

## Revelation 19 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at chapter nineteen of the book of Revelation, it's part thirty-seven in our series.

Verse one, *'And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:'*

After these things. When we look back at the book of Revelation, the first chapter is the identification of Jesus Christ as the Almighty God.

Then in chapters two and three we had the stories or the letters to the seven churches which is, of course, the way that the devil is trying to infiltrate and take over the church of God. And he did this through the deeds of the Nicolaitans, in other words putting people in charge of the church, and even putting a hierarchy above those that were in charge of the local church. The local church is supposed to be led by the Holy Spirit. Everyone in it is supposed to be led by the Holy Spirit. It isn't another tribal system with a boss, it isn't another organisational system like a business, it is God individually leading His people.

We went on from there to the seven seals. The first four seals, of course, again, dealing with the church ages, and they are seals that reveal the devil again as he tries to work, and the indication of how he works is on the different coloured horses. First he comes looking like Christ, then he comes in war, making war against those that don't follow his instructions or recognise his authority, then he comes on a dark horse, in other words he's got everything all tied up so that people cannot know the truth. He had the bible written in Latin so that most people could never understand it. And then, finally, he's a mixture, but, of course, against this God sends His four beasts. First is a lion, going out and making new converts, being brave. The second is a calf, an ox, he is rather like the beast of sacrifice, he must bear a heavy load, and, of course, he did that all the way through the persecution. Then there is the man, and he was the intellectual one, the one that actually translated the bible back into local languages, be they German, French or English, or whatever. And that, of course, happened from the 1300s on, especially when printing became a reality, and books could be produced quite quickly and easily. Finally, we have the eagle. Now, the eagle is not a land-based creature as are the other three. He is more spiritual. He can look back in the past, he can look forward in the future. And that's what we believe this message is doing for us. We've had a prophet, who is like an eagle, but we are supposed to be eaglets, we are supposed to fly too, we're not stuck on the ground, not fixed by the world, but flying. Taking our place in the skies and soaring on the wings of the Spirit. We are reverting back to that very original church before the first church age. The church from 33AD through to 54AD, the Alpha church, which relied entirely on the Holy Spirit for all it did.

So, this is the situation. Then there comes judgement on the people who tried, or the organisations that tried, to control Christ's church. And, of course, we've seen that, the judgements, the vials poured out after each church age messenger, and now we come to the final battle, the final destruction of Rome, and then, of course, the final battle of Armageddon. Now we're up to that place for verse two of chapter nineteen.

*'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.'*

That, of course, refers to the destruction of the world council of churches and the Roman Catholic Church, or the old Roman Empire.

*'And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.'*

It means it was always brought to remembrance.

*'And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.'*

Four and twenty elders, if you recall, were the twelve apostles and twelve patriarchs of tribes of Israel, and the four beasts, as I mentioned earlier, are the moves of the Holy Spirit that moved against the four different horses that the devil rode to try and gain control.

Verse five, *'And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye His servants, and ye that fear Him, both small and great.'*

*'And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters,'* once again we have the concept of waters being people, *'and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.'*

*'Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.'*

Some people think that it's all predestination, you don't have to do anything. That is not quite all the truth. The bride, the wife, has to make herself ready. She has to do things. She has to live the life that Christ wants placed in her.

Verse eight, *'And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.'*

God gives us that white linen. He grants it. None of us are ever good enough or clean enough to stand on our own merit. This is all God's work.

Verse nine, *'And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.'*

*'And I fell at his feet to worship him.'* So, John here is falling at the feet of the angel who is telling him all these things, showing him all these things. *'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.'* None of us must worship anyone but the Lord Jesus Christ or God Himself. And anyone who tries to worship a messenger, a prophet, a church or anything else, is going to fail. But when we get so close to God the messenger seems so much like God that we are tempted, just be aware we're not to fall into that simple trap. So the angel says 'don't worship me, worship God, *'for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'*

That particular verse used to confuse me sometimes. What was that? What did that mean? Well, when I looked up in Bro. Branham, he said prophecy is, of course, preaching. And the spirit of prophecy of Jesus is the preaching of Jesus Christ. And here in the message that is exactly what we should be doing. Preaching Jesus Christ. Not what this church did or what that did, or how these people must be in charge of this, that or the other, or controlling things as a business or whatever. The spirit of prophecy is preaching about Jesus Christ.

*Verse eleven, 'And 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.'*

And that, of course, is Jesus Christ. And that picture in Revelation is exactly what the devil took to try and look like Jesus in those first few church ages, where he was riding on a white horse pretending to be Jesus Christ. And that, of course, even in the pale horse, the mixed horse, is exactly what he's trying to do now. He wants to look like the true church to those who will believe it, to those who won't he will fight, and to those who are not sure he will provide blackness, he will provide lack of information so that they never know.

May God bless you, and I look forward to sharing part two of this chapter next time.