

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"Hallelujah"

Revelation 19:1-6

Introduction

1. Here is a brand new situation. The scene in the previous two chapters has been focused on earth. It is all a dirge of sorrow. This one moves to heaven. It is a paean of praise. What a contrast!
2. The "after these things" (v. 1; cf. 4:1; 18:1) points to the total destruction of the religious Babylon (17) and political Babylon (18). The former took place around the middle of the Tribulation and the latter around the end of it. So, here is something which moves in the light of God's government of wrath in the Tribulation.
3. The use of the word "hallelujah" is unique here for the New Testament. It is not found elsewhere in the New Testament. It is, however, a common word in the Old Testament and means "praise ye the Lord." Significantly, it is used in Psalms 146-150. These are millennial in outlook. Really, that's the only way it can be employed--when He is Victor! Meanwhile, it is used in the assembly of believers in anticipation of a postponed fulfillment and it has become a testimony of God's grace. Universal hallelujahs are strictly future.
4. Note the various aspects of purpose related to the hallelujahs of the text. Each one gives a specific emphasis and relationship. Here they are:
 1. HALLELUJAH--to God v. 1.

The voice of a great multitude is employed here to bring God praise. This is of "people" and hence cannot be restricted to angels. God proposes praise from the lips of redeemed persons. Four items are listed for giving God a hallelujah:

- a. For salvation The reference here is to the deliverance which He has provided. This is both spiritual and physical.
- b. For glory This speaks of the very essence of holiness which belongs to Him.
- c. For honor Here is the essential preciousness which He is. The aspect of value is mentioned with this word.
- d. For power Demonstrated might is the word here. He is able to effect the demise of Babylon, both religious and political.

2. HALLELUJAH--for judgment vv. 2, 3.

a. Religiously v. 2. Twice before God's judgments are declared to be "just and true" (cf. 15:3; 16:7). This is indeed the way in which God deals with His creatures. Two items are mentioned in connection with the religious whore. God has judged her and He has avenged what she did to others. Two separate sins are listed: fornication which is moral corruption and blood which is physical violence. It must be remembered that God has said that false religions have done this and for these things they will be judged! The time has come for the whore to be set aside and the true Bride of Christ revealed.

b. Politically v. 3. There is nothing so firm here as the perpetuity and finality of the judgment executed. The system deserved and received eternal punishment. There is smoke instead of incense. Men had turned from God to the Antichrist and now he too is judged! The present tense of the verb "rose up" provides a dramatic picture of eternal punishment!

3. HALLELUJAH--in worship v. 4.

Here the 24 elders and the four beasts (4, 5) are called to give praise. They fall and worship (cf. 7:11). Here is the explanation once and for all. Heaven will never weep over the earth and its demise. Why? All will then agree with God that His judgments are true and right. All will praise Him for what He does with sin. There will be no tears when this old political system of the world and its religions are smothered with His judgment!

4. HALLELUJAH--with victory vv. 5, 6.

Symbolically the throne actually gets involved. This, of course, means God Himself. All servants of the Lord are urged to praise Him, no matter what their station in life may be, small or great. Three times a Greek particle is used to show that the sound of this final paean of praise includes an enormous multitude. The word is rendered "as it were" in the KJV multitude, waters, and thunderings. So, in great unison, like a cataract of water and peals of thunder, the word goes out in praise to the Lord. Why? He is now the Victor. God the omnipotent One now reigns. It is the ingressive aorist verb here: God had begun to reign as King. Heavenly authority now rules over rebellious society. All are subject to God. He has brought down the wicked with force. They would not come in grace and longsuffering.

Conclusion Have you bowed to say "hallelujah" yet? It is only through faith in Christ and "by the Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:3).