

Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah!

Rv 19:1-8

INTRODUCTION

- A. We know the hymn quite well: "Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah!"
 - 1. That call to praise serves an important role in the modern church, reminding us of our obligation to lift God's name on high and praise him.
 - 2. We, as children of God, have a serious obligation to praise the Lord, to worship him.
 - a. That is why I am so troubled by the lack of attendance at worship services.
 - b. It is as though many believe they do not have that serious a responsibility to worship the Lord.
- B. Tonight, we want to examine that call to worship God.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD, vv. 1-5.

- A. After this John heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, v. 1."
 - 1. The phrase "after these things" or "after this" is used throughout Revelation to signify a new section.
 - a. However, every occurrence — except this one — says "after these things I saw."
 - b. That John uses the phrase "after this I heard" signifies that the emphasis here is upon the sound of the praise he heard. The emphasis isn't upon the visual imagery; it is upon the sound of this multitude's praise.
 - 2. A loud voice of a great multitude came from heaven — we should probably see this as the redeemed of all the ages lifting their voices in praise.
 - 3. The multitude cried out, "Hallelujah!"
 - a. "Hallelujah" is a transliteration of a Hebrew word which literally means "make Yahweh bright"; the idea is that the worshipers make the Lord bright by casting light on him and his works.
 - b. "Hallelujah" served as a call to worship in the temple, and it is functioning as a call to worship in this passage, heaven is being called to worship the Lord.
 - 4. Heaven is called to worship because salvation, glory, and power belong to God — God's salvation, glory and power have been well documented throughout Revelation.
- B. This multitude continues its praise: "His judgments are true and just; he has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants," v. 2.
 - 1. God's judgments are true and just — God has brought judgment upon Rome, and he was right in doing so.
 - a. An important theme in Scripture is that when God executes vengeance that he does so rightly.
 - 1) Ps 37:28.
 - 2) Rom 2:2.
 - b. Just as God did what was right in bringing justice upon Rome, he will do what is right at the end of the age.
 - 2. God judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication - he brought justice upon Rome for her leading the world astray religiously.
 - 3. God avenged on Rome the blood of his servants — God brought justice upon Rome for her killing his servants.
- C. Once more they cried. "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever," v. 3.
 - 1. The image of smoke rising from a city was common in war language, for cities were often burned after they were conquered.

2. This heavenly multitude praises God because he brought upon Rome the judgment he promised to bring.
- D. The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who is seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!," v. 4.
1. These 28 heavenly beings situated around God's throne give their approval to the worship scene which has unfolded.
 2. Again, notice that God is depicted as being on a throne — obviously meant to encourage these Christians that God, not the emperor was the One with true power.
- E. Then from the throne came a voice crying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great," v. 5.
1. This voice coming from the throne cannot be God's for the voice refers to "our God."
 2. The voice encourages all, small and great, those who fear God to praise him.
 - a. God's servants are those who do his will.
 - 1) Paul served God with his spirit "in the gospel of His Son" (Rom. 1:9).
 - 2) Paul also stated that he served God "with a pure conscience" (2 Tim. 1:3).
 - 3) The idea is that Paul served the Lord, he was his servant, and he did his will. Are you God's servant? Are you doing God's will?
 - b. All small and great, those who fear God (those who honor him) are to praise him.
 - 1) Every person who is a servant, a follower, of God is to praise God, to lift God's name on high.
 - 2) We need to worship God, to praise him.
 - a) "Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!" (1 Chr. 16:29).
 - b) "Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His footstool — He is holy" (Ps. 99:5).
 - c) Illustration about the man having a dream and being carried into a church, Encyclopedia of 15,000 illustrations, #14819.
 - 3) Let us not go through the motions. Let us praise God, to lift his name on high!

THE WEDDING OF GOD'S SON, vv. 6-8.

- A. John heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying, "'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns,'" v. 6.
1. Again, the heavenly multitude speaks - the sound is so loud it is like many waters or mighty thunderpeals.
 2. The multitude exclaims that the "Lord our God the Almighty reigns."
 - a. Again, the understanding that God reigned was vital for these Christians.
 - 1) The Roman emperor and his cohorts might seem powerful, but compared to God, he had no power at all.
 - 2) God had all power; we need to comprehend that God has all power, as well.
 - a) When our world is turned upside down through tragedy, we need to know that it is God who has all power.
 - b) When it seems that evil is winning over good, we need to know that it is God who has all power.
 - b. God is not only all-powerful, but he reigns. It is God who is on the throne and controls this universe.
- B. The voice continued; "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," v. 7.
1. The people of God are told to rejoice for the marriage of the Lamb has come.
 - a. Rejoicing is an important part of Christianity.
 - 1) "Do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are

written in heaven" (Lk. 10:20).

2) "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice" (Phil. 4:4).

3) "Rejoice always" (I Thess. 5:16).

b. Regardless of what takes place in life, we have reason to rejoice — illustration about the boy's making his aunt happy, *Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations*, #6375.

c. We can rejoice because God is in control, because God loves us, because God has forgiven us of our sin, and because God has prepared a place for us in heaven.

2. The bride has made herself ready.

a. In preparation for the marriage and the arrival of the groom, the bride was bathed and oiled, perfumed, her hair was fixed, and she was adorned with her wedding garment.

b. The church, the bride of Christ, is here pictured as having made herself ready.

1) We need to be ready for the marriage of the Lamb, when he comes again.

2) Are you ready for the marriage of the Lamb?

C. To the bride it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints, v. 8.

1. The fine linen, clean and bright, stands in stark contrast to the clothing of the harlot.

2. The time linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

a. The church is known by the righteous acts of Christians — much of the world has only one concept of the church: the behavior of Christians.

b. We need to act righteously as children of God.

1) "Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:20).

2) "Awake to righteousness, and do not sin" (1 Cor. 15:34).

3) "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness" (1 Tim. 6:11).

c. What if Gov. Wise were a member of the church? Can you imagine the damage his recent revelations would have done to the church?

1) We cannot allow our behavior to bring reproach upon God's church.

2) Are you living righteously?