

THINGS WHICH MUST SHORTLY COME TO PASS

A STUDY OF REVELATION—PART 31

Revelation 19

As we begin this triumphant chapter, we are reminded of an event which took place on March 23, 1743. On that day Handel's *Messiah* was performed for the first time in England. King George was in attendance and was deeply moved as the "Hallelujah Chorus" was sung. When the words "For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" were rendered, King George reportedly stood to his feet and stood until the end of the performance. From that time until the present when the "Hallelujah Chorus" is performed, people stand and acknowledge the Saviour of the music.

When Handel composed *Messiah*, he was so enraptured that for 23 days he hardly ate or slept. At times he would run to the harpsichord, waving his arms and singing, "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"

It is reported that Handel said while composing this masterpiece, "I think, I did see all Heaven before me, and the Great God Himself."

Revelation 19 gave Handel the words and inspiration for his classical piece.

- I. THE 1ST ALLELUIA IS SEEN (REVELATION 19:1, 2)**
- A. Let's note the phrase "...and after these things..." (v. 1)
 - 1. The apostate religious system has been destroyed. (*Revelation 17:1, 19:2*)
 - 2. The economic political system has been destroyed. (*Revelation 18*)
 - 3. Now the final opposition will be destroyed. (*Revelation 19:18-21*)
 - B. At this point in Revelation, the Tribulation comes to a close.
 - C. The meaning of the word "alleluia":
 - 1. This is the only time in the New Testament this word is used.
 - 2. The word means "Praise the Lord".
 - D. The multitude in Heaven is seen. (v. 1)
 - 1. There will be billions in Heaven—"...much people..." (v. 1)
 - 2. They now acknowledge the full circle of salvation.
 - 3. What Jesus began at Calvary now comes to full fruition.
 - 4. Because of redemption they are saying "alleluia." (v. 1)
 - 5. They are brands plucked from the burning.
 - 6. They have been kept by His power.
 - 7. He has now brought them to Immanuel's Land!
 - 8. They now claim in unison that salvation is of the Lord.
 - E. They are praising our Lord.
 - 1. For all He has done. (v.1)
 - 2. For who He is. (v. 1)
 - 3. For where He is. (v. 1—"Heaven")

II. THE SECOND ALLELUIA IS SEEN (REVELATION 19:3)

- A. This is the alleluia of retribution of sinners. (v.2, 3)
 - 1. In 19:1, we saw the goodness of God.
 - 2. Now we see the severity of God. (19:2-3)
- B. Satan's super-church has been erased.
 - 1. The ecumenical shrine is smoldering in the dust.
 - 2. The empire of evil has collapsed.
- C. God has brought eternal destruction on Satan's false kingdom.
 - 1. "...her smoke rose up for ever..." (v.3)
 - 2. God has avenged those who persecuted the church.
 - 3. There may not be a lot of justice in the courtrooms of this world, but one day we will say "alleluia" for the justice found in our God when He rights wrong.

III. THE THIRD ALLELUIA IS SEEN (REVELATION 19:4, 5)

- A. The sovereignty of God is praised:
 - 1. By the 24 elders (v. 4)
 - 2. By the four beasts. (v. 4)
 - 3. By all of His servants. (v. 5)
 - 4. By small and great. (v. 5)
- B. At His sovereignty:
 - 1. They fall before Him. (v. 4)
 - 2. They worship Him. (v. 4)
 - 3. They praise Him. (v. 5)
 - 4. Heaven is a place of praise.
 - 5. Praise should be a part of our worship as well!

IV. THE FOURTH ALLELUIA IS SEEN (REVELATION 19:6)

- A. The reign of our Lord Jesus Christ is seen. (v. 6)
- B. No wonder they say alleluia!
 - 1. Our God is supreme.
 - 2. Our God is omnipotent.
 - 3. Our God is eternal.
- C. All of God's people are praising Him:
 - 1. Every being in the universe.
 - 2. The 24 elders.
 - 3. The four beasts.
 - 4. The church of the redeemed.
 - 5. The martyred Tribulation saints.
 - 6. Every redeemed creature.
- D. The description of their praise is set forth. (v. 6)
 - 1. They sounded like a "...great multitude..." (v. 6)
 - a. They are trying to describe the praise for us.
 - b. Think about a huge football stadium filled with fans.
 - c. A winning touchdown is made in the final seconds.
 - d. There is a deafening roar.
 - 2. Like "...the voice of many waters,..." (v. 6)

- a. Like cascading waters.
- b. Think about the sound at Niagara Falls.
 - i. Six million cubic feet of water rush over Niagara Falls every minute.
 - ii. Multiply that thousands of times.
3. The praise for our Lord in Heaven:
 - a. Swells
 - b. Reverberates
 - c. Rolls
 - d. Echoes
 - e. Grows
4. Their praise sounds like "...mighty thunderings,..." (v. 6)
 - a. I have been awakened during the night with thunder.
 - b. It literally shook my house.
 - c. The praise for our Lord will be heard in the universe for He is worthy!

V. HERE COMES THE BRIDE AND GROOM (REVELATION 19:7)

- A. They got there by the Rapture. (*Revelation 4:1*)
- B. In weddings, the bride usually gets the attention.
 1. This wedding is different in that respect.
 2. Jesus is the center of attention.
 3. Please note: "...give honor to him:..." (19:7)
 4. "...the marriage of the lamb is come,..." (19:7)
- C. The wife has been made ready. (19:7)
 1. This takes place at the Bema.
 2. The "righteousness" needs explanation.
 - a. This is not the righteousness of Christ.
 - b. The word means the righteous acts of saints.
 - c. Our garment will be composed of our works during our lifetime here on earth.
 - i. Let's get it straight!
 - ii. We are not going to Heaven by our works.
 - iii. However, our works will be revealed at the Bema.
 - iv. Those works will compose our outward garment.
- D. The invited guests are seen. (19:9)
 1. They are "called." (v. 9)
 2. It is not the bride, because she is never invited to her own wedding.
 3. Probably, we are looking at the Old Testaments saints.
 4. John the Baptist was a friend of the bridegroom: "*He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.*" (John 3:29)
- E. Worship the right person. (v. 10)
 1. At the radiance of the angel, John fell at his feet.
 2. John had made a breach of etiquette.
 3. The angel would not allow John to worship him. (v. 10)

FOR THE TIME IS AT HAND

A 52-Week Study of the Book of Revelation

Week 31

DR. RON BAITY

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- a. The angel would have been in trouble for allowing it to happen.
 - b. John would have been in trouble for doing so!
- F. There is only One worthy of our worship. (*v. 10*)
1. The angel brought "...the testimony of Jesus:..." (*v. 10*)
 2. His advice was, "...worship God:..."
- G. The event is certainly near.
1. The final battle will soon be fought. (*19:11-21*)
 2. Evangelist Paul Raider said years ago, "We are living so close to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ that I can hear the tinkling of the silverware as the angels are setting the table for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb."