

# The Christian Arsenal

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## REVELATION 19:1-21

If you've been with us for most of our study of the **Book of Revelation**, you'll know that we've seen lots of pain and suffering.

We've seen seals broken and wrath poured out...

We've seen trumpets blown and wrath poured out...

We've seen bowls turned upside down and wrath poured out...

We've seen fires and famines and floods and water turned to blood!

We've seen earthquakes and a scorching sun and cancerous sores...

Last week we saw religious Babylon fall and we saw political Babylon fall...

But today, we're going to see **rejoicing at a wedding** and **victory at a war!** Today, we're going to see good things happening...and I'm ready, aren't you?

### **Revelation 19:1-6...**

Here we see a song of praise, a song of adoration and worship! Did you know that the word, "Hallelujah" hasn't been used in the New Testament until now...and it's used four times in these few verses...

"Hallelujah"...means "Praise the Lord" and "Amen"...means "So be it," or "Yes, and I agree..."

"Hallelujah" and "Amen" are universal words. They're the same in any language.

**The story is told of two men from different countries and cultures and languages. These two men were on an ocean liner. Both were Christians and they weren't taking part in the many parties that were going on.**

**They both decided to go out on the deck and take a walk and maybe sit and read their Bibles for awhile.**

**Well, they met each other as they walked...each carrying their Bible. Each assumed the other was a Christian but they couldn't speak each other's language, so one of the men said, "Hallelujah" and the other said, "Amen."**

When friends of mine were serving in Europe, My wife and I went over there and spent a month with them. Wherever they had to travel on Foreign Mission Board business, we went, too! We went to a missions meeting near the coast of Normandy in France, and we also attended an international church in Paris, and we heard the words, "Hallelujah," and "Amen."

We went to their home church in Germany...we even went one Sunday and attended two services...one in German and one in English, and we heard the words, "Hallelujah," and "Amen."

We went to several churches in Moscow and St. Petersburg and we heard the words, "Hallelujah" and "Amen."

I'll bet those of you who have lived outside this country or have gone on a mission trip could tell us the same thing.

And here, this praise and affirmation are focused on the judgment on Babylon. They sing four verses of "The Hallelujah Chorus."

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You see, the “great multitude” in **verse 1** will include you and me and our holiness will be the same as the holiness of Jesus.

You and I will be in that choir. I’m really looking forward to singing in heaven because I’ll have a perfect, glorified body so surely I’ll have a perfectly glorious voice and folks won’t be looking around wondering where that strange sound is coming from and I won’t have to pretend to be looking around, too! 😊😊

**Remember H. G.’s vision a couple of days before he died” He told Mary that he had seen heaven and that the bodies of the folks up there were beautiful. Don’t you imagine that God, in His mercy, allowed him to see this as a great source of encouragement and hope?**

**All this joy and happiness that we see overflowing in these verses is because we will all know that now there can be that wedding we have looked forward to for so long!**

## **Verses 7-10...**

I believe to better understand what we see here we need to think about the customs and culture of that time and place.

**Verse 7** speaks of Jesus and His New Testament church. In **Ephesians 5:32**, Paul writes:

“This is a profound mystery, but I’m talking about Christ and the church...”

Paul had been talking about wives and husbands and marriage being only a human picture of the marriage of Jesus to the church.

There were four separate phases or stages to a Middle Eastern marriage.

### **1) the “Betrothal” or “Espousal”...**

This was a binding contract, usually made by the parents of the bride of groom. The couple was called “husband and wife” but there was no consummation of the marriage during the time of the betrothal.

This betrothal is stronger and more binding than our “engagement.”

You remember that Mary and Joseph were betrothed to each other and when Joseph found that Mary was pregnant, he was faced with a real dilemma.

Since he was legally bound to Mary, he couldn’t just walk away from her as is done in our day when one or the other of an engaged couple decides to break the engagement...In fact, Joseph would have had to “divorce” Mary.

In **2 Corinthians 11:2**, we see how this applies to us spiritually...

Paul wrote, **“For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I promised (NIV) I betrothed (KJV) you to one husband, that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.”**

Now, that’s where we are right now. God has chosen us to be the bride of His Son and we are betrothed to Jesus Christ.

Not only is there the “betrothal” stage, but there is also

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## 2) the “receiving”

There comes the time when these two young people who are betrothed to each other become of marriageable age and the young man says to his father... “Father, I’m ready to go and get my bride so that we can make preparations for our wedding.”

And the father would say, “Son, you have my permission. Go and get her.”

And the bride would be brought by the groom to his father’s house and there she would be “made ready.” Her gown was prepared and she was adorned and anointed with fragrances and gotten all “prettied up” and **finally** she would be ready for marriage.

In **Genesis 24**, Abraham had his servant go to Abraham’s family in Aram and bring a wife to his son, Isaac. The chapter ends with Rebekah returning and becoming Isaac’s wife...all prepared by the father for the son...a picture of the New Testament church and also the servant is a picture of the Holy Spirit.

Well, after the “receiving” stage, there would come

## 3) the “presentation”

At the “presentation” the father of the groom would place the hand of the bride into the hand of his son, and when he placed her hand in his hand, they were pronounced man and wife.

Finally, we come to

## 4) the “marriage supper”

The last stage of a Middle Eastern marriage would be the marriage supper or the marriage feast. This would be compared to our wedding reception except that it was really a feast. It was a big celebration that could last one or two days or even a week.

All the bridegroom’s friends were invited and the bride’s friends were invited and it was a great festive event!!

**Before we begin to apply all of this to us, let’s think for a moment...WHO IS THIS BRIDE?**

**Is this bride all believers? Is she all believers from all ages? No, the Bride of Christ is the Church!!**

### ***Ephesians 5:25-27...***

The Bride of Christ is not the Old Testament saints nor is she the Tribulation saints. The Bride of Christ is the CHURCH!

Well, while on this subject, let’s see where these Old Testament saints and Tribulation saints are if they are not the Bride of Christ. Let’s look at some **“invited guests.”**

**Verse 9...**These are the Old Testament and Tribulation saints.

Remember when John the Baptist called himself “a friend of the Bridegroom”? John the Baptist was saved before the Cross...so he will be **invited** to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

And God calls these folks “blessed”...They’re not lesser saints.

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God has a **purpose** and a **plan** and a **reward** and a **blessing** for all His saints and He doesn't treat them all the same, but that doesn't mean He treats one group better than the other.

By the way...**Matthew 22 contains a parable of the wedding banquet. The King (God) had prepared a wedding banquet for his son (Jesus). Verses 11-13 deal with the responsibility of the individual.**

**The wedding garment speaks of righteousness. This is a picture of the fact that if you're not dressed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, you'll never get to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.**

**Verse 14 says "many are called but few are chosen." Salvation Or the offer of it goes out to many people. But few of those Who hear are willing to accept it and be among the chosen.**

**Do WE have our wedding clothes ready?**

Now, let's go back to the different stages or steps of this marriage...

## **Phase One... "The Betrothal or Espousal"**

As we said a few minutes ago...that's where we are right now.

Every time someone bows his or her head and says,  
"O God, I'm a sinner, and I realize I need to be saved. I  
know I need a Savior and I know I cannot save myself.

Father, I believe Your precious Son died for my sins...  
I believe He was buried and that You raised Him up.  
I believe His precious blood that was shed at Calvary  
cleanses me from all my unrighteousness.

Please save me, Father."

Each and every time someone does that, then that "someone" becomes **betrothed to Jesus Christ.**

## **Phase Two... "The Receiving"**

This has not happened for us yet. This will take place when God allows His Son to come and get His bride and she will go with Him to His Father's house. During this time, the bride is "made ready."

Now, are you with me? At the Rapture, we will go with Jesus to the place the He has prepared for us.

The Rapture takes place before the Tribulation Period and there will be seven years in which we will be made ready.

In a sense, we're **already ready**, because of the simple fact that we are "new creatures in Christ Jesus" and we'll be made more ready at the Rapture... **"we will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye..."**

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But, I believe we'll be made even **MORE** ready! For one thing, we will all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, and we won't be judged there on whether we're saved or lost, on whether we'll get to go to heaven, **we'll already be in heaven**...this is not to judge our sin, our sin was judged at Calvary...

**At the Judgment Seat of Christ our works will be judged!**

**1 Corinthians 3:10-15...**

**Every day, we have the opportunity to roll up our spiritual sleeves and apply our spiritual energies and build something that lasts in our lives and in the lives of others for the cause of Jesus Christ!**

This is the question or questions...  
Are we serving out of a **pure heart**? Are we **serving with a right motive**? Are we serving for the purpose of **glorifying God**?...

See, all those wonderful things I've done for Jesus **in my own strength** and for **my own satisfaction** will just go right up in smoke!!

**But, the things I've done for Jesus that come through...verse 8...these will determine the righteousness that we will be clothed in... "the righteous acts of the saints."**

Of course, there is the imputed righteousness that is ours as the free gift of the Lord Jesus, but, you know, I long to have some "righteous acts" come through the fire, don't you?

And then to stand before Jesus with all the dross burned away and not be hindered by **spiritual pride**, or **self-sufficiency**, or **insincerity**, or **half-heartedness**...**won't that be great? Won't that be "a load off?"**

Paul speaks of the church being presented to Jesus without spot or wrinkle. I don't know about you, but I have plenty of spots and wrinkles and I'm not talking about the ones that are obvious...the ones I see every day when I look in the mirror...I'm talking about the spiritual spots and wrinkles that I have.

If Jesus were to come right now, I'd have plenty of spots and wrinkles...**I'd need to go to the laundry and have my spots removed and my wrinkles ironed out.**

Another way of our "being made ready" **just may be** that during these seven years we will be taught.

Now, it might be that when we get to heaven, we'll automatically have "perfect knowledge"...but it just might be that Jesus will have to straighten out some **wrong theology** or some **mistaken opinions** and some **wrong thinking**.

Remember, we're going to rule and reign with Jesus and we may need some lessons!! 😊 😊

**"Paul said, "Now we see through a glass darkly, now I know in part, then I shall know fully."**

We've seen the **betrotal**...our **accepting Jesus**.  
We've seen the **receiving**...the **Rapture**.

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## Phase Three... “The Presentation”

By the way, isn't it interesting that God's Word uses the term “**the Lamb**”? I mean, think of all the other terms that could have been used. Why doesn't it simply say, “the marriage of **the Lord** and His bride”? I believe it's because when you and I first fell in love with Jesus, we fell in love with Him...not as the Creator of this universe, not even as the Lord, but we fell in love with Him as the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. And even though we will see the majestic Jesus that John saw in **Revelation 1**, somehow He will also be the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world...the Lamb who willingly laid down His life for you and me.

It was that wonderful love that flowed from His heart as He died upon the Cross that attracted you and me to Him.

“The old rugged cross has a wondrous attraction for me,  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary...”

The last thing we see is

## Phase Four... “The Marriage Supper”

(Most Bible scholars agree that this takes place not in heaven, but on earth.)

We'll see more about this next week, but let me just say that “the marriage supper of the Lamb” will take place during the 1,000 years reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth. In fact, this marriage supper may just last 1,000 years!

### Verse 10...

John was so amazed at what he had seen take place that  
he fell down to worship the angel.

In **Acts 10:25**, Cornelius fell at the feet of Peter to worship and Peter told Cornelius to stand up because he was only a man.

### Verse 11-16...

At last, here is the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior!

The Lord Jesus Christ is coming to earth again!...Not with His glory veiled as when He came the first time...

The first time He came, He “emptied Himself”...  
He laid aside His glory.  
He took the form of a bondservant...  
He was made in the likeness of a man...

The first time He came, He came without fanfare, not many folks were aware of His birth. The second time, every eye shall see Him and not only that, **they shall know Him!**

The first time He came, He came in humility and folks...most folks...rejected Him. But the next time He comes, “**every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.**”

Remember what the angel said to the disciples as Jesus ascended into heaven?

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***“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”***

Let's just let this description of Him sink in:

He comes riding a white horse.

He is called “Faithful and True”...we've seen the lies and deception for so long, haven't we? But, our Lord is faithful and true.

“In righteousness He judges and wages war”....Doesn't it upset you when you look around and evil seems to be triumphant? One day Jesus will be the Judge. Jesus said that all judgment has been given unto Him and we can know without a doubt, when He judges, it will be righteous judgment. In fact, next week we'll see The Great White Throne Judgment...and it will be a righteous judgment because Jesus will be the Judge.

“His eyes are as a flame of fire”...These eyes will burn away any façade men will attempt to hide behind. We all have this “image” we want to project, don't we? We try to make it very difficult for folks to get past that image. And, we can usually fool folks at least for a time, can't we?

Well, the eyes of the Lord Jesus Christ can see right through all this...the ***Book of Hebrews*** tells us,

“there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and laid bare before Him.”

“many diadems upon His head”...This symbolizes His almighty power. Jesus Christ has all authority, all sovereignty. Jesus Christ is King of all heaven. He is King of all earth!

“an unknown name”...So varied and so wonderful are His many names that entire songs have been sung and entire sermons have been written which do nothing but proclaim and praise the different names of our Savior.

We know Him by so many names... our Redeemer, our Rock  
our Lord, our Christ, the Prince of Peace, Messiah,  
wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father

Master, Savior, Jesus...there's just something about that name, isn't there?

But this passage tells us that He also has another, a name written on Him...a name we don't know...

Maybe it's a name given to the Son by the Father...  
a name of special intimacy...a precious and holy name...  
whatever it is “no one knows except Jesus.”

“clothed with a robe dipped in blood”...This is not a picture of the blood He shed for us at Calvary. This is a picture of judgment.

This blood will be the blood of all those who rejected the precious, saving blood of Jesus Christ.

***Isaiah 63:3:*** “I have trodden the wine trough alone,  
And from the peoples there was no man with Me.  
I also trod them in My anger,  
And trampled them in My wrath;

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And their life blood is sprinkled on My garments,  
And I stained all My raiment.”

## Don't you wonder why folks reject so great a salvation?

Jesus shed His blood for all these folks and now their blood will not only cover His robe, but it will fill the valley of Megiddo.

“His name is the Word of God”...Jesus is the Word of God. Jesus is also the God of the Word...

When Jesus came the first time, His Word ministered grace and truth.  
When Jesus comes again, His Word will minister blood and battle.

“the armies”...You and I are coming back with Jesus on  
horses...

Have you ever been in the army? I have, but not in the Cavalry!! This is not duty that I would line up to sign up for...but if Jesus wants me in His army, I'm sure He'll teach you how to ride a horse and not fall off and not be afraid...while dressed in fine linen!!

When wars are fought, weapons are used aren't they?

Well, don't you know the other armies will come fortified? They'll come with their **missiles** and **jets** and **bombs** and **lasers** and **tanks**. Let's look at our weapon... “a sharp sword...”

This is the only weapon we'll have, but it is the only weapon we'll need!

**Isaiah 11:4** tells us that He will “**slay the wicked with the breath of His lips.**”

All it will take is (blow)!

Maybe it will be a word that He breathes, but I don't think it will be a sermon or even a sentence.

Jesus spoke parables and sermons when He came the first time. This time He will speak a word or breathe a word and it will all be over!

**Verse 16...** “King of kings, and Lord of lords...”

Every time I see this, I want to break out into “The Alleluia Chorus”, but you'd all leave if I did, so I won't...but folks, that's the mighty Savior we serve!!

The story is told of an old missionary who had come back to England from the mission field and he went to church one night in London.

As the choir sang, “The Alleluia Chorus”, the old missionary began to weep. Knowing that he was attracting attention in that “high church” service, he turned to the man next to him and said, “That's MY Savior they're singing about.”

Well, He's **my** Savior, too! And I hope He's **your** Savior, too!

**What a mighty God we serve!! Our Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!!**

Jesus is coming and when He comes, He will judge...

He will make war...He will smite the nations...He will trample out the wrath of God, and we're going to be with Him. **Praise His holy, holy name!!**

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## **Verses 17-18...**

Very quickly, let's see the preparation for this great battle. Here is an angel, standing in the sun, and he is inviting all the birds which fly in mid-heaven,

**"Come, assemble for the great supper of the Lord"...**

Listen, God created the birds, and they will do His bidding!

## **Verse 19...**

In verses 17-18, we saw **preparation** for the battle.

In **verse 19**, we see the **participants** in the battle...**the beast, the kings of the earth versus Jesus and us!!**

Well, I don't know if you noticed, but there are **two suppers** mentioned in this chapter...**the Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

And the **great supper of God...**

One is for believers and one is for unbelievers...

One is a supper of joy and one is a supper of judgment

We cannot attend both suppers. We cannot fight on both sides in this battle.

Which supper will you attend? Which side will you be on? Have you ever asked Jesus to be King and Lord and Savior and Redeemer of your life? If you haven't, why not? Jesus could come today for His bride...would you go with Him if He did?

## **Verses 20-21...**

When you were a kid and you went to the movies, did you ever clap when the good guys won? Don't you feel like doing that now! Well, why don't we?

**Jesus wins, folks! Satan loses!**