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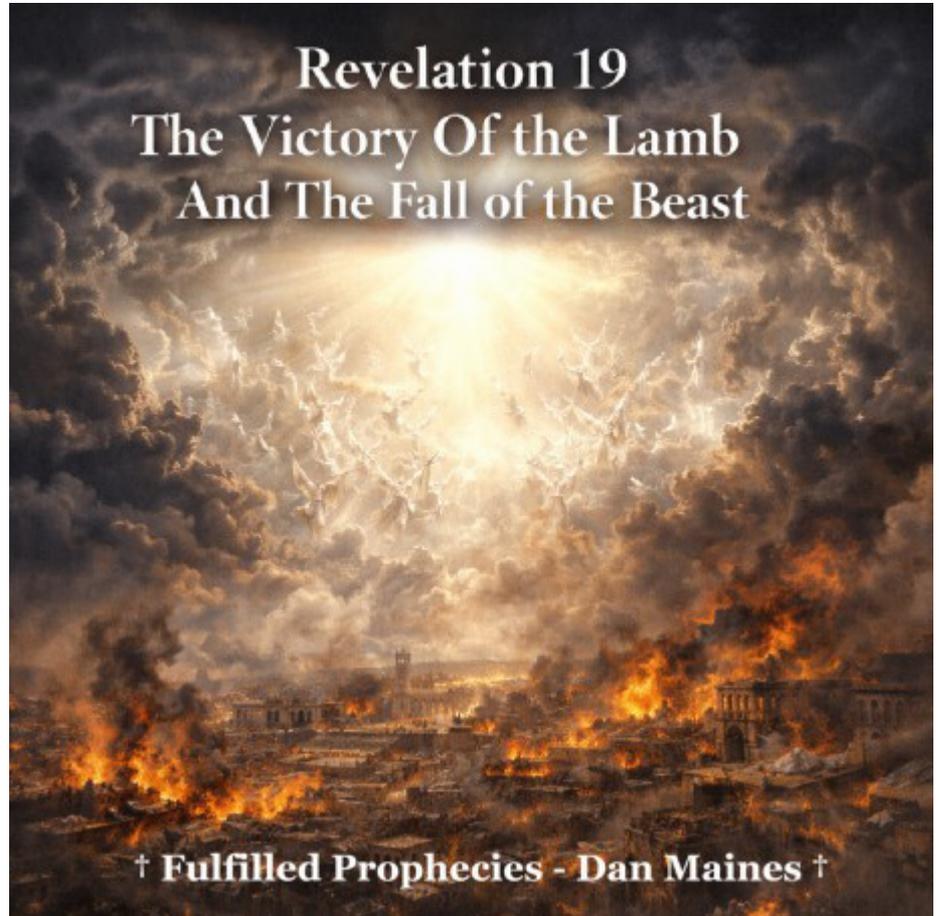
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Revelation 19 The Victory Of The Lamb And The Fall Of The Beast



By Dan Maines

Revelation 19 The Victory Of The Lamb And The Fall Of The Beast

Introduction

† Revelation 19 records heaven's response after the judgment of the great harlot. The destruction of the persecuting city marks the moment when God's justice is openly celebrated by the saints.

† This chapter reveals two things happening together, the enemies of Christ are judged and the faithful people of God are revealed as the bride prepared for the Lamb.

† Jesus warned that the city that rejected the prophets and crucified the Messiah would face covenant judgment in that generation, and Revelation shows that judgment being celebrated in heaven.

† The chapter also reveals the triumph of Christ as the conquering King, the vindication of the martyrs, and the full revelation of the bride of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:1-2

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God, because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great prostitute who was corrupting the earth with her sexual immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her."

† The multitude praises God for judging Jerusalem, the great prostitute. Her destruction vindicates the martyrs.

† Proof, Matthew 23:35-37 links Jerusalem with killing the prophets and saints, bringing all judgment upon her.

† Revelation 18:24 already identified the harlot as the city responsible for the blood of prophets and saints. Jesus said the same thing about Jerusalem in Matthew 23:35-37, proving the identity of the city judged.

† Jesus declared that all the righteous blood shed on the earth would come upon that generation, confirming that the judgment praised in heaven is the fulfillment of His words.

† The celebration in heaven shows that God's judgment is righteous and deserved.

Revelation 19:3

And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! Her smoke rises forever and ever."

† The imagery of smoke forever mirrors Isaiah 34:10 describing Edom's judgment. It represents permanent destruction rather than endless burning.

† The language emphasizes the lasting result of the judgment.

† Jerusalem's destruction permanently ended the temple system and the covenant order that rejected Christ.

† The smoke imagery declares that the judgment cannot be reversed.

Revelation 19:4-5

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

† The twenty-four elders represent the fullness of God's covenant people.

† The number reflects the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles, symbolizing the complete people of God.

† Their worship celebrates the fulfillment of God's promises.

† The call to praise includes both the small and the great, meaning every believer participates in the victory of Christ.

Revelation 19:6-7

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. Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself."

† The marriage of the Lamb represents the full union of Christ and His church after Jerusalem's fall.

† The judgment of the harlot clears the way for the faithful bride to be revealed.

† Proof, Ephesians 5:25-27 describes Christ sanctifying the church and presenting her as His bride.

† The celebration reflects the completion of God's covenant plan.

Revelation 19:8-9

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. Then he said to me, "Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

† The fine linen symbolizes purity and faithfulness.

† Unlike the prostitute who was adorned with corruption, the bride is clothed in righteousness.

† Proof, 2 Corinthians 11:2 Paul betrothed the church to Christ as a pure virgin.

† The wedding feast imagery represents the joy of covenant fellowship with Christ.

Revelation 19:10

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 brothers and sisters who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

† John is reminded that worship belongs to God alone.

† The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy, meaning all prophecy ultimately points to Him.

† This confirms that the entire prophetic message of Scripture centers on Christ.

† The fulfillment of prophecy is found in Him.

Revelation 19:11-13

And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many crowns; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

† This is Christ, the divine warrior who comes in righteous judgment.

† The robe dipped in blood recalls Isaiah 63:3 where the Lord treads the winepress of wrath.

† His name The Word of God connects directly with John 1:1.

† The imagery shows Christ conquering through divine authority rather than physical warfare.

† The imagery of the conquering rider comes from Old Testament judgment language where God rides forth in judgment against nations, showing this is covenant judgment rather than a future physical battle.

Revelation 19:14-15

And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

† The sword from His mouth represents the power of His word.

† The saints follow clothed in purity, sharing in His victory.

† Proof, Psalm 2:9 foretold the Messiah ruling with a rod of iron.

† Christ conquers by divine authority.

Revelation 19:16

And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

† This title proclaims the universal sovereignty of Christ.

† Roman emperors claimed lordship, but Revelation declares that only Christ is the true King.

† His authority extends over every nation and ruler.

† Every kingdom ultimately answers to Him.

Revelation 19:17-18

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great feast of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of commanders, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, both free and slaves, and small and great."

† This feast of judgment contrasts with the marriage supper of the Lamb.

† While the faithful celebrate salvation, the enemies of Christ face destruction.

† Proof, Ezekiel 39:17-20 uses the same imagery of birds consuming the defeated enemies of God.

† The imagery shows the total defeat of those who oppose Christ.

Revelation 19:19-21

And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled

with their flesh.

† The beast represents the Roman imperial power embodied in Nero and the persecuting Caesars who demanded worship and controlled commerce.

† The false prophet represents the apostate leadership in Israel that aligned itself with Rome and deceived the people through signs and authority.

† The defeat of the beast fulfills the earlier prophecy that the beast would wage war against the saints but ultimately be overcome by Christ.

† The sword from the mouth of Christ again shows that His victory comes through His authority and His word rather than physical warfare.

† The imagery of birds consuming the bodies reflects the complete humiliation and defeat of those who opposed the Messiah.

Historical References

† Josephus recorded that Jerusalem's fall in AD 70 brought catastrophic destruction upon the city and the temple, confirming the judgment foretold by Jesus and reflected in Revelation.

† Josephus described how the city was filled with bloodshed, famine, and devastation during the Roman siege, matching the prophetic imagery of judgment.

† Tacitus also recorded the destruction of Jerusalem and the collapse of the Jewish revolt against Rome.

† Eusebius recorded that Christians fled Jerusalem before the Roman siege, fulfilling Jesus' warning in Matthew 24:15-20 and showing that the judgment was directed against the city that rejected Christ.

How it applies to us today

† Christ reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords. His authority is not future but already established.

† The judgment recorded in Revelation proves that the words of Jesus were fulfilled exactly as He said.

† The church is the bride of Christ, called to remain faithful and pure.

† The marriage supper of the Lamb represents the joy and communion believers have with Christ in His kingdom.

† The defeat of the beast reminds believers that no earthly power can ultimately overcome the kingdom of God.

Q & A Appendix

Q Does Revelation 19 describe the future Second Coming of Christ?

A The imagery describes Christ coming in judgment, the same kind of prophetic language used in the Old Testament when God judged nations. Jesus used this same judgment language about Jerusalem in Matthew 24:30. Revelation describes Christ judging the persecuting powers of the first century.

Q If the beast is destroyed in Revelation 19, why does history continue?

A The beast represents a persecuting ruler and system rather than the end of human governments. The defeat of the beast represents the collapse of the first century persecuting powers that fought against the church.

Q Why are birds eating the flesh of kings in Revelation 19?

A This imagery comes directly from Ezekiel 39:17-20 and describes the humiliation and defeat of God's enemies in judgment.

Q Why does the marriage of the Lamb happen after the harlot is judged?

A The harlot represents the corrupt covenant system that persecuted the saints. Once that system was removed in judgment, the faithful people of God are revealed as the true bride of Christ.

Q Is Revelation 19 describing the battle of Armageddon?

A No. Armageddon was already mentioned earlier in Revelation 16:16 during the bowl judgments. Revelation 19 describes the result of that judgment, the defeat of the beast and the vindication of Christ. The imagery of birds consuming the defeated armies comes from Old Testament judgment language such as Ezekiel 39:17-20, which symbolized the humiliation and destruction of God's enemies.

Q Does the rider on the white horse represent a future visible return of Christ to earth?

A The imagery describes Christ coming in judgment, the same prophetic language used throughout the Old Testament when God judged nations. Isaiah 19:1 describes the Lord riding on a cloud to judge Egypt, yet that judgment occurred through historical events. In the same way, Revelation 19 depicts Christ

exercising authority and judgment over the persecuting powers of the first century.

Q Why is the beast destroyed if Rome continued after AD 70?

A The beast represents a specific persecuting ruler and the imperial power that demanded worship during the first century. Revelation focuses on the power that persecuted the church under Nero and the Roman authorities. The defeat of the beast represents the collapse of that persecuting authority and the vindication of the saints who were oppressed by it.

Q Why are the saints described as following Christ in heavenly armies?

A The imagery shows that believers share in Christ's victory. They are clothed in fine linen, the same clothing described earlier for the bride. This shows that the victory belongs to Christ and His people together as His kingdom is established and the persecuting powers are judged.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Revelation 19; Isaiah 34:10; Isaiah 63:3; Ezekiel 39:17-20; Psalm 2:9; John 1:1; Matthew 23:35-37; Matthew 24:30; Matthew 24:15-20; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 18:24

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.9.4; Tacitus, Histories 5.13; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

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