

The Book of Revelation
Revelation 19:1-10 (NIV)
“The Hallelujah Chorus”

Fourfold Hallelujah Over Babylon’s Fall

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

***“Hallelujah!
Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
for true and just are his judgments.
He has condemned the great prostitute
who corrupted the earth by her adulteries.
He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”***

And again they shouted:

***“Hallelujah!
The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”***

The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried:

“Amen, Hallelujah!”

Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

***“Praise our God,
all you his servants,
you who fear Him,
both great and small!”***

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

***“Hallelujah!
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!
For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.
Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.”***

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.”
Revelation 19:1-10

Introduction

The day we have all been waiting for has finally arrived, as once more John's gaze is shifted away from the earth and back into the heavenly realms. As the wicked of earth mourn, all of heaven is rejoicing! God has kept His promise to cleanse the earth. The cries of "How long?" from the martyrs (**Revelation 6:9-11**) have been heard and avenged. Sin has been defeated and the Kingdom of Heaven is finally becoming a reality! Can you imagine the praise and worship that will be offered to God upon that day? Even those "stuffy" Christians, who stood in church every Sunday, arms folded, and a pious look on their faces, will be unable to contain their joy. Songs of praise will gush forth from every corner of creation.

The word hallelujah ("Praise God") is used repeatedly in **Revelation 19**. This is the only place that the word even appears in *The New Testament*, and yet, here we see it shouted four consecutive times! This emphasizes resounding praise that will accompany the great triumph over evil, when God sets things right in this world by the execution of His righteous judgment. George Fredrick Handel's famous "*Hallelujah Chorus*" is taken from this passage. This powerful composition that repeats its fourfold hallelujah's over and over again is often sang during Christmastime or Easter, but it actually speaks of the end of days, when sin is vanquished and Christ shall come to reign upon the earth.

It is no coincidence that one of the earliest uses of the word "*hallelujah*" in The Holy Scriptures appears in **Psalms 104**, and it speaks of a time when the righteous shall rejoice over God's final judgment of sinners.

May sinners vanish from the earth and wicked people be no more. My soul, bless The LORD! Hallelujah! **Psalms 104:35 (CSB)**

When God pours out His righteous judgment upon sinful mankind, and the Babylonian world order comes crashing to the ground, the wicked of this earth will mourn, but the righteous hosts of heaven will rejoice. It is the chapter of history when all is made right again. And God's people in chorus with His mighty angelic armies will praise His Holy Name. Our fourfold hallelujah chorus will praise Him for His power to: *Rescue, Revenge, Redeem and Reign.*

Power To Rescue

"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God..." **Revelation 19:1b**

John hears the cries of what sounds like a great multitude in heaven shouting "Hallelujah!" This is an old Hebrew word used frequently in *The Old Testament*. It is the combination of "*hallel*" (Praise or shine forth light) and "*Jah*" (from JHVH or the Hebrew letters *yod-hey-vav-hey* - used to form the covenant name of God). So the word "*hallelujah*" literally means to "light up for God". It is used many times in Psalms and is often translated simply as "praise the Lord" throughout *The Old Testament*. The word has become universal in every language along with another Hebrew word "*Amen*" meaning "*truth*" or "*so be it*".

The first of the four "*hallelujahs*" is praising God for His Salvation. A grateful multitude of Believers are shouting at the top of their lungs to express their gratitude and adoration of God. For He has saved them! And were it not for this great salvation, we too would have been subjected to the terrible wrath of God. The word for salvation in the Greek is "*soteria*", and it literally means *rescue* or *deliverance*. Thanks to Jesus' death upon the cross, all who place their faith in Him are rescued from God's wrath. And this is why the redeemed of heaven are rejoicing when God's wrath is poured out upon the earth. For thanks to God's gift of grace, we have been spared from this terrible but just punishment for our sin.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD. **Romans 6:23**

The hosts of heaven will all cry out "Hallelujah" to the God of their salvation, for all their suffering is ended and the promises made to them by God have all been honored. Their faith has become sight. Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. Hallelujah!

Power To Revenge

“Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.” **Revelation 19:3b**

Now, the multitude praises God for His righteous revenge upon the world. Babylon has fallen, never to rise again. The sinful world who hated the Lord Jesus and His followers (**John 15:18-25**) have been given the punishment they so richly deserve. It is foolishness to willingly choose to be an enemy of God. He repeatedly offered them salvation, but they despised it. They are now destroyed. Justice is served. **“The smoke goes up from her forever”**, symbolizes the finality of God's judgment. Babylon with its corrupted worldly system is forever destroyed. God has had His revenge upon the world for its cruel treatment of His Son and His adopted children. The debt is paid in full. Hallelujah!

It may seem odd to many Believers today that the hosts of heaven would rejoice when God pours out His anger upon the lost of this world. But it is important to note that the wicked who will perish during the great tribulation were given ample time, as well as, repeated warnings to repent or perish. These people shall willingly choose to rebel against God, even as the world literally falls apart around them. They will choose to foolishly sin away their time of grace, as it were, and have made the conscience decision to be in rebellion. Therefore, they are without excuse. God cannot be righteous in His character, while allowing sinful rebellion to go unpunished. And as a result of His righteous judgment, all of heaven will rejoice on the day that God validates His holiness by destroying the wicked, once and for all.

Power To Redeem

“...And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah”... praise God all you servants”.
Revelation 4b & 5b

The word used here for servants (*doulos*) means “slaves”. We who were once slaves to sin were purchased by the blood of Jesus. We were bought, quite literally, from Satan to become slaves of God. But although we are called to serve our God, He does not treat us as mere slaves, but as His adopted children! We were redeemed (bought back), and then adopted.

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, The Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.”
Romans 8:15

And in another passage Jesus told His disciples:

“I no longer call you servants (doulos), because a servant does not know His master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father, I have made known to You”. **John 15:15** (Greek emphasis added)

It is an astounding thing to know that we were once runaway slaves. We ran from God to become slaves to sin and Satan. But Jesus died on a cross to redeem us (buy us back). We then were not only set free, but were adopted by the Father as a child of God! From a slave to a son! (**Galatians 4:1-7**). From an enemy to a friend! No script ever written in Hollywood can ever match the beauty and wonder of this story. Praise God, for His power to redeem. Is it any wonder that the redeemed of heaven will shout “Hallelujah”, when we see firsthand the wrath from which we have been delivered? We shall be spared, because we have been purchased by the blood of The Lamb. Hallelujah!

Power To Reign

"Hallelujah, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.

Revelation 19:6

The Lord is now ready to take over his rightful ownership of all the universe. The prayer of the saints, **"Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven"**, has come to pass. Satan's rule on the earth has come to an end. The Kingdom of Heaven is coming to earth.

The first order of business in this new Kingdom will be the marriage celebration of the Lamb (**vs. 7**). The church is clothed in her wedding gown of righteousness! (**vs. 7-8**). Her gown is woven from every righteous deed she has done. Have you ever stopped to think that every time you act in obedience to the commands of Christ you are actually adding a stitch to the wedding gown of the bride of Christ? For example: giving to the needy, sharing the gospel, or teaching a *Bible* study. That's what these verses mean. The church will wear her good deeds when she goes to meet her groom, the Lord Jesus Himself. I love this passage of scripture! I want to do my part to ensure the bridal gown is very beautiful indeed. We must serve our Lord with a grateful heart for what He has done for us. When we do, we make ourselves beautiful for His return.

Jewish weddings were composed of three separate occasions. First the marriage of the couple was arranged by the parents (usually around the age of 14). The family of the groom would offer a dowry (bride price), and if the bride to be accepted the proposal (usually sealed by drinking a cup of wine offered by the groom-to-be), the marriage was arranged. The couple were now engaged. Our heavenly Father arranged our marriage by paying the bride price, Jesus' death on the cross. We are then asked to accept the proposal of Jesus by pledging ourselves to Him. (This is why we take the cup of wine during communion.) Once we have accepted Christ, we are betrothed to Him until He returns for us.

The second phase of the wedding takes place when the groom-to-be returns to his father's house to construct a home for his bride. She awaits his return as he **"prepares a place for her"** (**John 14:3**). Jesus is now in heaven, as we speak, making ready a place for us to come to be with Him forever. The time grows closer every day for His return. We must remain faithful, for He will soon come for us! The rapture of the church when Christ will take His bride to be with Him is fast approaching.

The third and final phase is when the bride is brought to the father's house and presented to the family of the groom. This is a joyous occasion with a great feast and celebration! The bride is in her rightful place with her groom. Depending upon the wealth of the Father, the celebration could last for days, even weeks. Our celebration feast will last for 1000 years (**Revelation 20:2**).

After seeing his fellow disciples martyred for their faith, the church viciously persecuted, and he, himself, in exile on the Isle of Patmos, it is no wonder John falls to his knees upon hearing the words, **"Blessed are those, who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"**. The sound of these words were more than the aged apostle could bear, and he fell prostrate at the feet of the angel. The angel responds by saying; **"don't worship at my feet, worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy" (vs. 10)**. I love that verse. Listen to the words of the angel. **"The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy!"** This means, every single word that is written in our *Bible, Old Testament* and *New Testament*, is all about Jesus. It is all for Him. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. To Him be the glory both now and forever more. Our bridegroom is coming! Hallelujah!

*Let the Bride of Christ cry... **"Hallelujah!"***