

Message #1057
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"THE RETURN OF THE KING"
{Revelation 19}

Trinity Presbyterian Church
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INTRODUCTION

There is no greater commentary on the opening verses of Revelation 19 than the famous "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah."

I remember the first time I sang the "Messiah." I was a freshman in college and sang first tenor in the Bethel College Choir. We were performing this oratorio in the sanctuary of the First Methodist Church in Mishawaka, Indiana accompanied by a magnificent pipe organ, piano, a string and brass ensemble.

We stood for the final chorus and one word was prominent throughout--
"HALLELUJAH!"

"Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The Kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ...and
He shall reign for ever and ever...Hallelujah!

King of kings...and Lord of Lords...Hallelujah!

King of kings...and Lord of Lords...Hallelujah!

King of kings...and Lord of Lords...Hallelujah!

And He shall reign for ever and ever, for ever and ever!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!.....
HALLELUJAH!"

The audience had stood throughout--as was the custom. I had sung with all my might...everyone had given their all...the organ was full sforzando--all stops pulled out--crescendo pedal to the floor--as we sang that final "HALLELUJAH!" with trumpets blaring...holding nothing back! My suit coat was wet from the tears flowing from my eyes. It was such an incredibly moving experience. For that brief moment I was in the presence of the Almighty singing "Hallelujah" to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Revelation 19 is the only place where you will find that word in the New Testament. The word "hallelujah" was a Hebrew expression for "Praise the Lord!" For instance in Psalm 104: 35 we read the words of the Psalmist...

"Praise the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord {Hallelujah}!" Again in Psalm 106: 48 we read...

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, 'Amen!' Praise the Lord! {Hallelujah}!"

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 your

"Hallelujah!...Praise the Lord!"

"HALLELUJAH" {Revelation 19:1-7a}

First we hear "the roar of a great multitude in heaven SHOUTING" {must not have been Presbyterians}...

"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are His judgments..."

Secondly, we hear from "the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures" who fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne...

"Amen! Hallelujah!"

Thirdly, "a voice came from the throne saying..."

"Praise our God, all you His servants, you who fear Him, both small and great!"

And, fourthly, John "heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, SHOUTING: "Hallelujah! For the Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory!"

Why are they shouting their "Hallelujahs?" Because...

...everything is in readiness

...the stage is set

...the day for Christ's return as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" is at hand!

...and all the universe--heaven and earth--shouts "Hallelujah!"

THE WEDDING BANQUET {Revelation 19:7b-10}

"The wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, were given her to wear. {Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.}

"Then the angel said to me, 'Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' And he added, 'These are the true words of God.'

"At this I fell at his feet to worship him; but, he said to me, 'Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus.

WORSHIP GOD! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'"

We had a lovely wedding in our sanctuary yesterday. Rebecca, the bride was so beautifully dressed...Jonathan, the groom wore Selix's finest tux with his shoes spit-shined.

I just love weddings and I'm so honored when asked to officiate at these events--they're always so exciting!

In just 48 days--actually only 1,159 hours from now--Vincent Arishvara and Vania Hendratna will be married consummating a relationship that began ten years ago in Indonesia.

...guests lists have been prepared

...invitations have been extended

...the bride is preparing herself

...family is arriving from thousands of miles from California

...and at 5:30 P.M. on July 10, 2004 the wedding procession will begin right here in our sanctuary

What a day of celebration that will be for all of us!

In our text of the morning, the groom is the Lamb of God--our Lord Jesus Christ. The bride is His church...all those who are believers. Paul wrote of this in Ephesians 5--

"Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless..." {5:25-27}

Not only will those who believe in Christ be present but all the glorified and redeemed saints of all ages. Jesus speaks of this in Matthew 8:11...

"Many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast {the wedding feast} with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of Heaven."

What a gathering this will be--saints from all the ages will be present! No wonder there were the shouts of "Hallelujah!" The invitation has been extended--"COME!"

Attending the banquet will be all those who responded with their RSVP--to follow Christ.

...all those who have trusted Christ from every nation will be present
...blessed will be those who heard the invitation and responded
This brings to mind the parable told by our Lord in Matthew 22.
"A great king," said Jesus, "made a wedding banquet for his son. He sent invitations out to certain ones but they refused to come...so the king sent his messengers out into all the highways and byways, and he appealed to anyone, good or bad, to come to the wedding feast." {Matthew 22:2-14}
When many came he gave them wedding garments that they might be suitably clothed for the feast.
Try to visualize the beauty of this scene as described by John...
...how wonderful to be an invited guest
John is so overwhelmed that he falls down to worship the angel who conveyed the message and immediately he is rebuked. "WORSHIP GOD...not me...I am like you...one who bears testimony of the King!"
All prophecy focuses upon Jesus...set your eyes upon Him.

THE GREAT CLIMAX OF HISTORY--THE RETURN OF THE KING {Revelation 19:11-16}
Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about the "splendor of Jesus' coming"

Gloria Gaither wrote of this--

"I can hear the chariots rumble, I can see the marching throng. The flurry of God's trumpets spells the end of sin and wrong; Regal robes are now unfolding, heaven's grandstands all in place, heaven's choir is now assembled, start to sing, 'AMAZING GRACE!' O the King is coming, the King is coming! I just heard the trumpets sounding, and now His face I see; O the King is coming, the King is coming! Praise God {Hallelujah}, He's coming for me!" Jesus foretold this event to His disciples in the great Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24...

"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory!" {24:30}

John wrote of it in Revelation 1:7...

"Behold, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him!" And now we read of the event--

"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that no one but He Himself knows. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of His mouth comes 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. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!" {19:11-16}

This is not the Lone Ranger on Silver. HEAVEN OPENS and JESUS APPEARS...

...not as a Lamb...but as a Warrior on a white horse {symbolizing victory}!

...He came as a Lamb to be sacrificed for our sin

...He will come again as a Conqueror and King to execute judgment.

...Jesus' first coming brought forgiveness

...His second coming will bring judgment

...the battle lines have been drawn between God and evil

God's people have been awaiting this event since the day He ascended back into Heaven. The angel had promised those disciples that day-- "Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. Someday, just as you saw Him go, He will return!" {Acts 1:11, NLT}

His return will be unmistakable--Heaven will be standing open as Christ makes His entrance! {Sends chills all over me!}

The rider on this horse is given four distinctive names...

1. FAITHFUL AND TRUE {vs. 11}

In this capacity, He comes to judge...but, with perfect justice!

...all wrongs done on earth will be made right

...all the cheats and scams will be exposed

...all the drugs the blow the minds of people will be eliminated

...all who have terrorized others will be dealt with

...crime will be brought to an end

...all hatred will cease.

2. THE UNKNOWN NAME

This is linked to His blazing eyes and many crowns on His head.

..."blazing eyes" speak of full discernment, penetrating knowledge

..."many crowns" speak of His full authority

Put them together and you have a perfect picture of His omniscience and omnipotence!

...He manifests all the fullness of God

...He is both God...and man--the INFINITE GOD MAN!

...and His unknown name reveals that.

This suggests that no one really knows of that mysterious union of God and man...no one can comprehend. No wonder Heaven breaks out in praise: "Hallelujah!"

3. THE WORD OF GOD

He is the Logos about whom John wrote in His gospel...

...the one who laid down His life willingly for those whom He loved

...the one who shed His blood so that we might be redeemed

...the one who conquered death so that we might have hope!

...the one to whom we shout: "HALLELUJAH!"

The sharp sword coming from His mouth is none other than the powerful Word of God!

...it's God's Word that penetrates the heart

...it's God's Word that convinces men/women of their sin

...it's God's Word that conveys to us God unconditional love for all humankind

Jesus--the Logos--is God's ultimate final word--the voice of God Himself!

Finally, the greatest of all names--

4. KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!

Jude quote Enoch, the prophet, as saying: "I saw the Lord coming with tens of thousands of His saints!" {1:4}

Heavenly hosts...saints of all ages...armies of angels will accompany Him.

In 17:14 it says--"...with Him will be His called, chosen, and faithful followers!"

Millions upon millions will return with the King!

He was rejected by His own when He came because they wanted to make Him King--only He came as a servant.

This time He will come as the ultimate world ruler--as King of ALL Kings!

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION

So the question this morning is this: What do you do with Jesus?

...He's extended an invitation for you to follow

...only you can RSVP
He has promised to return!
He will return!
Does this bring excitement to you?
Or, does the thought terrorize you?
He will come when you least expect Him!
So, my final question for you this morning is: are you ready?
...now is the day to prepare
...when He comes, it will be too late!
"HALLELUJAH!"