church and even kill God's people for their faith.

The False Prophet tirelessly works with the dragon to try to **deceive** people into worshipping the beast through worldly institutions and the religions of the world that opposes Christianity.

The harlot uses the **seduction** of immorality and wealth to draw men away from God and into idolatry by setting up economic and non-Christian religious systems who oppose the people of God.

#### All Stand and Read Scripture

Revelation 19:1-6 (NASB)

#### **The Fourfold Hallelujah**

19 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; <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.” <sup>4</sup> And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” <sup>5</sup> 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.” <sup>6</sup> 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.

## Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, we thank You for Your love, Your constant care, and Your bountiful blessings to us. Help me to present this message with clarity and accuracy that Your Son may be glorified. We pray that You will increase Your grace and Your will within us as we grow in understanding. We thank you for Your Holy Spirit that you have allowed to dwell within us. Help us to listen for His guidance in our lives so that we will truly understand the difference between the temporary pleasures that are offered by Satan and the eternal promises that are given by You.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Thus far in Revelation we have gotten a pretty clear picture of why there is so much chaos in the world. For reasons known only by God, Satan has been allowed to work through the **Beast** to persecute the church and even kill individuals for their faith.

The **False Prophet** tirelessly works with the dragon to try to **deceive** people into worshipping the beast through worldly institutions and the religions of the world that opposes Christianity.

The harlot uses the **seduction** of immorality and wealth to draw men away from God and into idolatry by setting up economic and the non-Christian religious authorities who oppose the people of God.

God's intent for all of these judgments is to warn the people of earth that a greater judgment is coming. It is God's desire that all men everywhere would repent and come back to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. God has been patient toward us by giving us time to turn to Him. But the day is coming when that opportunity will go away for eternity.

But now we are about to enter into the judgment of evil and the victory for those who have overcome.

There is a tremendous difference between those two groups of people. Those who persecuted the church and who lived sensually for themselves will have God's wrath brought back upon them with a final judgment and eternal punishment.

Those that overcome will experience eternity with God in a glorified body

And how did they overcome?

**Revelation 12:11 (NASB)**

**<sup>11</sup> And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.**

The final wrath against evil began back in chapters 17 & 18 with the destruction of the Harlot. The Beast and the False Prophet as well as Satan himself will also soon meet their demise for all of the wrong that has been done against God's people.

All of this is in view as we enter into chapter 19 as John links what he has just seen previously with the remainder of this vision.

## **BODY:**

### Revelation 19:1-6 (NASB)

Verse 1 starts with the phrase "After these things I heard".

This is referring back to the Harlot, Babylon the Great. If you remember, an angel took a large millstone and violently cast it into sea saying, "So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer".

This was symbolizing the ultimate destruction of the harlot, Babylon which we know represents the collapse of the economic and religious groups of the entire world.

When this happens John hears a "loud voice of a great multitude in heaven" crying out to God, "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."

And a second time they shouted "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns."

This was in celebration of the destruction of the Harlot, Babylon the Great. Finally, this world system that relentlessly continued to seduce us with all of its immorality in an attempt to pull us away from God was destroyed.

This is what was alluded to back in chapter 16 during the pouring out of the seventh bowl of wrath where we were first introduced to the Harlot.

### Revelation 16:19 (NASB)

<sup>19</sup>The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

From this seventh bowl judgment, we also know that this event will happen just before the time that Jesus comes again. Now we are seeing this judgment actually taking place and the heavenly hosts are singing and rejoicing.

We then see twenty-four elders and the four living creatures that we saw back in chapters 4 & 5 saying "Hallelujah!" for a third time. And the multitude from heaven shouting even again for a fourth time. These symbolize all of creation; all of the heavenly hosts. They fall before the Lord in worship.

They are doing so because as each of these things take place they are seeing judgment being poured out upon all of the enemies of God. The people of God are finally experiencing that which they have prayed and longed for clear back in chapter 6.

### Revelation 6:10 (NASB)

<sup>10</sup>and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

They are now seeing this "judging and avenging" taking place and they are ecstatic! The old order of things are now being done away with. He is putting an end to the rebellion. He is putting an end to all of His enemies who were allowed to triumph over His people

throughout this entire age.

Notice verse 6, it says "**Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns**".

This does not mean that God did not reign previously?

Absolutely not! We know that God has always reigned. What it means is that even though God reigns, as part of His reign, he has allowed the nations to rebel against Him. For reasons known only to God, He has even allowed His enemy to triumph over His people. He has allowed persecution of His people. He has allowed false teachings to exist on earth that infiltrated the religious life of the world which caused men to turn from Him. And He also has allowed this harlot, Babylon, to rise up and work through this worldly system to create this idolatrous network where we love wealth and luxury and personal pleasure. We are constantly being drawn and enticed by these things. For reasons unbeknownst to us, for His glory, He has allowed all of these things to exist.

But now something has changed! No longer will He allow these things to continue. For God has begun to reign. **And all of heaven rejoices! This is what we have longed for! Soon we will be in a new heaven and a new earth in the presence and glory of God free from all sin!**

Paul talks about this very event in I Corinthians 15.

**1 Corinthians 15:24-25 (NASB)**

**24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.**

That is what is happening now. All of His enemies are being put under His feet beginning with the harlot, Babylon the Great. And all of the hosts of heaven are rejoicing in that judgment.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The lesson to learn here is the **existence of sin** and its devastating effects. In Revelation we repeatedly encounter sin. We didn't need Revelation to teach us that sin exists, **so what is so new and important?**

In Revelation we get a closer look at its source and its disastrous results. Throughout we see that sin and evil are deceptive, destructive, and devastating. We learn that sin is more bitter and evil than we ever thought. It causes nothing but damage and heartbreak, both for those who commit the sin and for those around them. Revelation is the great object lesson demonstrating that as long as sin exists there will be sickness, sorrow, disappointment, failure, guilt, mistrust, broken relationships, immorality, and misery.

With John, we need to pause and do some self-examination. **Ask yourself...**What have I ever gained through sinning? What good have I ever done through sinning? Have I ever known sin or evil that did not hurt someone? Is there really a private kind of sinning that goes totally unnoticed? In Revelation, to sin is to join forces with Babylon and the Beast. And we all too easily do so.

Whatever your sin, despite the types of evil in which you've been involved, no matter the

extent of your guilt – the Lamb, Jesus Christ, is seated on the throne. He has already paid for your sins. You only need to turn your life over to Him and your sins will be forgiven!

Isaiah 53:6 (NASB)

<sup>6</sup>All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

But the deep joy of Revelation is that every time we are tempted to sin we look up and see the Lamb upon His throne. We have seen and understand the consequences of that sin and we will no longer want to place ourselves in jeopardy with God. We are confronted with the reality that sin has been overcome through the blood of Christ. The blood Jesus shed on the cross can wipe away the guilty verdict that we so deserve at the Final Judgment.

John 10:27-28 (NASB)

<sup>27</sup> My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; <sup>28</sup> and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

You do not clean up your life in order to come to God. You come to God and let Him clean up your life. When you start following God, He will take away that STRONG DESIRE that you have to sin. It is something that we cannot do on our own.

Romans 5:1 (NASB)

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

There is no other peace like God's peace – it is a peace that passes all understanding. The world cannot give it and the world cannot take it away. It is a great feeling to know that you have been saved. You no longer fear death. You live realizing that despite all of the pain and hardships that we have to endure here on this sinful earth, a better day is coming.

<sup>6</sup> ...“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him

**Family of God!**