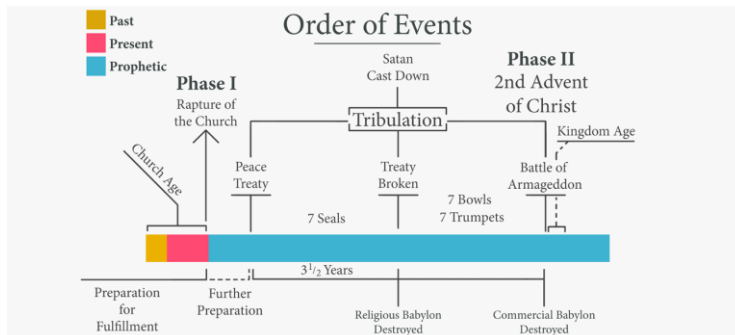


Revelation 19:6-21 – The Supper, The Return Of Christ



Rev. 19:6-10: *“Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out...”*

- In vs. 6 we see a great multitude saying “Hallelujah.” They are praising the Lord, which is the meaning of the word, for He is the Sovereign Lord of all.
- Vss. 7-8 mention that the marriage supper of the Lamb is going to take place at that time in heaven, prior to the Second Coming of Christ.
- It tells us in vs. 8 that the fine linen that we are wearing is our righteous deeds, our evidence of a relationship with Christ.
- In vs. 9 we see an angel telling John that “Blessed are those” who are invited to the supper.
- There is some thought that the supper is not just a one-time meal event but *“will begin in heaven and spill into the millennial kingdom. The entire millennium will be a marriage feast.”* (Hitchcock)
- There is also the thought that the actual event occurs on the earth after the Second Coming of Christ. Others though believe it happens in heaven.
- By the time of the return of the Lord in Rev. 19:11, it seems, based on vs. 7 that the supper occurs before the Lord’s return. It is a celebration of the Lord and His redeemed people. But I can see it extending throughout the millennium.
- A question that is asked is, “Who is invited to this event?”

A) All those saved (every nation) during the church age (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5).

B) Old Testament believers (Mt. 8:11).

C) Those saved during the tribulation, Jews, and others.

D) If it is an ongoing event, are those saved during the millennium a part of it?

E) Some believe this event is only for Christ and His church. This is based on the fact that OT saints (Dan. 12:1-3) and tribulation saints are resurrected at the end of the tribulation also (see Rev. 20:4-6), thus they cannot participate in this event. Though they are in heaven, the church, made up of those raptured, are the ones involved.

F) In this latter view, there is a distinction between the marriage of the Lamb and the marriage supper of the Lamb. The latter would include Israel and is a picture of the entire millennial reign of Christ, of which Israel and others are a part.

G) There is the thought that there are two suppers, in heaven and on earth.

Chuck Swindoll notes something regarding this event worth considering. He writes,

“Just imagine the gathering for that grand supper! Christians often speculate about this feast. Is it a literal banquet or a symbol for indescribable blessings? Will it be a sit-down, multicourse dinner or an extravagant buffet? What kind of food will be served? How silly! Though these questions tantalize the imagination, they completely miss the point. That great banquet will be about not the menu but the Master. It’s the end-times answer to Christ’s words to His disciples at the Last Supper: “But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom” (Matt. 26:29). With the whole church glorified and united in the kingdom of God, Christ will take His seat with the saints and enjoy that long-anticipated face-to-face fellowship with those He loves.”

Rev. 19:11-16: *“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His...”*

- Rev. 19:11-21 is about the return of Christ, His Second Coming.
- In vs. 11 He is noted as One Who is “faithful” and “true.” God can be trusted in every way. All He does is right and when it comes to judgment, that is also right and perfect. Christ’s return will fulfill prophecies (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:11). He will judge the nations (Mt. 25) and our enemy and establish His kingdom on earth.
- Vs. 12 notes that His eyes are like a “flame of fire.” This speaks to the fact that Christ knows all. Nothing escapes His presence. He is aware of everything happening in the lives of everyone. He judges perfectly because of Who He is (Rev. 2:18). He is righteous and is the only One with the ability to judge right the hearts of people (Heb. 4:12-13; Jn. 5:19-29). Those are His followers He corrects (Heb. 12) and does so with right motives.
- Vs. 12 tells us that on the head of Jesus are many “diadems”, the crown of a king. Christ is the Sovereign Lord of all. Our Lord is wearing many crowns. His name is indescribable (vs. 12), showing the depth of God’s character.
- Vs. 13 does give Him a title, the “Word of God” (John 1:1-14). The robed dipped in blood in this verse speaks of His judgment of the earth (Isa. 63:2-3; Rev. 14:20). It is not the blood of our Lord pictured here.
- Vs. 14 tells us that Christ will be accompanied by an army from heaven. Who are those who make up this army?

A) Angels will be part of the army (Mt. 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7).

B) Believers will be a part of this army (1 Thess. 3:13; 2 Thess. 1:10).

- This army does not fight. Jesus takes care of things. Vs. 15 speaks of the “sword of His mouth.” His spoken word brings everything to an end (1 Thess. 2:8). He will rule during the millennium, the gracious, Sovereign King.
- Vs. 15 also indicates that the wrath of God will be completed at this time. The judgment of the nations is complete.
- Vs. 16 tells us that He has a name written, “King of kings and Lord of lords.” He is the ruler over everything.

Rev. 19:17-21: *“Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper...”*

- Rev. 16:12-16 tells us that the enemy will bring nations to Israel for the final campaign, with the goal the destruction of Israel and God.
- Though we think of Armageddon as just one battle, it will probably be a campaign that ends when Christ returns and judges the nations.
- In vss. 17-18 an angel calls out for birds to eat the flesh of the dead. This is going to be a horrible war, but God’s justice will prevail. See Mt. 24:27-28.
- In vs. 19 tells us that the ultimate aim of the antichrist and his armies is to fight against God. This looks back to Rev. 14:20 and Rev. 16:16.
- As one author notes, when these armies that are battling at Armageddon who want to destroy Israel and those supporting them, when they see Jesus returning, they will turn to fight against Him.
- Vs. 20 says the beast and the false prophet, who had lost his power by this time, will both be captured and thrown into the lake of fire.
- The false prophet must have somehow gained some position under the antichrist again. Everyone else is killed by God (vs. 21) who turns to fight against Him.

Chuck Swindoll puts this battle into perspective. He writes,

“Of course, the perspective of the earthly armies gathered for battle in the valley will be limited to the physical domain. How foolish it will look when those rulers point their guns and missiles at the all-powerful Creator, who spoke the entire universe into existence! How foolish, but how like fallen humanity! Always overestimating their abilities, forever proud of their technology, yet never coming to terms with their own weakness before the all-powerful, all-knowing Lord of the universe.

Let’s cut to the chase: Before anybody on earth can even utter the word “Armageddon,” the battle will be over. When God determines the end has come, it’s curtains!”

Practical Application:

- The fact that we will be forever with Christ and other saints, celebrating our Lord is awesome. The marriage supper is a great picture of grace, fellowship, and the love of God.
- Jesus will return, first for His church, and then to set up His kingdom. We can trust Him to do these things for He is “faithful” and “true.”
- At the end those who think they can destroy God and His people will face a stark reality. The world’s rebellion will be dealt with by the Lord.