



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

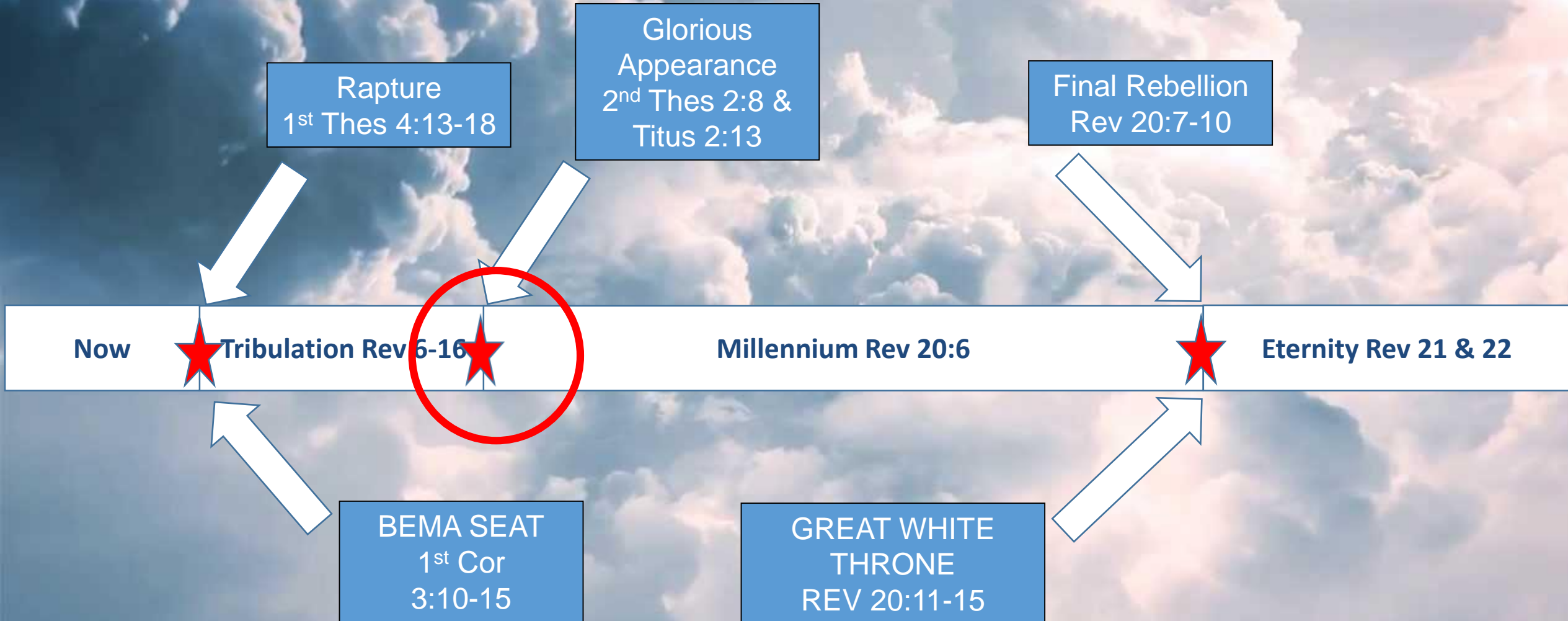
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Chapter 19

- **1** After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; **2** because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.” **3** And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.” **4** And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” **5** And a voice came from the throne, saying, “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.” **6** Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

The Chronology of the 'End Times'



★ = Resurrection

Chapter 19

- **1** After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; **2** because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.”
- Some call this section in Revelation 19 “The Fourfold Hallelujah”. It is, in fact the only time in the English translations of the bible, that the word “hallelujah” is used in this form.

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- The word means “praise the Lord” and that phrase is used multiple times in the Psalms, but the very first time it is used in the O.T. is in Psalm 104:35.
- Psalm 104:35 Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord.
- So the very first mention of this concept “praise the Lord” is spoken around the judgment of sinners and removing the wicked from the earth. (law of first reference)

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- So then we come to Revelation 19 and the first mention of the concept in the N.T. and guess what – it is used in relation to the judgment of sinners, and removing the wicked from the earth.
- But why would this be? After all, if God is love why would He take so much delight in the judgment of sin and wickedness?
- Ezek 18:23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

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- **There is great clarity in the bible with respect to God's view of sin – and there is also great clarity with respect to God's view of sinners.**
- **“Hate the sin, but love the sinner” is more than a cute little slogan – it is in fact God's position on the two.**
- **However, we dare not place more emphasis on one over the other – yes, God does love sinners, but He also hates sin, and will judge sin, because without His judgment of sin there can be no redemption of anyone, and therefore no end to the mess we live in today.**

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- **So when the voice from Heaven says, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; 2 because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.” – notice again that the “praise the Lord” comes because His judgment has come.**
- **This is counterintuitive to what the flesh would think, and to what the flesh wants to be true - but it is true.**
- **All of history’s loose ends are being tied up, and just as promised, God is bringing His plan to fruition – and that is why the “hallelujahs” break out.**

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- **3** And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.” **4** And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!”
- This is reminiscent Revelation 4 where we read, “**9** And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, **10** the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, **11** “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

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- I need to point out that the “hallelujah” comes because “Her smoke rises up forever and ever.” – again the hallelujah is associated with the judgment of God.
- Think about it this way – without God judging sin there is no salvation for anyone.
- It took God judging sin on the cross and upon Christ in order for us to be saved – Heb 9:22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (judgment)

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- **5 And a voice came from the throne, saying, “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.”**
- **So far we’ve had a loud voice from heaven, and the voices of the 24 elders saying, “hallelujah” – here in verse #5 we have a voice from the throne praising God.**
- **Rev 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.**

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- **6 Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.**
- **Who is this multitude? (probably the martyrs of the tribulation) Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, “Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”**

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- **So here is the picture – when God shows up at the end of what we would call human history, He shows up in judgment and meets out justice to the wicked.**
- **And that act of judgment on sin causes all of heaven to break out in a chorus of “Hallelujahs”.**
- **Why? Because unlike us, the citizens of heaven see far more plainly than we do the huge chasm between sin and righteousness.**

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- **7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.” 10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”**

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- 7 “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”
- So let’s begin with the participants in the marriage – the Lamb is Jesus. This can be established from Revelation 5 - 8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they *sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

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- So who is “His bride”? His bride is the church – 2nd Cor 11: 2 *For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.*
- In the ancient Jewish culture there were 3 phases to a wedding – the betrothal, the presentation, and the consummation.
- And what we come to understand is that the weddings of old were also pictures (types) of the relation God would one day have to his people.

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- **Isaiah 54: For your husband is your Maker, whose name is the Lord of hosts; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, who is called the God of all the earth. 6 “For the Lord has called you, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, even like a wife of one’s youth when she is rejected,” says your God.**
- **In the O.T. Israel is called the wife of God – in the NT it becomes clear that the church is the bride of Christ.**
- **Point – God has determined that His relationship to His people will be one of intimacy.**

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- Now this is interesting – it was not uncommon for two families to agree on a marriage of their children even before the children were born.
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.
- So just as we were chosen “in Christ” before we were ever born, ancient families would do the choosing for their as yet unborn children.

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- **The betrothal of the church to the Lamb happened in eternity past and became evident when we trusted in Christ.**
- **The presentation of the Bride happens at the Rapture of the Church when we are caught away by the bridegroom. (think of the parable of the 10 virgins and the oil in their lamps)**
- **The consummation of the wedding will be after the Judgment Seat of Christ (1st Cor 3), also known as the Bema Seat judgment.**

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- **At the Bema Seat in 1st Corinthians 3 all of the bride's impurities are burned up and she is also adorned from that point forward with jewels of gold, silver, and precious stones.**
- **Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.**

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- **When the bride is presented to her husband, the Lamb, she will no longer be encumbered by any sin – she will be sinless and spotless just as He is.**
- **1st John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.**
- **So the future sequence for the church is the Rapture, the Bema Seat, and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.**

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- **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is not tightly defined in scripture, but some theologians believe that it lasts for 1,000 years – the duration of the Millennial Kingdom.**
- **It will be a great celebration of the greatest wedding in all of history.**
- **But the imagery does not stop there – after the betrothal, the presentation, and wedding feast, the groom will take his bride to his home. (the new heaven and new earth)**

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- **John 14:1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.**
- **It was common practice in ancient Israel for the groom to build an addition (a room) on to his father's house and that is where the bride and groom would set-up housekeeping.**

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- 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.
- In addition to her jewels received at the Beam Seat, the bride is also given the ability to clothe herself in “fine linen” to further beautify her for her wedding and the “fine linen” is the “righteous acts of the saints”.
- When we were saved the righteousness of Christ was imputed to us – in other words, what He did counted for us.

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- Evidently, the glorified church will have more than an imputed righteousness, the glorified church will also be capable of doing her own righteous acts.
- This is not possible now, because we are in a constant battle with the flesh (see Romans 7) and even when we are doing the right things sin is still present with us.
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and *fellow heirs with Christ*, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also *be glorified with Him*.

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- 9 Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.”
- Matt 8:10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, “Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel. 11 I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;”
- So who is invited to the wedding? Not the bride, the bride never receives a wedding invitation as it is a given that she will be there.

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- **So who is invited? I think, based on Jesus' own parable in Matt chapter 8 where we see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob sitting at the table in the kingdom that the "invited" are all believers of all ages.**
- **Now if you follow this through you might conclude that while Israel played a special role in history, and that the church has been playing a special role in history, that at some point whether you are Jew, Gentile, OT saint, or NT Christian, we are all one household of faith and one family of God.**

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- So the invited are believers of all time – this would include the tribulation saints.
- Rev 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; *and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

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- **From verse #10 - “For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”**
- **So what does this phrase mean? Prophecy is always foretelling or forthtelling – one has to do with predictive revelations, and the other is has to do with telling what happened in the past relative to Jesus.**
- **In either case, whether predictive or preaching, if the message isn’t ultimately about Jesus and God’s redemptive plan, then the message is not of God.**

Questions