

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
 - B. The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
 - C. The Unholy Trinity (12:1–14:20)
 - D. The Seven Bowls (15:1–16:21)
 - E. The Great Harlot (17:1–18)
 - F. The Judgment of Babylon (18:1–24)
 - G. The Rejoicing in Heaven (19:1–8)

These verses continue the thought introduced by 18:20. “After these things” (19:1) refers back to the judgment of Babylon in chapters 17 and 18.

- 1. The First Hallelujah Chorus: A Great Multitude (19:1–3)
 - a. Cf. 7:9–12.
 - b. The multitude proclaim a twofold “Hallelujah” (vv. 1, 3).
 - c. Verse 2 answers the prayer in 6:10.
 - d. The multitude praises God for the character of His judgments.
 - e. The smoke (v. 3) appears to be evidence of torment (cf. 14:11).
 - 2. The Second Hallelujah Chorus: The 24 Elders and the 4 Living Creatures (19:4)
 - a. The last mention of the 24 elders—distinct from the saints (vv. 2, 5, 7) and connected with the 4 living creatures.
 - b. The “Amen” affirms the first hallelujah chorus.
 - 3. A Call to Praise: A Voice from the Throne (19:5)

The voice of an angel, rather than the voice of God: (a) compare 21:6 and (b) observe the pronouns (“**our** God,” “**His** bond-servants,” and “fear **Him**”).
 - 4. The Third Hallelujah Chorus: The Great Multitude (19:6–8)
 - a. Cf. Ephesians 5:23–32.
 - b. “His bride” (v. 7) = the Lamb’s bride = the church.
 - c. The great multitude does not include the church (cf. Heb 12:22–23).
 - d. “Fine linen” symbolizes “the righteous acts” of true believers.
- H.** The Recommissioning of John (19:9–10)—cf. 1:11, 19; 14:13; 21:5.

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1. The Guests at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (19:9a)
Cf. Matthew 22:1–14; 25:1–13. The groom goes in procession from his home to his bride’s home, takes her to his home, consummates the marriage, then celebrates the marriage feast.
2. The True Words of God (19:9b)—a confirmatory statement.
3. Mistaken Worship of the Angel (19:10a)—cf. 22:8–9.
4. The Spirit of Prophecy (19:10b)
 - a. “Testimony” includes Christ’s death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and enthronement.
 - b. The testimony is *about* Jesus, not *from* Jesus.
 - c. Jesus is the focal point of all prophecy. The climactic fulfillment of those prophecies occurs in the following verses of this chapter.

I. The Return of Jesus Christ (19:11–20:6)

1. The Second Advent of Christ (19:11–16)
 - a. Christ’s Appearance—cf. Daniel 2:34–35.
 - He rides a white horse (v. 11)—not the same as 6:2.
 - His eyes are a flame of fire (v. 12a)—cf. 1:14 and 2:18.
 - He wears many diadems (v. 12b).
 - He possesses an unknown written name (v. 12c).
 - He wears a bloodied garment (v. 13).
 - b. Christ’s Titles
 - “Faithful and True” (v. 11)—cf. 3:14. Because He is faithful, He must discharge His office as judge; because He is true, He cannot alter the divine standards condemning sin. These qualities characterize both the Living Word and the written Word (cf. v. 13).
 - An unknown name (v. 12)—cf. 3:12.
 - The Word of God (v. 13)—cf. John 1:1, 14.
 - King of Kings and Lord of Lords (v. 16)—cf. Ezra 7:12; Daniel 2:37; Deuteronomy 10:17; Psalm 136:2–3; Revelation 17:14
 - A Hebrew superlative (cp. “Song of Songs” and “holy of holies”) meaning “highest King and supreme Lord.”
 - c. Christ’s Purpose
 - To wage war in righteous judgment (v. 11)—cf. Isaiah 11:3–4.
 - To lead His armies (v. 14)—His bride is His army.
 - To smite the nations with the sword of His mouth (v. 15a)—cf. 1:16 and 2:12, 16.
 - To rule (lit., “shepherd”) the nations with a rod of iron (v. 15b)—cf. Psalms 2 and 110; Revelation 2:26–27.
 - To tread the wine press of God’s fierce wrath (v. 15c)—cf. 14:19–20. See Joel 3:12–13; Isaiah 63:1–6; Revelation 14:17–20; 16:16; 19:15–21.

Questions for Discussion

- a. How can Christians rejoice over the deaths involved in Babylon’s destruction?
- b. What does 19:10 indicate about the occurrence, content, and purpose of prophecy?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- ▶ See, especially, “1. The Second Advent of Christ (19:11–16),” above.