

Handout for Lesson 22, Chapter 19

Chapter 19 is an expansion and completion of what was announced by the 7th angel in Chapter 11 and climaxes with the vision of the Bride prepared for her wedding feast in 19:8. John's vision of Mary in 12:1, as the symbol of the Church, foreshadows 19:8

Revelation 11:15-12:1	Revelation 19:1-8
11:15 ~ <i>voices could be heard shouting in heaven, calling</i>	19:1 ~ <i>the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing</i>
11:17 ~ <i>We give thanks to you Almighty Lord God ... for assuming your great power and beginning your reign</i>	19:1,7 ~ <i>Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power to our God! ... the reign of our Lord, the God Almighty, has begun</i>
11:16 ~ <i>The 24 elders... prostrated themselves and touched the ground with their foreheads worshipping God</i>	19:4 ~ <i>Then the 24 elders ... threw themselves down and worshipped God</i>
11:18 ~ <i>the time has come for your retribution, and for the dead to be judged, and for your servants the prophets, for the saints and ... to be rewarded</i>	18:24 & 19:2 ~ <i>In her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and all the blood that was ever shed on earth. He judges fairly, he punishes justly... he has avenged the blood of his servants which she shed [by her hand]</i>
11:18 ~ <i>Your servants ... and those who fear your name, small and great alike</i>	19:5 ~ <i>you servants of his and those who fear him, small and great alike</i>
11:19 ~ <i>Then there came flashes of lightning, peals of thunder</i>	19:6 ~ <i>And I heard what seemed to be the voices of a huge crowd, like the sound of the ocean or the great roar of thunder</i>
12:1 ~ <i>Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, robed with the sun</i>	19:8 ~ <i>His Bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen</i>

The Five-Part Responsorial Hymn of Victory of the Saints, Prophets, and Angels

1. verses 1-2	<i>After this I heard ... "Alleluia!... he has avenged the blood of his servants which she shed [by her hand]."</i>
2. verse 3	<i>And again they sang, "Alleluia! The smoke of her will rise forever and ever."</i>
3. verse 4	<i>Then the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures threw themselves down and worshipped God seated on his throne, and they cried, "Amen, Alleluia."</i>
4. verse 5	<i>Then a voice came from the throne: it said, "Praise our God, you servants of his and those who fear him, small and great alike."</i>
5. verses 6-8	<i>And I heard what seemed to be the voice of a huge crowd ... "His Bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints."</i>

The two titles for Jesus in 19:11: "Trustworthy and True" (some translations will have "Trustworthy and Faithful"). The white horse is symbolic of Christ's victory and dominion over the earth. He rides forth to victory as "the faithful and true Witness," anticipated in Revelation 3:14, as He judges humanity and wages war against sin and Satan.

The word Alleluia only appears four times in the New Testament and only in Revelation 19:1, 3, 4, and 6. Amen appears 50 times in the New Testament and ten times in Revelation (1:6, 7, 18; 5:14; 7:12 twice, 19:4; 22:20, 21).

John's last seven visions. Each vision begins with the phrase *kai eidon* = *and I saw*.

Vision #1 Rev 19:11	<i>And I saw heaven open and a white horse appear</i>
Vision #2 Rev 19:17	<i>And I saw an angel standing in the sun</i>
Vision #3 Rev 19:19	<i>And I saw the beast, with all the kings of the earth</i>
Vision #4 Rev 20:1	<i>And I saw an angel come down from heaven with the key</i>
Vision #5 Rev 20:4	<i>And I saw thrones, where they took their seats</i>
Vision #6 Rev 20:11	<i>And I saw a great white throne and the One who was</i>
Vision #7 Rev 21:1	<i>And I saw the dead, great and small alike</i>

* In the sixth vision, the phrase "And I saw" appears twice in 20:11 and 12, making a seven/eight pattern (see the document "The Significance of Numbers in Scripture" on the www.AgapeBibleStudy.com website).

The chiasmic structure of Revelation 19:12-16 provides the answers to two puzzles. In C-2, what is the sharp two-edged sword? The answer is in C-1, and in B-1, how did Christ's cloak become bloody? The answer is in B-2. But here is a question not answered by the pattern: Why is His name written on His thigh? Think of a 1st-century warrior-king; what would he carry against his thigh? His sword! The Chiasmic Pattern of Revelation 19:12-16:

A-1. He has a name written which no one 'knows' (owns) except Himself (verse 12b)

B-1. He wears a robe dipped in blood (verse 13a)

C-1. His name is called the Word of God (verse 13b)

C-2. From His mouth comes a sharp two-edged sword (verse 15a)

B-2. He treads the wine (press) of God's fierce retribution (verse 15b)

A-2. On His robe and His thigh, He has a name written: King of kings, Lord of lords (verse 16)

What is the sharp sword of verse 15a? See Hebrews 4:12, Revelation 1:16 and 19:13b.

In Revelation 19:16, there are two titles for Christ that John tells us is one name. Is he telling us to add the words together? The gematria of "King of kings, Lord of lords" in Hebrew/Aramaic (leaving out the "and") is 777, a trinity of perfection in contrast to the beast's number 666, which will never achieve perfection.

19:11-16 is a replay of the Incarnation and Ascension, drawing on John's imagery from his Gospel:

- Christ, the "Word," came down from Heaven to become flesh
- He taught the word of God only to be assailed by His enemies
- His blood atoned for the sins of man
- In His bloody crucifixion and resurrection, He was victorious over sin and death
- He ascended to Heaven to be enthroned as King of kings.

John repeats the same imagery in this Revelation passage with:

- The heavens open and He descends to earth (19:11)
- He is the "Word" (19:13)
- He does battle with His enemies (19:13-15)
- He wears a cloak soaked in blood (19:13)
- He is the victorious King of kings and Lord of lords (19:16)

Michal E. Hunt Copyright © 2000; revised 2020