

## Revelation Class 12 (Revelation 18-19:10)

“Reasons to Praise God”

### Recap:

Last week was jam packed as we discussed the Bowl judgements  
 We learned through John’s vision that God’s wrath would be poured out in full  
 Not just impacting a fraction of eco systems but a full 100%

- People struck with boils and sores with no relief
- 100% of the ocean turned to blood
- 100% of the fresh water turned into blood
- The heat of the sun scorches the earth (melting icecaps)
- Darkness over the world, including Satan and his kingdom.
- The Euphrates dries up providing a road for the kings to wage war against Jesus
- The earth shaken (no islands, mountains) and 100-pound hail sent

### As this these events take place...

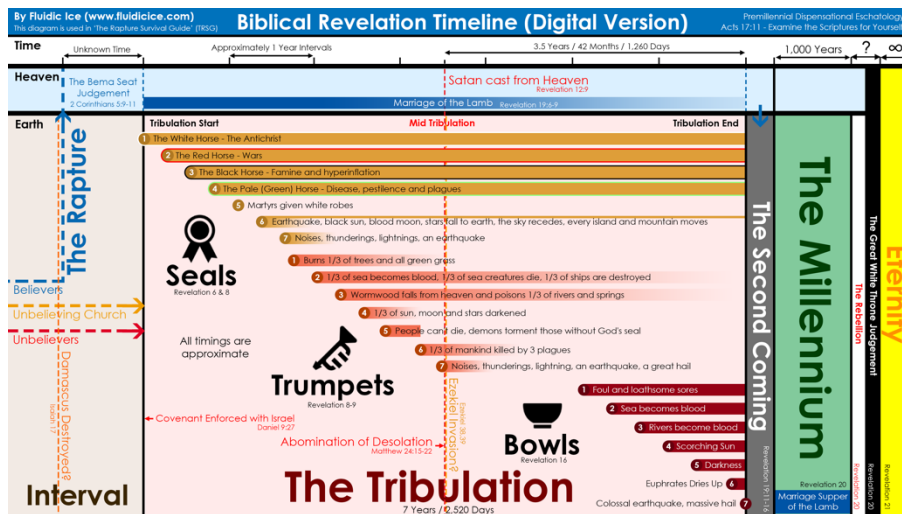
The world and its kings don’t repent or cry out but place their trust in spiritual Babylon  
 Spiritual Babylon being symbolic of worship not aimed at the One worthy of worship  
 She has existed since the beginning of time, duping humankind to become swayed  
 John revealed that the Anti-Christ would use this false religion to his advantage  
 Bringing the world to worship him, in a united one-world religion.  
 That is ultimately **DESTINED FOR DESTRUCTION.**

For many commentators they shift from focusing on the spiritual Babylon in Revelation 17  
 To an economic and political Babylon in Revelation 18

### Remember:

#### 1. Revelation is not a linear book, A-B

It talks about events, reminds you of events, and may be stacked upon each other.



For example: Chapter 17 is best understood as the middle of the tribulation.  
And now chapter 18 will occur at the **END OF THE TRIBULATION.**

**2. Babylon may be symbolic (Not a revitalized Roman Empire)**

Think of Babylon as a mindset, system, lifestyle, that is man focused and vehemently against God and His people in every single way.

**3. Be in their shoes**

As mentioned before, there was 3.5 years of peace and prosperity even though catastrophe was occurring, there was still money to be made lust to be satisfied... power to be gained and used... a false sense of security to us... but to them... they felt like they were on the winning team

The devil didn't run around with a pitchfork and horns  
He hid himself in plain sight of distractions, momentary happiness  
And these people are now about to see it all crumble  
their hopes, their dreams, the broken promises, to them they may feel like  
"it's not fair."

**Revelation 18**

***Revelation 18:1(ESV), "After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory.***

In our timeline... we're at the end of the bowl judgements.  
blood, the stench of death, heat, starvation, dehydration, and impenetrable darkness  
Gnashing of teeth (anger)..  
A barrage of 100- pound hail raining destruction on the earth...  
can you imagine...the silence, the exhaustion, the fear... and then...

An angel coming from the throne room of Heaven given great authority  
came down and illuminated the earth...

**DEVOTIONAL MOMENT** The angel ***was made bright with his glory...***

To be made bright was written in the Passive:  
Meaning that the angel wasn't made bright by their effort...  
But the angel being in the presence of God,  
impacted them in such a way  
That it was able to illumine a dark and chaotic world.

We see another example of this in the Old Testament



**Exodus 34:29 (ESV), <sup>129</sup> When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God."**



We can see that being in God's presence had physical implications both for the angel in Revelation and for Moses in the Old Testament.

Even though we are told that Satan (a fallen angel) can masquerade, imitate the light He cannot produce the light that comes from the Glory of God on his own. I wonder if that angel was super charged with God's presence would eventually Have its light fade if it didn't return back to the presence of God.

I wonder because even for Moses, though he had talked with God physically lighting up, **THAT LIGHT WOULD EVENTUALLY FADE.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:12-13 (AMP), <sup>12</sup> Since we have such a [glorious] hope and confident expectation, we speak with great courage, <sup>13</sup> and we are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the Israelites would not gaze at the end of the glory which was fading away."**

It was believed that when Moses' face began to lose the glow He would put a veil over his face, as it would possibly discourage the Israelites. I hope you have the question of why stirring in you... **WHY WOULD IT FADE?**

It may had been Moses protecting himself from more complaints from the Israelites  
It may had been to protect his pride  
Some scholars believe it would serve to be symbolic  
As God would conceal his glory, by providing the law.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:14-16 (ESV), <sup>14</sup> But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away.<sup>15</sup> Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. <sup>16</sup> But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed."**

In Paul's day, the Jews couldn't see the fading glory of Moses' ministry  
They were veiled (or blinded) from the world beyond the veil of Moses' ministry.  
Paul would stress this point in Galatians as many would struggle to believe...  
I simply need to believe in Jesus and obey him? That's it?  
I don't need to follow the 618 laws? No....  
We've been doing this for so long!

Isn't this true today of both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews)?  
People who are blinded to the saving grace of Jesus.  
when a person turns to Jesus, not only is the veil of burden taken away... but...

***2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 3:17-18, "17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."***

Unveiled faces... doesn't mean we may literally shine like Moses or the Angel  
but the presence of the Lord continually shines and we can live in it  
Impacted by being transformed, not into an image of a cookie-cutter Christian  
But into the image of Jesus

Can you imagine? Being transformed to such an extent...  
That you too can enter a dark, broken, angry, hopeless world (family, job, community)  
And illuminate Jesus... not out of your own effort... but from being **WITH JESUS**.

### **One more thought:**

God is working in you and through you  
Be encouraged that even as you are under construction by the mighty hand of God  
that there is still light... maybe you may feel like your light may be as bright  
As a small flashlight, dim as a nightlight... even the smallest of lights are bright  
Where darkness is present....



***Story "I feel like I am hugging Jesus"***

You don't need to be fully transformed into the image of Christ before you can shine  
God and shine Jesus today...

***John 8:12, When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."***

Back to Revelation...

an angel from the presence of God comes down to the dark  
And broken world...

***Revelation 18:2-3 (ESV), "2 And he called out with a mighty voice,  
"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!***

***She has become a dwelling place for demons,  
a haunt for every unclean spirit,  
a haunt for every unclean bird,  
a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.***

***3 For all nations have drunk***

***the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality,  
and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,  
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living."***

**A mighty voice:** No one will be able to ignore the angel

Even though this world experienced a false peace by the Anti-Christ  
It will Fall and be known as a dwelling place for every unclean spirit

**THINK OF IT AS A GARBAGE CAN WITH THE VILEST TRASH  
WAITING TO BE TAKEN TO THE DUMP.**

The nations: worldwide impact

Leadership not only engaged with spiritual fornication

But have grown rich through greed and selfishness (especially through a time of need)

Even at this end point... grace is extended for those who **DIDN'T** take the Mark of the Beast!  
(Revelation 14:9-11... eternal decision)

***Revelation 18:4-5 (ESV), "4 Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,***

***"Come out of her, my people,  
lest you take part in her sins,  
lest you share in her plagues;***

***5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven,  
and God has remembered her iniquities.***

The picture we can see is Lot while in Sodom and Gomorrah

A call to get out before the judgement would come

The call to depart **ISN'T NEW**, but in line with the pattern in Scripture  
Where God has called Israel in the Old Testament  
and Believers in the New to flee and depart the love of material and evil

- i. *Depart! Depart! Go out from there, touch no unclean thing; go out from her, be clean, you who bear the vessels of the Lord. (Isaiah 52:11)*
- ii. *Flee from the midst of Babylon, and everyone save his life! (Jeremiah 50:8)*
- iii. *My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of the Lord. (Jeremiah 51:45)*
- iv. *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? (2 Corinthians 6:14)*
- v. *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. (Ephesians 5:11)<sup>1</sup>*

Look at this though...

***<sup>5</sup> for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.***

What does this reveal about God? He's not dumb  
He knows and is aware of sin, and even though He is long suffering doesn't mean  
You're off the hook... He remembered...

But for the believer... the one who turns to Jesus...  
this same God who has the capability to remember  
God says, *I will remember their sins no more* (Hebrews 8:12).

**Revelation 18:6-7 (ESV)**... The message is that Babylon will not only get punished.  
But it'll get double, for taking advantage of others and dealing unjustly  
the punishment won't be drawn out over more years...

**Revelation 18:8 (ESV),**

***<sup>8</sup> For this reason her plagues will come in a single day,  
death and mourning and famine,  
and she will be burned up with fire;  
for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her."***

This will happen swiftly and suddenly  
And even if there is 1/3 of the fallen angels present  
Even Satan himself, won't be able to stop God's judgement



<sup>1</sup> <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-18/>

Let me summarize Revelation 18:9-19... lots of lamenting (to beat one's breast in anguish) to wail. Devastated to the point of having no words.

Vss. 9-10: The Kings Lament

- They stand afar and cry out as they see their prosperous cities destroyed
- Their modern marvels- their statues, their glorious buildings, rubble.

Vss. 11-17: The Merchants Lament

- No one will buy from them because there is no demand for luxuries
- Even the chaos of the world, death, cosmic events, demons...
- Why do they beat their chests?

**Revelation 18:11 (NLT), <sup>11</sup> "The merchants of the world will weep and mourn for her, for there is no one left to buy their goods."**

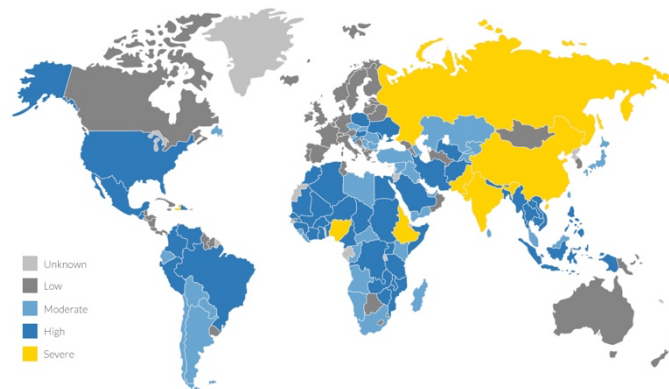
Interesting note: listed as part of their supply **vs. 13b, "human souls."**

NKJV: Bodies and souls of men.

NLT: Human Slaves

AMP: Slaves and Human lives

MOUNCE: Human livestock



According to the International Labour Organization: 50 Million people are enslaved world wide<sup>2</sup>  
forced labor  
Forced marriage

According to U.S Dept. of State: 27.6 million human sex traffic workers<sup>3</sup>

In the end times, human slavery and trafficking may increase  
And ultimately reach an end point and the merchants will weep

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_855019/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_855019/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.state.gov/national-human-trafficking-prevention-month-2023/#:~:text=Human%20trafficking%20is%20a%20crime,right%20in%20front%20of%20us.>

Vss 18-19: The sea merchants will weep from loss of profit

***Revelation 18:20 (ESV), "Rejoice over her, O heaven,  
and you saints and apostles and prophets,  
for God has given judgment for you against her!"***

Remember the Martyrs from Revelation 6:9?

Jesus opened the 5<sup>th</sup> seal Judgement and the martyrs cried out  
believers killed during the tribulation...

This angel points to them...

God has given judgment for you

Celebrate! Your prayers have been answered

God's judgement against evil has taken place

Not only did evil get it's punishment, it got double.

The joy is not in the tears of suffering being experienced

But the joy that Jesus has eliminated His enemies and

And would be set to come down and establish His earthly kingdom.

***Revelation 18:21-24 (ESV),***

***<sup>21</sup> Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea,  
saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence,  
and will be found no more;***

***<sup>22</sup> and the sound of harpists and musicians,  
of flute players and trumpeters,  
will be heard in you no more,  
and a craftsman of any craft  
will be found in you no more,  
and the sound of the mill  
will be heard in you no more,***

***<sup>23</sup> and the light of a lamp  
will shine in you no more,  
and the voice of bridegroom and bride  
will be heard in you no more,***

***for your merchants were the great ones of the earth,  
and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.***

***<sup>24</sup> And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints,  
and of all who have been slain on earth."***





Life will not go back to normal.  
a great city and kingdom now lay in rubble.  
No sound of joy or celebration.  
No more innovations  
No one creating great meals  
voice of the bridegroom and bride... no more falling in love

## Revelation 19

John turns his attention to Heaven where there is a great multitude

- The Church- you and me
- The tribulation saints / the martyrs
- The angels
- even those that just accepted in the previous chapter

They break out in worship, saying, **“ALLELUIA!”**

- This word means “Praise God”
- Only used 4-times in New Testament (all in Revelation)
- It’s not a flippant word, used as religious jargon
- In the Greek it’s written as each person is imploring the other to **PRAISE GOD.**



*“Anselm of Canterbury, considers it an angelic word, which cannot be fully reproduced in any language of man, and concurs with Augustine that the feeling and saying of it embodies all the blessedness of heaven.” (Seiss)<sup>4</sup>*

***Revelation 19:5 (ESV), “<sup>5</sup> And from the throne came a voice saying,  
“Praise our God,  
all you his servants,  
you who fear him,  
small and great.”***

Interesting note that the great equalizer between the small and great  
Is still the cross.

***Revelation 19:6 (ESV), “<sup>6</sup> Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude,  
like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,  
“Hallelujah!  
For the Lord our God  
the Almighty reigns.”***

What we can pull from this verse is the importance of where we are pointing our worship.  
We all can turn worship into a self-focused act that focuses on our feelings

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<sup>4</sup> <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-19/>

Even if this is the millionth time of singing the same chorus  
It will be sung with passion and love.  
Can you imagine anyone in the midst of the congregation with their arms crossed?

### **HERE'S THE CHALLENGE: WORSHIP GOD HOW YOU WILL WORSHIP HIM IN HEAVEN.**

*"We ought not to worship God in a half-hearted sort of way; as if it were now our duty to bless God, but we felt it to be a weary business, and we would get it through as quickly as we could, and have done with it; and the sooner the better. No, no; 'All that is within me, bless his holy name.' Come, my heart, wake up, and summon all the powers which wait upon thee! Mechanical worship is easy, but worthless. Come rouse yourself, my brother! Rouse thyself, O my own soul!" (Spurgeon)*

Before we jump to the next portion, many have heard before  
I want to help you have a different perspective.  
Heaven will always be Heaven... At the end of the day in heaven...  
"How was your day?... oh? Heavenly!"

But there will be a day that is different from any other day...  
**THAT'S** what I'm about to describe to you...

***Revelation 19:7-9 (ESV), "7 Let us rejoice and exult  
and give him the glory,  
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,  
and his Bride has made herself ready;  
8 it was granted her to clothe herself  
with fine linen, bright and pure"—  
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.  
9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage  
supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."***

In order to appreciate the magnitude of this portion of Scripture  
We need to do a crash course of the ancient Jewish practice of getting married.  
Back in John's day, it was broken down into three stages.

#### **#1. The Engagement**

In our culture, the process of getting engaged is after a certain amount of time from dating  
A conservative approach is usually including a man coming to the dad  
Asking his blessing to marry his daughter.  
After a certain amount of time, they wed, and living their lives.

But for the ancient practice to get engaged was different.

- The father of the groom would pay the father of the bride a dowry
- This was a transaction- providing alimony for the bride.
  - In a male-dominant culture, for a woman to experience divorce
  - Brought shame to her and to her family, not allowing the woman to go back to her father's home.
- The alimony (dowry) is what she would live off of if that were to happen.
- This agreement could be made when the bride and groom were as young as two.

Once the contract is drawn up, the alimony given...

## #2. Vows Exchanged

Marriage age was usually in the teenage years. (Mary was possibly 14 when she had Jesus).  
The new bride and groom wouldn't consummate their marriage right away  
the groom would go away for up to a year and prepare a place for his new wife and family.  
Building upon his fathers house.

In this time, the bride and groom vowed to remain sexually pure

They wouldn't pursue anyone else

At the end of the year, the groom would blow a horn,

And come to the brides home to get her.

she wouldn't know when he would be done with the additions...

He would wait for the Father's approval.

## #3. The Wedding Feast

This supper would take a long time, usually 7-days.

Where are we today in wedding stage? **THE ENGAGEMENT STAGE.**

- The church is the bride, Jesus is the groom
- He paid the price and died for us

Paul made mention of the Church being the committed bride to Christ.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:2, "For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ."***

By placing your faith and hope in Christ, you're off the market

He is calling you and me to 100% commitment/loyalty

we don't belong to anyone else, even our affections, but to Jesus

He paid the price already.

Jesus is gone to prepare a place for you and me.

**John 14:1-3 (ESV), ““Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”**

Jesus uses marital language... and in the pattern we knew the next step  
Jesus will come back for His bride  
when? We don't know, but we are instructed to be ready... today could be the day.

In Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus teaches about the parable of the 10 virgins  
The foolish virgins weren't ready when the groom came  
the wise virgins had their oil and lamps ready,  
They were looking out for the groom, while the foolish were ill prepared.

We don't need to feel sorry for the foolish virgins,  
Because according to the pattern, they knew a year was coming up.  
It could had been any day...

The consummation... is the experiencing the fullness of salvation  
we love him, we experience him, but one day... we'll be right in front of him  
Experiencing his Presence, hearing his voice...  
Being **WITH** Him.

Revelation 19 is talking about the third stage of the **Supper of the Lamb**.  
The church is able to be dressed by God's grace...  
John describes the material as expensive and beautiful cloth

**Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage...**

Believed to be the Old Testament believers.  
some would argue that those saved during the tribulation  
Are the invited guests as well, not being included with the church  
Since the church is caught up.

**Revelation 19:10 (ESV), “<sup>10</sup> Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**

The true spirit of prophecy always shows itself in bearing witness to Jesus.

**“This means that prophecy at its very heart is designed to unfold the beauty and loveliness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” (Walvoord)**