

## **The Book of Revelation**

By

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### **CHAPTER NINETEEN**

#### **THE LAST STRUGGLE**

**"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up forever and ever... And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (vs. 1-3, 6).**

#### **Destroy the Jew**

If a rocket could be invented that could carry a ton of explosives to the moon, and the nations of earth would unite to blow the moon out of existence, we might smile at their futile efforts. Yet they have taken upon themselves a far more impossible task, and are tackling their problem from the wrong end.

First, let them destroy the sun and moon and then turn their hate toward the Jew, for **"Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night... If these ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever"** (Jeremiah 31:35-36).

#### **Men Hate God**

There are two reasons for this hatred against the Jew. Satan is prince of this world and has nothing in common with CHRIST (John 14:30). The Jews gave us the Bible, and CHRIST came a Jew, and both of these are special objects of Satanic hatred.

Men would ever do away with GOD. Marvelous indeed are the unbelievable explanations invented by evolutionists to do away with a Creator. CHRIST is the light of the world and men hate Him, for they love their darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil (John 3:19).

#### **Hindrance to the Antichrist**

During this present church age, the full manifestation of this hatred is held in check by the HOLY SPIRIT who indwells the Christian. At the rapture of the church, the HOLY SPIRIT, in the sense He came on Pentecost, will be removed, and then this fierce hatred against our Lord, having no restraint, will head up in one man who will lead the world in a united effort to do away with Him.

For a time he will prosper and many a true saint will fill a martyrs grave. But there will be two things to hinder. Two men in Jerusalem are witnessing for the GOD of Heaven, and there is also a plot of ground in Jerusalem that is kept by supernatural power (Revelation 11).

Every known means of destruction will be turned loose upon these men, but for three and one-half years they are invulnerable. Finally however, they are overcome and killed and the world goes mad with joy. This gives the antichrist encouragement to storm that plot of ground and he gathers the armies of the entire world against Jerusalem.

### **A-L-L not S-O-M-E**

The Battle of Armageddon is not a struggle between two earthly powers, for ALL nations of earth will send their armies to this great slaughter field. **"I will gather ALL nations against Jerusalem"** (Joel 3 and Zechariah 14:2). A-L-L does not spell S-O-M-E. All nations will send their armies in this great struggle to drive GOD off the earth and they gather there to consciously **"make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army"** (vs. 19).

The armies of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir came against Judah. It was a great multitude and Judah's state looked hopeless indeed. However, Jehoshaphat asked **"help of the Lord"** and was assured that the battle was not his but the Lord's.

Then Jehoshaphat did a strange thing. He appointed singers unto the Lord, that they should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, **"Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth forever"** (II Chronicles 20). Strange indeed that an army should march to battle with the voice of singing. Yet, **"When they began to sing and to praise,"** the Lord acted, and it took three days to carry off the spoils.

### **The Hallelujah Chorus**

In the last war the tension was high and a heavy load hung dark on many a weary heart. But one day the word flashed out, "The war is over." What a time of rejoicing as factory whistles blew; church bells rang, and people shouted and danced about in boundless joy.

And so again as untold millions gather upon the plains of battle, and as great Babylon sinks and seethes in her own destruction, the hosts of Heaven join in grand Hallelujah Chorus. Back and forth they vibrate and revibrate, **"Salvation, and glory, and honour and power, unto the Lord our God"** (vs. 1). And this company of **"much people"** are answered by the four and twenty elders who shout back the same glorious word, **"Alleluia;"** and before the echoes die away the mighty living creatures thunder out their praise in an **"Amen, Alleluia."**

For six thousand years has high Heaven witnessed a world in rebellion and dark apostasy against

its GOD; for sixty long centuries have men mocked and blasphemed their Creator; for all these ages have Heaven born saints suffered, bled and died by wicked hands. And now as the last great struggle looms ahead, there is not a doubt in a single heart as all shout, "**Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.**"

### **Happiness in Heaven**

But there may be a mystery here. Often has the question presented itself, "How can a godly wife be happy in Heaven, knowing her husband is in hell?" True it is she loved him. And true it is that she wept and prayed and pleaded for his salvation. But GOD loved him more and if GOD's love is satisfied, hers will be too.

Here is the "**voice of much people in heaven**" and her voice is one of them, and as her husband slips to certain doom, she joins in ascribing glory and honor to her GOD, "**For true and righteous are his judgments**" in sending him to hell.

And throughout the universe there is not one voice raised to charge injustice to our GOD. "**When Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the Lord,**" and the Lord permitted Shishak king of Egypt to come against him. This caused great grief for many cities were taken, but "**the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, The Lord is righteous**" (II Chronicles 12:6). And so as judgment falls upon a rebellious world, all hearts in Heaven unite to cry, "**The Lord is righteous.**"

There is danger here, for some would start that chorus now. A church may be in trouble from some ungodly member and men sit down to await the undertaker. Paul also wished "**they were even cut off which trouble you**" (Galatians 5:12). Yet we should not rejoice at the calamity that may overtake such an one. A time may be coming when we can openly rejoice, but that time is not yet. "**Those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish**" (Luke 13:4-5).

### **Consummation of Redemption**

But soon a new cause for joy is called to our attention. Not only do they rejoice at the defeat of evil but at the presence of a positive good. Nineteen hundred years ago a man trudged up Golgotha's hill. His face was stained with spit and blood; His brow was pierced with a myriad of thorns; His body was bruised and torn with the lash. And why did He thus bear it all? Ah! It was because of the "**joy that was set before Him**" that He endured the Cross and despised the shame (Hebrews 12:2). It was because He loved the church that He "**gave himself for it... that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing**" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

And now the culmination of that joy has come and the object of His love is in glory and "**the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready**" (Revelation 19:7). It is easy for me to anticipate that time with joy, but to think of Him by whom all things were made is to think of Him before whom archangels veil their faces; to think of Him rejoicing in my presence is far beyond me indeed.

## **Our High Position**

There is mystery. What joy and honor awaits the child of GOD no mortal tongue can tell. When Abraham sent his servant to seek a bride for Isaac, he warned him not to **"take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites"** (Genesis 24). Abraham sought with care to get a wife of Isaac's equal. And so when the Heavenly Father sent forth the HOLY SPIRIT in quest of a bride for the heavenly bridegroom, would He not seek a bride of His Son's own equal? What boundless mysteries here; what glorious anticipation, for though we may now be but worms of the dust, the consummation of our redemption will place us far above the angels; the seraphim and all the heavenly host. Is it any wonder that those white-winged messengers of another world, even now count it a privilege to be **"ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation"** (Hebrews 1:14)?

## **Garments and Righteousness**

**"And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white, for the fine linen is the righteousness (righteous acts) of saints"** (vs. 8).

There is one time in the life of a woman when she is extravagant in her dress; one time when she arrays herself in garments of special worth and that time is on her wedding day. So here the bride arrays herself in a garment of her own making.

Garment in scriptural symbolism represents righteousness. Self-righteousness is nauseating to a holy GOD, for **"all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags"** (Isaiah 64:6), When Adam and Eve sinned they **"knew that they were naked"** and clothed themselves in garments of their own provision. Fig leaves, or self-righteousness, may suffice among our fellow men, but when the Lord GOD came upon the scene **"Adam and his wife hid themselves."** So **"the Lord God made coats of skins and clothed them."**

Fig leaf righteousness could not bring fellowship with GOD, but when GOD provided the covering (evidently shedding blood) they could again fellowship with GOD because the blood looked forward to the Cross where alone we can be clothed with GOD's righteousness.

When we take CHRIST as our Saviour, we are,

**"Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless to stand before the throne."**

This speaks of imputed righteousness; the righteousness of CHRIST, but the garments of the bride are made of linen which are the results of her own righteous acts - the fruit of a godly life.

## **Danger of Loss**

Salvation is a free gift, but rewards or crowns are offered for true Christian service. In another place these works are likened to building material; some being wood, hay and stubble, while others are gold, silver and precious stones (I Corinthians 3). At the judgment seat of CHRIST

rewards are given for faithful works of love, while other works are burned; but the soul is saved **"yet so as by fire"** - that is, they lose their rewards.

Here the fruit of a godly life is likened unto fine linen which makes up the clothing of the bride. But many indeed are they whose works will not stand the test; many will be clothed upon with immortality but alas their works are burned and they will **"be found naked"** (II Corinthians 5:3). Truly it stands us in hand to **"Abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming"** (1 John 2:28).

### **The Blessed "Called"**

**"Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb"** (vs. 9). Just who the **"called"** may be, I do not know. Certainly the bride is not called to her own wedding for she has the place of highest honor and stands at the side of the Great Bridegroom Himself. But what a feast: angels hurrying about with great trays of ripe luscious fruit from the Tree of Life, and water from the crystal stream that issues from the throne of GOD. How near we are to the time when that great feast will be called we do not know; but certainly it is near, very near, even at the doors. We can almost hear the angels rattling the silverware now, as they prepare for that grand supper. Thank GOD for such a hope.

### **Truth from God**

**"These are the true sayings of God"** (vs. 9). Many there are who sneer at this great book and fain would turn us from its message. But who wrote these words?

Was it not John, who left his all to follow JESUS; John, who walked in the presence of our Lord for three long years; John who suffered for his faith and was banished to the lonely Patmos? It was this John who said, **"These are the true sayings of God."** Rather would I trust a man who has so suffered for his Lord than believe dishonest men who, with high salary and exalted position, seek to twist and deny and warp the very word they have not solemnly pledged themselves to defend.

### **The Testimony of Jesus**

But John is not the author of these words. Rather do they come from a being so bright and so glorious that John **"fell at his feet to worship him."** **"And he said unto me, see thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"** (vs. 10).

Who this heavenly messenger is we do not know, but he seems to be a member of the redeemed human race sent back with this message of comfort and cheer.

He also informs us that the spirit of all prophecy points in one way or another to JESUS. The whole Bible is about One Person - the Lord JESUS CHRIST. Is there recorded an incident in the life of Melchizedek; or are there certain details in the life of Joseph? It is all a testimony or picture of JESUS. Is there recorded the making of the tabernacle in minute detail? It is because that structure in its color, materials and makeup, sets forth our Lord in shadow and type.

## **The Battle of Armageddon**

Can anything be more foolish than the gathering of Armageddon's millions? **"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?"** Is it any wonder that **"He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh"** (Psalm 2)?

There are many today who teach that the Gospel will convert the world and that it is the business of the church to clean up the community, and after the world is thus purified, CHRIST will return. There is not a single Scripture to prove such a notion. Rather are evil men to wax worse and worse (II Timothy 3).

CHRIST once offered Himself as this world's king but was crowned with a diadem of thorns. The hearts of men have not yet changed, for Satan is the prince of this world and men will never crown our Lord as their king. Thus the Father issues the decree, **"Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession... Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel"** (Psalm 2). Throw a dish to the cement and see what the nations will look like after CHRIST returns.

## **Earthly and Heavenly Views**

The gathering for Armageddon is seen in Joel three, **"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men... beat your plowshares into swords... Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near."**

The heavenly view is given in Revelation nineteen.

**"I saw Heaven opened, and behold a white horse, and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war"** (vs. 11).

Once before, our Lord rode into Jerusalem. But what a change of attitude. Then, He sat astride a lowly little ass; now He mounts a great white charger.

Some object to there being horses in Heaven, but whatever they may be, the best word the HOLY SPIRIT can find to describe them to us is by the word **"horse"**. There are both infernal and celestial horses in the world beyond. In the world war, it was decreed by some that "Might makes right," but our Lord will make war in truth and righteousness.

## **Many Crowns**

**"His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself"** (vs. 12).

What terror to be the object upon which those eyes are focused. There is an overwhelming awe in the blaze of the human eye. Men have died under the fiery gaze of a king. Mussolini made much of his "fierce countenance."

When David defeated the Ammonites, "**he took their king's crown from off his head... and it was set on David's head**" (II Samuel 12:30). Here are "**many crowns**," signifying accumulated victory.

### **Treading the Winepress**

**"And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called the Word of God"** (vs. 13).

When the grapes of earth's vintage are fully ripe, our Lord will come from Heaven and tread the winepress.

**"Who is this that cometh from Edom? ...I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone... and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart"** (Isaiah 63).

### **The Armies of Heaven**

**"And the armies which were in Heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean"** (vs. 14).

These armies will be made up at least in part by the angels; for "**the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ**" (II Thessalonians 1:7-8).

No doubt the church will also be in this great army, for, "**Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?**" (I Corinthians 6:2).

This army is immortal. There is not a piece of armor among them. Rather are they clothed in table cloths, "**white and clean.**"

### **A Sharp Sword**

**"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God"** (vs. 15).

Battles are usually fought by the men of an army, while the general stands off in a safe place. Here, however, there is but a single sword and it is wielded by the Captain Himself. The sword of the Spirit "**is the word of God**" (Ephesians 6:17).

Quick destruction will fall upon the earthly army for it is "**that Wicked... whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming**" (II Thessalonians 2:8).

**"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (vs. 16).**

Generals carry their sword upon their thigh; it is their badge of authority. Here, in place of a sword is a name, **"King of Kings, and Lord of Lords,"** and this name carries the authority of the universe with it.

### **Another Supper**

**"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God" (vs. 17).**

There are two suppers in this chapter. There is a blessing for those who are **"called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb,"** There is a feast for the birds that are called to the **"supper of the great God."**

These birds will **"eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great" (vs. 18).**

### **Hatred Toward CHRIST**

**"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army" (vs. 19).**

The armies of ALL nations gather to consciously fight against their Creator. The salute of many thousands of earth's inhabitants today, is a fist raised high toward the GOD of Heaven. Already has GOD been ordered off a portion of His creation, and this spirit of hatred will increase as we near the end of the age.

The godly will suffer and it will seem that men have almost accomplished their desire for only a small plot of ground will remain in Jerusalem; and it is to win this plot that men gather **"to make war against him that sat on the horse."**

### **The Lake of Fire**

**"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (vs. 20).**

The beast and the false prophet are immortal men.

One seems to have been killed and resurrected, for **"his deadly wound was healed"** and **"all the world wondered after the beast"** (ch. 13:3, 12). The other seems to have been a resurrected



man, for he comes "**up out of the earth,**" from the region of the unsaved dead (ch. 13:11).

At any rate they never die again for they are cast "**alive**" into the final abode of all unsaved; that is, the Lake of Fire.

Let no one presume upon the love of GOD and run the risk of this dread region of the damned. Some indeed eulogize the man of Galilee and speak great words about His teachings, but alas! they make a fatal mistake in rejecting both His person and His work. He is the Son of GOD, but they make Him a mere son of Adam. If He laid false claim to deity, He merited death; if He laid false claims to truth, He was a deceiver of the worst kind.

It was from the lips of our Lord JESUS that such grave warnings fell; it was from Him Who could not lie, that over and over again there fell such solemn words as, "**Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched**" (Mark 9:44). "**These shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal**" (Matthew 25:46).

The rich man "**lift up his eyes, being in torments**" (Luke 16:23).

There is a place prepared for the devil and his angels; a place of eternal torment; a lake of fire and brimstone into which all unsaved must sometime sink to rise no more. How this should drive us not to joke about its reality, nor use it as a mere by-word. Rather should we most earnestly pray and warn earth's pilgrims while we may.

### **The Deceived**

There is a note of mystery here. The people who received the mark of the beast were really "**deceived.**" People may be ever so sincere and yet they may be wrong. They may believe they are right, but being deceived, they miss the fountain of eternal life. This raises a question as to the justice of their damnation.

Let us remember that sincerity alone does not count and ignorance of the law does not excuse. A man may believe sincerely that a bridge is safe, but it may crumble beneath his load. There are mysteries here, for "**a man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven**" (John 3), and "**no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost**" (I Corinthians 12). There is, however, a GOD in Heaven Who knows the heart, and we have His word that they who hunger and thirst after righteousness "**SHALL be filled**" (Matthew 5:6). "**If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself**" (John 7:17).

We do know that many ten thousands of hearers do not receive the word into their heart. It is a solemn truth that light rejected brings forth darkness, and just behind the scene there is a flit of evil wings as, "**Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts**" (Mark 4:15).

Let a man reject the truth and he is open to all sorts of deception for, "**If our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**" (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

**"And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh" (vs. 21).**

How few are the words that record the end of man's futile rebellion, and how foolish for sinful men to raise their puny strength against the omnipotent GOD. If the reader of these words has not yet confessed with his mouth the Lord JESUS and believed in his heart that GOD hath raised him from the dead, may he do so at once and rest in the full assurance of the promise, "**thou shalt be saved**" (Romans 10:9).

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