

they come only from our saving relationship with Jesus (Heb. 11:6; Romans 14:23); therefore, *all credit belongs to God!*

b. ¶ And he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are having been invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” // Again, those who are invited have not earned such an invitation; instead, it came as a blessing – as a gift from God, *an unmerited gift!* We are so very blessed in Jesus Christ!

3. **Worship Only God:** Imagine being the apostle John; in exile on Patmos because of His testimony of Jesus, *yet hearing and seeing super awesome things to come because of God’s love for him through Jesus!* Therefore, possibly overwhelmed with peace and joy, we see his reaction: ¶ And I fell at the angel’s feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant, slave, of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. Because the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” // Holy angels are super awesome beings, *yet they are not to be worshiped!* Therefore, we should never worship any great person, or event, or thing; instead, *we should worship only GOD – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!* They work together to bless us now and always, **but our focus is on Jesus;** by the Spirit we have been united to Jesus and through Jesus we know the Father!

Conclusion: *Now, let us ever look forward to the great blessings yet to come through Jesus! Amen!*

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Judgment, Praise, and a Wedding!

Based on Revelation 19:1-10 NAU

19th Sunday after Pentecost / 18th Sunday after Trinity – 2011

Thursday, 10/20 → 7:00 † Sunday, 10/23 → 8:00 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, **so far in the book of Revelation, we have studied:**

- Jesus’ instruction to the churches – ♦commending them where they are doing well, ♦calling them to repent wherever necessary, and ♦promising eternal blessing to all who continue in Him to the very end!
- Awesome heavenly scenes – including ♦the Holy Trinity, ♦the four living creatures, ♦the twenty-four elders, and ♦those who have been washed clean by the precious blood of Jesus!
- The NT era from various angles – in the form of ♦7 seals, ♦7 trumpets, ♦7 visions, and ♦7 bowls, which included Christians being persecuted, but also ♦the end of the world, ♦God punishing the unrepentant, and ♦Christians finally winning in Christ!

Currently we are studying God’s judgment and victory over the great harlot, even *all false representatives of God,* who are currently working together to deceive many people. Today the forces of evil seem to be winning, *but their day of defeat will come!* Now, in the first half of chapter 19, *heaven rejoices and Christians are forever blessed!*

1. **Multitudes Praise the Lord:** In Rev. 18:20 the Church in heaven was called upon to rejoice over God’s judgment of Babylon the great; here we see the actual rejoicing: ¶ **After these things I heard something like a loud voice of**

a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! 1The Salvation and 1the glory and 1the power belong to our God; 2 BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He...judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her 1fornication1, and HE...AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS ~~BOND-SERVANTS~~ 1SLAVES1 ~~ON HER~~ 1FROM HER HAND1.” 3 And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! 1AND HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER.” // Notice how the saved in heaven acknowledge that God has ♦the salvation, ♦the glory, and ♦the power. All of us could easily have been deceived, lost, and condemned, *BUT GOD has saved us and will judge the great harlot*; therefore, even now, let us take no credit, *but give HIM all the glory for the gift of heaven!* Let’s know that all who – *by God’s grace* (Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Cor. 8:9) – embrace Christ as Savior will be **forever** blest, while those who choose to go *in any other way* will be **forever** tormented. (Remember, we are called to forgive [Mark 11:25; Eph. 4:32], vengeance belongs to God [Rom. 12:19].)

- a. 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” // From very near the throne of God – *from the elders and the creatures*, we hear words of *agreement* and *praise* (Amen and Hallelujah); *they agree that God’s judgments are true and righteous!*
- b. 5 And a voice came from the throne, saying, “Give praise to our God, all you His ~~bond-servants~~ 1slaves1, ~~you who fear~~ 1the ones fearing1 Him, the small and the great.” 6 1And1 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! 1Because1 the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.” // Finally, *if there remains any doubt about whether or not God should be praised for His judgment*, a voice comes “*from the throne, saying, ‘Give praise to our God...’*” Then, again, we hear a mighty “Hallelujah,” which means *praise the Lord!* May we also praise Him, *not only with our words*, but also with: →our thoughts, →our deeds, →our relationships, →our love for others, →our use of our spiritual gifts, →our work, →our money, and →our obedience to His Holy Word! *He is worthy!*

2. **The Marriage of the Lamb and the Church:** 7 Let us rejoice and 1let us1 be glad and 1we will1 give the glory to Him [the Lord, our God], 1because1 the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.” // Since *the fall into sin* and *the promise of the Savior* (Genesis 3), the COMPLETE reunion between God and people has been anticipated. Here, in v. 7, we are drawing very near to that most blessed time; *in Revelation 21 we will read of the actual event!*
 - a. 8 1And1 It was given to her ~~to~~ 1in order that1 ~~clothe herself~~ 1she might be clothed1 in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. // *Let’s be careful here!*
 - i. SHE is the Church; the Church is not a building, nor a worship service, nor a Christian denomination; instead, *the Church includes all who trust in JESUS ALONE AS SAVIOR!*
 - ii. Notice that her clothes were “*given to her,*” pointing to *God’s gift of salvation to us in Jesus* (Rom. 6:23). Even if we speak of “*righteous acts,*”