**April 15, 2020 | A Study on Chapter 19 of the Book of Revelation**

## Hallelujah!

The last two chapters have been devoted to the fall of Babylon.  This marked the end of the political and commercial system built around worship of the Beast which was established by the Antichrist.  Now in chapter 19 Heaven rejoices the end of this reign of terror.   In verse one John hears the roar of a great multitude in Heaven.  In chap. 7, v 9 John also sees a great multitude and is told that they are those who came out of the great tribulation.  We don’t know if the multitude John hears in chap 19 is the same group or if any have been added.  The events in this chapter are very close to the end of Daniel’s 70th week.  The word “Hallelujah!” (Alleluia in KJV) is shouted.  This word is Hebrew for “Praise the Lord” and is only found in the Bible in the Book of Revelation and only in chapter where it is used four times.  It would seem that the earthly translation of the word does not fully convey its meaning since this word has been reserved for this moment in time.  In David Guzik’s commentary he includes the following quote by Joseph Seiss “Anselm of Canterbury considers it an angelic word which cannot be reproduced in any language of man, and concurs with Augustine that the feeling and saying of it embodies all the blessedness of Heaven.”  The prayers of the church for God’s judgment have turned into praise.   Last week I noted that God thwarted a common language of man with the destruction of the Tower of Babel.    It seems most probable that we will all share a common language in Heaven.

The multitude declares that salvation, glory and power belong to God.  Satan attempted to usurp those things that belong to God and God alone.  His condemnation of the Antichrist is deemed justified because of the persecution of the servants of God.  The twenty four elders and the four living creatures add “Amen” to Hallelujah indicating the completion of God’s judgment.  In verse 5 the voice coming from the throne is either Jesus or an angel serving at the throne of God.

What follows next is rejoicing over the marriage of the Lamb and the Church.  Paul writes about the relationship between Jesus and the church in Ephesians.  He says that Jesus gave himself up for the church to make her holy so that he could present her to himself without blemish (5:25-26).  In 2nd Corinthians Paul says he promised the church to Jesus as his virgin bride (11:2).   Jesus himself made reference to this relationship in parables and in teaching his disciples.  The church as a virgin bride stands in stark contrast to the harlot representing a false religion in chap. 17.   Rather than the purple and scarlet worn by the harlot symbolizing the blood of martyrs, the church is clothed in white linen (KJV) which was washed in the blood of Jesus as promised to the church in Sardis (3:4).  The angel says to John, “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb”.  There is some debate among scholars about who the angel is referring to.  Some point out that the church is the bride and therefore needs no invitation to the wedding.  This may refer to those who accepted Jesus as their savior during the tribulation after the church was raptured.  John falls to his feet to worship the angel which is clearly not proper.  An angel is a created being, only God is worthy of our worship.

Next John sees a white horse upon which sits a rider called Faithful and True and his name is the Word of God (see John 1:1).  While there is debate about the identity of the rider of the horse in chapter 6, there is no doubt that the rider here is Jesus.  This is the long awaited second coming of our Lord and Savior.  One is hard pressed to choose which is the most important event in history; his birth, his death, his resurrection or his second coming as they are all intertwined.   Out of his mouth comes a sword similar to 1:16 and he is accompanied by a great army.  An angel calls birds to a supper of the carcasses of the armies about to be defeated fulfilling prophecy in Matt. 24:28. The beast together with his armies that had been summoned (see 16:14) make war against Jesus.  The Battle of Armageddon is a storied event marking the defeat of the beast prior to the millennial reign.  This is thought of as a great battle and many descriptions of this event are accompanied by vivid imagery.  The description provided by John is reduced to saying that the beast and false prophet were captured and the armies were killed with the sword of Jesus.  It would seem that while an army accompanied Jesus, he only needed his sword.   This does not represent the final victory over Satan.  The next chapter will describe the millennial reign of Jesus on earth (1000 years) after which the final battle with Satan will occur.