

Revelation: Lesson #106 – The King Reigns
Notes for Parents to Study With Their Children
For Wednesday, June 17th

Read Revelation 19:1 – 20:6 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes.)

Memory Verse: Rev. 19:16 “And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Heaven Say’s “Alleluia”

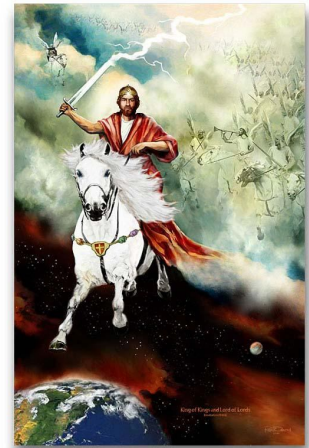
- John said that he could hear a large crowd in heaven saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and honor and glory and power unto the Lord our God...” The 24 elders also added their “Alleluia!” “Alleluia” as we sing in our song means “praise Jehovah”. We praise God because He has made a way for us to be saved. We should always honor God and know how glorious He is. We should realize that He is a powerful God.
- Heaven was rejoicing because God announced the judgment of the wicked woman who had shed the blood of God’s servants. We studied in our last lesson that this woman was the city of Rome that ruled over so much of the world at that time. It was the mightiest nation and the richest nation that had ever been, but God would bring it down.
- A voice came from God’s throne that said everyone should fear God. No matter how important we are or how unimportant we are in the world, we must respect God and worship Him. One day when you are grown you will have a lot of things you’ll probably want to do – go to college, get a job, get married, have a family. Those are all fine, but don’t forget how important God is. Don’t get too busy to respect Him and serve Him.

The Marriage of the Lamb

- John hears the sound of many voices thankful to God that He truly reigns over all. Then the voices said, “Let’s rejoice and be very glad, and give Him honor because the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”
- The Lamb was taking His bride. Jesus is the Lamb, but who is His bride? Several passages in the New Testament show that the church is the bride of Christ (Rom. 7:1-4; II Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:22-31).
- The Lamb’s bride had on a beautiful linen dress that shined brightly, but it is explained that this beautiful white clothing is really the righteousness of the God’s people. The Lord’s people are the most beautiful when they do the works God wants them to do. Thinking about how the world honored the sinful woman we studied about last time, but Jesus chooses the woman clothed in righteousness to be His bride.
- John was told, “Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!” In three of His parables, Jesus refers to His kingdom being like a marriage feast or wedding banquet (Matthew 22:1-14; Matthew 25:1-13; Luke 14:15-24). Those who are called are those who have obeyed the gospel, and become Christ’s followers. They are members of His church, citizens of His kingdom.

The Bridegroom is Ready to Wage War

- Jesus, the Lamb, loves His bride, the church. But the dragon, the beast and the false prophet are waging war against His bride. They have hurt her and mistreated her.
- He is ready to fight for His bride. So the next picture we see is the Lord riding a white horse. Several of these descriptions of Jesus have been seen before in Revelation:
 - Faithful and True (19:11; 3:14)
 - Eyes a fiery flame (19:12; 1:14; 2:18)
 - From mouth, a sharp sword (19:15; 1:16)
 - Rule with a rod of iron (19:15; 12:5; Psalm 2:9)
 - King of kings, Lord of lords (19:16; 17:14)
- The armies of heaven follow Him. These are His people, the same ones who wear the white linen. But remember the war God's people are in is not a battle like people fight on the earth, it is a spiritual battle. Eph. 6:11-12 says, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." We aren't fighting people, we are fighting the ways of the devil. Our armor includes things like truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation and the Word of God.
- Jesus the King riding on the white horse "wore clothing that had been dipped in blood". Isaiah 63:1-6 also uses this same picture: "Who is this coming...with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." "Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress?" "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing."
- Jesus would pour out His wrath on those that were hurting His people. Revelation 19:15 says, "He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of the God the Almighty."



The Defeat of the Beasts

- First, an angel calls for all the birds to come feast on the flesh of God's enemies. There is a passage very similar to this is Ezekiel 39:17-20. When things die, scavenger birds like buzzards start to circle in the air and finally come to eat the flesh of whatever has been killed. God is warning that many who persecuted His people would die as He fought against them.
- Back in Revelation 13 we remember that the first beast was the Roman Empire and the second beast (the false prophet) tried to get people to worship the emperors. Because Christians would not worship the emperor and the false gods of Rome, these enemies of God were all gathering together to make war against Jesus and against His army, but Christ's army wins. The beast and false prophet were captured and thrown in the lake burning with fire and brimstone.

- In time the Roman empire did collapse. So many problems had hit it, famine, plague, invading armies, and corruption that it fell apart. It finally quit persecuting Christians.

The Dragon is Bound

- The Dragon, the devil, had been using the beast and false prophet to wage war against God's people. He had used them to deceive the nations into following him and persecuting Christians. The King of kings had defeated the beasts, now He turned to the put a stop to the influence of the Devil.
- The Dragon is bound by a great chain and imprisoned for 1,000 years. During this time the devil could no longer use nations like he had used Rome to promote the worship of men and attack Christians for refusing to worship them. The devil would continue to tempt people to do evil, but the devil's influence to deceive nations into attacking Christians would be bound for many years.
- But John is told there will come a day when Satan will be loosed again for short while. He will once again be able to deceive governments into thinking they should eliminate Christianity. Christians may once again face persecution, but the Lord will return to rescue His people and put an end forever to the Devil's influence.

The Lord and His People Reign

- Many Christians had died through those terrible times of persecution. But their lives were not over. They had been faithful to Christ and never worshipped the beast or his image. Now they would live with Christ. They had no reason to ever be afraid of going to Hell. They would now reign with Christ for 1,000 years. Several passage in the New Testament talk about how the faithful will reign with Christ:
 - II Tim. 2:12 "If we endure, we shall also **reign with Him**. If we deny Him, He also will deny us."
 - Rom. 5:17 "Those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will **reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ."
 - Revelation 5:10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will **reign** upon the earth."
 - I Cor. 6:2 "Or do you not know that the saints will **judge** the world?"
- Would Christ's reign last for exactly 1,000 years? No, His reign lasts forever and ever (Lk. 1:33). His kingdom will go on forever in heaven after the world ends. The idea of 1,000 is used many times in Scripture to indicate a large amount of something. Many times it does not literally mean 1,000 (Job 9:3; Psalms 50:10; Deuteronomy 7:9; 1 Chronicles 16:15; Psalms 84:10; Ecclesiastes 6:6; 2 Peter 3:8).

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Heaven Say's "Alleluia" Because God Judged the Sinful Woman

19:1-2 And after I had watched the announcements of Babylon's fall, I could hear the loud voices of a large crowd in heaven saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and honor and glory and power unto the Lord our God because His judgments are true and righteous. He judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication. Her hand had shed the blood of God's servants, but now He has avenged them.

3 And once again they said, "Alleluia!" as her smoke went up for ever and ever.
4 Then the 24 elders fell down and worshipped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen. Alleluia!"
5 And a voice came from the throne saying, "All of you who are His servants, praise our God. And no matter whether you are small or great, you must fear Him."

Heaven Celebrates the Marriage of the Lamb

6 Then I could hear something that sounded like a large crowd and like the roaring noise of a large amount of water and like the rumbling noise of powerful thunder. And it said, "Alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns as King!"
7 "Let's rejoice and be very glad, and give Him honor because the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."
8 And His bride had been given clean and beautiful fine linen to clothe herself in. (This fine linen is the righteousness of the saints).
9 And I was told, "Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" And I was also told, "These are the true words of God."
10 So I fell at His feet to worship him, but he said, "Worship God! Don't you realize I am just your fellowservant, that I serve your brethren who have the work of testifying about Jesus. Testifying to who Jesus is and what He said is the spirit of prophesy."

The King of Kings Wages War

11 I saw heaven opened, and look, a white horse. And sitting on that horse was the One who is called, "Faithful and True." In righteousness He judges and wages war.
12 His eyes were like a flaming fire and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knows except for Him.
13 He wore clothing that had been dipped in blood. His name is called "the Word of God."
14 And the armies of heaven followed Him. They, too, rode white horses and were wearing that clean and beautiful fine linen.
15 Now there was a sharp sword coming out of His mouth that He could use to strike the nations. He will rule them with a rod of iron and He will trample that winepress of the fierce wrath of Almighty God.
16 On His garments and on His thigh was written the name, "King of kings and Lord of lords."

The Birds are Invited to Feast on the Flesh of the Lord's Enemies

17-18 And I saw an angel standing in the sun crying out in a loud voice to all the birds that fly in the heavens, "Come here and gather together for the supper of the great God. You can eat the flesh of kings, captains and all the mighty. You can eat the flesh of horses and those who sit on them. You eat the flesh of everyone whether they were slaves and free, little or great."

The Doom of the Beast and False Prophet

19 And I saw the beast, along with the kings of the earth and their armies. They were all gathering together to make war against Him that sat on the white horse and against His army.

20 And the beast was captured, and so was the false prophet (that second beast that had done miracles before him to deceive people into receiving the mark of the beast and worshipping his image). Both of these were thrown alive into the lake burning with fire and brimstone.

21 And the rest were killed with the sword of Him who sat on the horse, that sword that was coming out of His mouth. And all those birds that had been called came and ate their flesh and were filled with it.

The Binding of the Dragon

20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven who had the key to the bottomless pit and a large chain in his hand.

2 And he grabbed hold of the Dragon (which is the Devil and Satan) and he fastened him to the chain for 1,000 years.

3 And he cast the dragon into the bottomless pit and shut it and put a seal on it, so that he would not be able to deceive the nations until the 1,000 years were finished. After that he will be loosed for a short time.

The Dead in Christ Reign With Christ

4 I saw thrones and those that sat on them were given judgment. I could see the souls of those who had been beheaded because of they had testified of Jesus and God's Word. These had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not had his mark put on their foreheads or hands. And though they had been killed, they were still alive.

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the 1,000 years were finished. The fact that the faithful were still alive was their first resurrection.

6 Everyone who gets to be part of that first resurrection are blessed and holy. The second death (having died in life and then facing torment in the Lake of Fire, Rev. 20:14) will have no power over them. These will be priests of God and Christ and will reign with Him 1,000 years.