**VICTORIOUS LIFE CHURCH BIBLE STUDY**

[**REVELATION 19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19&t=NKJV)

**JESUS RETURNS AS CONQUERING LORD**

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**Revelation 19**

**And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 3 And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. 5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 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. 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. 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.**

To this point in Revelation, earth has been subjected to a series of judgments by God. These were first described as seal judgments (Revelation 5—8), the trumpet judgments (Revelation 8—11), and finally the bowl judgments (Revelation 12—16). The last two chapters gave a poetic description of the fall of "Babylon," both as a corrupt religious system and as the political and economic empire of the Antichrist (Revelation 17—18). Here, John witnesses prayers from heaven which precede a great celebration, followed by the triumphant return of Jesus Christ to earth. John now hears a great number of voices praising God. This includes the voices of the twenty-four elders mentioned in earlier passages (Revelation 4:4). Their song proclaims God's justice and once again celebrates the defeat of the "great prostitute" of prior verses. These songs thank God for avenging those who have been martyred for the sake of their faith (Revelation 19:1–5). John then witnesses further praise, this time in the context of a marriage supper. This is an event mentioned many times in Scripture (Matthew 22:1–14; 25:1–13). John's amazing vision in this section also includes the long-awaited second coming of Jesus Christ. This is a moment of incredible triumph. Jesus' first arrival on earth was humble (Luke 2:7) and involved His sacrificial death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). His return is neither humble nor meek. Christ is described as a royal conqueror, wearing a robe dipped in the blood of His enemies, at the helm of the armies of heaven. Now displayed as the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus will single-handedly obliterate the earthly armies which have amassed against Him (Isaiah 63:3). This results in the damnation of the Antichrist and False Prophet, who become the first two beings cast into the eternal lake of fire (Revelation 19:11–21). These events mark the end of the tribulation, and the beginning of the millennial kingdom: a thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. Chapter 20 details this era of the end times. This will be followed by a last-ditch Satanic rebellion, a final victory, and the last judgments on mankind.

**Praise in heaven.**

**(1-5) Praise for the judgment of Babylon.**

**After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.” Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!” And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!” Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”**

Back in [Revelation 7:9-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+7.9-14&t=NKJV), we saw a great multitude saved out of the Great Tribulation, ready for the end of the world system and the Antichrist’s reign on earth. Here, this **great multitude**, the **twenty-four elders and the four living creatures** all join in celebrating the fall of the Antichrist and the world system that supported him. A part of this **great multitude** – those martyred saints who fell at the hand of Antichrist during the Great Tribulation – cried out for God’s righteous judgment in [Revelation 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+6.10&t=NKJV). Here, finally, their prayer is answered. A three time repeated praise goes forth, **Alleluia… Alleluia… Alleluia**: This wonderful word, borrowed from Hebrew, occurs four times in [Revelation 19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19&t=NKJV), but nowhere else in the New Testament. It belongs here – because God’s people rejoice without restraint at His victory over Babylon. **Alleluia** is Hebrew for “Praise the Lord,” saying it in the imperative sense. It is an encouragement and an exhortation to Praise the Lord! “Anselm of Canterbury, considers it an angelic word, which cannot be fully reproduced in any language of man. Augustine said that that the feeling and saying of it embodies all the blessedness of heaven.” This section is really the climax of [Revelation 18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+18&t=NKJV). In [Revelation 18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+18&t=NKJV), Babylon’s friends mourned her fall; but here, God’s people celebrate it. Here, the focus of worship is on the great works of God, specifically, His work of righteous judgment. **Then a voice came from the throne**: This voice from the throne of God might be Jesus, but more likely it is the voice of one of the angels that serve at the throne of God.

**(6-9) Praise for the marriage of the Lamb.**

**And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”**

The height of praise on earth is only a dim shadow of what these verses describe. At this point, Revelation approaches the consummation of God’s plan for all history, so we also come to a summit of praise. This is obviously loud, enthusiastic praise. While it is certainly possible to make praise and worship a self-indulgent focus on our feelings or a disorderly expression of the flesh, there is nothing wrong with loud, enthusiastic praise. And while there is something precious and irreplaceable about quiet times alone with God, there is also something absolutely thrilling about a large number of Christians worshipping God with sincere enthusiasm. One reason this great multitude is so filled with praise is because the time has come for the **Lamb** of God to be joined unto His people, in a union so close it can only be compared to the **marriage** of a man and a woman. The **marriage of the Lamb**, who is the Messiah, is a picture used frequently throughout the Scriptures. In the Old Testament, Israel is presented as God’s wife, who is often unfaithful

**Hosea 2:19**

**I will betroth you to me forever;  I will betroth you in[a] righteousness and justice, in[b] love and compassion.**

**Isaiah 54:5**

**For your Maker is your husband—the Lord Almighty is his name— the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.**

In the New Testament, the church is presented as the fiancé of Jesus, waiting for this day of marriage

**2 Corinthians 11:2**

**I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.**

**Ephesians 5:25-32**

**25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing[a] her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”[b] 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.**

In Biblical times a marriage involved two major events, the betrothal and the wedding. These were normally separated by a period of time during which the two individuals were considered husband and wife and as such were under the obligations of faithfulness. The wedding began with a procession to the bride’s house, which was followed by a return to the house of the groom for the marriage feast. By analogy, the church, espoused to Christ by faith, now awaits the parousia when the heavenly groom will come for his bride and return to heaven for the marriage feast which lasts throughout eternity.” (Mounce) **And His wife has made herself ready**: What do we do to make ourselves ready for this wedding? There is much for us to do, but it is ultimately a work God does in us ([Ephesians 5:25-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.25-27&t=NKJV)). This point is emphasized when John notes, **to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright**. In this perfect union with Jesus, His people will be **clean and bright** before Him. Clean (katharos) reflects purity, loyalty and faithfulness, the character of the New Jerusalem… Bright (lampros) is the color of radiant whiteness that depicts glorification. **For the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints**: Believers are created for divinely prepared good works. These “righteousnesses” (**righteous acts**) are what fill the “hope chest” of the bride of Jesus. Paul spoke of his desire that Christians would be presented before the Lord pure:

**For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (**[2 Corinthians 11:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+11.2&t=NKJV))

This should be the desire of every Christian worker. Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb! Blessed indeed; Jesus Himself eagerly anticipated this marriage supper. He spoke longingly of the day when He will drink of the fruit of the vine again, with His disciples in the kingdom.

**Matthew 26:29**

**I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”**

In Jewish culture, the **marriage supper** was the best banquet or party anyone knew; it always was an occasion of tremendous joy. According to Rabbinical teaching, obedience to the commandments was suspended during a wedding celebration if obeying a commandment might lessen the joy of the occasion. **These are the true sayings of God**: This is a necessary note of assurance for us. This anticipated consummation will take place, and though it seems too good to be true, it will happen.

**And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”**

Why would such a godly man like John make such a blunder as this? “John either felt that the angel represented God or he was beside himself with excitement over the glorious consummation.” **See that you do not do that!** No created being should be worshipped. This is in contrast to Jesus, who receives the worship of angels ([Hebrews 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.6&t=NKJV)) and of men ([Matthew 14:33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+14.33&t=NKJV), [John 9:38](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+9.38&t=NKJV)).

**Hebrews 1:6**

**And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”**

**Matthew 14:33**

**33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”**

**John 9:38**

**38 Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.**

**I am your fellow servant**: There are important differences between humans and angels, but both are servants of the same Lord. **For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**: The true spirit of prophecy always shows itself in bearing witness to Jesus. “Any teaching of prophecy that takes our minds and hearts away from Him is not being properly communicated. This means that prophecy at its very heart is designed to unfold the beauty and loveliness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Jesus Christ returns to a hostile earth.**

**(11-16) Jesus returns to earth with an army from heaven.**

**Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:**

**King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**

There is a sense in which everything before this in the Book of Revelation is an introduction to this revelation (unveiling) of Jesus Christ. Now He returns to earth in power and glory. According to [Zechariah 14:3-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Zechariah+14.3-4&t=NKJV), when Jesus returns He will come first to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

**Zechariah 14:3-4**

**3 Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights on a day of battle. 4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.**

The plea of [Isaiah 64:1-2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+64.1-2&t=NKJV) is now fulfilled:

Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence; as fire burns brushwood, as fire causes water to boil; to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations may tremble at Your presence!

This prayer for deliverance will be on the lips of the Jewish people surviving through the Great Tribulation. Unlikely as it may seem now, they will cry out to Jesus their Messiah for deliverance, and as a whole, they will embrace Him as their Savior. As Jesus said in [Matthew 23:39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+23.39&t=NKJV): I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say,

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” Hard pressed by the terrible persecution of the Antichrist, Israel as a whole will turn their hearts towards Jesus, and He will deliver them at this late hour.

When Jesus comes, He comes on a white horse. In Biblical times – especially among Israel – most soldiers were foot soldiers. To have a horse in battle was a significant advantage. A horse spoke of honor, of power, and of speed; the color of this horse speaks of victory. In Christ triumphant ride through Jerusalem on Psalm Sunday He came riding on a colt or donkey coming to bring peace. He now comes on a white horse coming as a conqueror to make war wearing He is called and identified by several names, Faithful and True: This glorious title shows Jesus is the keeper of promises, including His promises of judgment. In righteousness He judges and makes war: Jesus comes as a judge and a general to make war. The world that rejected Him before rejects Him again, but this time Jesus judges those who reject Him.

**“The world likes a complacent, reasonable religion, and so it is always ready to revere some pale Galilean image of Jesus, some meager anemic Messiah, and to give Him a moderate rational homage.” (Torrance)**

**“Any view of God which eliminates judgment and his hatred of sin in the interest of an emasculated doctrine of sentimental affection finds no support in the strong and virile realism of the Apocalypse.” (Mounce)**

This is a Jesus we can’t control. Here we see Jesus as someone who demands not only our attention, but also our submission. It’s good for us to remember that this dramatic display of judgment comes only at the end of a long time of grace, patience, and mercy. This is no “rush to judgment.” Jesus has amply displayed His nature of mercy, forgiveness and grace to this fallen world. He comes now to judge a world hardened and totally given over to their rebellion against Him. Remember that He does it all in righteousness.

**Jesus is the only king who always wars in this fashion. There have been brilliant exceptions to the general rule, but war is usually as deceitful as it is bloody, and the words of diplomatists are a mass of lies. It seems impossible that men should deliberate about peace and war without straightway forgetting the meaning of words and the bonds of honesty: War still seems to be a piece of business in which truth would be out of place; it is a matter so accursed that falsehood is there most at home, and righteousness quits the plain. But as for our King, it is in righteousness that he doth judge and make war. Christ’s kingdom needs no deception: the plainest speech and the clearest truth – these are the weapons of our warfare.” (Spurgeon)**

His eyes were like a flame of fire: “Why are they like flames of fire? Why, first, to discern the secrets of all hearts. There are no secrets here that Christ does not see. On His head were many crowns: The last time this earth saw Jesus He wore a crown of thorns, but not in [Revelation 19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+19&t=NKJV). Now, He wears many crowns. The ancient Greek word used for crowns here is the diadema, the crown of royalty and authority, not the stephanos, the crown of achievement. The fact that there are many crowns means that Jesus is the ultimate in royal authority and power. It is a visible manifestation of what we mean when we say King of Kings. It is an expression of unlimited sovereignty. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood: His robe is dipped (or sprinkled) in blood. Bible students debate whether this is His own blood (reminding us of the cross) or the blood of His enemies. Either is quite possible. The armies in heaven: These are God’s people ([Revelation 17:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17.14&t=NKJV), Jude 14-15).

**Revelation 17:14**

**14 They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”**

**Jude 14-15**

**14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones 15 to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”[a]**

There is little doubt that angels will also accompany Jesus and His people, but the main idea is that the Son of God leads the people of God from heaven against earth. There is no mention of any kind of armor or weapon for any soldier in the great army that follows Jesus. The only armor or weapon they have is the only one they need: clothed in fine linen, white and clean. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword: The idea isn’t that Jesus holds a sword in his mouth like a buccaneer, or that He is “spitting swords.” This is a dramatic way of referring to the power of His Word. “Christ conquers by the power of His Word” (Johnson). Five times in the Book Revelation, John emphasizes that Jesus’ sword comes out of His mouth. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron: Jesus comes to rule and to reign in triumph, to rule the nations with a rod of iron as predicted in [Psalm 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+2&t=NKJV). He comes as King of Kings to displace every king reigning on this earth.

**He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords**: The name is on His **thigh** for prominence, being easily visible when seated on a horse. At the same time, **no one knew** [the name] **except Himself** – that is, no one can comprehend Him perfectly.

**(17-18) Invitation to the great supper.**

**Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.”**

This shows how bright this angels shines with the glory of God. The angel can be seen, even though it stands before the sun. Saying to all the birds that fly: This is a preparation for a great slaughter of Armageddon. The flesh of kings, the flesh of captains: The repetition of flesh (5 times) is revealing. The race has walked in carnal enmity against God, living after the flesh, and now the day of His patience is at an end. It also shows that men of all stations are judged. The high and the low together, if they remain hardened in their rejection of Jesus, will be judged. Gather together for the supper of the great God: Newell points to four different suppers described in the Bible.

· The supper of salvation, alluded to in Jesus’ parable ([Luke 14:16-24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+14.16-24&t=NKJV)).

· The Lord’s supper, a commemoration of Jesus’ sacrifice.

· The marriage supper of the Lamb.

· The supper of the great God.

If you reject the first supper, the second supper will mean nothing to you. Then you will not be present at the third supper, but will be present at the fourth supper. Everybody gets to attend at least one of these suppers, but some will eat and others are eaten at the suppers.

**(19-21) War and the victory of Jesus Christ.**

**And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.**

Armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the throne: Some find it hard to understand how man could be so foolish to try and keep Jesus and this heavenly army off the earth in a pitched battle. They suggest that these armies initially gather to battle against each other, and then turn their fury on the returning Jesus. This may be the case, but we should never underestimate man’s folly and hatred of God. This is just the logical extension of man’s constant war against God since the fall. It is no more unbelievable than the idea that God came to earth and men murdered Him. John wrote no description about a battle. This is an entirely one-sided affair, more of a simple act of judgment than a prolonged battle or war. The beast and the false prophet receive special treatment. They are cast alive into the lake of fire before the Great White Throne of judgment holds court ([Revelation 20:11-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.11-15&t=NKJV)). The lake of fire is what we normally consider hell. It is real, and there is nothing more important than avoiding it.