

Revelation 19
The Second Coming and the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb
Duluth Conference - Racing Through Revelation
Saturday, October 9, 2021

19:1-6 Four hallelujah choruses are proclaimed in response to God's defeat of Babylon, initiated by the tribulation martyrs, continued by the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures, and crescendo'ing to include all saints from all periods of history.

19.1. **Hallelujah** is a Hebrew word transliterated into Greek and English, meaning "praise the LORD."

19.1.1 **Hallelujah** is used only four times in the NT, all in this passage (19:1, 3, 4, 6)

19.1.2 The **great multitude** are tribulation martyrs.

19.2 Their prayer from 6:10-11 is being answered. Revelation is full of allusions to the OT. One of these is to Ps 104:35, one of the Hallel Psalms, another is to Ps 19:9, another to Deut 32:43, another to 2 Kgs 9:7 as well as references to previous passages in Rev, specifically Rev 6:10 and 7:10,

19.3 There is an allusion to Isa 34:10.

19.6 The **great multitude** here are saints from all ages of history to this time.

19:7-10 The time for the wedding banquet of the Lamb has come, since the wife, the church, has already made herself ready, having been rewarded.

19.7 The word **marriage** should be translated "wedding banquet." The same Greek word is found in verse 9 where it is translated "marriage supper" or "wedding banquet." Context determines how it should be translated here.

19.7.1 Ancient Marriage Customs had Three Phases

19.7.2 Betrothal - bridegroom paid price making covenant. Drank cup of wine with father of the bride. Went away to his father's house. Bride prepared for wedding.

19.7.3 Marriage - bridegroom came for bride unexpectedly, usually at night. Took her to father's house. Marriage and consummation. Kept veiled for seven days.

19.7.4 Banquet - brought wife out to the guests. Provided the festivities according to his ability.

19.7.5 All three of these relate to Christ and His bride, the church. Betrothed at the cross, married at the rapture, banquet during the kingdom. The phase in view here is the third phase. The church is already married, so not the bride, but the *wife*, and this is not the marriage, but the *wedding banquet*.

19.8 **clothe herself** - this is not the righteousness of Christ, but rewards for righteous acts. These are her "going away" clothes; what she will wear to the wedding banquet.

19.9 **Those who are invited to the wedding banquet** - saints from early Genesis, OT Israel, and tribulation saints. Shows distinctions between church and Israel as well as other groups. Church is wife; Israel is invited to the wedding banquet.

19:11-16 The Messiah returning with His bride from heaven descends on a horse in royal attire with His diadems and troops in His battle fatigues with wrath.

19.11 **white horse** - reminds us of the 6th seal, but that was the anti-Christ, this is the true Christ. Riding a white horse signifies victory/triumph.

19.12 **eyes a flame of fire** - penetrating judgment

19.12.1 **many diadems** - the beast had ten diadems, Christ has many. The diadem was technically the jewel in the crown, which was a turban.

19.13 **robe dipped in blood** - battle fatigues, perfect tense, so already bloody from past conflicts in holy war (think Joshua and the conquest).

19.13.1 **The Word of God** - reminds us of John 1:1-14

19.14 **armies** is better “troops.” They are wearing the same clothes as the wife, so this is the church coming with Him, also on white horses signifying victory/triumph.

19:15 - **a sharp sword** - the ρομφαία (romphaia), so long it could be thrown as a spear.

It is His instrument of judgment, and signifies His word.

19.15.1 **the wine press** reminds us of Joel 3:13; Isa 63, and Rev 14:20-21.

19.16 **on His robe and His thigh** - the writing extends from on His robe onto His thigh.

19.17-21 The time for the great banquet has come, and the birds are assembled to feast on the flesh of the Messiah’s enemies. He takes into custody the anti-Christ and the false prophet and throws them alive into the lake of fire. The rest are killed by His word and the birds are filled.

19.17 **assemble for the great supper** - another banquet, but this one for the birds, prior to the one in the kingdom for the church and the guests. **Assemble** is in the passive voice, so the birds are gathered in a way similar to how the animals were gathered to Noah and the ark.

19.18 The flesh of the enemy will not be buried, a great insult in the ancient world (cf Ahab and Jezebel).

19.19 **assembled to make war** - also passive voice, so they are assembled by outside force. See the three spirits sent out in Rev 16:13-16 to accomplish this task.

19.20 **beast seized** - taken into custody, along with the false prophet. Second and third member of counterfeit Trinity taken care of first. The first member will be taken care of in Rev 20.

19.21 **the rest killed** by His mere word. Other judgments will follow for those who did not take up arms against Him at the final battle in Israel. These judgments described in Ezek 20:34-38 (Jews); Matt 24:45-25:46 (Jews and Gentiles).