

Revelation 19-20 – Thy Kingdom Come

Songs of lament over Babylon's fall give way to songs of triumph as we come to the grand finale of the apocalypse (unveiling) Jesus gave to John. A grand assembly takes the stage in songs of praise, "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory." (19⁶)

Warm Up Question(s) – Choose one

- When was the last time your favourite team finally won it all? What kind of celebration(s) took place?
- What is the most festive wedding and reception you every attended? How did they celebrate?

Discovering the Word

- 1) **Read Revelation 19:1-10.** In contrast to the silence that comes with the fall of Babylon (18²²), what characterizes this new scene in heaven? Who participates in this praise?
- 2) What is the most frequent refrain in the five songs of praise? What do they tell us about God's character?
- 3) Contrast the prostitute of chapters 17 & 18 with the bride of verses 7-8 (*cf.* Eph. 5²⁵⁻²⁷). What is conveyed by this contrast?
- 4) **Read Revelation 19:11-21.** What about the horse and rider captures your attention? What aspects of this warrior's appearance do you find surprising or mysterious?
- 5) Who are the combatants in this war? What happens to the enemy leaders? To the army (*cf.* Ezek. 39:17-20)?
- 6) What hopes & fears does this triumphant scene bring out in you?
- 7) **Read Revelation 20:1-10.** What happens to the dragon (vv.1-3; *cf.* ch. 12)? What happens to those he had victimized and terrorized (vv.4-6; *cf.* 3²¹)?
- 8) This chapter is the only explicit reference to the millennium (thousand year period) in the Bible. While interpreters vary in their understanding of *what* the millennium is (literal? Symbolic?) and *when* it is (before Christ's return? After Christ's return? Already?) what point do you think is being made here with it? How might one's understanding of the millennium affect one's daily life?
- 9) **Read Revelation 20:11-15.** On what basis are those who appear before the great white throne of God judged (*cf.* 1 Cor. 3¹⁰⁻¹⁵)?
- 10) If salvation is based on grace and faith (e.g. Eph. 2⁸⁻⁹), why is each person here judged "according to what he/she had done" (*cf.* James 2¹⁴⁻²⁶)?
- 11) What do you find comforting in today's chapters? What disturbs or troubles you?
- 12) What challenge or battle are you facing that you would like prayer for?