



Hallelujah!

Revelation 19:1-21 Matthew 25:1four-30

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The word **Hallelujah**¹ is the combination of two Old Testament Hebrew words that mean “**Praise the Lord!**”. It is a joyful and lofty word that rejoices in God and all of His blessings to us. **Hallelujah** is a faith response; it is praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for **Who He is** and **what He has done for you!**

Remarkably, in the New Testament, **Hallelujah** is used only four times, and all four of those are in Revelation 19. Think of how significant that is:

- † Hallelujah was **NOT** sung by the angels when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- † Hallelujah was **NOT** shouted at the Transfiguration nor on Palm Sunday.
- † Hallelujah was **NOT** spoken when Jesus redeemed the world by dying on a cross
- † Hallelujah was **NOT** sung by angels when the Son of God rose from the dead in great power and glory
- † **NOR** was Hallelujah mentioned when the crucified and risen Savior of the World ascended to the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty.

In the New Testament, Hallelujah is reserved for the **FINAL VICTORY** of Christ over His enemies. Revelation 19 is the **VICTORY CHAPTER** where Christ is described as a Mighty Warrior on a white horse with new names and many crowns. He leads the armies of Heaven and destroys all of His enemies.

**All the enemies of Christ, His Word and His People
are finally conquered;
*all of God's People are safe!***

And then the **Hallelujahs of Heaven** are sung:
signaling the final defeat of all evil!

¹ **Hallelujah** is a *Hebrew* word from the Old Testament; the New Testament *Greek* transliteration is **Alleluia**. Both are used in English and mean the same thing: **Praise the Lord!**

By the time you get to Revelation 19, we need good news! All of Revelation is building up to this great chapter where Christ destroys His enemies. This summer we have seen the terrible darkness and the widespread evil that Revelation reveals to us as we live in these Last Days and End Times.

- ☠ We have seen the **four Horsemen of the Apocalypse**. The white, red, black and pale horses and riders bringing bloodshed, violence, chaos, famine, drought, disease and pestilence on the earth. Revelation 6
- ☠ We have seen Satan falling like a star out of Heaven; he is the King of Hell who unleashes **200,000,000** gruesome creatures to deceive and destroy the people of the earth. Revelation 9-11
- ☠ We have seen the Destroyer as a **Great Red Dragon**. He tried to destroy the Lord Jesus during His time on earth, but he failed. He worked to destroy the Holy Christian Church, but he failed. Now, knowing that he is doomed, and his time is short, Satan the Destroyer desperately attacks individual Christians in an attempt to destroy them by lies and deception. Revelation 12
- ☠ In Revelation, a mystery is revealed to us: there is an **UNHOLY TRINITY** at work in the world and it is called Babylon the Great². Babylon the Great is pictured as two great and terrible *Beasts* that *Satan* manipulates. Revelation 13-18
 - The *Beast from the Sea* is all the secular influences in the world that **deny Christ, contradict His Word, and persecute His People**. This is easy to see in the culture, government, science, philosophy, education, media, entertainment, et al.
 - The second *Beast is from the Land* and refers to all false spirituality that **deceives people** and **leads them away from Christ** and His salvation. This includes all world religions, all tribal gods, all man-centered efforts to appease God, and the plethora of false teachers that have infested the Holy Christian Church.
- ☠ Finally, we have looked at **Armageddon**. The *final showdown* where Satan musters all of his dark and evil forces against the Lord God and His People. Revelation 16

The evil in Revelation builds and intensifies throughout the book:

AND AFTER ALL OF THIS EVIL ...

WE FINALLY get to chapter 19: the **VICTORY CHAPTER** –

² For a summary of the **Babylon the Great** image throughout Scripture, see the footnote on the 8/12/18 sermon titled “MYSTERY: Babylon the Great.” It is online, or email me at DJ BOLTE@gmail.com and I will send it to you.

and the **Hallelujahs!**

Jesus is our **conquering hero** on a White Horse Who triumphs over Satan! Jesus' death and resurrection **crushed** Satan's head; and Jesus' powerful Word is a sword that **overcomes** His enemies. On the Last Day, the Lord Jesus will throw Satan and all of his evil into the Lake of Fire: and He will take His People --- those who trust Him and believe His Word --- to the Wedding Feast in Heaven!

This victory is Christ's --- He is the Warrior on the White Horse; He earned it through His death and resurrection. He shares the victory with us --- and we respond in faith with our **Hallelujahs: "Praise the Lord!"** We are not the ones fighting; it is not our strength or good intentions or good works that overcomes the evil one. It is 100% Jesus and His life, death, and resurrection that overcome the Evil One. By grace, God has given us the victory and eternal salvation: we believe Him and trust His Word and we sing **"Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!"**

Because of His gift of salvation, we join with the entire Holy Christian Church of all times and all places in singing **Hallelujah** to the Lord!

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "**Hallelujah!** Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants." Once more they cried out, "**Hallelujah!** The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."
Revelation 19:1-3

This great victory of Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, teaches us several things.

1. The first is that the victory is assured, and you will reign with Christ in Heaven. It's God's promise to you. No matter what you are going through now, or might have to go through in this life, **patiently endure** it. It is only temporary. A day is coming, and it is coming soon, when you will be set free of your suffering and pain, and you will join with all the saints in Heaven singing **Hallelujah** to the Lord! The victory is assured! So patiently endure whatever comes your way.

2. A second thing we are reminded of is that **there is no place for sin in your life. Don't get caught up in sin and do not associate with evil doers.** You are in spiritual warfare every moment of every day. The battle is real, and the enemy is powerful and deceptive. You must always be aware and on-guard --- otherwise you will become a

casualty. And you may even lose your faith. **That is why repentance is an ongoing reality in the life of a Christian.**

- † Remember, rarely does anyone lose their faith overnight; you lose your faith by a slow and steady stream of unholy influences and sinful habits that you allow in your life. Satan is in no hurry to destroy you -- he has no problem waiting 10 or 20 or 30 years for all of his evil influences to overcome you, and finally lead you quietly away from Christ and His Word. **Repent of your sin NOW! *while you still can, and have nothing to do with the darkness and evil of the world.***

3. And finally, live a **faithful Christian life**. Remain loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ throughout your life. The Lord has given you three ways to stay strong in faith;

- † **Remember your Baptism:** Baptism is where God intervened in your life and brought you into His Kingdom. He washed your sins away and put His Name on you. The Holy Spirit lives within you. **You belong to the Lord:** now and for eternity. ***Think about your Baptism and remember what it means!***
- † **Receive Holy Communion:** The Lord's Supper is where Christ forgives your sins and strengthens your faith as you receive His crucified and risen Body and Blood in bread and wine. This is spiritual food for spiritual warfare. ***Never miss Holy Communion and believe that Christ's body and blood was given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins!***
- † **Study the Word of God:** Holy Scripture is the Sword of the Spirit; it is how you defend yourself from Satan and all of his dark evil forces. Your faith matures, and your conviction deepens as you study God's Holy Word. ***Make time to study and learn God's Holy Word: put Bible study into your weekly routine and schedule!***

**The Lord has given you three ways to stay strong in faith:
His Word, His Water, and His Meal!**

The **Hallelujahs** that we sing now are a foreshadow of the Last Day, when the entire Holy, Christian and Apostolic Church will join together to sing **Hallelujahs** to the Lord Jesus, who has given us the victory over Satan and all of his evil and dark forces!

AMEN!