

THE REST OF THE STORY

Revelation 19-22

What in the world's going on?

Last few weeks we've been considering significance of current turmoil.

As Ps. 2 indicates, the peoples of this world are plotting against the Lord & His anointed One (the Christ)

Satan, and his world system, are at war, seeking to defeat God's work and destroy His people.

Revelation was written to God's people in suffering to encourage us by helping us understand God's perspective on what's happening

–to inform us of outcome of conflict

–to motivate us to remain faithful

John presents *God's perspective* on events:

Christ as Judge of the universe is judging His creation.

God controls the world!

Although we may suffer for Him,

He will be victorious.

The faithful will participate in His victory.

4-11 God's program for the future

12-18 Satan's Program

People choose to submit to Satan's authority

God's response => Judgment 14-18

He wins! We triumph with Him!

19-22 CLIMAX OF CONFLICT

Picks up where ch. 11 let off–2 threads come together

Spirit of victory in the air as final scenes begin.

Response from Heaven 19:1-10

Heavenly prep. for final scene.

Praise for God 19:1-6 *After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation & glory & power belong to our God, ²for true & just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." ³& again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever & ever." ⁴The 24 elders & the 4 living creatures fell down & worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. & they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!" ⁵Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great & small!" ⁶Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters & like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns."*

God is praised by hosts of heaven.

He has judged those who persecute His people.

He wins! Victory is His;

HE reigns forever!

Wedding Celebration 19:7-10

It's time for wedding of Lamb to His bride, the church

2 groups of blessed (content/satisfied) people:

His bride 7-8 *"Let us rejoice & be glad & give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, & his bride has made herself ready. ⁸Fine linen, bright & clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)*

2nd blessed group: **His invited guests 9 (Matt. 25)** *"Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"*

Preparation for Millennium 19:11-20:3

Heavens open & Christ descends to prepare for establishment of His kingdom.

Second coming of Christ 19:11-16

Coming pictured 11-13 *"I saw heaven standing open & there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful & True. With justice he judges & wages war. ¹²His eyes are like blazing fire, & on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, & his name is the Word of God."*

Accompanied by heavenly armies 14 *"The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses & dressed in fine linen, white & clean."*

Ready to judge the nations 15-16 *"Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe & on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings & lord of lords."*

He speaks with authority

He strikes down the nations

He rules with an iron scepter

He administers God's judgment

He is King of kings and Lord of lords

Victory over the nations 19:17-21 *"I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, ¹⁸so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, & the mighty, of horses & their riders, & the flesh of all people, free & slave, great & small." ¹⁹Then I saw the beast & the kings of the earth & their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse & his army. ²⁰But the beast was captured, & with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast & worshiped its image. The 2 of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, & all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh."*

You can picture the scene developing:

Vultures gather to prepare to clean up

Nations turn to fight against Him.

Christ triumphs over the nations

Beast & false prophet are cast into lake of fire.

Remaining armies killed by sword from His mouth

Vultures enjoy great feast!

Binding of Satan 20:1-3 *"I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss & holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, & bound him for a 1000 yrs. ³He threw him into the Abyss, & locked & sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the 1000 yrs were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time."*

Satan taken captive.

Chained in abyss; not to deceive nations for 1000 yrs

Millennium 20:4-6

With preparations made & opposition eliminated, Christ initiates the millennium.

Faithful will be resurrected to enjoy blessings

Those resurrected aren't condemned.

Those still alive didn't oppose Him.

All will submit to Jesus' authority

Some only submit by force.

Many of these rebel when given opportunity.

Final rebellion 20:7-10

Rebels get their chance at conclusion of millennium when Satan's released & organizes final rebellion.

Judgment at Great White Throne 20:11-15

After final rebellion, John sees a Great White Throne with the Judge seated on it.

All the dead not resurrected previously are resurrected

This resurrection's for people who don't trust Jesus

Since they haven't trusted Him,

they're judged based on their works.

Book of life is brought to show that they aren't in it.

These are justly condemned & cast into lake of fire.

John finishes with logical ? : *"Then what?"*

After 1000 yrs & judgment, what comes after that?

Eternal State 21:1-22:5

New conditions in eternity are described.

There'll be new heaven & new earth

New Jeru. prepared as place of residence for saints

God's people live there in blessing;

He'll dwell in their midst

Reveals habitation prepared for Lamb's bride

Encouragement for those suffering: *remain faithful!*

Glory of God & His presence which are our inheritance makes suffering seem insignificant

God Himself & the Lamb form the temple

Light provided by God's glory make sun & moon unnecessary.

There'll be no night, no impurity

River of water of life comes from God & provides fruitfulness & prosperity

In summary, God will be present among His people & abundantly provide everything we need 22:3-5

Curse will be removed

& God's servants will serve & reign with Him

CONCLUSION OF BOOK 22:6-21

Blessing for Obedient 22:7

The Lord is coming soon.

They will understand what God is doing.

Whoever obeys will be blessed because he'll be confident of his role in God's program in hard times.

Purpose of Revelation 22:10-11

To distinguish between the just & the wicked.

It ought to reconfirm our stand.

The faithful will find our commitment strengthened.

Those rejecting Him strengthen their rejection.

Promise of God 22:12-15

Encouraging promise for God's people who suffer for His sake: **Christ is coming soon!**

He will reward each one justly

Source of Revelation 22:16

Christ Himself sends this message to His churches.

He's aware of our need for encouragement

He will come & give us victory.

Invitation to Reader 22:17

Invites any who wish to turn to Christ

& receive the water which produces life.

Promise to Reader 22:20a

Concludes with certainty of Christ's promise:

He is coming soon!

Final Prayer of Writer 22:20b-21

That promise provokes response from the author's heart that **He would come soon.**

SO WHAT?

We'll never understand intensity of their praise, until we understand intensity of their pain!

“Persecution Books”

=> *Encourage God's suffering people*

=> **Christ Wins!**

The faithful triumph with Him

Provokes question: Whose side are WE on?