

**What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of The Book of The Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

1. Earlier on 15 November I completed a study of Revelation chapter 18 with a quote in part from Charles Dyer's book *The Road to Armageddon*. Dr. Dyer made a strong case for the timing of Babylon's final and ultimate destruction being on the *Day of the Lord*.
2. We then began the exegesis of Revelation chapter nineteen. When time expired we had just completed an analysis of Rev 19:1-5.
3. Before continuing I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.
4. Let's review some of that learned and then begin new material on page five.
5. At our last session I provided a review of how we arrived at our climax - The Second Advent of Jesus Christ. It is described in considerable detail in Revelation chapter sixteen.
6. The first order of business on 15 November was to provide a brief synopsis of the Tribulation. I want to summarize that review:

#### The Tribulation

1. God's people may expect tribulation throughout the present age.

Joh 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

1.1 The word "Tribulation," is also used of a future time; the seven years God still owes Israel.

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again.

1.2 That future time of tribulation will last for seven years beginning with the rapture of the church and ending with the Second Advent of Christ.

1Th 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1.3 The rapture of the church is said to be imminent it could occur before I finish reading this sentence. There are no signs to precede or signal the rapture.

1.4 As Dwight Pentecost has written:

"Many signs were given to the nation Israel, which would precede the second advent, so that the nation might be living in expectancy when the time of His coming should draw nigh. Although Israel could not know the day nor the hour when the Lord will come, yet they can know that their redemption draweth nigh through the fulfillment of numerous signs."

1.5 Pentecost goes on to explain that the signs cannot begin except and until the rapture occurs. It follows therefore, that the signs to Israel are mainly in the Old Testament and the Gospels, particularly the synoptic Gospels.

2. Biblical references to the Tribulation describe an unprecedented time of trouble.

Jer 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

Dan 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

3. The Tribulation will follow the end of this age -the Church Age and will continue during what Daniel called the "one seven." (Dan 9:27) The "one seven" is a reference to a seven-year period-the Tribulation. The Tribulation is divided into two equal halves of three and one-half years.

4. The length of the periods is also referred to as "a time, and times, and half a time" (Rev 2:14; Dan 7:25; 12:7); "forty and two months" (Rev 11:2; 13:5); and 1260 days. (Rev 11:3; 12:6)

5. The second half of this seven-year period will be characterized by increasing cruelty on the part of Antichrist, the world's political ruler. He is assisted by the world's religious leader the False Prophet. (Revelation chapter thirteen)

5.1 From the Scriptures we may deduce that the tribulation will begin with the signing of the covenant to permit the renewal of the Jewish sacrifice. (Dan 9:27)

6. The elements of the Great Tribulation (the latter half of the seventieth week) are:

6.1 the cruel reign of the "beast out of the sea" (Rev 13:1) who, at the beginning of the final three and one-half years, will break his covenant with the Jews (by virtue of which they will have reestablished their Temple worship, Dan 9:27), and then he will show himself in the Temple, demanding that he be worshiped as God. (Mat 24:15; 2Th 2:4)

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

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Dan 9:27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

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Mat 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel-- let the reader understand--

Mat 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mat 24:17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.

Mat 24:18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

2Th 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

6.2 The active imposition of Satan "having great wrath" (Rev 12:12), is he who gives his power to the beast (Rev 13:4-5);

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

6.3 The Tribulation will be an unprecedented activity of demons. (Rev 9:2 and 11; compared with verses 18-20)

Rev 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

Rev 9:11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

Rev 9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

Rev 9:19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

Rev 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood ...

6.4 The Tribulation will be a time of wrath and judgment from God terminating in the drying up of the Euphrates and a series of battles in which Christ destroys the armies of the world and Israel receives in spades their four unconditional covenants.

6.5 The tribulation will also be a period of salvation. There will be many saved during the seven years.

6.5.1 An election out of Israel will be redeemed and an innumerable multitude of Gentiles will be delivered.

Rev 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

Rev 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Rev 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. ...

Rev 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands ...

Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

6.6 The Tribulation will be followed immediately by the return of Christ in glory, and the events associated therewith. So much for review now let's return to Revelation chapter nineteen and a brief description of the Church as the bride of Christ.

7. First, let's see how Rev 19:1-8 looks by way of an expanded translation.

**Rev 19:1 After I saw the destruction of Babylon and the resultant joy in heaven I heard the roar of a great crowd in heaven exclaiming: "Praise God! Deliverance and glory and power solely belongs to Jesus the Christ, Rev 19:2 for certain and just are all His judgments. He has condemned and judged ecumenical, political and commercial Babylon who for centuries corrupted the earth by her false teachings. He is calling her to account for spilling the blood of His servants."**

**Rev 19:3 At this point John again heard from heaven: "Hallelujah."**

**Rev 19:4 The twenty-four elders representing the raptured church age saints and the four special elect angels all fell prostrate and worshiped the Christ, who was seated on the throne. The raptured saints of heaven cried out: "Amen and Hallelujah!"**

**Rev 19:5 And out of the Throne Room in heaven came a voice praising God; in fact, the voice cried out the command for all His servants, small and great, all who fear and respect Him must praise His name.**

**Rev 19:6 And then I heard what sounded like the shouting of a large crowd, it sounded much like the waves of a hundred oceans crashing on a rocky shore, or like the crash of thunder from an approaching storm.**

**Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and be glad and honor Him; for the marriage has occurred and now we are ready to celebrate with a wedding banquet in honor of the Lamb of God; the Bride has made herself ready, she is prepared.**

**Rev 19:8 Because of her divine good she is permitted to wear her decorations on her uniform of glory; the uniform is made of the cleanest and whitest of fine linen.**

Principles

1. John is commanded to write the last of the beatitudes of this book, in which is announced that the marriage of the Lamb has come.
2. The relationship of God and Christ to the redeemed in marital terms is expressed in both the Old and New Testament.

Hos 2:16 "In that day," declares the LORD, "you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master.'

Mar 2:19 Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

Eph 5:26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,  
Eph 5:27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

3. The bridal attire is noticeably different from the attire of the great harlot, for the holy bride wears only glistening white and pure linen, a symbol of the righteous acts of the saints.

Rev 19:8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

Rev 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

4. All that the New Testament speaks of as relating to Christ the bridegroom and the Church finds its ultimate consummation in Revelation chapter nineteen.

5. First, I want to preview the differences between marriage today and the institution of marriage which existed at the time of Christ and the early church.

6. Most of you know about marriage today. You find your right man or right woman, go down to the court house, get a license, find a preacher or a J.P. and have them say a few words over the deal and bingo you are married.

7. It was quite different in antiquity. Marriages were arranged. Often the groom would find a girl to his liking, enlist the help of a friend and then a negotiation took place with the father of the bride.

8. The bridegroom's friend would act as the bridegroom's agent. The agent would go to the home of the young lady, speak with the parents and a deal would be struck.

9. The dowry in most cases would be exchanged or promised and thus a marriage contract was recognized.

10. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 19:9 and 10.

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Rev 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Rev 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

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Rev 19:9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Rev 19:10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Principles

1. Following the praise to the Lord and the announcement of the marriage of the Lamb, John is now instructed to write that those who are invited to the marriage supper are truly blessed.

2. In this verse, as in verses 7 and 8, the wife of the Lamb is distinguished from the attendants at the wedding, the wife being the church, and the attendants at the wedding the saints of the Gentile Age, the Jewish Age proper, some number from the Kingdom Age and the martyrs of the Tribulation.

3. Let us rejoice and be glad and honor Him; for the marriage has occurred and now we are ready to celebrate with a wedding banquet in honor of the Lamb of God; the Bride has made herself ready, she is prepared.

4. The angel speaking the words of verse 9 is apparently the same one who on other occasions has informed John that he should write (compare for example Rev 14:13; in contrast however, we find in Rev 21:5 a command to write coming from God).

Rev 19:9 And the angel said to me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

5. The beatitude here expressed, i.e., blessed are those invited to the wedding festival, the fourth beatitude of the book, is enforced by the statement "These are the true sayings of God."

6. While this fact is rather obvious in the context, its statement reinforces the sovereign character of this divine revelation.

7. So awesome is the revelation that, according to verse 10, John falls at the feet of the angel in an attitude of worship.

Rev 19:10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

8. Such a reaction on the part of John is not appropriate; John is accordingly rebuked with the statement "the one speaking is thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus."

9. The word for "fellow servant" is a translation from the Greek word **Sundoulos**; it could be translated "fellow slave." It is most significant that both angels and saints are by this description seen to be bond slaves of Jesus Christ.

10. Both elect angels and saints have an obligation of implicit obedience to the Lord.

11. Together in heaven they form the body that bears testimony to Jesus. The command "worship God" means that only God should be worshiped.

12. The concluding phrase of verse 10 is most significant: "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

13. This would certainly seem to indicate that prophecy is designed to unfold the beauty and loveliness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

14. In the present age, therefore, the Spirit of God is not only purposed to glorify Christ but to show believers things to come as they relate to His person and majesty.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Joh 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Joh 16:15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

15. Christ is not only the major theme of the Scriptures but also the central theme of all prophecy.



16. At this point in the book of Revelation the climax of Christ's revelation is reached with the presentation of Jesus Christ as the glorified King of kings and Lord of lords.

17. In keeping with the subject of the book itself "a Revelation of Jesus Christ," all which precedes Rev 19:11 is in some sense introductory and that which follows is an epilogue.

18. The revelation of Jesus Christ presented in the book of the Revelation is in contrast to the Christ of the Gospels where He is revealed in rejection, humiliation, suffering, and death. His return is to be one of triumph, glory, sovereignty, and majesty.

19. In many respects the scene which now follows, namely, the second coming of Christ, is not only the high point of the book of the Revelation but the high point of all history. Here is the manifestation of the Son of God in glory, the demonstration of the sovereignty of God, and the beginning of the end of human rebellion.

20. How poverty stricken is any Christian theology which minimizes the second coming of Christ and how limited the Christian hope which does not include this glorious climax to God's announced program of exalting His Son and putting all creation under His control.

22. The story is told in Psalm two:

Psa 2:1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

Psa 2:3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

Psa 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Psa 2:5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

Psa 2:6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Psa 2:7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.

Psa 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

Psa 2:9 You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Psa 2:10 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

Psa 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.

Psa 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

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