

The Book Of Revelation Study 89

Revelation 19:1-10 (NASB)

¹ *After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;*

² *BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."*

³ *And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER."*

⁴ *And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"*

⁵ *And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."*

⁶ *Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.*

⁷ *"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."*

⁸ *It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

⁹ *Then he *said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he *said to me, "These are true words of God."*

¹⁰ *Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he *said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

The Bible gives many reasons for giving thanks to God. He is to be praised first of all for all the perfections of His glorious being.

Hebrews 13:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ *Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.*

2 Samuel 22:50 (NASB)

⁵⁰ *"Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the nations, And I will sing praises to Your name.*

Psalms 7:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ *I will give thanks to the LORD according to His righteousness And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.*

And there are many more such passages throughout scripture.

One of the perfections God is to be praised for is His holiness.

Psalms 30:4 (NASB)

⁴ *Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, And give thanks to His holy name.*

God is also to be praised for His mercy:

Psalm 136:26 (NASB)

²⁶ *Give thanks to the God of heaven, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.*

Scripture also extols God's goodness:

Psalm 106:1 (NASB)

¹ *Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;*

The comforting knowledge of God's nearness caused the psalmist to exclaim:

Psalm 75:1 (NASB)

¹ *We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks, For Your name is near;*

God is to be praised not only for His attributes, but also for His mighty works.

Isaiah 25:1 (NASB)

¹ *O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.*

Chief among those works are creation and salvation.

The many rich blessings God bestows on His people also call forth praise, first and foremost the gift of His Son. That matchless gift caused Paul to exclaim,

2 Corinthians 9:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ *Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*

Paul also praised God for his deliverance from indwelling sin:

Romans 7:23-25 (NASB)

²³ *but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.*

²⁴ *Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?*

²⁵ *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

And so much more, Praised God for triumph over sin, and over death and the grave, also the triumph of the Gospel, and His call to the ministry, the faith exhibited by other, and the grace of God poured out on His children,

Paul also taught that believers should praise and thank God for all the basic necessities of life which are tangible expressions of God's love and care for them.

In summary, giving thanks to God is to be done always:

Ephesians 5:20 (NASB)

²⁰ *always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;*

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ *in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

But of all the things God is to be praised for, perhaps the least expected is for His destruction of the wicked. Yet that, too, is an important theme in Scripture.

Deuteronomy 32:43 (NASB)

⁴³ *"Rejoice, O nations, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And will render vengeance on His adversaries,*

The Psalmist adds:

Psalm 48:11 (NASB)

¹¹ *Let Mount Zion be glad, Let the daughters of Judah rejoice Because of Your judgments.*

Psalm 58:10-11 (NASB)

¹⁰ *The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.*

¹¹ *And men will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely there is a God who judges on earth!"*

Psalm 96:11-13 (NASB)

¹¹ *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; Let the sea roar, and all it contains;*

¹² *Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy*

¹³ *Before the LORD, for He is coming, For He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness And the peoples in His faithfulness.*

As man's day draws to a close and the true King prepares to return to earth, heaven will rejoice.

Heavenly hallelujahs ring out in chapter 19 over the final destruction of the evil world system and the glorious Victory of the returning Messiah.

As that long awaited time approaches, the scene in Revelation shifts from earth, where it has been since chapter 6, to heaven.

As the text unfolds, five reasons for heaven's joy become evident.

Heaven rejoices because full salvation has come,

It rejoices because justice is meted out,

Because rebellion is ended,

Because God is now in control,

Because the marriage of the Lamb is completed.

BECAUSE FULL SALVATION HAS COME

Revelation 19:1 (NASB)

¹ *After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;*

As it does throughout Revelation, the phrase **after these things** marks the beginning of a new vision. This new vision takes place after the destruction of Babylon and before the triumphant return of Jesus Christ to establish the Millennial Kingdom.

As the loud laments over Babylon's destruction fade into silence, loud hallelujahs ring out in heaven.

In his vision John **heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven.**

The text does not identify those whose composite voices make up the **loud voice** John heard, but they are likely angels.

This great multitude does not appear to include the redeemed saints, since they are encouraged to join in the praise later (V5-8). The uncounted millions of holy angels make up a majestic, awe inspiring choir.

The angelic chorus opens with the important word **Hallelujah**, an exclamation of praise to God.

The Greek word *allelouia* is a transliteration of a Hebrew phrase comprised of the verb *Halal* (*to praise*) and the noun *Yah* (*God*).

This appears only in this chapter in the New Testament. It does appear in the Old Testament first in Psalms;

Psalms 104:35 (NASB)

³⁵ *Let sinners be consumed from the earth And let the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD!*

In its first Old Testament appearance, as in its first New Testament appearance, **Hallelujah** expresses praise for God's judgment on the wicked oppressors of His people.

The Hebrew phrase is associated with God's deliverance of His people from Egypt in Psalms 113 to 118, which are known collectively as the Egyptian Hallel.

It is a word often associated with both the judgment of the ungodly and the salvation of God's people.

Heaven rejoices specifically because **salvation** has come for God's people, and with it the **glory and power** that **belong to God.**

1 Chronicles 29:11 (NASB)

¹¹ *"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.*

Here His greatness and power and glory have all been put on display. The word **salvation** does not focus on justification or sanctification, but celebrates the final aspect of salvation history, the glorification of the saints in the kingdom of Christ.

The imminent coming of Jesus Christ prompts this praise as the angels anticipate the glory of His kingdom.

BECAUSE JUSTICE IS METED OUT

Revelation 19:2 (NASB)

² **BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."**

Heaven also rejoices because God's judgments are true and righteous;

Revelation 16:7 (NASB)

⁷ **And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."**

This is true as evidenced by the destruction of wicked, deserving Babylon.

That joy over the imminent triumph of God's justice is something that all who pray and work for righteousness can relate to.

Throughout history God's people have been disturbed by the inequity, injustice, and unrighteousness in the world, and have longed for God's justice to come.

Anticipating the coming of the Messiah, Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NASB)

⁶ **For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.**

⁷ **There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.**

Jeremiah also anticipated the time when the Messiah would bring justice and righteousness to the earth:

Jeremiah 23:5 (NASB)

⁵ **"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.**

Earlier in Revelation the martyred Tribulation believers cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev 6:10)

Like Isaiah and Jeremiah, they eagerly anticipated the day when God's justice would triumph. God's people hate sin because it mocks God and love righteousness because it exalts Him.

They long for a world characterized by holiness and justice. But that will only happen when Christ establishes His righteous kingdom and rules with a rod of iron. (V-15; 2:27; 12:5; Ps. 2:9)

The stage was set for establishing that kingdom when God **judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality.**

The evil of the commercial and religious Babylon will be pervasive and dominant, leading to equitable retribution from God.

A further reason for Babylon's judgment was her maltreatment of God's people (18:24). As a result, **He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.**

That God will exact vengeance for His people is clearly taught in Scripture;

Deuteronomy 32:42-43 (NASB)

⁴² *'I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword will devour flesh, With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the long-haired leaders of the enemy.'*

⁴³ *"Rejoice, O nations, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And will render vengeance on His adversaries, And will atone for His land and His people."*

"It is only just," wrote Paul to the Thessalonians;

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 (NASB)

⁶ *For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,*

⁷ *and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,*

⁸ *dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

Revelation 18 says;

Revelation 18:20 (NASB)

²⁰ *"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."*

It is both fitting and just that those who caused the moral ruin of the world and persecuted God's people should face His vengeance.

BECAUSE REBELLION IS ENDED

Revelation 19:3 (NASB)

³ *And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER."*

Babylon's judgment provoked the first outburst of heavenly rejoicing;

The aftermath of her destruction prompts the heavenly chorus for a **second time** to say, **"Hallelujah!"**

At the climax of her judgment, Babylon was “burned up with fire” (18:8) and sinners mourned as they watched the pall of smoke rise into the sky.

Revelation 18:9 (NASB)

⁹ "And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,

Revelation 18:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'

That the **smoke rises up forever and ever** indicates that this judgment is final, permanent, and irreversible.

The flames and the smoke will finally die out, but the judgment is eternal on the souls of the sinners destroyed. Hell is a place *“where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched,”* (Mark 9:48)

The destruction of the last and most powerful empire in human history marks the end of man’s day. The rebellion that began long ago in the Garden of Eden is finally ended (apart from a futile short-lived revolt at the end of the Millennium)

There will be no more false religion, worldly philosophy, injustice, unrighteousness, all the sorry results of human depravity will be vanquished.