

## **The Great Multitude Rejoices – 19:1-10**

*Alleluias of the Multitude 19:1-4*

- **After this** – In the actions of the angelic messenger, we saw God’s response to the destruction of Babylon the Great and all her followers with that massive millstone of judgment. Now we continue on to see the reaction that comes from heaven, in sharp contrast to those followers of Babylon’s empty promises and deadly methods.

- **I heard what sounded like a great multitude in heaven**

**shouting** – We’ve heard the term “*great multitude*” before

[7:9] used in reference to the host of heaven (complementary

to the 144,000 who were on the earth) and [11:15] also in reference to the response to the

sounding of the seventh trumpet. These are the members of the church triumphant, echoing

that “distant triumph song” that we sing in part here on earth, but will be complete in

heavenly glory. The joy-filled response of God’s saints in heaven is immense, overpowering,

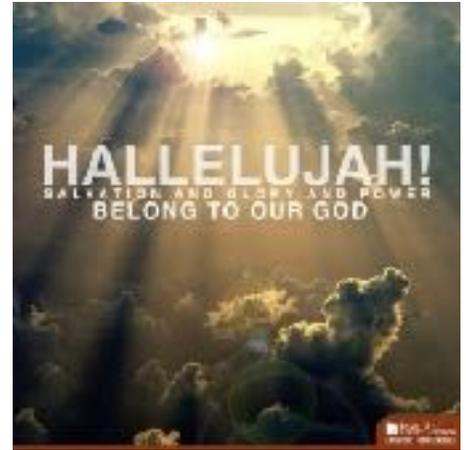
and eternal!

+ **Hallelujah!** – This Hebrew word means “praise (אללוי) the Lord! (יהוה)” God gets the praise because he has now brought about what the martyrs beneath the altar had been praying for [6:9-11]. We still use the “Alleluia” in our worship services today as a lead-in to hearing the good news of the Gospel. The saints of God spoke these words after seeing God act in a way that only he could, to judge wickedness and save his people. As we prepare to hear the words and works of Jesus each week, we join in their joyous song, always one day closer to joining that choir eternal!

+ **Salvation and glory and power** – Three terms...not a coincidence...referring to the overturn of the things that those followers of Babylon were searching for (in reverse order). The sea captains sought *salvation* in the bastion of foreign shores and fast-moving ships, neither of which could actually save them. The merchants tried to build up *glory* by accumulating more and more wealth for themselves. In the end, that burned up along with Babylon itself. Finally the kings of the earth sought after that *power* that is so elusive...and those who achieved their positions of authority over their fellow people found out how temporary and easily lost that power truly is.

\* **belong to our God** – And just as quickly as those kings came to partial power, those merchants came to fading glory, and the captains found their temporary salvation...so quickly did all those return to the One to whom they truly belong. God was never out of control and by the time all those groups realized the error of their ways, it was too late.

\* **for true and just are his judgments** – These judgments are true not only because God makes no mistakes when he judges, but also because he had often promised that the servants of the devil would never prevail against his church. Now that Babylon has been totally destroyed and his redeemed children are safe in the glories of heaven, it is manifestly demonstrated that God always keeps his



threats and his promises and his Word is always true.

+ ***He has condemned the great prostitute*** – In the days of persecution when the wicked prosper, live for a long time, and become mighty [Job 21:7], while the righteous are pursued, persecuted, and slain, it often seems to us that God’s decisions are not right and just. David tells us that he was troubled by the seeming injustice of this world, until he went to the sanctuary of God and understood the end results for the wicked [see Psalm 73].

\* ***who corrupted the earth by her adulteries*** – This is the falsification of God’s Word that is the most heinous sin imaginable. To present our own words as the Word of God is tantamount to blasphemy and claiming we ourselves are God. Throughout the Bible, God has made it clear that he would not tolerate such adultery. Babylon, the apostate church, had done that by her witchcraft and had led the nations astray [18:23]. Her great fall proved God to be faithful to his Word. By her spiritual unfaithfulness to her heavenly husband she had corrupted the earth, and according to God’s justice it was right that she be overthrown.

+ ***He has avenged on her the blood of his servants*** – As mentioned above, this is in direct reference to that prayer under the altar that we heard back in the vision of the seals [6:9-11]. We can think of the persecution that the two witnesses suffered at the hands of their persecutors [11:7ff]. Yet God’s servants are rejoicing in the vengeance that he has brought about. The exaction of vengeance is something that belongs to God [Romans 12:19] to be brought about in his time. On the day of judgment he will carry it out directly. God’s vengeance is perfectly just and right. We can rejoice in this as well and praise the Lord with our Alleluias too!

- ***And again they shouted*** – The tense changes here...from the aorist (which focuses on completed action) to the perfect (which involves a completed action, with continuing results).

Often we’ll add a form of the verb “have” to show this tense, “and again they have shouted”

+ ***Hallelujah!*** – Second time of three occurrences in these verses (with a fourth in the following section). The praise of the Lord comes in differing contexts, but that praise continues forever and ever, resounding off the golden walls of heaven’s halls. Where the first “hallelujah” focused on God reclaiming his positions of power, glory, and salvation, so here the focus is on the justice of his judgment...which really only begins on Judgment Day.

+ ***The smoke from her goes up forever and ever*** – For the exact same amount of time as the praises of the believers rise to God’s ears, so is the amount of time that the smoke rises from the wreckage of former Babylon. This is also a lasting testament to the fact that hell’s torment is not a temporary punishment meant to correct, but is a never-ending torment, which is completely just and right.

Our praises also go up to God because this is the fate from which he has rescued us. Left to ourselves, this is exactly what we deserve and ought to have received. It’s only by the grace and mercy of our loving God that we escape this punishment...and it’s certainly only by his hand of blessing that we receive heaven in its stead!



- **The twenty-four elders** – Remember them? It's been awhile since we last saw them [11:16-18], but this is now the third time we see them, and they have been around the throne, worshipping the Lamb, just as they had been when we first met them in the Vision of the Seals back in chapter 4[:4, 10-11]. I find it interesting that if we view the book of Revelation as a bell curve, we're in a parallel position in the letter to that vision. The Vision of the Seals was the second, this is the second to last vision. We're about to peak with a peek at heaven itself...the promised destination

for all those believers in the seven churches, and all of us who are reading and studying these words nearly two millennia after the fact.

- **and the four living creatures** – Once again, a group that we met much earlier in the book [4:5-9] makes a reappearance, indicating that we are beginning to work our way to the end. Those four living creatures are around God's throne and are joining with the elders in the worship and praise of the saints and angels. For more on the four living creatures, refer back to the chapter 4 study guide.

+ **fell down and worshiped God** – Just think about that...when do elders (or kings, remember, they're seated on thrones...) bow to anyone?! When would the four most powerful and most closely associated creatures in creation lower themselves in humility!? Only in the presence of God himself...only before the face of the Almighty Creator himself...and he is the one who is seated on that throne, he is the Lamb.

\* **who was seated on the throne** – No matter what seems to be happening in world politics or American elections...no matter the policies put in place, the laws enacted, the brutalities of enforcement, or the judgments—just or otherwise—God is in complete control, and his seat of power over the universe remains completely untouched and unmoved.

+ **And they cried** – This is actually a present tense verb...indicated that it is a continuous action. What that means is that instead of a one-time cry, it's probably better to picture this as a refrain, resounding over and over "Amen. Alleluia!" "Amen. Alleluia!" "Amen. Alleluia!" ...without end, because the reason for praise is equally endless.

\* **Amen** – "Truth!" "Let it be!" Whenever Jesus had one of his "Truly, truly I tell you..." statements, they are really "Amen, amen..." statements. These prestigious groups are essentially offering the praise that says "It is true and right to offer these praises to God." They have witnessed his actions through history, they have seen his grace and mercy at work in the world, and they are in agreement that his judgments are just and his works are true.

\* **Hallelujah!** – This third occurrence of the word of praise brings the whole thing full-circle, and with the eloquent inclusion of the "Amen" the elders and living creatures give their praise in the simplest of terms, showing their loyalty and love to their living Lord and ours.

*The Wedding Feast of the Lamb 19:5-8*

- **Then a voice came from the throne saying** – God himself speaks...or is it? What's interesting is that when we look at the words that are spoken, it doesn't seem like something that God would say about himself...Becker takes it as the throne itself speaking...other options exist, but I'll let you be the judge for who/what you understand to be speaking here.

+ **Praise our God** – Hallelujahs (Remember, it means "Praise the Lord") are now commanded. Not that this is a difficult or burdensome task to carry out, but it is nonetheless one which is pleasing in God's sight.

The key detail to notice here, however, is the fact that this is our God...this is the one detail that makes it unlikely that God is speaking from the throne here, but rather that the throne itself is metaphorically speaking and calling out for God's people to give him the honor due his name for his great words and works.

+ **all you his servants** – This address includes the four living creatures, the twenty-four elders, and all that great multitude that spoke twice earlier and will speak once again in just a few brief phrases.

\* **who fear him** – Not in the "-phobia" sense of terror...not anymore. Now the only aspect of this fear is that God is far greater than we are and deserves every last bit of awe and honor that we can muster.

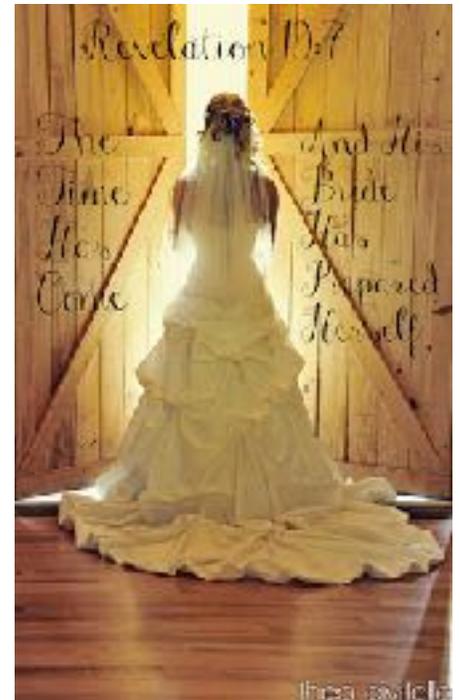
^ **both great and small** – John is using two extreme opposites to express the inclusion of everything in between them. This is to help us understand that no one is excluded from the **great multitude** that he's about to reintroduce, who are anticipating the wedding feast about to occur.

- **Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude...shouting** – The same great multitude we saw earlier in the chapter, now reemphasized by several extra terms...you know, just in case you didn't comprehend how incomprehensibly large this group is before now. And in case you weren't sure, their voices are raised to as loud a decibel as they are able to achieve...again, modified by several pictures to make that reechoing sound that much clearer.

- **like the roar of rushing waters** – A raging river, ocean tides, a waterfall...the booming, crashing, and ceaseless sounds of water reflect the immense and powerful sound issuing from the huge group of gathered people, praising our God, and doing so in ceaseless fashion!

- **like loud peals of thunder** – There are few things (even since the invention of jet engines and rockets) that can compare to the sheer, earth-shattering boom of a thunderclap. Add to that the fact that generally you don't just hear a single thunderclap, but there are rolling booms and quaking sounds that continue throughout the storm, and you have some idea of why John included this picture to illustrate the sounds coming from this multitude.

+ **Hallelujah** – Now following the command that was spoken in the previous verse.



+ ***For our Lord God Almighty reigns*** – And now the reason why: God’s kingdom has come! His will has been done! He has delivered us from evil! All the things that we pray for in the Lord’s Prayer have been perfectly accomplished for his saints in heaven...no more anxious anticipation, no more waiting, no more wanting...he’s here! And as we mentioned in previous chapters, there are even added dimensions to the (three) names of God included here. This God is our God, and our God reigns!

+ ***Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory*** – Three more terms (coincidence? I think not) for how God’s saints carry out these praises. 1) ***Rejoice***...joy is distinct from happiness and draws from a deeper emotional well. Joy is founded in our knowledge that even when we are not happy, we are content in knowing that our God will work all things for our good. 2) ***be glad***...now comes the happiness, the wiping away of all tears, the vanquishing of all fears. No smile is wider or fuller than the smile that shines on our faces as we see the smiling face of Jesus looking at us with all the love and compassion he has to give! 3) ***give him glory***...the only appropriate response to the great things that Jesus has done for us and in us is to return to him the glory which he has lavished on us in such generous measure. It’s such a small offering, but it’s everything that we can give.

\* ***For the wedding of the Lamb has come*** – In those times, weddings were kinda the opposite of what we see now. Instead of the bride “walking down the aisle” the groom would come to the bride. Jesus used this picture in one of his end time illustrations [Matthew 25:1ff] and Paul employed this picture in talking about the example that earthly husbands and wives ought to follow [Ephesians 5].

\* ***and his bride has made herself ready*** – Christ’s bride is the Church, and he has washed her clean (see Ephesians 5). Christ clothed her in the dress she wears (see below), so what does she do to make herself ready?! If you’re struggling to come up with an answer to that question...good! She really doesn’t do anything to make herself ready...what she does is simply what the bride of Christ does by the changed heart he has given her, which we will examine in the parenthetical statement below.

^ ***Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear*** – Similar to the expensive lists of clothes and jewelry that were listed as Babylon’s greatest adornments, Christ’s true church is neither gawdy, nor self-advancing... She is pure, she is clean and she is ready to wed Christ, her husband.

^ ***(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people)*** –

“When John says the bride is clothed in fine linen which consists of the δικαιώματα τῶν ἁγίων (righteous acts of the saints) he has in mind that righteousness which God gives the sinner when he declares him to be righteous for the sake of Christ’s vicarious obedience and which the sinner makes his own by faith...Through the proclaimed forgiveness accepted by faith, the individual believers, who collectively form the bride of Christ, are adorned with the only garment that makes it possible for them to stand beside the holy Bridegroom in the presence of the righteous God.” –Becker, 285.

*The Book of Revelation – Chapter 18: Fallen, Fallen is Babylon the Great! (Vision 6 of 7)*

*A Blessing and a Warning 19:9-10*

- **Then the angel said to me** – I'll bet you forgot that a few angels have been explaining all of this to John, since chapter 17[:7]. Presumably, this is the same angel that was introduced at 18:1. Other possibilities include the "voice" that spoke in 18:4, and the mighty angel who spoke at 18:21ff.

+ **Write this** – The inspiration of Scripture serves a purpose: to point hearts to Christ, to receive the forgiveness that he won. Becker notes: "In all the sorrows of life, the anticipation of the happiness which awaits us helps us bear all adversity with patience and trust in God. He will surely do what he has promised" – Becker, 286

+ **Blessed are those who are invited** – Only when Christ is held before an audience as Savior and Redeemer are the hearers being invited to the wedding dinner of the Lamb. Only then are they offered the fine linen, bright and clean, that will serve as their wedding garment and qualify them to remain at the celebration (see below).

\* **to the wedding supper of the Lamb!** – The fine linen that clothes the multitude of individuals here is equivalent to the white robes worn by those saints in chapter 7, which were washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Isaiah speaks of some other bridal ornaments [Isaiah 61:10] and Zechariah pictures the high priest being cleansed from his own filthy garments to a new, clean wardrobe [Zechariah 3:4]. Both of these pictures parallel Jesus' own words about those who are invited and are clothed in the proper garments when he spoke of the wedding celebration [Matthew 22:11-13].

- **and he added**

+ **These are the true words of God** – Becker has some useful thoughts on this point as well: "These remarks of the angel remind us that the true purpose of the doctrine of verbal inspiration...is to make us sure of the happiness that lies before us because of the atoning work of the Savior." –Becker, 286

- **At this I fell at his feet to worship him** – John's response was in reaction to the amazing message that he had just received. Explanations containing comforts and cautions, healing and hope. We can often be tempted to praise the messenger, but just as the angel does here, we always try to defer to the true power of the one who works through (and often in spite of) us.

- **But he said to me**

+ **Don't do that!** – Worship the Lord your God and serve him only! Just like the three men in the fiery furnace would not bow down to the image of gold, Daniel would not pray to anyone but the true God, and Peter could not stop speaking about Jesus...so we too follow God's first commandment, and strive to serve him alone.

\* **I am a fellow servant** – And, in fact, according to Hebrews 1 [esp. v.14], an inferior servant at that...simply a messenger, conveying God's message.



\* *with you and with your brothers and sisters* – While we who have the privilege of serving God full-time (and having the benefit of getting paid to do so!) are certainly blessed in that work, we are all together coworkers in the task of spreading the gospel. We all hold to the same truth; we are all accountable to one another; we all have the same goal in our hearts: reaching the ends of the earth with God's saving Gospel!

^ *who hold to the testimony of Jesus* – This is what connects us to each other...our common confession of Jesus as the Savior is what joins us one to another both here on earth and in the halls of heaven. His Word is the measure and means of our faith and strengthens our bonds to one another the more intimately we know that very Word.

+ *Worship God!*

\* *For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus* – And right there we have the Trinity yet again. Also here we have a comfort for our own speaking of the Word: The angel was not to be worshiped, because he is not God...yet the Word that he spoke "*is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus*" Even in such unworthy hands as ours, God works wonders...he speaks through us, and he gets all the glory and praise for the wondrous things he does!



**The Return of  
19:11-18**

**the King! –**

*The Rider on the White Horse 19:11-16*

- *I saw heaven standing open* – As John looks up again, he sees the culmination of the long years of waiting...every Advent anticipation is brought to its fullest fruition here in the amazing vision of heaven opening, and from that opening will come...the end.

- *and there before me was a white horse* – Whether this is the same white horse as the first of the Four Horseman [6:1-2] or not is really unimportant. The identity of the Rider on this horse is inescapably clear. His origin is from heaven, he is called "Faithful and True," he receives many of the same descriptors as Jesus did in chapter 1[:12ff]. The "white" color marks purity,

the “horse” marks his coming in victory and power (unlike his first coming).

+ *whose rider is called Faithful and True* – In a lot of ways these terms are synonymous. “Faithful” is most clearly seen as remaining steadfast through challenges and difficulty...where unfaithfulness might be easier or expected. “True” traces that straight line, with falsehood on either side and remains dead-center. In both cases this Rider remains where others would (and do) fall away and fail. Our Redeemer comes in perfect alignment with God’s eternal plan...and the fact that we’re included in that plan is reason to rejoice and be glad!

+ *His eyes are like blazing fire* – As we mentioned in the notes on chapter 1[:14], the piercing gaze of Jesus can certainly burn holes in our hearts and consciences. But that blazing stare holds nothing but compassion and love for those whom he will gather on that day to be united with him forever.

+ *and on his head are many crowns* – The King of kings and Lord of Lords has all the authority and victory that anyone could comprehend. This does stand in sharp contrast to his first coming when he was born in a stable, laid in a manger, and lived his life without a home to lay his head. Now he reigns over all the world; nothing and no one can change that simple, powerful fact (try as they might [ch.20]).

+ *He has a name written on him* – Names describe who a person is and what that person does. That this is a name and is written on him means that it is evident to all, yet...

\* *that no one knows but he himself* – It’s hard to reconcile this with the fact that it is “written on him,” and what we’ll see in just a few short phrases (“*his name is the Word of God*”) but I take that to mean that even though people can perceive the name written on him, no one but he can understand what that means... except if he himself explains it (\*cough\* the Bible \*cough\*)

+ *He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood* – As mentioned earlier, the cleansing of our robes is because they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb [7:14]. This seems like an awfully strange way to bleach, unless you consider the quality of the blood, which is the purest substance ever on the earth. *The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin* [1 John 1:7].

+ *and his name is the Word of God* – This could either be an additional name to the “unknown name” mentioned earlier, but taken as the same thing can work too. God’s Word is immediately plain and evident to any who read it...they can process the words, they can see what it says. But in order for someone to truly understand Scripture requires a heart of faith...which can only come from God’s Holy Spirit (who works through Scripture).

+ *The armies of heaven were following him* – These armies are no longer just composed of angel servants, but now include people who are purified, serving as holy knights.

\* *riding on white horses* – More horses! Just as the Rider at the head, the focus here is on the purity (white) and victory (horses) of the army at his command.

\* *and dressed in fine linen, white and clean* – They, like their victory steeds are purified from their own wickedness.

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+ ***Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword*** – This is also a flashback to John’s first vision of the book [1:16]. In Hebrews 4:12, the writer compares God’s Word (which comes from where?) to a double-edged sword. Other places in Scripture point to the Word as the instrument through which God’s judgment and will are carried out [Isaiah 49:2; 66:16, Jeremiah 12:12, Ezekiel 38:21, Ephesians 6:17].

\* ***with which to strike down the nations*** – Those nations that gather to oppose God will not offer any resistance, will not meet with any success, but will instead only face the sharp edge of God’s Law, without any of the restorative balm of the Gospel.

\* ***“He will rule them with an iron scepter”*** – This reference points back to Psalm 2, where the nations sought to replace God with their own rule...not realizing neither 1) that he is in heaven laughing at their futile attempts right now, nor 2) that the ultimate Ruler is returning and brings with him their crushing defeat.

+ ***He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty*** – We last saw this in 14:19-20 after the “grapes” were harvested. In both cases, John used the winepress as a symbol for God’s judgment on the unbelieving world. “As in ancient times the juice was pressed from the grapes by walking on them in a winepress, so the Savior will crush the enemies of the church under his feet” –Becker, 294. In his vision of the judgment of Edom, Isaiah saw similar judgment carried out [Isaiah 63:1-6].

+ ***On his robe ...he has this written*** – That Christ is “clothed” in his superiority over the nations is a powerful enough metaphor...

+ ***and on his thigh he has this written*** – but that it is written on his thigh as well shows his ultimate supremacy over all the would-be rulers that seek to stand in his place. As effortless as flicking away a bug or blowing dandelion seeds, so easily does a single breath from our powerful Rider destroy all futile hopes of those who rejected him.

\* ***King of kings and Lord of Lords*** – Christ has no rival...none can stand against him...he is reigning over all, and he will make that reign evident on that Day.

*The Angel and Carrion Birds 19:17-18*

- ***And I saw an angel standing in the sun*** – What’s so remarkable about this is that in some eclipse-like way, John is able to look directly at the brightness emanating from heaven (in a way that often leaves us blinking and blind) and sees that even the carrion destruction that follows is a message from God.

- ***who cried in a loud voice*** – Make no mistake, God does not want his purpose in this action to be missed...all those birds that are hovering and circling over their soon-to-be prey are summoned to a feast of their own...much like a battlefield in the aftermath of a war, the vultures, eagles, and others find the carcasses and pick them clean.



- *to all the birds flying in midair* – Hovering, we saw that same imagery used of the angel who proclaimed the eternal gospel [14:6-7]. As we see shortly, these birds enjoy the taste of flesh... and they will be more than satisfied by the feast set before them...

+ *Come, gather together for the great supper of God* – Just as the invitation was extended through the Word before Judgment Day, so now a similar invitation is sent out, though no longer to people...

\* *so that you may eat the flesh* – As the various people are listed, there are several ways to divide them up, most popular are the sevenfold division I listed below, or (listing each individually) a list of 10 (completeness) terms.

\* *of kings* – The highest and most powerful...their command is followed by all, including:

\* *[of] generals* – These order the masses of armies with strategy and their plans very often involve:

\* *and the mighty* – The most powerful of the soldiers, they use their strength and prowess to dominate their opponents, but when sheer numbers are needed they turn to:

\* *of horses and their riders* – Interesting foil in contrast to the horse-mounted Rider and his accompanying followers. The cavalry her cannot hold a candle to the Calvary conquering King of kings...even when:

\* *and the flesh of all people* – EVERYBODY ELSE joins in...this term is further clarified, you know, in case you think maybe you'll escape:

^ *free and slave* – A division that should be inescapable. As before this listing of opposite extremes includes everyone in between (though I'm not sure that there's really anything between free and slave)...and again, if that were not clear on its own:

^ *small and great* – Once again the division we heard in reference to the *great multitude* [v.5] now used in reference to the great multitude that decided against God.

## The Battle that Never Was 19:19-21



### *The Battle Lines are Drawn 19:19*

- *Then I saw the beast* – You remember him, right? We've been watching him for a while now...but we had a brief interlude that showed that God's ultimate victory over both the beast and the dragon (Satan) who leads him, would be complete.

- *and the kings of the earth* – Remember who we just heard about being King of kings and Lord of lords? Yeah, keep that in mind as you continue to see what those who thought of themselves as worthy of greater honor ended up actually receiving from his hand.

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- *and their armies* – Remember Armageddon (read: Mt. Megiddo)? These armies are incomprehensibly massive, but this is not a war that is won with a multitude...this is a war that One won for *the great multitude*.

+ *gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army* – One last attempt...all else has failed (or perhaps this is just “humanity’s last, best hope”) but no matter what, they’re facing God! What did they think was going to happen

\*cue the battle that never was\*

*The Beast and the False Prophet Captured 19:20*

- *But the beast was captured* – Oh man, really!?! I thought he had this one for sure! There was no way that he could lose...he looked so powerful and so terrifying...what happened that the beast lost? Wait, that’s not all...

- *and with it the false prophet* – Oh man...now we’re done! What makes this even more amazing is how little detail is offered. God doesn’t have an epic battle against them, there’s no “Cold War” struggle of escalation...simply the fact that Satan’s two most powerful servants (powers expanded on below) are dismissed as though they were so much chaff, or dust in the air.

+ *who had performed the signs on its behalf* – Parlor tricks and cheap magic will convince those who are not instructed, but for us who have the Word, it cannot stand.

\* *With these signs he had deluded* – It really does strike me as incredible, just how gullible we tend to be sometimes. We delude ourselves into believing even the tiniest straw of a half-truth in exchange for the purity of the Gospel. Satan and his servants will do anything (and everything) in their powers to convince us that God’s not worth it...but we know better, we have the Truth.

^ *those who had received the mark of the beast and [those who] worshiped its image* – Both refer to the same group of people, who followed blindly along, not comparing what the false prophet had told them with what God had already made clear on the pages of Scripture.

- *The two of them were thrown alive* – That detail is not just made idly, but the fact that they are taken alive means that God is powerful enough to subdue them. Any resistance that they might have attempted to offer against him evaporates and disappears against the Almighty hand of Omnipotent God. This “living death” is also a powerful picture of the suffering of hell. Their death is not an “end” other than an end to God’s loving presence...and is instead just the beginning of torments night and day...forever.

+ *into the fiery lake of burning sulfur* – Pretty clearly referring to hell...both the burning and the sulfuric odor would make that never-ending torment more painful...yet neither



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would ever come to an end...



*The Feast of Flesh 19:21*

- ***The rest were killed*** – All those armies that had all the power of every nation under the sun... gone in an instant. All their strength, all their multitudinous numbers...gone in an instant. And the weapon that was their demise was the same weapon that would have rescued them from their current, impossible plight.

+ ***with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse*** – The Word has two edges now, but on that day will only cut to the core, will only convict, will only condemn. We have the urgency of knowing that the time of grace allotted to us and those around us is all too brief, and is getting briefer by the moment. We pray that we may have courage and conviction to say what is hard to hear now, before the only Word that will be spoken is: Damned.

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- *and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh* – No slim pickings here. As we come to the finale of this vision, we have a somewhat gruesome sight before us...Praise the Lord that he sent the *hovering eternal gospel* to work faith in our hearts, rather than giving us the *hovering carrion birds* that we deserve to have. Praise the Lord that his blood has purchased us, rather than facing the bloody slaughter on that day. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Bring the return of the King of kings and Lord of Lords.

