The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Part 5 (c. 95–96)

Revelation 19–22

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

19:1 After these things I heard something like the loud sound of a great crowd in heaven saying,

"Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

because his judgments are true and righteous, because he has passed judgment on the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality, and has avenged the blood of his slaves shed by her hand!"

3 And a second time they said,

"Hallelujah!"

And her smoke goes up forever and ever.

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who is seated on the throne, saying,

"Amen! Hallelujah!"

5 And a voice came out from the throne, saying,

"Praise our God all his slaves, and those who fear him, the small and the great!"

6 And I heard *something* like the sound of a great crowd and *something* like the sound of many waters and *something* like the sound of powerful thunder, saying,

"Hallelujah!

For the Lord God, the All-Powerful, reigns!

7 Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him the glory,

because the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has prepared herself.

8 And it has been granted to her that she be dressed in bright, clean fine linen (for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints).

9 And he said to me, "Write: Blessed *are* those who are invited to the banquet of the wedding celebration of the Lamb!" And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

10 And I fell down before his feet to worship him, and he said to me, "Do not do that! I am a fellow slave of you and of your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Jesus Rides to War

- 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and the one seated on it was called "Faithful" and "True," and with justice he judges and makes war.
- 12 Now his eyes were a flame of fire, and on his head were many royal headbands having a name written that no one except he himself knows.
- 13 And he was dressed in an outer garment dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God.
- 14 And the armies that are in heaven, dressed in clean, white fine linen, were following him on white horses.
- 15 And out of his mouth came a sharp sword, so that with it he could strike the nations. And he will shepherd them with an iron rod, [Ps 2:9] and he stomps the winepress of the wine of the furious wrath of God, the All-Powerful.
- 16 And he has a name written on his outer garment and on his thigh: "King of kings and Lord of lords."

The Beast and the False Prophet Are Cast Into the Lake of Fire

17 And I saw one angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly directly overhead,

"Come! Assemble for the great banquet of God,
in order that you may eat the flesh of kings,
and the flesh of military tribunes,
and the flesh of the powerful,
and the flesh of horses and those seated on them,
and the flesh of all people,
both free and slave,
and small and great!"

19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war with the one who is seated on the horse and with his army.

20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs before him, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who had worshiped his image. The two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur.

21 And the rest were killed by the sword of the one who is seated on the horse—the *sword* that comes out of his mouth—and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Satan Is Bound for 1,000 Years

20:1 And I saw an angel descending from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he seized the dragon—the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan—and bound him for a thousand years,

3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* above him, in order that he could not deceive the nations again until the thousand years are completed. After these *things* it is necessary *for* him to be released *for* a short time.

The First Resurrection—Martyred Saints Rule With Christ in the Millennium

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat down on them, and authority to judge was granted to them. And *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and did not receive the mark on their forehead and on their hand, and they came to life and reigned with Christ *for* a thousand years.

5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.) This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy *is* the one who has a part in the first resurrection. Over this person the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him a thousand years.

Satan Defeated and Cast Into the Lake of Fire

7 And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison

8 and he will go out to deceive the nations *that are* at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to assemble them for battle, whose number *is* like the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the fortified camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet also *are*, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The Great White Throne Judgment

11 And I saw a great white throne and the one who was seated on it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and a place was not found for them.

12 And I saw the dead—the great and the small—standing before the throne, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the *book* of life, and the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to their deeds.

13 And the sea gave up the dead *who were* in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead *who were* in them, and each one was judged according to their deeds.

14 And Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire.

15 And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

The Eternal State—A New Heaven and a New Earth

21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea did not exist *any* longer. [cf. <u>Isa 65:17</u>; 66:22; 2 Pet 3:13]

2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"Behold, the dwelling of God is with humanity,

and he will take up residence with them,

and they will be his people

and God himself will be with them.

4 And he will wipe away every tear from their eyes,

and death will not exist any longer,

and mourning or wailing or pain will not exist any longer.

The former things have passed away."

5 And the one seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new!" And he said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true."

6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the one who is thirsty I will give water from the spring of the water of life freely.

7 The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

8 But *as* for the cowards and unbelievers and detestable persons and murderers and sexually immoral people and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their share *is* in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.

The Heavenly City—The New Jerusalem

9 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and lofty mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

11 that has the glory of God. Its radiance is like a precious stone, something like a jasper stone, shining like crystal.

12 It has a great and high wall that has twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written on *the gates* which are of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel—

13 on the east, three gates, and on the north, three gates, and on the south, three gates, and on the west, three gates.

14 And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 And the one who spoke with me was holding a golden measuring rod in order that he could measure the city and its gates and its wall.

16 And the city is laid out as a square, and its length is the same as *its* width. And he measured the city with the measuring rod at twelve thousand stadia; the length and the width and the height of it are equal.

17 And he measured its wall, one hundred forty-four cubits according to human measure, which is the angel's.

18 And the material of its wall is jasper, and the city is pure gold, similar in appearance to pure glass.

19 The foundations of the wall of the city are adorned with every kind of precious stone: the first foundation jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald,

20 the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

21 And the twelve gates *are* twelve pearls, each one of the gates was from a single pearl. And the street of the city *is* pure gold, like transparent glass.

22 And I did not see a temple in it, for the Lord God All-Powerful is its temple, and the Lamb.

23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon, that they shine on it, for the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. [cf. <u>Isa 60:20–21</u>]

24 And the nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

25 And its gates will never be shut by day (for there will be no night there),

26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.

27 And every unclean thing and one who practices detestable things and falsehood will never enter into it, except those who are written in the book of life of the Lamb.

22:1 And he showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming out from the throne of God and of the Lamb

2 in the middle of its street, and on both sides of the river *is* the tree of life, producing twelve fruits—yielding its fruit according to every month—and the leaves of the tree *are* for the healing of the nations.

3 And there will not be any curse *any* longer, and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his slaves will serve him, 4 and they will see his face, and his name *will be* on their foreheads.

5 And night will not exist *any* longer, and they will not have need of the light of a lamp and the light of the sun, because the Lord God will give light to them, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Certainty of the Blessed Hope

6 And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true, and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his slaves the things which must take place in a short time."

7 "And behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

John Told to Worship God Alone

8 And I, John, *am* the one who heard and who saw these *things*. And when I heard and saw *them*, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed these *things* to me.

9 And he said to me, "Do not do that! I am your fellow slave, and of your brothers the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

Proclaim the Prophecy—Present Choices Determine a Permanent Outcome

10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near!

11 The one who does evil, let him do evil still, and the defiled, let him be defiled still, and the righteous, let him practice righteousness still, and the holy, let him be holy still."

Invitation to Eternal Life

- 12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me, to repay each one according to what his deeds are!
- 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
- 14 Blessed *are* the ones who wash their robes, so that their authority will be over the tree of life and they may enter into the city through the gates.
- 15 Outside *are* the dogs and the sorcerers and the sexually immoral people and the murderers and the idolaters and everyone who loves and who practices falsehood.
- 16 "I, Jesus, sent my angel to testify to you about these *things* for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, [cf. <u>Isa 11:1</u>] the bright morning star." [cf. <u>Num 24:17</u>]
- 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And the one who hears, let him say, "Come!" And the one who is thirsty, let him come. The one who wants, let him take the water of life freely.

The Final Testimony of Jesus Christ

- 18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues written in this book.
- 19 And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away his share of the tree of life and from the holy city that are written in this book.
- 20 The one who testifies about these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

Benediction

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.

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