

The Second Coming of Christ¹

Study 19. Revelation 19:5-21

By James T. Bartsch, WordExplain.com

A. Praise to God for the Impending Marriage of the Lamb. 19:5-10

1. What command does a voice from the throne give? 19:5a _____
_____.

 - a. Whom does he address? 19:5b God's _____ who _____
Him.
 - b. How else does the speaker identify God's slaves? 19:5c The _____
and _____.

2. John heard a great multitude respond in praise. 19:6a What did they sound like?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
3. What was the first praise the multitude uttered? 19:6b _____

4. Next, John heard a corporate call to praise from the vast multitude: "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him ..." 19:7a. What two reasons did the multitude cite as cause for praising God? 19:7b

¹ Study Title – The Second Coming of Christ: WordExplain carefully distinguishes between Christ's return for His Bride, the Church, which we call the Rapture, and His Second Coming in Power to judge the Earth and set up His Millennial Kingdom.

We believe Christ's return to earth takes place in two stages. In the first stage Christ returns part-way to earth to claim His Bride, the Church, and take her to heaven to purify her and make her fit for His Wedding with her. We call this first stage the Rapture, and its fundamental purpose is REUNION. This stage is described in passages such as John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18, and 1 Cor. 15:50-58. While the Church is being purified in heaven, a time of terrible Tribulation takes place upon earth. This time of unprecedented trouble is described in Revelation chapters 6-18.

The second stage of Christ's Second Coming is His return in power and glory to take vengeance on His enemies, destroy His military opponents, and judge all peoples, allowing the righteous survivors to inhabit His kingdom and repopulate the earth. All rebels, those who have not obeyed the gospel, will also be destroyed (Ezekiel 20:33-38; Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). A fundamental purpose behind this second stage of Christ's return is RETRIBUTION. The present passage (Rev. 19:11-21) deals exclusively with the RETRIBUTION stage of Christ's return.

- a. Because it was time for what? _____ 2
- b. And because who had made herself ready? _____ 3
5. The attire of the bride. 19:8
- a. What wedding attire was given to the bride? _____

- b. What does the fine linen represent? _____

6. An unnamed angel interacts with John. 19:9-10
- a. What did he instruct John to write? 19:9 _____
_____ 4 5

² 19:7 - the marriage of the Lamb: The Lamb can be none other than Jesus Christ, who, as a sacrificial lamb, died to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29, 36). For the Church, those who have trusted in Jesus to forgive them of their sins beginning at the Day of Pentecost and extending to the Rapture, Jesus is seen as a loving, sacrificial Lamb who died for their salvation. He is also a bridegroom, to whom they are to be eternally married. (It goes without saying that being part of Christ's Bride has nothing whatever to do with one's gender. Both men and women are part of Christ's Bride. The metaphor is one of intimacy, not gender stereotyping.) To the unbelievers, Jesus appears as a vengeful King of Kings and Lord of Lords with a sword coming out of his mouth to kill them (Rev. 19:11-21). Which would you rather be?

³ 19:7 - His bride has made herself ready: The bride can be none other than the Church (Grk. *ekklesia*, 1577). The term "Church" can refer neither to Israel nor to OT saints, for, in Matthew 16:18, Jesus predicted He would yet, in the future, build His Church upon Peter's proclamation that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the living God (Matt. 16:16). Jesus referred twice more to the church in Matt. 18:17, where He gave instructions about discipline therein. The next time the word "church" appears is in Acts 5:11, after the Church's founding on the Day of Pentecost. In Ephesians 5:22-32, the Church is portrayed as the Bride of Christ. Human husbands in a marriage are to treat their wives as lovingly as Christ does the Church. Likewise human wives are to submit to their husbands in all things as the Church does to Christ. The Church will be completed at the Rapture, when Christ comes to retrieve His bride to take her to His Father's house (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:50-53; 1 Thess. 1:10; 2:19; 4:13-18; 2 Thess. 2:1; Rev. 3:10).

⁴ 19:9 - Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb: These would include redeemed Jewish people and Gentiles who lived prior to and subsequent to the Church Age. Those invited cannot refer to the Church. A bride is never invited to her own wedding – she is featured at her own wedding! But in this case, the Bridegroom is far and away the *most* featured!

⁵ 19:9 - marriage supper of the Lamb: A Jewish wedding consisted of three parts: (1) Legal arrangements by the parents of the bride and groom, including the payment of a dowry; (2) the bridegroom coming to claim his bride as seen in Matthew 25:1-13; (3) and finally, a several-day wedding feast as seen in John 2:1-11. Christ's coming for His bride, the Church (the Rapture), coincides with phase 2. In Revelation 19:9, the marriage supper is phase 3. The feast will apparently take place during Christ's Millennial Kingdom here upon earth. Isaiah 25:6 seems to refer to this event.

- b. What reaction did John toward this angel? 19:10a _____

- c. What did the angel tell him? 19:10b _____

- d. Whom did he say to worship instead? 19:10c _____
- e. The angel added, literally, "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of the prophecy." 19:10d What he meant was that Jesus is the focal point of the prophecy of the book of Revelation. He is the One to be worshiped, not the angel!

B. The Presentation (Unveiling) ⁶ of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. 19:11-16

- 1. The setting of the unveiling. 19:11a
 - a. What did John see opened? _____
 - b. What animal did he see? _____
- 2. The description of the Warrior-King. 19:11b-16
 - a. The character of the rider on the white horse: What is He called in relation to His character? 19:11c
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - b. What is the policy by which He operates? 19:11d in _____

⁶ 19:11-16 title - Unveiling: The word I have chosen to convey the significance of this paragraph goes clear back to the very first word at the beginning of the Book of Revelation. In English, Rev. 1:1 begins, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." In Greek, the first word is *apocalupsis* (602), which means, literally "removal of the veil." So this entire book describes the Unveiling of Jesus in two senses. (1) He removes the veil from the future so we can read it and see what is going to happen; (2) He removes the veil from Himself so we can see Him descend from heaven in all His glory and power to conquer His enemies and set up His kingdom here upon the earth. When Jesus was here upon earth, He was veiled as an ordinary human being, but with extraordinary wisdom and power. His task was to serve others by offering Himself up on the cross as an obedient sacrifice to pay for the sins of the world. When He returns, He will descend upon earth as a powerful Divine-human King, blazing in fiery glory. His task will be to conquer evil and reign over all humanity in splendor and glory. His veil will have been removed!

- c. As He prepares to descend to earth, He has two objectives. What are they? 19:11e
- 1) Judicial: He _____
 - 2) Military: He _____⁷
- d. His appearance
- 1) What do His eyes look like? 19:12a _____
 - 2) What are on His head? 19:12b Many _____⁸
 - 3) What name was written on Him? 19:12c _____
 - 4) He was clothed with a robe dipped in _____ 19:13a⁹
- e. What is His name in relation to God? 19:13b _____¹⁰

⁷ 19:11 - in righteousness He judges and wages war: Christ, the Conquering King, is about to unleash True Jihad, True Holy War on the armies of the nations who have submitted to the beastly Antichrist (Rev. 13). The earth's armies will be in total rebellion against God and against His Christ (Psalm 2:2-3). He who sits in the heavens laughs in derision at their feeble efforts to revolt (Ps 2:4). In great anger and fury, God will install His Son on Zion, His holy mountain, and no rebellious human armies can stop Him (Ps. 2 5-6). God will give all the nations to the very ends of the earth to His Son to rule over with a rod of iron, and the Son will smash them like fragile pottery! (2:7-9). If kings and judges (and any other humans) upon the earth show any discernment at all, they will "do homage to (lit. kiss) the Son," worshiping Him so He will not be angry with them and they will not be destroyed (Ps 2:10-12). Holy War is anathema to western society. But it has been (wrongfully) practiced by Islam for centuries. When Christ returns, He will necessarily initiate deadly warfare, and it will be done in righteousness. This Righteous War is described, for example, in Psalm 2:9; 110:5-7; Isaiah 59:15b-19; 63:1-6; Ezek. 38:18-39:8; Zechariah 12:8-9; 14:3-15; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 2:8; Rev. 19:17-21.

⁸ 19:12 - many diadems: A diadem "was a blue band with white marking used by Persian kings to bind on their royal crown" (Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 8-22 – an Exegetical Commentary*, p. 123, citing A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, 6:389. King Jesus had many diadems to bind on his (presumed) crown. According to Thomas, the diadems symbolize royal power.

⁹ 19:13 - robe dipped in blood: Though one might think this bloody robe symbolizes Christ's sacrificial death as the Lamb on the cross, the context indicates otherwise. The context is one of judgment and jihad, and the Rider has diadems on His head symbolizing rulership and authority. The reference is to Isaiah 63:1-6, where Yahweh comes from Bozrah in Edom with His robe dyed red, spattered with the blood of His victims, whom He has judged in His fury. Rev. 19:13 is the fulfillment of the prediction of Isa. 63:1-6. The results are spelled out in Rev. 19:21!

¹⁰ 19:13 - Word of God. Christ's name, the Word of God, is revealed in John 1:1-3 and 14. In the Old Testament the pre-incarnate Christ was often identified as the Angel (Messenger) of Yahweh. In the New Testament He is the final Word (Message) of Yahweh (Hebrews 1:2).

- f. His armies. John saw some armies. 19:14
- 1) From what place did the armies come? _____
 - 2) With what were they clothed? _____
_____ ¹¹
 - 3) Whom were they following? _____
 - 4) On what were they riding? _____
- g. His weapon. 19:15a
- 1) What came from his mouth? _____ ¹²
 - 2) What was its purpose? _____
- h. His rule over the nations. 19:15b
- 1) How severe will his rule over the nations be? He will rule them with what? _____
 - 2) What description is given of the ferocity and motivation of His rule?

- i. His name in relation to man. 19:16
- 1) He had a name written on two places. Where were they written?

 - 2) What is His name? _____ and

¹¹ 19:14 - fine linen, white and clean: For the significance of the apparel, see Rev. 19:8. Whether or not this terminology indicates that the Lamb's bride, the Church (19:7-8), participates in the ensuing battle on the earth, the garments reflect the purity of the deeds of the heavenly armies. War was never what God intended from the beginning of man's existence on a pristine earth (Genesis 1-2), but war is sometimes necessary and justifiable as a means of purging evil from the earth.

¹² 19:15 - From His mouth comes a sharp sword: What John sees is symbolic. What it means is that Christ will kill the troops of the nations who war against Him on earth simply by speaking their demise. The most powerful weapons on earth will be utterly impotent against the verbal command of the Creator King returning to claim His domain and set up His Kingdom! See also 2 Thess. 2:8.

C. The Crushing Victory of the King of Kings over the Beast, over the Kings of the Earth, and over their Armies. 19:17-21

1. The invitation to the Great Supper of God. 19:17-18

- a. John next saw an angel. Where was he standing? 19:17a _____

- b. This angel cried out with a loud voice. Whom did he address? 19:17b

- c. To what did he invite them? 19:17c _____
- d. What would be their diet at “The Great Supper of God?” The flesh of
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) those who _____ on them
 - 6) the flesh of _____ both
 - a) _____ men and _____
 - b) and _____ and _____

2. The demise of the Beast and his Regime 19:19-21

- a. The opponents. 19:19
 - 1) On the side of evil, whom did John see?
 - a) The _____¹³

¹³ 19:19 - the beast: He is the evil world ruler who will arise from a future Revived Roman Empire. He will, for a time, submit to the false religion of Babylon (Rev. 17). Then he will destroy the false religion and its base of power (Rev. 18), and will, briefly gain control over the whole world (Rev. 13), setting himself up as the supernatural, true Messiah (2 Thess. 2:3-4). For a description of the beast, see Rev. 13:1-10; 17:3, 7-14, 16-17. See also Daniel 11:36-45; 2 Thess. 2:3-4, 8-10; 1 John 2:18. But the beast will meet Someone infinitely more powerful than he (Rev. 19:20).

- b) the _____ of the _____
- c) and their _____ assembled to make _____
- 2) On the side of good, whom did John see against whom the beast and his forces wished to wage war?
 - a) against the One who _____
 - b) and against His _____
- b. The seizure. 19:20a. Who was seized?
 - 1) The _____
 - 2) and with him the _____
 - a) What had this false prophet been able to do? _____

 - b) Whom had he deceived?
 - i Those who received the _____ of the _____
 - ii Those who had _____ his _____
- c. The terrible destiny of the beast and false prophet. 19:20b. Into what were these two thrown alive? _____

- d. The annihilation of the beast's army. 19:21
 - 1) How were the soldiers of the beast's army killed? _____

 - 2) Who killed them? _____
 - 3) What happened to their carcasses? _____

¹⁴ 19:21 - all the birds were filled with their flesh: This is the Great Supper of God, quite to be distinguished from the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9). The Great Supper of God is also predicted in Ezekiel 39:17-20 and Zechariah 14:12-15. What will happen after this ghastly battle is finished is predicted in Ezek. 39:21-29; Zech. 14:16-21; Ezek. 40-48 and Rev. 20:1-6, among scores of other passages.

D. Food for Thought

1. Are you part of Jesus Christ's Bride, or are you one of the rebels who will be destroyed by Him at His coming? _____

2. What is your basis for identifying yourself as one or the other? _____

3. If you are not yet part of Christ's Bride and would like to be, here, briefly, is how to do so.
 - a. Acknowledge your own sin and rebellion against God. Romans 3:23
 - b. Acknowledge that your sin makes you worthy of death. Romans 6:23a
 - c. Realize that God loves you so much He sent Jesus the King to die in your place for all your sins. Romans 5:8
 - d. Place your trust completely in Jesus, who died, and rose from the grave for you. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. If you do,
 - 1) You will be forgiven of all your sins. Acts 13:38-39
 - 2) And you will be given the gift of eternal life. John 3:16-18, 36; 5:24
 - e. As a sign you have been forgiven, have received eternal life, and are trusting in Jesus alone (Ephesians 2:8-9), ask to be baptized. Matthew 28:18-19.
 - f. Dedicate the rest of your life to obeying Jesus and serving God out of gratefulness. Matthew 28:20; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 2:10.
 - g. Actively become part of a church near you that proclaims the Bible as the infallible Word of God (not merely the word of fallible men). Hebrews 10:23-25
 - h. Read and study the Word of God daily to gain instruction and strength. Psalm 119:9, 11, 105; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12
4. Kings are meant to be obeyed. Have you submitted your life and your future to the King of kings and Lord of lords?

The Second Coming of Christ

Study 19. Revelation 19:5-21.

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

Published Online October, 2012 by WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Bible quotations and Bible Study questions, except as otherwise indicated, are based upon the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation. (www.Lockman.org)