



Week Eleven – Revelation 19-20
Community Group Study Guide for the week of May 16, 2021

Suggested Reading: Revelation 19-20 prior to meeting

Study Revelation 19:1-10, “Hallelujah.” Choose some or all of these questions to answer and discuss:

1. What is one of the most memorable weddings or banquets you have ever been to?
2. Why did the great multitude urge everyone to be happy? How? ([19:6-7](#))
3. In what ways did the bride get ready for the heavenly wedding? ([19:7-8](#))
4. Who is called "blessed"? ([19:9](#))
5. What are some implications of the fact that Christ's relationship with the church is described as a marriage?
6. In what ways ought we to act as people "engaged" to Christ?
7. What is one way you could become a more worshipful person in how you participate in worship services at church?

Life Application Bible Notes

[19:1ff](#) Praise is the heartfelt response to God by those who love him. The more you get to know God and realize what he has done, the more you will respond with praise. Praise is at the heart of true worship. Let your praise of God flow out of your realization of who he is and how much he loves you.

[19:1-8](#) A vast crowd in heaven initiates the chorus of praise to God for his victory ([19:1-3](#)). Then the 24 elders (identified in the note on [4:4](#)) join the chorus ([19:4](#)). Finally, the great choir of heaven once again praises God—the wedding of the Lamb has come ([19:6-8](#)). See [Matthew 25:1-13](#) where Christ compares the coming of his Kingdom to a wedding for which we must be prepared.

[19:2](#) The identity of this great prostitute is explained in the note on [17:1ff](#).

[19:7, 8](#) This is the culmination of human history—the judgment of the wicked and the wedding of the Lamb and his bride, the church. The church consists of all faithful believers from all time. The bride's clothing stands in sharp contrast to the gaudy clothing of the great prostitute of [17:4](#) and [18:16](#). The bride's clothing represents the good deeds of the believers. These good deeds are not done by believers to their merit, but they reflect the work of Christ to save us ([7:9](#), [14](#)).

[19:10](#) The angel did not accept John's homage and worship because only God is worthy of worship. Like John, it would be easy for us to become overwhelmed by this prophetic pageant. But Jesus is the central focus of God's revelation and his redemptive plan (as announced by the prophets). As you read the book of Revelation, don't get bogged down in all the details of the awesome visions; remember that the overarching theme in all the visions is the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ over evil.

Study Revelation 19:11-21, "The Rider On The White Horse." Choose some or all of these questions to answer and discuss:

1. How do most people characterize Jesus?
2. What is the rider of the white horse like? ([19:11-13](#))
3. Who followed the rider of the white horse? ([19:14](#))
4. Who fought against the rider of the white horse, and what was the outcome? ([19:19-21](#))
5. Why is Jesus depicted as a rider on a white horse?
6. What do all the symbols in this passage tell us about Jesus?
7. For what "confrontations" do you need to prepare this week? How?

Life Application Bible Notes

[19:11](#) The name "Faithful and True" contrasts with the faithless and deceitful Babylon described in [chapter 18](#).

[19:11-21](#) John's vision shifts again. Heaven opens, and Jesus appears—this time not as a Lamb but as a warrior on a white horse (symbolizing victory). Jesus came first as a Lamb to be a sacrifice for sin, but he will return as a conqueror and king to execute judgment ([2 Thessalonians 1:7-10](#)). Jesus' first coming brought forgiveness; his second will bring judgment. The battle lines have been drawn between God and evil, and the world is waiting for the King to ride onto the field.

[19:12](#) Although Jesus is called "Faithful and True" ([19:11](#)), "Word of God" ([19:13](#)), and "King of all kings and Lord of all lords" ([19:16](#)), this verse implies that no name can do him justice. He is greater than any description or expression the human mind can devise.

[19:13](#) For more about the symbolism of Jesus' robe being dipped in blood, see the second note on [7:14](#).

[19:15](#) This scene provides a graphic display of the wrath of God. It shows God's anger and judgment against sin and against those who have constantly rejected Christ as the means of forgiveness and reconciliation. God's wrath exists alongside his mercy. In each generation, there must be balanced preaching and teaching about God's grace and his anger against sin. In our day, however, teaching about God's love and tolerance have become so predominant that God's anger seems to be mythical. Such a portrayal of God hardly warns people away from sin. Teaching about God's wrath may be watered down by some, but it is nevertheless real and will be terrible for those who have steadfastly refused him ([1 Thessalonians 1:10](#)). In your study and teaching, do not emphasize God's mercy to the exclusion of his wrath.

[19:16](#) This title indicates our God's sovereignty. Most of the world is worshiping the beast, the Antichrist, whom they believe has all power and authority. Then suddenly out of heaven ride

Christ and his army of angels—the "King of all kings and Lord of all lords." His entrance signals the end of the false powers.

[19:17](#) This "great banquet" is a grim contrast to the wedding feast of the Lamb ([19:9](#)). One is a celebration; the other is devastation.

[19:19](#) The beast is identified in the note on [13:1](#).

[19:19-21](#) The battle lines have been drawn, and the greatest confrontation in the history of the world is about to begin. The beast (the Antichrist) and the false prophet have gathered the governments and armies of the earth under the Antichrist's rule. The enemy armies believe they have come of their own volition; in reality, God has summoned them to battle in order to defeat them. That they would even presume to fight against God shows how their pride and rebellion have distorted their thinking. There really is no fight, however, because the victory was won when Jesus died on the cross for sin and rose from the dead. Thus, the evil leaders are immediately captured and sent to their punishment, and the forces of evil are annihilated.

[19:20](#) The fiery lake of burning sulfur is the final destination of the wicked. This lake is different from the bottomless pit referred to in [9:1](#). The Antichrist and the false prophet are thrown into the fiery lake. Then their leader, Satan himself, will be thrown into that lake ([20:10](#)), and finally death and the grave ([20:14](#)). Afterward, everyone whose name is not recorded in the Book of Life will be thrown into the fiery lake ([20:15](#)).

Study Revelation 20:1-6, "The Thousand Years" Choose some or all of these questions to answer and discuss:

1. What is your general attitude about politics?
2. Why had some believers died? ([20:4](#))
3. When would the rest of the dead be resurrected? ([20:5](#))
4. In what way are the people raised in the first resurrection blessed? ([20:6](#))
5. In what ways do God's people already reign with Christ?
6. How can we show our allegiance to Christ the King over all the earth?
7. In what ways can you give testimony of God's Word to the people you know?

Life Application Bible Notes

[20:1](#) The angel and the bottomless pit are explained in the notes on [9:1](#) and [19:20](#).

[20:2](#) The dragon, Satan, is discussed in more detail in the notes on [12:3, 4](#) and [12:9](#). The dragon is not bound as punishment—that occurs in [20:10](#)—but so that he cannot deceive the nations.

[20:2-4](#) The 1,000 years are often referred to as the *Millennium* (Latin for 1,000). Just how and when this 1,000 years takes place is understood differently among Christian scholars. The three major positions on this issue are called postmillennialism, premillennialism, and amillennialism. (1) *Postmillennialism* looks for a literal 1,000-year period of peace on earth ushered in by the church. At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be unleashed once more, but then Christ will return to defeat him and reign forever. Christ's second coming will not occur until after the 1,000-year period.

(2) *Premillennialism* also views the 1,000 years as a literal time period but holds that Christ's second coming initiates his 1,000-year reign and that this reign occurs before the final removal of Satan.

(3) *Amillennialism* understands the 1,000-year period to be symbolic of the time between Christ's ascension and his return. This Millennium is the reign of Christ in the hearts of believers and in his church; thus, it is another way of referring to the church age. This period will end with the second coming of Christ.

These different views about the Millennium need not cause division and controversy in the church because each view acknowledges what is most crucial to Christianity: Christ will return, defeat Satan, and reign forever! Whatever and whenever the Millennium is, Jesus Christ will unite all believers; therefore, we should not let this issue divide us.

[20:3](#) John doesn't say why God releases Satan for a little while, but it is part of God's plan for judging the world. Perhaps it is to expose those who rebel against God in their hearts and confirm those who are truly faithful to God. Whatever the reason, Satan's release results in the final destruction of all evil ([20:12-15](#)).

[20:4](#) The beast's mark is explained in the note on [13:16-18](#).

[20:5, 6](#) Christians hold two basic views concerning this first resurrection: (1) Some believe that the first resurrection is spiritual (in our heart at salvation) and that the Millennium is our spiritual reign with Christ between his first and second comings. During this time, we are priests of God because Christ reigns in our hearts. In this view, the second resurrection is the bodily resurrection of all people for judgment. (2) Others believe that the first resurrection occurs after Satan has been set aside. It is a physical resurrection of believers, who then reign with Christ on the earth for a literal 1,000 years. The second resurrection occurs at the end of this Millennium in order to judge unbelievers who have died.

[20:6](#) The second death is spiritual death—everlasting separation from God (see [21:8](#)).

Study Revelation 20:7-10, “Satan’s Doom” Choose some or all of these questions to answer and discuss:

1. In literature, movies, or television, who do you think is the all-time worst villain or bad guy?
2. What will Satan do right after his release from the Abyss? ([20:7-8](#))
3. In John’s vision what battle plan did Satan follow in his war against God? ([20:9](#))
4. How did God defeat the armies of Satan? ([20:9-10](#))
5. When are we prone to lose confidence in God’s power and authority over Satan and evil?
6. How can we draw encouragement from the certainty of Satan’s doom?
7. What is one simple way you can remind yourself of God’s certain victory over evil?

Life Application Bible Notes

[20:7-9](#) Gog and Magog symbolize all the forces of evil that band together to battle God. Noah's son Japheth had a son named Magog ([Genesis 10:2](#)). Ezekiel presents Gog as a leader of forces against Israel ([Ezekiel 38-39](#)).

20:9 This is not a typical battle where the outcome is in doubt during the heat of the conflict. Here there is no contest. Two mighty forces of evil—those of the beast ([19:19](#)) and of Satan ([20:8](#))—unite to do battle against God. The Bible uses just two verses to describe each battle: The evil beast and his forces are captured and thrown into the fiery lake ([19:20, 21](#)), and fire from heaven consumes Satan and his attacking armies ([20:9, 10](#)). For God, it is as easy as that. There will be no doubt, no worry, no second thoughts for believers about whether they have chosen the right side. If you are with God, you will experience this tremendous victory with Christ.

20:10 Satan's power is not eternal—he will meet his doom. He began his evil work in people at the beginning ([Genesis 3:1 -6](#)) and continues it today, but he will be destroyed when he is thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The devil will be released from the bottomless pit ("his prison," [20:7](#)), but he will never be released from the fiery lake. He will never be a threat to anyone again.

Study Revelation 20:11-15, "The Dead Are Judged" Choose some or all of these questions to answer and discuss:

1. What is one time you remember getting in trouble as a child?
2. Who will be involved in the final judgment? ([20:12](#))
3. On what basis will people be judged at the end of time? ([20:12-13](#))
4. What will happen to those whose names are not found in the Book of Life? ([20:15](#))
5. What is the value in knowing that we will be judged for the way we live?
6. How should the certainty of future judgment affect the way we live?
7. What can you do to remind yourself of the reality of a future judgment?

Life Application Bible Notes

20:12-15 At the judgment, the books will be opened. The Book of Life contains the names of those who have put their trust in Christ to save them. These books also contain the recorded deeds of everyone, good or evil. Everyone's life will be reviewed and evaluated. No one is saved by deeds, but deeds are seen as clear evidence of a person's actual relationship with God. Jesus will look at how we have handled gifts, opportunities, and responsibilities. God's gracious gift of salvation does not free us from the requirement of faithful obedience and service. Each of us must serve Christ in the best way we know and live each day knowing the books will one day be opened.

The Beginning and the End

Genesis

The sun is created

Satan is victorious.

Sin enters the human race

People run and hide from God

People are cursed

Tears are shed, with sorrow for sin

The garden and earth are cursed

Paradise is lost

People are doomed to death

Revelation

The sun is not needed.

Satan is defeated.

Sin is banished.

People are invited to live with God forever.

The curse is removed.

No more sin, no more tears or sorrow.

God's city is glorified; the earth is made new.

Paradise is regained.

Death is defeated; believers live forever with God.

The Bible records for us the beginning of the world and the end of the world. The story of mankind, from beginning to end—from the fall into sin to redemption and God's ultimate victory over evil—is found in the pages of the Bible.

20:14 Death and the grave are thrown into the lake of fire. God's judgment is finished. The lake of fire is the ultimate destination of everything wicked—Satan, the beast, the false prophet, the demons, death, the grave, and all those whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life because they did not place their faith in Jesus Christ. John's vision does not permit any gray areas in God's judgment. If by faith we have not identified with Christ, confessing him as Lord, there will be no hope, no second chance, no other appeal.