

Revelation 19 (NASB) **The Fourfold Hallelujah**

19:1 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; "

The phrase "After these things" is repeated several times in Revelation and means after he had seen the previous things, and after he had been directed to record in the previous chapters. This vision takes place after the destruction of Babylon and before Christ's return. As the sound of lamentation over Babylon fade, the sound of Hallelujahs ring out in heaven.

David Guzik says this great chorus is comprised of the martyred saints from the Great Tribulation period.

John MacArthur says they are angels.

Chuck Swindoll says they are the saints of God and no specific group is mentioned by him.

The word "Hallelujah" appears four times in the New Testament, all in the book of Revelation. The word "Hallelujah" comes from two Greek words, halal and Yah, and means "Praise be to God". The Hebrew form of the word appears in Psalms and reads "*Bless the Lord oh my soul, Hallelujah.*" The word "Salvation" in the phrase "*Salvation and glory and power belong to our Lord*" means the final act of our glorification.

19:2 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."

This is the fulfillment of prophecy, except for Christ's return. It comes from Jeremiah 23:5. Bible skeptics claim that the Bible is wrong because of Matthew 2:23. They say no such prophecy existed. They are wrong. Jeremiah 23:5 says "*Behold, the days are coming,*" declares the LORD, "*When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.*" This translation is the NASB but any translation except the NLT is correct. The word used here that means "Nazareth" is "Branch". It gets its root in Isaiah 11:1 which says "*Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.*" They are the same Greek word 'nzh'. This is also the fulfillment of Deuteronomy 32:42-43. God brings judgment according to these verses because of how His servants were treated.

According to 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7, God brings His wrath to the earth because He is just and how the world treated His people. These verses tell us "*6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.*" According to Revelation 18:20, God's wrath comes on behalf of His people. It says, "*Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.*" Psalm 58:10-11 tells us that God will judge the earth because of the way His people were treated. Psalm 58:10-11 says "*10 The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked. 11 And men will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely there is a God who judges on earth!"*" According to Psalm 79:10, God will bring judgment to the earth because of how His people were treated. This verse says "*Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let*

there be known among the nations in our sight, vengeance for the blood of Your servants which has been shed.” In Jeremiah 51:36 God made a promise to the prophet on account of how His people treated Jeremiah. Joel 3:20-21 tells us that God brings His wrath to the earth for vengeance for His people. 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16 says that God sends His wrath because of the way His people were treated.

19:3 And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER.”

The phrase "That her smoke rises up forever" shows her fate is sealed with the Final Judgment. God describes the destruction of Edom which will be destroyed and will burn forever and ever. Edom was a prideful people group located between Israel and Jordan. See Isaiah 34:10. Revelation 14:11 describes the punishment of those in hell as being forever and ever. The destruction of the most powerful empire in earth's history will mark Satan's reign and the end of man's reign over the earth.

19:4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” 5 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.” 6 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.

We know the voice from the throne is most likely an angel and not God Himself because the being says “Our God” in Verse 5. The phrase "Almighty" is used 9 times in Revelation.

Marriage of the Lamb

19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

*19:9 Then he *said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he *said to me, “These are true words of God.” 10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he *said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

The Lamb is Jesus. The bride is the Church. The Church is described in the following verses as a virgin or a virgin without a fault, perfect. See 2 Corinthians 11:2 and Ephesians 5:27. The church is not actually holy, blameless, sinless, spotless but God “*granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure.*” Revelation 19:8 - ESV and KJV best versions. The Greek word for "clean" is 'katharos' and it means “pure, loyal and faithful”. The Greek word for "bright" is 'lampros' and it means “radiant whiteness and it depicts glorification”. Jesus describes Himself as the bridegroom and He leaves them in the following verses: Matthew 9:15, Mark 2:19-20 and Mark 5:34-35. Joseph and Mary are engaged or betrothed in Luke 1:27. As soon as Gabriel leaves Mary in Luke 1:39, she leaves and goes to Elizabeth's house. Joseph is at his father's house in Nazareth adding on a room. Mary is away from Joseph for 3 months. See Luke 1:56. Mary returns to her home (her parent's home). The bridegroom is Jesus. The bride is the Church. Jesus goes to heaven to prepare a place for us or add a room on at “Dad's” house in John 14:2. He promises to return to take us to His home.

These verses are an explanation of the Rapture. The Church is wearing the white, pure, clean linen in verse Revelation 19:8. The army returning from heaven is described as wearing white and pure linen. Revelation 19:14. If we are coming back with Jesus, that means we must already be in heaven. If we are the bride, we don't need an invitation to our own wedding, so the "Invited guests" must be a different group. It is possible that they are Old Testament believers. This is an angel talking, we know this is an angel talking and not Jesus because the angel tells John not worship him.

The Coming of Christ

19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

Jesus returns to the Mt. of Olives. See Zechariah 14:3-4. Zechariah 14:4 speaks of Christ's second coming. It says *"In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives."* 1 Thessalonians 4:17 says *"Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."* Jesus' feet never touch the earth. The verse in 1 Thessalonians 4 obviously gives credibility to the Rapture. The prophecy in Romans 11:26 is fulfilled here because it says all of the Jews will be saved. We know we have the timing correct because in Matthew 23:39 Jesus says "you will not see me again until they Israel acknowledge me as Lord. 'Baruch haba b'Shem Adonai' which means "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord." (Psalm 118:26)

These verses fulfill another prophecy, Genesis 49:10 because the scepter is a symbol of authority or reign. This time it passes from Satan to Jesus and He will reign. Genesis 49:10 says *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."* Another prophecy, Psalm 2:6-9, is fulfilled here in that God has passed the scepter to Jesus. All human kingdoms have ceased to exist. He will rule with a rod of iron. We learn that Jerusalem belongs to God alone and will not be ruled by anyone else. Zechariah 12:3 and 9 tell us about the final days regarding Jerusalem. According to 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9, Lord Jesus will come with His mighty angels and in flaming fire. He will bring judgment because of the way His people were treated or persecuted. If we compare Matthew 24:30 to 1 Thessalonians 4:17, we find that they are two different events. Matthew 24:30 tells us about the Rapture and there will be no more mourning but 1 Thessalonians 4:17 describes the second coming of Christ and there will be mourning. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 when compared with Matthew 24:31 confirms a Rapture because we will all go up. At the time of Christ's second coming, all hope will be gone. The nonbelievers' fate is sealed. Jesus' second coming tells us that during the temptation of Jesus by Satan recorded in Luke 4:5-6, Satan is trying to give Jesus what He already owned.

"Why permit the church to suffer immensely, most believers to be killed, and spare but a few for the rapture, which has no apparent purpose, immediately before the tribulation period ends?" John MacArthur

"The 19th chapter of Revelation describing Christ returning to earth never speaks of a translation (Rapture) of living saints nor of a resurrection of dead believers." John MacArthur

This takes place before the Tribulation and the return of Christ. See Matthew 24:27-30.

These saints, already in heaven, will return with Him after God has summed them from the 4 corners of heaven. See Revelation 19:14. John again sees heaven. Revelation 4:1 says that John was let in. Revelation 19:11 says that John was let out. In Revelation 19:11, Jesus comes to Jerusalem riding a white horse as a conquering king. In John 12:15, Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey colt which is symbolic of the lowest of the lows. The phrase "faithful and true" shows us He keeps His promises. He faithfully judges nonbelievers as promised. The people of earth rejected Jesus the first time He came. Here, they still reject Him. But this time He comes to judge them. This time of the judgment is already on God's calendar. See Acts 17:31. The phrase "His eyes are a flame of fire" means nothing is hidden from God. He sees all. Hebrews 4:13 says *"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."*

"Those eyes that had reflected tenderness and joy when they looked upon children. That held compassion when He looked upon hurting people. That reflected forgiveness as He restored Peter. That wept over unrepentant Jerusalem. John now sees them flashing with the fire of judgment." John MacArthur

This isn't the first time John sees Jesus with eyes blazing with fire. Revelation 1:14 tells us "His eyes were like blazing fire". He sees the works of the churches. It says that "on His head were MANY crowns (or diadems). 2 Samuel 12:30 says *"Then he took the crown of their king from his head; and its weight was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone; and it was placed on David's head. And he brought out the spoil of the city in great amounts."* Jesus will have every crown of every kingdom because the victor takes the crown of the defeated kings. Imagine a crown that weighs a talent was given to King David. A talent weighs 80 to 100 pounds. We cannot know this special name and speculation is pointless. Jesus has numerous names. In John 1:1, Jesus is plainly the Word of God. The robe of Jesus is dipped in blood before He reaches the battle because this is the last battle and it is covered by the blood of the saints.

19:14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

The following verses tell us who comprises the "armies of heaven".

Revelation 17:14	Believers, the saints, us
Jude 1:14-15	Believers, the saints, us
Daniel 12:1-2	Old Testament Saints, and it could include angels
Matthew 25:31	Armies of Heaven, angels

We won't need any weapons, so the armies of heaven members don't need to carry any.

19:15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the winepress of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

The sword in Jesus' mouth is the written Word of God and the Holy Spirit. Jesus will say it and the Holy Spirit will show that it is true. Ephesians 6:17 tells us that *"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* This sword is different from the sword in Revelation 1:16 and 1:20. In Chapter 1, the sword is for the protection of believers but the sword in Chapter 19 will be used to destroy the enemies of God. Jesus will strike all of His enemies down by

Himself. This final judgment is described in Isaiah 66:15-16. It says *"For behold, the Lord will come in fire and His chariots like the whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For the Lord will execute judgment by fire and by His sword on all flesh, and those slain by the Lord will be many."*

The phrase "treads the winepress of the fierce wrath of God" shows that the winepress is overflowing. Joel 3:13-14 tells us that *"13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the winepress is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."* Moses describes Jesus as just, incorruptible with partiality. Deuteronomy 10:17 says *"For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe."* Paul describes Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. 1 Timothy 6:15 (NLT) says *"For, At just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords."*

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God,

Since Revelation 16:10 tells us that the kingdom of the beast "became darkened", Verse 17 tells us that either the darkening had been lifted and the Sun is shining or John could have risen above the clouds as an airplane does. The airplane gets above the clouds and it is a sunny day with the clouds below the plane. If we compare this to Matthew 24:29 we see that in Matthew the earth is darkened. So either we are correct about John being above the clouds or we are plunged into darkness again. Matthew 24:29 tells us *"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."* Many that write commentaries about this verse say that the angel must be shining brighter than the Sun but it is possible that the angel is silhouetted in front of the Sun. The birds are in "midheaven" above the clouds when the angel calls to them. (NASB is best, but all are OK.) Preparation of the scavengers for Armageddon is taking place here. If God is gathering the birds to eat the flesh of the dead at the Battle of Armageddon, then we can know that God knows that He will be victorious. Those that follow the beast will be annihilated and to God, "It is a done deal!" Luke 17:36-37 says *"36 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left." 37 And answering they *said to Him, "Where, Lord?" And He said to them, "Where the body is, there also the vultures will be gathered."* People who deny a rapture say that Luke 17:36 is opposite of what we think. They say that the verse shows that the nonbelievers will be removed and the believers left behind. Verse 37 correlates with Revelation 19:17 because it says that the eagles or vultures will be eating the nonbelievers. The one left is a believer.

18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

The word flesh is used 5 times in this verse, use NASB, ESV, HCSB, but the KJV has the best use of language. Why do think it is used so many times? The battle between flesh and spirit is coming to an end. Galatians 5:17 says *"For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."* The different groups are listed as opposed to just "all flesh" because it shows that God shows no partiality. God doesn't favor the rich or pity the poor. All people will be treated the same. Romans

2:11 says *“For there is no partiality with God.”* See Acts 10:34 also. All of the following verses point to Revelation 19:18. Isaiah 18:6 says, *“They will be left together for mountain birds of prey, And for the beasts of the earth; And the birds of prey will spend the summer feeding on them, And all the beasts of the earth will spend harvest time on them.”* Read also Jeremiah 7:33 and Ezekiel 39:17-20. Even after the birds have gorged themselves, it will take 7 months to bury the remaining bodies. Ezekiel 39:12 tell us so, *“For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.”*

19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

The beast is the Antichrist. The rider is Jesus. The kings of the earth are the 10 kings put into power by the Antichrist. The army of the rider is made up of believers.

Doom of the Beast and False Prophet

20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

We see that in verse 19, preparations are being made for the battle of Armageddon but in verse 20 the battle is over and the beast and false prophet are thrown alive into the lake of fire. This tells us there is not going to be a real battle at all. The battle of Armageddon is over as quickly as it starts. It is over in the blink of an eye. No fighting actually takes place. Zechariah 14:5 tells us *“You will flee through this valley, for it will reach across to Azal. Yes, you will flee as you did from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all his holy ones with him.”* The enemies of God do their best to escape.

21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

The Antichrist and the false prophet are thrown alive into the Lake of Fire. Satan was not cast into the lake of fire. Satan will join them after Jesus' millennium (1000 year) reign. Satan is released and then throw into the Lake of Fire. Revelation 20:7 and 20:10 say *“7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, . . . 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”* All nonbelievers still on earth who sided with the Antichrist will be killed and they are eaten by the birds. They become “BIRD FOOD”.