

Prayer:

The book of Revelation comes with an inspired outline as found in Revelation 1:19.

Slide # 1

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- “after this” – Future (Post-Church Age) –Ch. 4-22
- - Scene in heaven –Ch. 4-5
- - Tribulation – Ch. 6-18
- - Second Coming – Ch. 19
- - Kingdom – Ch. 20
- - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

Ever since the fall of mankind, God has had an ultimate plan of restoration for mankind and the world. But the devil also has a plan. Now the devil can only do what God allows, but until his fateful demise, the devil has a fairly long rope until God reins him in. God’s plan will ultimately triumph!

Ever since the fall, fallen mankind has been in league with Satan. In fact, the unbelieving world is called the children of the devil because they want to do the desires of their father, as Jesus said in John 8:44. Because of the influence of the devil and the desires of his children, Jesus equated the things of Satan with the things of men.

Slide # 2

Matthew 16:23 (NKJV)

23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

Note very carefully that Satan is here linked intimately with the “things of men.” Jesus knew Peter was not actually Satan, but in this incident he was representing him. This is how Satan works – through people!

All down through history the devil and his deceived minions have been building a system of rebellion. This system is called “Babylon.” We might write over this system the two-pronged statement: **“What Satan Built – What Man Built.”** That is Babylon!

The end goal for Satan is a one-world order united in rebellion against God. And that goal is essentially accomplished in Antichrist, but alas not completely, because many will defect from that system and put their faith in Christ. They are called overcomers.

Slide # 3

The PROGRESSION of the BABYLONIAN SYSTEM

- The “seeds” were sown in the Fall of Mankind (Gen. 3).
- Systematized at Babel (Gen. 10-11).
- Developed throughout History.
- “Mystery Babylon” – Ecumenical/Apostate form of Christendom (Rev. 17).
- “Great Babylon” –Universalized final form under Antichrist (Rev. 18).

Slide # 4

<i>God</i>	<i>Satan</i>
God’s People	The World
Israel/Church	Babylon
True Worshipers	Idolaters

What God is doing in the world is building a forever family with a two-pronged emphasis; namely Israel and the Church. What the devil is doing in the world is building a forever family called Babylon! Ultimately, in the end, everyone belongs to one of these two families.

We are born in sin, but by the grace of God we can be born again. We can go from being children of the devil to being children of God. We can change sides. But we must do so in this life. After death, all is sealed. We are born again when we put our faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior!

In Revelation 17 and 18, we saw that final form of the Babylonian system is built through the ages by Satan on the backs of a deceived world. Revelation 12:9 says Satan “deceives the whole world.”

But now in the last days judgment of Revelation the whole system has come crashing down. It falls suddenly and with finality under the judgment of God! As the world watches the headquarters of Babylon go up in smoke, they wail and mourn.

Everything this world had built in terms of an organized system of rebellion, everything it had to offer, everything it stood for has now come crashing down, never to be revived again! It’s over! All that is left now is the wailing!

That is the scene on earth, but the scene in heaven is another story.

At the prospective fall of Babylon, heaven is called on to rejoice, as seen in 18:20. Then Babylon falls, and now we see the response of heaven in Revelation 19. Earth is mourning, but heaven is celebrating!

Two FULL chapters (Rev. 17-18) are devoted to Babylon and its climactic FALL! When she finally goes down, it is sudden, violent, permanent, and irreversible. The issue at the point is SETTLED. Jesus is Lord – not great Babylon! Only God is Great!

That is the BACKDROP to Revelation 19.

It is now time for HEAVEN to rejoice, and they do so by celebrating with what we might call THE HALLELUIAH CHORUS! And so I have titled today’s message, ***“The Hallelujah Chorus.”***

Some might think heaven’s rejoicing over Babylon’s destruction to be insensitive and uncaring. But that shortsighted view ignores the reality that those sinners will have had the greatest opportunity to repent of any people who have ever lived. They will have experienced the unprecedented disasters of the Tribulation, which they will acknowledge to be God’s judgments (6:17). They will also have heard the most powerful preaching of the gospel in history, from the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, the two witnesses, the host of redeemed saved during the Tribulation, and even a powerful angel (14:6-7). Yet despite all that, they will remain unrepentant to the very end...

-John MacArthur

Revelation 19:1–6 (NKJV)

1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

The phrase “***After these things***” is often a chronological marker in the book of Revelation. We are introduced to the concept in Revelation 1:19 where John is told to write “*the things which are*” referring to the things which relate to the present church age. The word “Church” is found 19 times in the first 3 chapters, but then is NEVER listed in chapters 6-18, which deal with the Tribulation Period.

For this reason John is told to write “*the things which are*” (related to the present church age) and then to write, “*the things which will take place after this*” – that is after this present church age.

To show you all the more this is true, note the chronological marker in 4:1....

Slide # 5

Revelation 4:1 (NKJV)

1 After these things [*After the present church age*] I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you **things which must take place after this.**”

And then note the chronological markers of 18:1 and 19:1.

Slide # 6

Rev. 18:1 “After these things” (that is, after the destruction of “Mystery Babylon” by the forces of Antichrist.)

Rev. 19:1 “After these things” (that is, after the destruction of Antichrist’s “Great Babylon” by God Himself.)

In chapter 18, at the fall of Babylon, the world of wicked earth dwellers lament, but in CONTRAST the response in heaven is one of praise and rejoicing.

This is the changing of the guard. This isn't just a new inning – this is a whole new game. In fact, a whole new era is about to be ushered in. The time of the Gentiles is being shut down, which will open the door to the KINGDOM AGE.

It's time for HEAVEN to celebrate!

This is what all of history has been moving forward toward! This is what the OT prophesies looked forward to. This is what Jesus taught us to pray for - "Your kingdom come!" This is the climax of the book of Revelation – the fall of Babylon – and the coming of the KING of kings and LORD of lords.

After the fall of Babylon recorded in Revelation 18, John heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven! It was LOUD! There is no half-hearted response here.

Some think this "**great multitude**" is the same multitude of martyrs seen in 7:9 because the language is the same. They seem to be a group distinct from the 24 elders (representative of the church) in verse 4. They are celebrating the salvation of God, which is mentioned first, but then in conjunction with ascribing glory, honor, and power to the Lord our God.

Others think these may be angels, but since we are not told exactly who is in view, it may be that ALL OF HEAVEN is moved to exalted praise!

Alleluia: This is the Hebrew word Hallelujah brought over into the Greek. It does not have "h" because the Greek has no "h" so they just transliterated it without an "h," but it is essentially the Hebrew word "Hallelujah."

It really is a combination of two Hebrew words.

Slide # 7

Hallelujah

Combo of...

Halel (to Praise) and **Yah** (Shortened form of "YHWH".)

Literally means: "**Praise the LORD**" or "**Praise YHWH.**"

This word "Hallelujah" is found 24 times in the Psalms.

Psalms 104-109 were called the “**Great Hallel**.” Psalms 113-118 were known as “**The Hallel of Egypt**,” celebrating deliverance from Egypt. And Psalms 146-150 are called “**The Hallel Psalms**.” Psalm 150 is known as the climactic praise Psalm, as it both begins and ends with “Hallelujah!”

The Egyptian Hallel was sung at the Passover meal. The first two (113-114) were sung before the meal, and the last four (115-118) were sung after the meal. Many believe Psalm 115-118 were probably what Jesus and His disciples sang after they celebrated Passover together, which Jesus transitioned into what is now known as “The Lord’s Supper” (cf. Mt. 26:30).

Just as the Jews celebrated deliverance from Egypt with the Hallelujah Psalms, so likewise we celebrate deliverance from sin through our Savior, and one day all of heaven will celebrate ultimate deliverance from Babylon by worshiping with the climactic expression “HALLELUJAH!”

The Hallel Psalms generally deal with the punishment of the ungodly and the salvation of God’s people, as we find in context here in Revelation 19.

The word Hallelujah does not occur in the NT until right here, and it is found only here in Revelation 19. It is the climactic praise word! It was not totally fitting until right NOW! But now it is time to use this HIGH CLIMACTIC PRAISE WORD! It is found four times in Revelation 19 as seen in our study today in verses 1,3, 4, and 6.

YHWH was considered by the Jews to be God’s most sacred name! It is the name associated with the Exodus, where God forever identified this name to His covenant relationship with Israel (cf. Ex. 3:13-15; 6:1-8). It denotes God as unchanging and eternal. He is the never-changing God in an everlasting relationship with Israel. Thus, this name testifies of God’s unchanging character, His unchanging faithfulness, His unchanging covenant faithfulness. Hallelujah is literally, “Praise YHWH!” which is a celebration of the Covenant God that He is!

We now see God in His faithfulness bringing to pass all that He has promised to His people in the banishment of evil!

This is high intensity praise to God! Heaven is excited! They are praising God with everything in them! Their praise is LOUD and rich with meaning!

Salvation denotes deliverance. YHWH in His faithfulness delivers His people from the penalty of sin, from the power of sin, and ultimately from the very presence of evil as seen here.

To ascribe “**glory**” to God exalts Him with the highest of esteem.

Honor denotes value, being precious, and very special. However, this word is not found in the older manuscripts.

Power refers to strength! God is the Almighty! He is the highest power above all other powers. In fact, ultimately all power is sourced in Him alone.

In worship, heaven attributes these realities as rightfully belonging to God! In worship, they acknowledge Him for Who He is, the God of salvation to whom belong glory and power!

This is reflective of what was anticipated back in 11:17.

Slide # 8

Revelation 11:17 (NKJV)

17 saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because **You have taken Your great power and reigned.**”

These realities are ascribed to God as He has manifested these attributes in the putting down of Babylon. Heaven is expressing the greatness of God in the most exalted and worshipful way possible!

2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.”

Heaven affirms that God’s severe judgment of Babylon was true and righteous! If someone protests and says that God is wrong, they are on the wrong side of heaven!

When God was talking to Abraham about the judgment that was to come upon Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham posed this question.

Slide # 9

Genesis 18:25 (NKJV)

25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”**

The assumed answer is Yes! Yes, God always does what is right in keeping with perfect holiness (cf. 15:3; 16:7; 17:6).

In chapter 16, when the 3rd bowl is poured out on the waters, and they turn to blood, a voice from the altar says....

Slide # 10

Revelation 16:7 (NKJV)

7 And I heard another from the altar saying, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”

In view is the judgment of the great harlot – this great unfaithful, idolatrous system called Babylon which climaxes in Antichrist.

Two great sin issues are mentioned:

1. *She corrupted the earth with her fornication* (cf. 14:8; 17:2; 18:3).

Fornication is consistently used in the surrounding context in the sense of spiritual perversion in the sense of IDOLATRY!

Slide # 11

Since the “great whore [harlot]” of Revelation 17 was destroyed by “the beast” and his fellow rulers (Rev. 17:16) in the middle of the Tribulation, the “great whore” referred to here [Rev. 19:2] must be Babylon the Great. Comparing Revelation 17:2 with 18:3 and 9, the connection is obvious. Both the apostate religious system and the satanic economic-political system led the world astray and polluted mankind. Both were guilty of persecuting God’s people and martyring many of them. – **Warren Wiersbe**

Babylon’s proud, idolatrous, blasphemous ways influenced the whole earth. Babylon was spiritual in nature but in a perverted, idolatrous way that is described as spiritual fornication. Under Antichrist, the whole earth will be under the sway of a system of idolatry that is unrivaled in the history of the world. People will be locked into a system where they can’t buy or sell unless they worship the beast, unless they take his mark, unless they sell their soul out for this idolatry. The pressure will be great! The result is a CORRUPTING – defiling influence that is damning.

2. *She killed God’s people in mass* (cf. 16:5-6, 18:24). This system was murderous in its hatred for God’s people, reflecting a hatred for God. This system is not passive.

It does not take the view we “**agree to disagree!**” No! It is violently opposed to those who stand for God. The world is not neutral, and the final form of Babylon will be aggressively hostile to God’s people.

The Babylonian System was characterized by the influence of flagrant idolatry and the murder of God’s people.

These are the main reasons such VENGEANCE – such PAYBACK from God is totally justified. They deserve to be judged by God in this way. God’s people are not to avenge themselves, but rather leave it to God.

Vengeance is God’s prerogative (cf. Deut. 32:35; 2 Sam. 22:47-48; Ps. 94:1; Isa. 34:8; 63:4; Jer. 46:10; 51:11; Mic. 5:15; Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30).

In Revelation 6 we saw the martyrs crying out to God...

Slide # 12

Revelation 6:10 (NKJV)

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You **judge and avenge our blood** on those who dwell on the earth?”

That time has now come! God is now answering that prayer and heaven is rejoicing and praising God for doing it (cf. Deut. 32:43).

Herb Vander Lugt shared the following story: During the Great Depression, his father entered into a contract with a landlord. In the fall, the landlord refused to give him his share of the crops. His dad went to see a lawyer who looked at the fine print and said he could take no action. The lawyer said to Mr. Vander Lugt “You have three choices”.

1. You can kill the crook and get yourself in deep trouble.
2. You can cheat him and become like him.
3. Or you can take the wrong to God and let God take care of you and him.

His father said – He really only had one option, and that was number three. They never got their money – but they never went hungry. But whatever happened to the other guy? Where is he now?

Payday some day! “God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” (Gal. 6:7)

3 Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”

Here we have the second cry of “Alleluia”. They are not saying, “Oh, that is too bad about Babylon”.

NO! They are jubilant! They are praising God for bringing this arrogant, anti-God, abusive system down.

We see the same spirit expressed in the children of Israel when God destroyed the Egyptians in the Red Sea.

Slide # 13

Exodus 15:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and spoke, saying: “I will sing to the Lord, For **He has triumphed gloriously!** The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!

2 The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father’s God, and I will exalt Him.

Her smoke is said to rise up “***forever and ever,***” which we take to be symbolic of eternal punishment! The same basic language is used in reference to the punishment of beast worshipers in chapter 14, where it says, “***the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever***” (cf. Rev. 14:9-11).

The judgment here is PERMANENT, FINAL, COMPLETE, AND IRREVERSIBLE, and heaven praises God for it.

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”

In chapter 4 we dealt with the identity of the 24 elders. I tend to agree with those who take it that these are representative of the church in heaven.

In chapter 4 we were also introduced to the four living creatures, which I take to be an exalted category of angels who in Revelation are seen to be the key worship leaders in heaven!

Whoever all is involved in “the great multitude” in verse 1; add to that the church in verse 4 and the sense is that the WHOLE of heaven is involved in fervent praise to God on this occasion.

The most exalted in heaven FALL DOWN and worship. Worship means to bow down. On the other hand, God is on the throne. All of heaven is bowed down, and God is exalted on His throne.

The throne of God is the power-center – the control-center of the universe. God is always on His sovereign throne.

Slide # 14

Psalm 47:8 (NKJV)

8 God reigns over the nations; **God sits on His holy throne.**

Psalm 103:19 (NKJV)

19 The LORD has **established His throne in heaven**, And His kingdom rules over all.

God is always on His sovereign throne. As it repeatedly says in Daniel 4, ***“the Most High rules in the kingdom of men”*** (Dan. 4:17; 25, 26).

This reality never changes! What is in view in Revelation is Jesus coming to earth to sit on David’s throne in Jerusalem. This is what we mean by Jesus sitting on His throne in the kingdom. That is yet future, but is now on the horizon in the book of Revelation.

Both the church and the exalted worship leader angels say, “Amen!” to the praises of the multitude in verses 1-3. They are in total agreement! Amen means ***“so be it.”*** It is a strong affirmation! They are affirming the attributes of God in His judgment on Babylon.

And they add their own “Alleluia” to the Hallelujah chorus!

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”

This is probably the voice of an angel.

We have already seen a great multitude in verse 1, and the 24 elders and 4 living creatures in verse 4 praising God. But now an even more comprehensive call to worship is made as this voice from the throne says, ***“Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great.”*** No one is left out!

All of heaven is called on to PRAISE God in this praise service!

Servants – is really “slaves” (Gk. *doulos*). Someone might be considered a “big shot” on earth, but in heaven we all are just “slaves” (cf. 19:10.)

Whatever the background, whether small (the lowly of society) or great (positions of prominence) – whatever the background, it doesn’t matter in heaven; all are slaves of God, all are just fellow WORSHIPERS.

Note also that all in heaven are characterized as those “***who fear Him***”. In the Bible “fear” often denotes the nature of a true saving faith. It denotes a worshipful reverence for God.

Slide # 15

Acts 10:34–35 (NKJV)

34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.

35 But in every nation **whoever fears Him and works righteousness** is accepted by Him.

Acts 10:43 (NKJV)

43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, **whoever believes in Him** will receive remission of sins.”

Peter was not teaching some kind of works salvation in verse 35, but rather emphasizing the nature of a true saving faith. It reverences God and demonstrates that in the fruit of working righteousness. Clearly, Peter agreed with all the prophets who show salvation is by believing. Yet, the right kind of faith fears God and has the fruit of working righteousness.

The reformers were right when they said: “We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves does not remain alone!”

Often people say something like, “*I have always believed **in** God*” when really what they should say is “*I have always believed **ABOUT** God.*” It is one thing to believe ABOUT God and another thing to believe IN God!

Even the demons believe about God, but they don’t follow Him. To truly believe IN God is to personally trust Him, to submit to Him for Who He is.

For years I have said, “***We are saved by faith alone, but it must be the right kind of faith.***” The Bible uses certain qualifiers in addressing the right kind of faith. Thus, the Bible itself inherently emphasizes that a true saving faith bears certain qualities.

For example, **repentance** is often used as a synonym for faith. Repentance literally means “*to have a change of mind*” – a change of mind about sin and about Jesus. Thus, a saving faith is a change-of-mind kind of faith. This defines the right kind of faith!

Another word that is often used as a synonym for faith is the word **fear**. To believe in God is to fear God. A saving faith reverences God.

So, yes, we are saved by faith alone, but it must be the right kind of faith. We must believe in Jesus as Lord God and Savior! It must be from the heart. It is a change-of-mind kind of faith; it is a reverent faith!

Those in heaven, who are the slaves of God, reverence God properly. Everybody is on the same page! They are those who serve God fully out of reverence. They are fully yielded to God in honor and obedience to Him.

When you think of “Praise,” think of the Psalms. Psalms was the song book of God’s people. We might call it the “HYMN” book – yes – but also it is the “HIM” book because all worshipful praise is centered in HIM! “***Praise our God all you His servants!***” Certainly in heaven all praise is focused on GOD!

Many believe that indeed the worship in heaven at this point is based on the Hallel section of Ps. 113-118 and particularly...

Slide # 16

Psalm 113:1 (NKJV)

1 Praise the LORD! **Praise, O servants of the LORD**, Praise the name of the LORD!

Psalm 115:13 (NKJV)

13 He will bless those **who fear the LORD, Both small and great.**

“Allusions to these psalms demonstrate that the vindication for which the psalmists cried out so often has now occurred.”

– **Robert Thomas**

The context here is all about LORDSHIP! The Day of the Lord shows emphatically that Jesus is LORD over all! That is the point!

“Creatures great and small need authority. Now supreme authority has spoken, and all whose longing to be properly ruled are satisfied in God as they cry out in ecstasy – Hallelujah!” – **John Phillips**

In heaven all are on an equal footing. Whether we were in a prominent (great) position on earth or an insignificant (small) position, in heaven it's all about God! The focus is totally God and the worship of Him! No one in heaven is making it about them. Rather it's all about the Lord!

Note the ever-widening circle of praise in heaven on this occasion.

Slide # 17

The ever-widening circle of PRAISE in heaven!

- v. 1 a great multitude in heaven
- v. 4 the twenty-four elders
- v. 4 the four living creatures
- v. 5 all you His servants

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”

At the opening of the 7th seal there was silence in heaven for about half an hour (8:1). This silence in heaven indicates a dramatic pause in which heaven is awestruck as it contemplates the final judgments.

But now that the judgments have been carried out, heaven gets LOUD!

We have here the climactic counterpart to the fall of Babylon. Yes, heaven is celebrating the fall of Babylon, but beyond that they are celebrating the reign of God.

This statement gathers the Alleluia emphases of all the groups of heaven and brings them all together in one magnificent climactic crescendo!

This is the second time we are told of the voice of a great multitude. In verse one it speaks of “a loud voice of a great multitude.” But here it is made even stronger, being described “as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings.” That is awesomely LOUD!

Have you ever witnessed a large, massive crowd of people (like at a football game with a full stadium) with all the people shouting at the top of their lungs? Now magnify that by millions and you might begin to get the feel for this scene in heaven! This is full throttle worship!

Note the TRIPPLE EMPHASIS....

Voice of a great multitude – a massive crowd! We are told in 7:9 that they are innumerable. I take it there are many millions represented here.

Sound of many waters.... Have you ever stood at the foot of Niagara Falls or stood on the shore of crashing sea waves – that might give you a little feel for this.)

Sound of mighty thunderings (This is the kind of thunder that brings straight up in bed.) Years ago, in the middle of the night, we had a lightning strike right at our house. It was so loud! I sat straight up in bed and said, “**Glory!**”

Slide # 18

Psalm 29:4 (NKJV)

4 The voice of the LORD is **powerful**; The voice of the LORD is **full of majesty**.

Psalm 29:9 (NKJV)

9 The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; **And in His temple everyone says, “Glory!”**

The volume here is UNBELIEVABLE! I mean the amplifier is definitely ON high and heaven is making the loudest possible noise that it can!

And what is being amplified from the mouths of those in heaven?

“Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

This is the fourth and final Hallelujah!

This is the climactic praise word being shouted out with decibels that makes Heaven RING!!

It all builds to this MIGHTY CRESCENDO!

We see the same thing in the book of Psalms!

It all builds to the FINAL HALELL SECTION in Psalms 146-150. All these Psalms begin and end with Hallelujah. And then it finally climaxes with Psalm 150.

Slide # 19

Psalm 150:1 (NKJV)

1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Psalm 150:6 (NKJV)

6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

It is fitting that the PRAISE BOOK – the “HIM” BOOK of God’s people ends with Hallelujah! It is fitting at this climactic point in Revelation that all of HEAVEN lets loose with this climactic praise in sonic boom-like fashion with ALLELUIA!!!

You have never seen excitement like this on earth. I know people that pay big money to go to athletic events just because of the environment – the atmosphere. When the crowd gets into it – it creates a kind of EUPHORIA - and if you have been there you know what I mean.

Let me tell you – an experience like that can’t hold a candle to what heaven will experience at this point! The elation in this praise service is beyond what we can comprehend.

Throughout all of history, this is what the saints have been looking for, longing for, praying for, and hoping for – and NOW IT IS HERE.

What are they praising God for?

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Very literally it says, “The Lord God omnipotent has begun to reign.”

One commentator says, “***This is the keynote of the whole book.***” That is true! The whole book has been building towards this exact moment!

God Almighty REIGNS! This is what heaven is celebrating so exuberantly!

This is a total LORDSHIP emphasis! God through His Christ will now reign supreme! The great issue in history of who will be LORD is now forever settled!

In anticipation we saw back in chapter 11...

Slide # 20

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were **loud voices in heaven**, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

This is where it all has been building towards, and now it is finally here!

All the pent-up anticipation of heaven is now let loose....

"Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

Omnipotent means Almighty, all-powerful, sovereign. This designation of Omnipotent/Almighty is used 9 times of God in the book of Revelation (1:8, 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 14, 19:6, 15, 21:22)

Again, this is the very essence of the LORDSHIP ISSUE! Lord literally means "Master," denoting the reigning rule of a sovereign!

Slide # 21

The climactic Alleluias of this passage celebrate...

- 1) The salvation of God.... -v. 1
- 2) The judgment of Babylon - vv. 2-3
- 3) The person of God - vv. 4-5
- 4) The reign of God - v. 6

These are the four great praise emphases of the four Hallelujahs in Revelation 19:1-6.

What can we add to that?

Where do we go from here?

Well, to the marriage supper of the Lamb!

And Lord willing, that is where we will go next time!

On March 23, 1743, Handel's Messiah was performed for the first time in London. In attendance that night was **King George II** of England. He was deeply moved by the words, "***For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.***" As he heard these words, he rose to his feet and remained standing until the end of the cantata. Ever since that time it has been customary to stand whenever the "Hallelujah Chorus" is performed.

The "Hallelujah Chorus" demands a response! All of heaven thunderously voices their praise to God. Believers today praise God in great anticipation knowing that one day all will confess Jesus is Lord to the glory of God!

This is the mark of true faith...

Romans 10:9 (ESV)

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Have you done that? Do you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, proving He is Lord over all – even over the grave? As Savior Jesus died for all our sins, as Lord over all He rose again!

Is He your Lord? Have you confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord? Has anyone heard it? Of course, it's not just saying the words; we have to BELIEVE it!

We believe in our heart, and then we confess with our mouth! I invite you today to believe in your heart and confess Jesus as Lord!

And here is the good news: the Bible teaches that for all those who know Jesus as Lord and Savior, we are going to reign with Him in His kingdom (Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12). No wonder heaven is excited! And as believers we should be too!

Yes, indeed: "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

"Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus!"