

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"The Great Supper of God"

Revelation 19:17-21

Introduction

1. The Lord Jesus Christ has come as the great Deliverer of Zion (vv. 11-16; Rom. 11:25, 26). It is timed at the end of the tribulation period. It is called the day of God's wrath (v. 15).

2. Further elucidation of the events related to this fantastic intervention of Almighty God are now given (vv. 17-21). All is related to the second advent of Christ to earth. This is not the rapture of the church. What may appear to some to be a sort of mythical setup is in fact totally literal. It is the only manner in which to interpret this or any portion of the Bible. Why? God has a cleaned up earth when Christ comes to reign.

3. There are three aspects to the supper outlined:

1. Supper--INVITATION vv. 17, 18.

a. Who?

The text reads that an angel is employed by God to announce the great invitation to the supper. The use of angelic beings in the behalf of God is not uncommon (cf. 18:21). This one took his stand on the sun! How this is possible is not for human speculation. It is a fact for true believers to receive! The perfect tense of the verb marks the intensity of the stand. Apparently, his voice is raised so high that the entire universe hears.

b. What?

Strangely, the invitation is extended to the feathered population of the world. The Greek for "foul" is the root from which the term ornithology is derived. They fly, says the Word, in mid heaven. These are real birds!

c. Why?

The birds are asked to gather together, a passive aorist imperatival form verb, for a great feast. It is

the supper of the great God. There is no other God! Five times the term "flesh" is employed (v. 18). It is plural, hence the concept of pieces of flesh. Here is something terribly repulsive, but it is true (cf. 14:19, 20). Such a conclave has never before been called. It is related to the second advent (Matt. 24:28; Luke 17:34, 35). Here is Armageddon--the final battle of the tribulation (cf. Ezek. 38, 39 in mid tribulation and God and Magog of Rev. 20:7, 8 at the end of the millennium). All class distinctions are erased at this moment of carnage.

2. Supper--PREPARATION v. 19.

a. Persons

The supper really involves a final conflict by the enemies of the Messiah. They are listed here: the beast (final Western political ruler, antichrist: Dan. 7, 9, 11; Matt. 24; 2 Thess. 2; Rev. 13:1-10). His confederacy includes kings and armies. It is the whole earth gathered together (Psa. 2). The armies have arrived due to the events of Daniel 11:36-45.

b. Pattern

Here is the greatest gathering of all time at Armageddon. God has brought the representatives of the entire world to battle against the Lord and His Messiah (Psa. 2). He has brought them here for death! The perfect passive verb points to divine purpose in the event.

c. Purpose

The Lord is mentioned as being on a horse (cf. v. 11). The Messiah's armies are present, too (cf. v. 14). There is just no way by which this can be pegged as the rapture. This is the revelation of the Son of Man coming in His glory (Matt. 24:27-31).

3. Supper--EXPLANATION vv. 20, 21.

a. About leaders v. 20.

1) Beast This is the personal antichrist of the last days. He is taken. Hence, the political leader is unseated from world dominion so that the Lord Messiah will rule the earth!

2) False prophet He is the second beast of Rev. 13:11-17. He makes two actions: wrought miracles and by these he deceives the persons who had the mark of the first beast and therefore worshipped the first beast. All of this is a false religion. Hence, false religion now is closed out to allow for the world to worship the Lord (Zech. 14:9).

NOTE: These two persons are cast into the lake of fire which burns with fire and brimstone. This is gehenna (Matt. 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33). It is hell (cf. 21:8). Isaiah spoke prophetically about this place (Isa. 11:4). A thousand years later the two are still there (20:10, 14, 15). They are put in there "alive", which means they have bodies! Like Enoch and Elijah who went to heaven without dying, these men go to hell without dying! They never do die, but they are tormented forever and ever (20:10).

b. About followers

The others with the beast and false prophet are "killed". It is the sword which proceeds from the Messiah's mouth which does it. The carnage of these armies of the earth is too terrible. Think of millions and millions of birds cleaning the carcasses of bodies which are spread over a field. The Valley of Eadraelon is a Y shaped region, 250 feet above sea level, surrounded by mountains, and situated between Mounts Carmel, Tabor, and Gilboa. It is reported that more battles have been fought on this field than any other in the world.

Conclusion The events of the present day are full of tension and critical action. Most of the common people do not imagine a fraction of what is really taking place in the citadels of the world capitals. It is obvious, however, to a serious person that events are moving at a rapid pace to climax at the rapture, the tribulation, and the battle described here. It is no time for foolishness nor lightness. It is a time to repent. It is a time to get right with God through faith in Christ. Have YOU?