

# REVELATION - THE FINAL VICTORY

## (Lesson 9)

### **Intro: Why is it important that we clearly identify THE Antichrist?**

- Paul discusses Antichrist more thoroughly in 2 Thess. 2 - calls him the man of lawlessness (exalt himself over God, sets himself up in God's temple, Lord Jesus will overthrow him, displays himself with miracles, deceives, teaches the lie so people don't believe the truth) Paul says that the lawless one will be revealed, though at that time was not but already at work

### **- The Sixth Vision: Christ and the Antichrist**

#### **1. The Defeat of Babylon (18:1-24)**

- Why is "Babylon the Great" an appropriate description of anti-Christian forces? (cf 14:8)
  - the whole chapter is a dramatic portrayal of the fall of Christ's enemies; great O. T. enemy of God's people
- What is Babylon the Great guilty of doing? - she has become the dwelling place of all that is evil- evil spirits, unclean birds, committing spiritual adultery and leading nations astray, also enjoy great prosperity
- What will she receive for all her crimes against the true Church? - before Babylon's fall, God's people are to separate from the apostate church, her sins have piled up to heaven for the day of judgment, perfect justice - double portion of spiritual anguish she caused for others (drink wine of her adulteries), doubled for her; her glory and luxury end in pain and sorrow; her delusion that she rules as queen will end, burned with fire was punishment for daughter of priest in Israel who was guilty of adultery
- Why do each of the follower mourn her fate?
  - the kings of the earth - kings, governments who joined her are powerless to help in her punishment, only see the smoke of her burning, filled with fear and mourning; they will be punished too
  - the merchants of the earth - they supplied her with luxuries, selling her their goods weep and mourn, apostate church didn't offer true spiritual riches in Christ; their financial and eternal loss
  - all those who travel by sea - those who transported her riches and wealth also wail at the burning of this city that was so great to them, again did not receive true riches in Christ through her
- In contrast what are the saints, apostles and prophets urged to do? - to rejoice over Babylon's destruction, she had drunk the blood of the saints (17: 6), God will pronounce his judgment
- How is the final destruction of Babylon described? (cf. Jeremiah 25:10) - total destruction, complete devastation, nothing will ever be done again by her; all nations were affected by her attempts for material wealth and power, and led people spiritual astray with the wine of her adulteries

#### **2. The Church's Victory (19:1-21)**

##### **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (19:1-10)**

- Who is the great multitude in heaven shouting "Hallelujah"? - victorious church, the church triumphant in heaven, delivered out of the great tribulation, Hallelujah - praise the Lord
- What do they ascribe to God? - salvation - beast and prostitute could not rob church of salvation which depends on God's grace and power not the church's, therefore God deserves glory for his judgments are just and true - in the end when the scales are balanced, God's judgment is right
- Why are they praising God? - he has judged the Great Prostitute, avenged blood of saints (5th seal in chapter 6:9-11, saints asked how long until blood is avenged?) - smoke rises forever depicting her eternal doom and punishment in hell!

- Who from earlier visions joins in the "Hallelujahs"? - 24 elders, 4 living creatures fell down and worshiped, cried, Amen - their approval, Hallelujah - their praise
- Whose voice is added to the praise of the great multitude in heaven? - voice came from the throne, God's own voice giving approval to the Hallelujah's for overthrow of prostitute
- How does the praise become amplified? - crowd reaches a peak like a rushing waterfall and loud thunder
- What is the reason for this powerful "Hallelujah"? - the Lord God Almighty reigns - rejoice, give him glory and praise - see God's ruling power first hand and in full power, the wedding supper of Lamb has come, church as bride is ready - reason to rejoice
  - In what sense are the acts of the saints "righteous"? (cf. Isaiah 61: 10) - fine linen bright and clean to wear - the righteousness of Christ, wedding dress church does not bring but it is given to her; righteousness - declared righteous for Christ's sake through his redemptive work, in chapter 7 - white robes washed in blood of the Lamb; Isaiah - robe of righteousness, garments of salvation, not our filthy rags
- What comfort does this vision bring for Christ's church? - shows persecuted church that they will be delivered and reign with Christ while enemies will be utterly destroyed - sorrow will be turned to joy
- What did the angel mean when he said, "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"?
  - testimony of Jesus is spirit or heart and soul of prophecy - Christ crucified is the message of the church

### **The Rider on the White Horse (19:11-21)**

- Who is the rider on a white horse? - the Lord Jesus, eyes of blazing fire, many crowns, name - Word of God, (crown is many - enemies surrender their crowns, universal rule over all)
  - Why is he called "Faithful and True"? - what he says is true, what he promises will happen; judges justly and make war to punish enemies (divine justice)
  - Whose blood is on his robe? (cf. Isaiah 63: 1-6) - prophecy of Isaiah saw the Savior as victorious warrior returning from battle - blood of his enemies, only on him - fought battle alone
  - What does his name as the "Word of God" signify? - the revelation of God in the person of Christ - true God now also true man - came from Father full of grace and truth, in him we see God's glory and grace; the complete revelation of God in Jesus (cf. John chapter 1)
  - Who are the armies of heaven that follow the rider? - armies of heaven, the angels dressed in white, sinless, not blood-stained because only Christ fought battle; out of mouth came sharp sword - the Word of God (double-edged), here the law since it is divine judgment, strike down enemies - word produces judgment, instrument of judgment (rule of iron scepter)
  - Why does he rightly bear the name "King of kings and Lord of lords"? - supreme sovereignty and rule - only true King and Lord
- What graphic display does John see regarding the judgment? - great Supper to eat flesh of enemies, Supper consists of 10 terms - kings, generals, mighty men, horses, riders, flesh of all, free men, slaves, small, great - complete and total victory
- What two great enemies of Christ are captured and destroyed forever? - beast and false prophet here mark of beast refers to secular government, beast from sea - cast into hell
  - Who are the "rest of the them" killed with the sword of the rider? - those who follow them

**Conclusion: Is it wrong for us to pray for the destruction of the ungodly?** - obviously not, but God also wants as we also pray the conversion of the ungodly, yet we pray for God's divine justice, it is his to avenge, not us