

The book of Revelation

Chapter 18

1. *Rejoicing in heaven over the destruction of Babylon (19:1-5)*

-The hosts of heaven were called to rejoice in Rev. 18:20 and here we see them doing just that. They sing praises to God acknowledging He alone is the God of _____, that He alone is all powerful, and that all glory is to be given to Him. This rejoicing again echoes that God's judgments are true and just.

-The hosts of Heaven rejoice that the great prostitute (the seducing world that leads men away from God) has been judged for her wicked deeds (she corrupted the earth and killed God's people). The choirs of heaven rejoice that she has been defeated _____ to rise again. "Babylon's smoke serves as an ongoing testimony to God's zeal for justice on behalf of His persecuted Church." (Johnson, 261)

-Those surrounding the throne of God join in the praise of God and fall down before Him and _____ Him. "Next, the twenty-four elders, symbolizing the entire Church, praise God, and so do the four cherubim, representing all the cherubim. So filled are they with thanksgiving that they can utter but two words: "Amen-Hallelujah!" (196)

-A voice then comes from the throne calling all of God's servants to praise Him. All who fear the Lord, both small and great, are to praise Him for who He is and what He has done. "All are summoned to _____ God, the Author of salvation, for all serve Him out of reverence." (196)

2. *The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (19:6-10)*

-John again hears the voice of a great multitude but this time they are not singing praises to God for His judgement of the wicked, but they are singing praises to God because He reigns as sovereign and the _____ of their salvation is at hand-they praise God because the marriage supper of the Lamb has come. The wedding feast comes after all the enemies of the bride have been destroyed.

-“The culmination of God's redemptive plan is often pictured in Scripture as a feast overflowing with _____ and rich food and drink (Isa. 25:6-9; Luke 14:15-24)...Weddings and feasting belong together, and the blessed guests who are invited to the Lamb's wedding feast are themselves included in the bride who is so honored by the Husband's love.” (Johnson, 264)

-Scripture again and again compares the love relationship between a bridegroom and his bride to that which exists between Jehovah and His people, or between Christ and His Church (Isa. 50:1, 54:1; Eph. 5:32; Rev. 21:9). Indeed, the former is a symbol, a _____ reflection of the glory and beauty of the latter.” (198)

-The feast lasts not one or two weeks but throughout all _____! This feast is the climax of that entire process by means of which the Bridegroom, Christ, comes to His bride, the Church...It will be holy, blessed, everlasting fellowship; the fullest realization of all the promises of the gospel.” (198-199)

-An angel declares that those who are invited to this wedding feast are blessed. John overjoyed (confused or lacking understanding) falls down and begins to worship this angel and is sternly rebuked and is reminded that he too is just a _____ (along with John and the saints) and that worship must be directed to God alone. The angel declares that he also (along with John and the saints) holds to the testimony of Jesus.

-“God _____ is to be worshipped, and the prophecy that this messenger has delivered to John by the Spirit is a testimony that comes ultimately from Jesus, the faithful and true Witness and the true Word of God.” (Johnson, 265)

3. *The victory of Christ over the beasts and their army (19:11-21)*

-We now go _____ to the final battle that will take place before the marriage supper of the Lamb. We have already seen one of the four main enemies of God’s people defeated (the great prostitute). We will now see the destruction of the two beasts (the final and great adversary will be defeated in chapter 20).

-John sees heaven open and a rider on a white horse (a symbol of victory). This rider is the Lord Jesus Christ and He is given many names: Faithful and True (that who can be _____), The Word of God (the very revelation of God), King of Kings and Lord of Lords (The One with all authority), and a name that no one knows but Him (the One who is above our full understanding).

-“Jesus’ appearances, names, and companions call believers to rest our hope confidently and completely in His almighty _____ to vindicate His saints and eradicate His enemies.” (Johnson, 270)

-He has eyes like fire (piercing through the darkness and able to see things clearly), many crowns (showing His _____ authority), a blood dipped robe (showing His absolute triumph over His adversaries), and a sharp sword (coming from His mouth symbolizing His word of judgment).

-An angel calls to the birds to get ready to feast on the dead because the victory of Christ is at hand. At this the Lord throws the beast and the false prophet alive into hell. “The meaning is that at Christ’s second coming Satan’s persecution of the Church and his power to deceive on the earth shall cease _____. Every influence of Satan-whether in the direction of persecution or of deception-goes with him to hell, never again to appear anywhere outside hell.” (201)

-“The fact that the beast and false prophet are thrown alive into the fiery lake, whereas their followers are slain by the sword, confirms that the beast and false prophet, like the harlot Babylon, symbolize not particular _____ individuals but rather institutional structures by which human civilizations and cultures oppose God, His truth, and His church.” (Johnson, 278)

-The armies of the beast (all those that are not children of God) are slain by the word of Christ _____ to bother the people of God again.

- _____ belongs to the Lamb and to those who are with Him!