

The Revelation

Lesson 17

The Story of the Revelation

The Continuation – Part 4

Once upon a time and long, long ago ...

After the events of the sound of the *seventh trumpet* were complete, John saw seven angels coming out of the tabernacle in heaven. They were dressed in white with gold vests. One of the four living creatures gave each angel a bowl containing a part of the wrath of God that was to be poured out on the rebellious people under the control of Satan and the *two beasts*.

With the pouring of the *first bowl*, the rebellious people who had 666 on their foreheads or hands were covered with terrible cancerous sores.

The *second bowl* was then poured upon the *Great Sea* and everything in it died and the water turned to blood.

With the pouring of the *third bowl* all the fresh water in the empire, including the streams, lakes, springs and stored water in pots turned to blood. The reason for the *second and third bowls of wrath* was to pay the *beast* back for the evil of killing the saints and prophets of the LORD. Blood was all the empire had to drink and was all they deserved.

The pouring of the *fourth bowl* caused the sun to beat down on every person in the empire and the people were terribly sunburned. These first four *bowls of wrath* did not change the minds of the people, they still said terrible things about God and they would not stop doing the horrible things they were involved in.

With the pouring of the *fifth bowl*, darkness covered the empire. The people were scared. They bit their tongues and they were in pain from the cancer sores and the sunburns. Even the darkness did not change their hearts. Neither did they change their ways of doing evil things. So, God decided to help everyone with the 666.

With the pouring of the *sixth bowl*, God dried the water in the Euphrates River. John then saw the *great red dragon, the beast and the false prophet* holding something that looked like frogs and who were calling all the kings of the world to come join them in their war against the LORD. They invited them to come to the valley of Megiddo and bring their people with them. Because the Euphrates River was dried, the kings of the earth to the east of the valley could easily make their way to the valley to join the evil trio with the people in their empire.

With the pouring of the *seventh bowl of wrath*, John heard a voice coming out of the Temple and it said, "It is done." The Temple in heaven was no longer needed. The LORD *Jesus* was about to leave heaven and come to earth with all the saints, never to return to that Temple again. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake and it was the worst quake that had ever happened in the world. The *Great City of Babylon* was broken into three sections in the earthquake and destroyed. Other cities of the nations around Babylon were destroyed too. The earthquake caused the mountains and the islands to move from the places where they had stood for thousands of years. That did not change the heart of the people, so the LORD sent hailstones weighing 100 pounds each and people died. But, now that the LORD revealed

the destruction of the *City of Babylon*, He would take the time to explain why it was destroyed and that included the *great harlot* of all time.

The angel told John that he was going to show him the *great harlot* who had had ungodly relationships with kings and people on the earth for thousands of years. He would tell John how she had forced them to drink her evil concoction of wine. The angel carried John off into the wilderness to see the home of the *Great Harlot* and there he saw her riding the *beast with the seven heads and ten horns*. John already knew this *beast* because it was the ruler of the *Revived Roman Empire* which he had already described in detail.

The *great harlot* was dressed in purple, scarlet and she wore gold and valuable stones and pearls and had a gold cup in her hand. The gold cup was filled with of all the sinful and nasty tricks she had used to make the kings and people commit ungodly relationships with her. On her forehead John saw a sign that said, "Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and the Abomination of the Earth." She was the mother of all idol worship; she was the reason people worshiped false gods; she was one of the main reasons people hated God. John did not understand and then the angel told him she was the force controlling the seven empires of the world that had harmed the Nation of Israel through the centuries. Five of those empires had already passed into history, one was in power at the time of this vision and one was still to come in the future. He warned John that the last empire would be worse than all those that had come and gone before.

Everyone who had 666 on the forehead or hand would be amazed when the *seventh beastly empire* came into being and would give total devotion to it. Each of the empires had a king in charge and each king reigned from his mountain in order, one after the other. Seven in all – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Mede/Persian, Greek, Roman and the Revived Roman kings. But after the seventh king would take control, he would soon be removed by an eighth king deadlier than all the rest. The eighth king would take the place of the seventh king. Because of that, the angel told John he was really the eighth king but he was sitting on the throne of the ousted seventh king as if he was really the seventh king.

This evil fake seventh king ruled over the *ten horns* or ten countries that joined together in one hour to unite their power and give the seventh king authority to rule. Each of the ten countries was fairly powerful by itself but together their power was massive and they thought it was great enough to overthrow the LORD Jesus when He made His arrival to rule as King of kings of the world. The countries united for the purpose of waging war against *Jesus*. But the countries were all being lorded over by the *Great Harlot*. They did not like her at all. They would let her rule as long as they needed her, but when they were through with her, they would kill her, eat her flesh and burn the rest of her. Little did they know, all of that was part of God's plan and purpose! He made them join together as the final empire and He made them hate the *great harlot* as well as her headquarters in the *Great City of Babylon*. An angel arrived and shined a light on the *Great City of Babylon* so John could see how the *great harlot* seduced all the kings, merchants and people of the world to her brand of godless rebellion against the true God. Her headquarters had become the final center of wealth and all the ungodly people loved to roll around in the sin she had to offer. Her sin was so bad that to God, it seemed like her pile of evil had reached right up to heaven's door and God was tired of it. He demanded that she be paid back double for all that she had done wrong through the centuries. She did not think she had committed any wrong. In fact, she thought she was indestructible and eternal. But she was not! When the plague of the *seventh bowl of the wrath of God* destroyed her, the kings of the earth cried and cried because in less than an

hour, she was gone, Babylon was gone, the *great harlot* was gone. The *Revived Roman Empire* wanted to kill her when it was through with her but the LORD destroyed it first.

The merchants of the world who provided all the luxuries of luxuries to her seaport were devastated. What would they do with the stockpiles of goods they were sending to her? Now they would be bankrupt with no one to pay for what she had ordered. The ship captains and the crews as well as all the passengers were appalled. They had arrived at the docks ready to sin with her in all sorts of disgusting deeds and now they had nowhere to go, nowhere to sin, nowhere to indulge in godless games. No place was equal to Babylon. It was sin city and the premier destination for the wealthy.

Three groups on earth were devastated in their hearts at the destruction of the *great harlot and her Great City of Babylon* but in heaven there were three groups of people who were overjoyed – the saints, apostles and prophets of all the ages. The destruction of the *great harlot and her city* was the culmination of all they had worked to communicate to the world through all the hundreds of years they had served the LORD on earth. To prove to John that this *great harlot and her City of Babylon* would never do business with the world again, an angel threw a huge stone in the water, symbolizing her eternal death. Never again would she play the harp, sing a song, build in the streets or light a lamp. She and the city would be removed from the world forever.

And when John saw the stone cast into the sea, heaven erupted in joy and the *great multitude*, the Church in heaven, began to sing “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God because He has judged with truth and righteousness the *great harlot* who was corrupting the earth with her sin.” When the *great multitude* sang their song, the *twenty-four elders* and the *four living creatures* did what they were created to do – they fell to their knees and worshiped the LORD.

The valley of Megiddo was filled with millions of people who were waiting to wage war with the LORD when He arrived. Many of these people played with the *great harlot* and were entertained in her *Great City of Babylon*, and no doubt her destruction had made them even madder at God and they wanted to defeat Him when He arrived. The angel turned John’s attention back to heaven and, for the first time in the story, he heard a voice from the throne of God.

And the story continues!

J. The Royalty in Heaven (19:5)

1. Praise to God (19:5)

Rev 19:5 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."

Not one time have we heard a voice come “**from the throne.**” Here we have the first. This fact provokes a question, “*Whose voice is this coming from the throne?*” It would not be an angel, not a living creature, or an elder; they resided around the throne but not on the throne. This voice must have been the voice of the LORD and He had an instruction to give to His creation. “**Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.**” We find nothing new about this instruction. All of creation was created for this purpose. Give Him Praise! Fear Him! All of you, small and great! All voluntary servants of the living God! In our minds eye we can see the LORD sitting on His

throne in heaven giving this command. Worship God! Small and great! We must wonder if those in the valley of Megiddo who were awaiting His arrival had heard His command too. Even if they did, would it change their hearts? No. Their names were not written in the *Book of Life*. They would not change their minds about the God they hated!

2. Praise to the LORD (19:6)

Rev 19:6 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.

But in heaven there was a **“great multitude”** that heard the voice from the throne and they cared about God. John heard the rumbling of the **“great multitude”** saying **“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.”** It must have been an awesome sound, beautiful in one sense and terrifying in another. We know this **“great multitude.”** We met it in the *sixth seal!* She is the Church. She has been in heaven with the LORD since that seal was broken. Wait! She is not there yet as we study this book! We are part of the Church and we have not all arrived there yet. That day is coming in the future, but John had already seen the arrival of the Church play out in *seal six* and in this part of the story we are years down the road and most of the evil people in the world had gathered in the valley of Megiddo awaiting the expected arrival of the *Second Coming of the LORD*. They were ready in the valley. The LORD from His throne had called for the praise of all the **“small and great.”** That command caused the **“great multitude”** to arise from their silence and give praise, **“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.”** It was time for this **“great multitude”** to be identified and introduced back into the story of the *Second Coming of the LORD*.

3. Praise to the Marriage of the Lamb (19:7)

a) His Bride Ready (19:7)

Rev 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

The **“great multitude”** says, **“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”** The *multitude* was talking about itself. Just as the LORD gave the command to the **“small and great”** to worship Him, this **“Bride”** of the **“Lamb”** was ready. The marriage **“has come”** which means the wedding was over. She was His Bride. She was not the fiancée any longer. The Greek word for **“Bride”** is *gune* and it simply means *a woman*. The Greek word for **“marriage”** is *gamos* and it means wedding. A literal translation of this verse should say, *“for the wedding of the Lamb has come and His woman had made herself ready.”* The woman was His woman and They belonged together as One! Oh, for so very long this fiancée lived on earth while her Groom prepared the home in heaven. He had promised her that He would return for her one day and He did. He secretly took her from this world. It was a secret for only a moment. No one knew the time or date. His Father told Him it was time and He slipped off His throne and arrived in the clouds and called out to her the words we find in the Song of Solomon. *“Arise my love, my sweet one come!”* The voice of the archangel screeched like the sound of a trumpet and the LORD’s fiancée began to rise from

the earth to meet the LORD in the air. So shall she ever be with the LORD from that day forward. She is no longer His fiancée; she was that while she was still on earth! But the marriage had been consummated and she had taken the status of His wife.

b) His Bride Dressed (19:8)

Rev 19:8 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.

Look at the incredible dress of the Bride of the LORD. The best of the best linen, bright, clean. But the linen had been woven with a special thread – **“the righteous acts of the saints!”** Her dress looked nothing like the gaudy *great harlot!* The righteous acts of the true Church, performed while on earth became the fine linen, clean and white, in which the bride was adorned. The world had benefited more than it knew from these acts of the Church.

Here, John had described the dress of the Bride as he watched the marriage. It would then be time to invite the guests to the *Marriage Supper of the Lamb*.

4. Praise to the Invited Guests at Marriage Supper of the Lamb (19:9)

Rev 19:9 Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

The angel then directed John to write, **“Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”** The *marriage supper* always followed the consummation of the marriage. We might think of it as the reception that follows the marriage ceremony. But in this case, the food will not be punch and cake, it will be a full meal for the invited guests. We might pause to wonder, *“Who is worthy to be invited to this marriage supper of all marriage suppers?”* In all of God’s creation, *“Who will eat this meal in honor of the marriage of the Lamb and His Bride?”* Will they be kings or prophets, priests or seers, scribes or the endless ranks of patriarchs from the ages? That is what we would expect! Most likely that was what John had expected! But evidently, John could not believe his eyes because the angel had to tell him that **“These are true words of God.”** John must have seen the guests and they were not whom he expected them to be!

(1) John’s Response (19:10)

Rev 19:10a Then I fell at his feet to worship him.

All along the way throughout this vision, this angel had been with John, helping him understand the processional that would transpire from that time in 95 AD until the *Second Coming of the LORD* (1:1). John could not help himself; he fell to the feet of the angel to **“worship him.”** What a moment it must have been for this angel. Did he flinch? Did pride pass through his mind for even a moment? As an angel, did he want to accept the worship of John? Satan would have accepted it in a heartbeat and so would all the angels that followed him in rebelling against the LORD. This angel did not flinch! He did not fall into the temptation of sin in that moment.

(2) Angel Assistance's Response (19:10b)

Rev 19:10b But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

The angel did not take the opportunity to sin in that moment; rather, he directed John's attention to God! In our minds, we can see this angel reaching down to help old John turn his worship and praise in the proper direction, to the soon coming King. The angel who had been with John through this whole vision was just another communicator in the chain of the servants of the LORD to share the **"testimony of Jesus."** When the angel said, **"the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy,"** it was important. We speak of Jesus often and use His name. Yet, in John's day, in the Scripture, He was called *Jesus* mainly in the *Gospels* and rarely any other place. He was called the *LORD*, *Master* or *Christ* more than anything else throughout the Old and New Testaments. Most often He was simply called the *LORD God*. But this angel called Him *Jesus*. Why? *Jesus* was the name applied to Him as a human, born in a manger, reared in Nazareth, baptized at the Jordan River, nailed to the cross, risen from the grave and ascended to His throne at the right hand of the Father in heaven. There, *Jesus* was called by the title, the *Son of God*. On earth *Jesus* was known as the *Son of man*, in heaven *Jesus* is known as the *Son of God*. He came to earth to conquer death and ascend to heaven. Once there, He could claim that He was not only the Creator God but also the Glorified Man, fully God and fully human. As the Creator, the substance of all He created pointed as a prophecy to Himself as King of kings and He was about to make His return to earth to accept that position among humanity. To Him, every knee would bow, and every tongue would confess Him as LORD of lords. It was by one name that this would happen. It would be at the name of *Jesus*. For that purpose, the angel had called Him *Jesus*. It was the rightful name that the world knew Him by! It was the name that many, even today, hate Him by! For those who hated Him at this point in the story, it was time for all accounts to be settled once and for all.

5. Praise to the Faithful and True (19:11)

a) His Steed (19:11a)

Rev 19:11a And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse,

The angel turned John's eyes away from gazing down on earth at the *great harlot* and caused him to look back into heaven and what did he see? A white horse! The heavenly steed had been waiting since creation for this moment. With John still on the ground, turned from the feet of the angel toward the gate of heaven, he must have been looking slightly up and he surely saw the face of the steed looking back at him. Then, in a dramatic way, the horse turned to the side and John saw *Jesus* dressed like he had never seen Him before.

b) His Name (19:11b)

Rev 19:11b and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True,

John immediately knew *Jesus* and he immediately knew that He was **"Faithful and True."** All that we have heard about all the other participants in the pageantry leading to the *Second Coming of the LORD* indicates that they were basically crafty deceptive liars. Not so

with this King on this steed, He is “**Faithful and True.**” It is the core of *Jesus*’ nature. It is absolutely impossible for Him to be anything else. The world does not need to be told that He is “**Faithful and True,**” it will know Him and know His nature without a need for an explanation.

c) His Character (19:11c)

Rev 19:11c and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

John immediately knew the intent of the LORD *Jesus* as He sat on His mighty heavenly steed. It was time for Him to judge the worldly and wage war on the sinful! The time for the rule of evil to be terminated on earth and the rule of righteousness to be installed as law overseen by the King of all kings.

d) His Look (19:12-16)

(1) His Eyes (19:12a)

Rev 19:12a His eyes *are* a flame of fire,

Jesus’ eyes were still a “**flame of fire**” as when John saw Him the first time when he heard Him speak to him in the cave on Patmos – His eyes had not changed.

(2) His Head (19:12b)

Rev 19:12b and on His head *are* many diadems;

John saw *Jesus*’ crown. The text says that it was “**many diadems.**” The Greek for *diadems* means *to bind around* indicating a circle of metal. We recognize this as a crown of some sort. John saw *Jesus*’ crown with many bands of metal woven into the one unit. *Jesus* had worn something like that before here on earth. It was a crown of thorns, a band of thorny branches woven together in one unit to crown Him before His crucifixion. We should not discount the idea, although we do not know for sure, this *crown* on *Jesus* might just be a *golden crown of thorns*. After all, what would be a better sign to the world that the righteous judge making war with it was the One it rejected and nailed to the cross? The world knows that story. The world knows the One it had denied. The world will not be able to deny Him when He arrives on His heavenly steed with this crown on His head.

(3) His Name (19:12c)

Rev 19:12c and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself.

The mystery of His name, what is it? The world knew Him as *Jesus*. He would be coming as *Jesus*. But He had another name. What is His name? We do not know! But He knows.

(4) His Clothing (19:13a)

Rev 19:13a *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood,

The dress of the man in the Bible days consisted of the *outer robe*, the *inner garment* and a *cover for the head*. This last article had several purposes. First it was used to cover the head from the beams of the sun. Second, it was used to cover the face during dust storms.

Third, it was used as a light cover at night. The *inner garment* was usually a one-piece unit used to cover the body from neck to mid shin and down the arms to the wrists. The opening on the sides overlapped and a belt of material around the waist secured the garment together for modesty purposes. The *outer robe* was another single piece of material that was worn on top of the *inner garment*. We should think of it as a coat of sorts but out of the same material as the *inner garment*. This *outer robe* was kept clean for special events. *Jesus* will be wearing his *outer robe* because this is a very special occasion. His robe will not be dyed in the normal way with mixtures made from extracts of plants or animals. His robe will be dyed from the stain of blood. We are not told whose blood will be used to dye His robe. No doubt it will be from the conflicts of all the ages. Not to get too far ahead in the story, the robes of the army that are with Him will be unstained by the blood – pure, white and pristine (19:4).

(5) His Word (19:13b)

Rev 19:13b and His name is called The Word of God.

This name, “**The Word of God**” is not the mystery name written of *Jesus* mentioned above in Revelation 19:12. This is a title and it is the description of His name. It means, “**The Word of God.**” John had written about this title before in his Gospel.

Jn 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Jesus is God. The “**Word of God**” is His official title because He is the Creator God and He spoke everything into being.

(6) His Army (19:14)

Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses.

John then saw behind the LORD all the “**armies which are in heaven.**” Notice their clothing. Not a spot on it! Notice their transportation. White horses! No doubt prepared for them before the foundation of the world. We know these armies! They are not angels, they are the saved of the Church age – the Bride of Christ. The angel will reveal that information to John soon when the procession begins.

(7) His Sword (19:15)

Rev 19:15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations,

Looking to the LORD’s mouth, John saw a “**sharp sword.**” The Word of God, Who spoke all of creation into being. He would handle all the evil nations with the Word of His mouth. It would cut them down with His tongue, the two-edged sword.

(8) His Rule

Rev 19:15c and He will rule them with a rod of iron;

John also heard that once the LORD strikes the nations with the “**sharp sword**” from His mouth, “**He will rule them with a rod of iron.**” We must be careful with this phrase. Although it is used in other places in the Scripture to signify the unbending rule of the LORD over the world during His 1,000 reign which will soon begin, this specific passage applies to those nations that He was about to defeat. In other words, He will rule and prevail over them, they will not prevail over Him. He will smash those nations with His Word like they are clay.

(9) His Wrath

Rev 19:15d and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

When the LORD arrives to smash the nation with His ironclad resolve, He will then “**tread**” on them like grapes in a “**wine press.**” Smashed until their body fluids run free into the valley. It had not happened yet in the timeline of the vision. John had been told and shown what was about to transpire in this story playing out before his eyes.

(10) His Robe

Rev 19:16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

John’s attention was drawn to the side of the horse *Jesus* was riding. He saw the leg of *Jesus* and the flowing robe draped over that leg. Where *Jesus*’ thigh was covered by the robe, he saw words embroidered – “**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**”

The parade was ready, the participants in the parade were in order. The LORD, the “**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**” would lead the way. He would be followed by His armies, the mighty hosts of heaven, all dressed in white and riding horses. The call to proceed had not been given yet. When the permission was given, the whole parade would happen quickly. It was time to invite the guests to the great supper of God, the *marriage supper of the Lamb*.

K. The Procession from Heaven (19:17 – 20:10)

1. The Parade of the Guests (19:17-18)

Rev 19:17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God,¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

John saw and heard an angel cry out inviting all the birds to be the invited guests. As we said before in verse 19:9, John was not expecting this group to be the invited guests at this special *marriage supper*. The kings would be there as well as the commanders, mighty men, horses, a mass of humanity both freeman and slave, great and small, not to eat the meal, to be the meal! With the birds on the way to the valley to dine, permission must have been given for the departure from heaven. As stated, this process would not be slow and drawn out by any means.

2. The Parade of the Sinners (19:19 -20:4)

Rev 19:19 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.

John's attention that had been drawn away from the earth to see the presence of the LORD on His steed and the mighty host of armies behind Him was now turned back to earth. There, in the valley of Megiddo, he saw the all the LORD's enemies waiting for His arrival. They must have known the Scripture. This story had not been hidden from them. It is written in the pages of the Revelation for them to know when the time was right for the *Second Coming of the LORD*. This vision that we are studying is the final entry into the Holy Writ that will notify all the saints and all the sinners of the world concerning the last things of the plan of God and that includes His return and the destruction of His enemies. Assembled in the valley, ready to make war against their Creator, they wait. But at this point in the story, the waiting is over.

a) Seizure of the Superior (19:20)

Rev 19:20 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.

In a flash, as fast as the speed of light, the LORD had arrived at Megiddo. The *beast* and the *false prophet* were cast into the **“lake of fire which burns with brimstone.”** Oh no, the parade of sinners have lost its leaders. The *beast*, the *Revived Roman Empire*, had been cast into the *lake of fire*. Or, we should clarify it like this; the souls of everyone one who joined the *beast of the Revived Roman Empire* in the valley were judged and sent immediately to the *lake of fire*. The *prophet* of the religion of the *Revived Roman Empire* would also be cast into the *lake of fire*.

b) Slaying of the Sinners (19:21a)

Rev 19:21a And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse,

The LORD had dealt with the *beast* called the *Revived Roman Empire* and the *false prophet*, but he also needed to deal with all the *kings of the east* and all the people from all over the world who accepted the call from the *three frogs* to join the *beasts* in the valley to fight against the LORD, They were killed by the Word of the LORD, the sword from His mouth. Dead – immediately. They were then crushed in the press of the LORD's wrath in the valley and their blood ran freely from their bodies. The supper for the guests was ready.

c) Satisfaction of the Supper (19:21b)

Rev 19:21a and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

The battle was over. The marriage supper had been prepared, and the invited guests began to dine until they were full. What happened to the conflict? Was there a conflict? Oh, yes there was! But it took only a moment and it was all over.

d) Shackles for the Satanic (20:1)

Rev 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

The dreaded Armageddon, the last worldwide battle that will bring an end to all of humanity, which had been falsely taught throughout the ages, written in books, shown on films and preached in the streets, was over in a flash. Where were the dead? They were alive in the valley of Megiddo and in a heartbeat their souls were in the *lake of fire*. They were slain by the sword of the Word of God spoken by *Jesus* and sent to burn in eternal fire and brimstone. That took care of all of evil humanity, but what about the evil angel who instigated the rebellion from the beginning? The LORD was not through with him yet. For him, an angel was sent with a key and a chain. The key fit the abyss and the chain fit the *great red dragon, Satan*.

e) Sentence of the Serpent (20:2-3)

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

For all the power Satan evidently thought he had through the ages, it took only one angel to control him and bind him in the chain for 1,000 years. But that was not all of his temporary punishment. The LORD had another task for the angel to complete with this devil.

(1) Bound for a Thousand (20:3a)

Rev 20:3a and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed;

Satan found himself sealed away in the abyss for 1,000 years. We have heard of this abyss before in the *fifth trumpet* in Revelation 9:1ff when the angel with the key to the bottomless abyss opened its door and smoke belched through the water and into the atmosphere and darkened the skies. Then out of the abyss burst forth the *locusts* that could sting humanity for five months. This same abyss that held those special *locusts* for that moment at that time was now going to be used once again for a *thousand years* as a prison for Satan. His earthly business was out of business for ten centuries to come. It would be a millennium without the devil! A millennium without the devil's herd of demons! A millennium free of hell's perverse demands!

(2) Released for a Short Time (20:3b)

Rev 20:3b after these things he must be released for a short time.

But in the LORD's normal way of communicating truth, He presented the past and present of this *great red dragon* as well as his future. The LORD revealed to John that Satan's prison was for only a millennium and then he would be pardoned from the abyss for a short time. How long, we do not know. For now, at this point in the story, Satan was

secure for 1,000 years in the deep abyss away from humanity. The *seventh bowl of the wrath of God* is complete. His wrath has been poured out on the world and He is the King of it all.

f) **Sovereignties of the State (20:4a)**

Rev 20:4a Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them.

In this verse the whole religious and political organization of the LORD and its duty is summed up - thrones, rulers and authority to rule! These thrones and these rulers will be a totally new administration for the world. The former ruling classes of the world from every country, nation and tongue will be ousted once and for all. Isaiah prophesied the following.

Isaiah 24:20-21 The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard, and it totters like a shack, For its transgression is heavy upon it, And it will fall, never to rise again. So it will happen in that day, that the LORD will punish the host of heaven, on high, and the kings of the earth, on earth.

Satan's thrones were empty; these thrones were now filled with the triumphant believers of the Church. Paul said the following about this point.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to *constitute* the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, matters of this life?

Angels would not sit on these thrones, Paul makes that clear. These thrones were reserved for the saints of the Church.

g) **Souls of the Saints (20:4b)**

Rev 20:4b And I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

It was now time for the LORD to fulfill another one of His promises. Remember when the saints under the altar in *seal five* cried out to the LORD and said, "**How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?**" The LORD's answer at that time was, you need to "**rest for a little while longer, until *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.***" All who needed to die had died, the altar was full and complete with all the souls martyred for the LORD including those who overcame the pressure from the *Revived Roman Empire*. It was now time for them to exit the altar and take their places in the administration of the LORD's kingdom.

The kingdom of the LORD was ready and He was the King of kings and LORD of lords. It is not mentioned here, but the earthly Temple had been prepared for *Jesus* to enter its gates and formally take His place on its *Great White Throne*. Years ago David wrote a Psalm for this occasion.

Psalm 24

As the procession of the LORD with the saints and the martyred souls will approach the gates of the city and the chorus will be heard singing.

The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the rivers. Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Thy face-- even Jacob. Selah.

As the LORD approaches the entrance to the Temple He will say:

Lift up your heads, O gates, and be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

In the customary ceremony, the guard will not open the gate but will ask the following question:

Who is the King of glory?

The saints of all the ages with the LORD will roar out the answer in unison:

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

As the custom was and still be, the LORD will ask a second time,

Lift up your heads, O gates, and lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

The guard will again reply to the request,

Who is this King of glory?

Once again, the saints of all the ages will answer the guard,

The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah.

The guard will lift the gate and the LORD will enter the complex and take His seat on His *Great White Throne* for 1,000 years!

h) Sentence of the Sinners (20:5a)

Rev 20:5a The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.

The saints of all the ages had come to life to live with the LORD in His millennial kingdom, but the sinners had not! Their bodies still resided in the ground and their souls were still reserved in Hades, the place of torment. The saints had been resurrected, the sinners had not, but they will, at the end of the thousand years of the reign of the LORD on earth.

i) Satisfaction of the Saved (20:5b-6a)

Rev 20:5b This is the first resurrection. ^{6a} Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, ...

The resurrection of all the saints is called the **“first resurrection.”** As the verse states, **“Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection.”** It is a promise of everlasting life with the LORD for all the saints of all the ages. However, a resurrection of the dead will occur also; it is called the **“second death.”** This death will be imposed on all who rejected the LORD as Savior and died. Their bodies lie in the ground, their souls live in torment in Hades awaiting their resurrection. All bodies of all humans of all time will be granted a resurrection at some point in history. The bodies of the saints will be resurrected to live a glorious life with the LORD. The bodies of the sinners will be resurrected to live a terrible life in the *lake of fire* away from the presence of the LORD. The two resurrections will occur at different times in history. For those saints who have the blessing of being part of the first resurrection, the **“second death”** in the *lake of fire* will not affect them.

j) Servants of the Savior (20:6b)

Rev 20:6b ... but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

These glorified saints, participants of the first resurrection, will not be relegated to mundane life on earth! The LORD has a plan for them – all of them. They will be **“priests”** and serve in that capacity for 1000 years. What does this mean? As far as what the LORD plans for the *Nation of Israel*, and human life on earth for it, Isaiah answered that question.

Isa 61:1-9 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; ... To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; ... But you will be called the priests of the LORD; You will be spoken of *as* ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. Instead of your shame *you will have a double portion*, and *instead of* humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double *portion* in their land, Everlasting joy will be theirs. ... Then their offspring will be known among the nations, And their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them because they are the offspring *whom* the LORD has blessed.

If the LORD has a job planned for the Israelites, He has a job planned for you!