

HEAVEN'S HALLELUJAH CHORUS

(Rev 19:1-6) 05-31-20

Grace Bible Church, Gillette, Wyoming

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I. HALLELUJAH'S MEANING

A. Meaning of Hallelujah

1. Two Words - Hallelujah is actually two Hebrew words and not a compound (“*hallelu-yah*”). “*Hallelu*” means “praise” and *Yah* is a shortened form of the divine name “*Yahweh*.” In the OT it is translated as “Praise the LORD!”
2. Hallelujah Psalms - The revered word is a liturgical interjection similar to “Amen! It is found some 24 times in the OT and only in the Psalms. These Psalms are called the “Hallelujah Psalms” (Psa 104-106; 111-113; 115-117; 135; 146-150).
 - a. Some Psalms contain the word at the “close” of the Psalm (Psa 106:48*).
 - b. Some Psalms contain the word at the “beginning” of the Psalm (Psa 113:1*).
 - c. Some Psalms contain the word at the “beginning” and the “close” of the Psalm (Psa 150:1, 6)
3. Hallel Psalms - Psalms 113-118 are called the “Hallel Psalms” or “Egyptian Hallel” and were sung at the feasts of the Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles and Dedication (cf. Mat 26:30).
4. Revelation - The word “hallelujah” is used four times in the NT and only in Revelation. They are all found in the beginning of chapter 19 (Rev 19:1, 3, 4, 6).
5. Revered Word - The word is a revered Hebrew word and therefore is transliterated and pronounced the same way in every language.

B. Significance - The significance of “Hallelujah!” In Revelation 19 is that it is an important turn in the narrative because it is anticipating the end of the Tribulation and the return of Christ. In addition, it is a special praise toward God who brought salvation and deliverance to His people and judgment to His enemies.

II. HALLELUJAH FOR SALVATION (1)

A. After These things - The phrase “**after these things**” means a shift in the narrative (Rev 1:19; 4:1; 7:9; 9:12; 15:5; 18:1; 19:1; 20:3). There is a shift from the destruction of Babylon to the praise just before the 2nd Coming of Christ.

B. Loud Voice - The **loud voice of a great multitude** is not a contradiction but a description of a multitude of voices in perfect unison. The sound is coming from **heaven** and though it does not identify the voices they are most likely angels. Though they make be singing, it states that they were **saying**, perhaps in the style of “recitation.”

C. Hallelujah - They begin with the first liturgical interjection of “Hallelujah!” It was a revered praise of the Lord for His salvation.

D. Salvation

1. Angels - If these are the words of angelic beings, it becomes extremely interesting because angels do not experience salvation but long to look into these things (1Pe 1:12).

2. Atonement - Any idea of salvation must begin with Christ who provided atonement on the cross. The prophets and apostles ascribed salvation to Christ (Rev 7:10 cf. 1Pe 1:10-12*).
 3. Deliverance - The OT emphasized salvation as “deliverance” (Exo 14:13*). This concept is most likely what is meant here. The Lord is bringing about His salvation in that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of Christ (Rev 11:15*) and His enemies will be thrown down (Rev 12:10*).
- E. Glory - The Lord receives all credit and **glory** for His salvation and deliverance. The salvation of His people results in praise to the glory of God (Psa 106:47; Rev 21:23-24).
- F. Power - God’s **power** is exalted because He is omnipotent and has brought salvation to His people through Christ’s 1st and 2nd Coming.

III. HALLELUJAH FOR JUDGMENT (2-3)

- A. Hallelujah for Judgment (2) - The other side of salvation would be that God delivered His people from His enemies through judgment. Therefore, there is a Hallelujah for God’s **judgments** (cf. Psa 104:35).
- B. God is True and Righteous - God’s judgments are **true** and **righteous** because God is true and righteous (Rev 16:7). That is the reason why God judged the Great Harlot (Rev 17:1). In fact, if God did not judge Babylon, He would not be true and righteous. God’s people understand that truth and therefore declare Hallelujah for God’s judgments.
- C. Great Harlot - The **Great Harlot** is the False Religious System supported by the beast (Rev 17:3). She **corrupted** the world with her spiritual adultery. She also shed the **blood** of God’s people (Rev 18:24). By God’s righteousness He avenges the martyrdom of His people (Rev 6:9-10; 16:5-6).
- D. Second Hallelujah (3) - In fact, God’s judgment on Babylon deserved two “Hallelujahs” (“**second time**”). Not only was God’s judgment on Babylon true and righteous, but it was final, permanent, and irreversible (“**smoke rises up forever and ever**”).
- E. Permanent Ending - Since the text is referring to a city and a system, it is not referring to eternal punishment but rather a permanent ending to man’s most powerful empire in human history.

IV. HALLELUJAH BY TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS (4)

- A. Hallelujah by the Church - We have viewed the identification of the “**twenty-four elders**” as the raptured church throughout the entire book of Revelation (Rev 4:4; 4:10; 5:8; 11:16). Here they are the ones (along with the four living creature, angelic Seraphim - Rev 4:6; 4:8; 5:6; 5:8; 5:14; 6:1; 6:6; 7:11; 14:3; 15:7) who are proclaiming “**Hallelujah.**”
- B. Sacred Interjections - The twenty-four elders assumed their favorite position, that is, prostrate (“**fell down**”) before the throne in **worship**. They gave two revered interjections, “**Amen**” (revered agreement of God’s truth and righteousness) and “**Hallelujah**” (revered praise to the Yahweh). Both words are Hebrew transliterations.
- C. Believers in Heaven - If a believer wonders what he will be doing in heaven, here is a vivid picture. He will be in the presence of God, He will be preoccupied with adoration and worship, and He will continually give sacred praise and thanks to God for His salvation and judgments.

V. HALLELUJAH IN HEAVENLY PRAISE (5)

- A. Universal Praise - The unidentified **voice from the throne**, most likely an angelic being (Rev 4:6; 5:6, 11; 7:11), called for universal heavenly praise. It is the appropriate response for those in heaven, angelic beings, the raptured Church, and the martyred Tribulation saints.
- B. Quote - *In the worship scenes of chapters 5-7 we saw the elders, the church, and the uncounted numbers of angels and created intelligences all worshipping God. Now a great number of tribulation saints has been added to the chorus, and they are going to sing. This is something quite marvelous. This is the first time they have been able to utter the great note of praise of the Old Testament---Hallelujah! ...It is reserved for the final victory* (McGee).
- C. Hallel Reference - This appears to be an allusion to the Hallel Psalms with a call to “**give praise to our God**” (Psa 113:1*). The church is included in the description as “**His bondservants.**” The Hallel exhorted all who **fear Him, the small and the great** to bless the Lord (Psa 115:13*).

VI. HALLELUJAH FOR THE LORD’S REIGN (6)





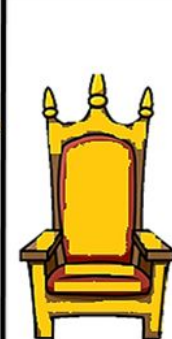
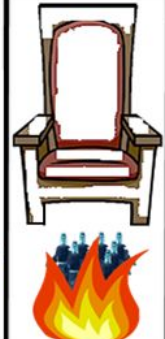

- A. As the residents in heaven proclaim and sound out in unison, John compares it to the harmonized “**sound of many waters.**” In addition, the sounds of the voices completely filled heaven as “**mighty peals of thunder.**”
- B. A final Hallelujah is proclaimed by all. This time it was for the **Lord God, Almighty who reigns**. It is akin to the Hallelujah Psalms (Psa 146-150 cf. Psa 146:10*) that repeatedly praise God for His sovereign rule.
- C. The Lord God was described as “**Almighty**” (*pantokratōr* - *all & powerful, omnipotent*, Rev 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 21:22) because He defeated the great empire and will shortly defeat all foes through Christ’s return. He will set up His kingdom and Christ will rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 19:16).

VII. OBSERVATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

- A. Messiah in the Hallel
1. Jesus Sang the Hallel on way to Mt of Olives (Mat 26:30)
 2. Possibly they sang Psa 118:22-26 (cf. Mat 21:42; Act 4:11; 1Pe 2:7).
 3. *This psalm [Psa 118:22-26], along with Ps. 110, is intensely messianic and thus the most quoted by the NT (Matt. 21:9, 42; 23:39; Mark 11:9, 10; 12:10, 11; Luke 13:35; 19:38; 20:17; John 12:13; Acts 4:11; Heb. 13:6; 1 Pet. 2:7). MSB*
- B. Attributes of God in the Hallel
1. He is eternal (Psa 106:48).
 2. His lovingkindness is everlasting (Psa 106:1).
 3. The truth of the LORD is everlasting (Psa 117:2).
 4. The LORD is good (Psa 135:3).
 5. The LORD will reign forever (Psa 146:10).
- C. Believers in the Hallel
1. They are to proclaim Hallelujah...
 2. In the courts of the LORD’S house (Psa 116:19).
 3. For His lovingkindness toward us (Psa 117:2).
 4. To sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant *and* praise is becoming (Psa 147:1).
 5. To sing a new song, *And* His praise in the congregation of the godly ones (Psa 149:1).

6. To praise the LORD from the heavens and in the heights (Psa 148:1).
7. To proclaim the Lord's praise it forever (Psa 115:18).
8. Psa 150:1 and 6 state the believer's response best.
 - a. Hallelujah! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse (1).
 - b. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Hallelujah (6)
9. But there is one more precious proclamation of Hallelujah and it is by the church, not in Psalms but in Revelation 19:6. John wrote that the last usage of the "twenty-four elders" in the book of Revelation is found falling prostrate in the presence of the Lord and saying that magnificent and revered word, "Hallelujah!.... For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns."

EVENTS IN REVELATION (Chapters)


1-3	4-5	6-18	19	20	20	21-22
						
Church Age (Eph 3:4-6)	Church in Heaven (1Th 4:14-17)	7-Year Trib. (Jer 30:7) (Dan 9:24-27)	2nd Advent (Tit 2:13)	Millennial Kingdom (Rev 20:1-6)	Great White Throne (Rev 20:11-15)	New City Heaven & Earth

JUDGMENTS IN THE TRIBULATION

HARLOT AND THE BEAST (17:1-18)		(Rev 17:1-18-24)
FALL OF BABYLON (Rev 18:1-24)		
	Heaven's Hallelujah (19:1-6)	Christ's Return (Rev 19:11-21)
	Marriage of the Lamb (19:7-10)	
	Return of Christ (19:11-16)	
	Battle of Armageddon (19:17-19)	
	Lake of Fire - Antichrist (19:20-21)	

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