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Sermon Notes

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## **Heaven Celebrates the Coming Kingdom**

### **Revelation 19:1-10**

This chapter is a ray of marvelous sunshine breaking through the darkness of the judgments of God in the Book of Revelation

Chapter after chapter has depicted the wrath of God poured out on wicked humanity on a groaning planet earth

Revelation tells us plainly of these judgments and they are dark and terrible

But now, in Revelation 19, after reading multiple chapters of the wrath of God, suddenly we hear a word booming out from heaven... not wafting down like some ethereal sound distant and far off, but BOOMED OUT over the smoldering wreckage of Babylon:

**HALLELUJAH!!**

Four times in this section, this word is proclaimed, even shouted from the pages of the Bible... a word of heavenly PRAISE ripping apart the lamentations that the worldlings will give at their fallen city of Babylon

**HALLELUJAH!! HALLELUJAH!!!**

Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! And heaven's citizens couldn't be more delighted

Babylon's history is dark and sordid, and there was a moment in time long ago, shortly after the Flood of Noah, when the inhabitants of Babel built a tower to make a name for themselves. At that time, all the earth spoke ONE LANGUAGE... but God confused human language at that point and scattered the people to the ends of the earth

Now, God has sent messengers to the distant shores and coastlines, and some of the inhabitants of almost every tribe and language and people and nation on earth have believed in Christ and are assembling to worship him this very day. And in all of those languages, they will speak the same word that we do: HALLELUJAH!! I have heard hymns sung by believers in

China, Japan, Kenya, Pakistan, Greece, Germany, India and other nations all using this same word HALLELUJAH!

It is a Hebrew word... literally it is a PLURAL IMPERATIVE... a command given to a group of people – ALL OF YOU, PRAISE YAHWEH... or PRAISE JEHOVAH... or simply, "Praise the Lord"

It is human-centered, with us in view... we the creatures, we the people, we the redeemed... we are being called on to worship God

Heavenly worship, that is the focus of this chapter

Context:

A new chapter in Revelation calls for us to look back where we have come from

Revelation means "unveiling" ... the pulling back of a veil from the eyes of our hearts to SEE THE INVISIBLE... to see by faith what we cannot see with our physical eyes

What is unveiled?

- 1) Jesus Christ, first and foremost:

***Revelation 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ***

In this Book, we have the majesty and power and position and deity of Jesus Christ revealed like no other book

Christ himself is given to us to reveal God to us as well... so in seeing Christ, we are seeing the glory of God

- 2) The future

***Revelation 1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place.***

The apostle John was exiled on the tiny, rocky island of Patmos off the coast of Greece

Revelation 1: Jesus Christ was revealed to John in resurrection glory, walking among seven golden lampstands representing local churches all over the world and in every age of church history

Revelation 2-3: Christ sends specific messages to the seven churches of Asia... real churches, but also representative of the challenges and sins and successes that local churches would have in every era of church history

Revelation 4: John sees a door standing open in heaven and is commanded to come up to heaven; by the Spirit he is enabled to do that, and immediately sees the central reality of the universe... a THRONE IN HEAVEN with SOMEONE SEATED ON IT... this is the throne of Almighty God, God the Father, God the creator of all things visible and invisible... surrounding that throne are many created beings... elders, living creatures, a hundred million angels, a vast number of redeemed... all of them praising God for creation:

***Revelation 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."***

Revelation 5: John sees in the right hand of him seated on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. No one is found worthy to take the scroll and open it... until suddenly, Jesus Christ appears... and he is called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, and he appears as a Lamb who was slain... he takes the scroll from God and all heaven breaks out in praise for Christ the redeemer

***Revelation 5:9-10 "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. <sup>10</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."***

Revelation 6: Jesus breaks open the seven seals one at a time, initiating events on the earth that bring about ultimately the end of the world... this is the rhythm, the pattern that we will see for the rest of the book... seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls... all of them are HEAVEN'S INITIATIVE resulting in events on earth, bringing about the judgments of God on sinful humanity. Here in this chapter, the sixth seal brings about effectively the end of the world: the falling of the stars from the sky, the removal of every mountain and island from its place...

***Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. <sup>16</sup> They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!" <sup>17</sup> For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"***

Revelation 7: this is the answer to that question... for in this chapter we see revealed the redeemed from both the Jewish nation and every Gentile

nation on earth... these elect from every nation are the POINT of redemptive history

***Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."***

Revelation 8-9: predict the blowing of the seven trumpets by angels, resulting in devastating judgments on the earth... 1) 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the trees, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all the green, growing plants, all the green grass on earth BURNED UP; 2) 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the sea turned into blood, killing 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the sea creatures; 3) 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the fresh waters turned poison; 4) 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the sun, moon, stars struck, reducing their light on the earth; 5) demons from the Abyss billowing out like locusts, stinging people like scorpions and making them suffer so much they will long for death; 6) a huge demonic army moving out over the earth killing 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the human race... 2-3 billion people

These terrifying trumpet judgments will change the face of the earth and usher the human race into the final phase of human history

So John pauses his narrative to give a glimpse into the invisible spiritual realm... first, in Revelation 10 a mighty angel holding a scroll that represents John's task to write these things down for us

Then, in Revelation 11, the blowing of the seventh trumpet by another angel... the seventh trumpet will initiate the final phase of this terrible time of tribulation

Behind all this is the secret force of evil that has dominated planet earth

Revelation 12: a mighty dragon, that ancient serpent called SATAN or the devil who leads the whole world astray... he is portrayed as mighty and powerful compared to us, but defeated again and again... he tries to kill Christ the moment he's born; he tries to kill the woman who gave him birth (representing Israel), and he tries to slaughter all the Christians on earth; he also tries to conquer heaven but he is defeated and his demons are thrown to the earth... he turns his rage to Christians to try to annihilate them from the face of the earth:

***Revelation 12:17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring-- those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.***

Revelation 13: reveals Satan's masterpiece of wickedness, the "Beast from the Sea" representing a world-conquering human empire under a single human ruler, the Antichrist. This Beast seems to have died and come back to life again; another Beast, from the earth, called the False Prophet, sets up a world religion to cause all people on planet earth to worship the Antichrist, and to bow down before an idol of the Antichrist which he has made... he also makes people receive a MARK OF THE BEAST on their forehead or hand, without which they cannot buy or sell

Revelation 14: shows the incessant warnings and pleadings that God does both through human evangelists and missionaries, and through angels, and even an eagle WARNING PEOPLE not to receive the mark of the Beast, warning them instead to fear God and give him glory

Revelation 16: the seven bowls, the seven last plagues that God causes to fall from heaven to earth preparing the way for the end of the world: 1) ugly festering sores on people who have the mark of the beast; 2) the entire ocean turned to blood and every sea creature will die; 3) all the fresh water on earth turned to blood; 4) the sun scorching people with extreme heat; 5) deep darkness on the earth; 6) a huge army gathered from all the nations on earth to a place called Armageddon for the final battle; 7) a massive earthquake causing all the cities of the earth to be destroyed

Revelation 17-18: Babylon the Great... the world system of wickedness, of immorality, of hatred for God and persecution of his people... portrayed as a Great Whore of Babylon, then as a massive City filled with luxuries and commercial items

A mighty angel proclaims her demise:

***Revelation 18:2 "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!"***

She is cast down like a huge millstone into a sea...

And the call comes:

***Revelation 18:4-5 "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; <sup>5</sup> for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.***

The fall of this city is devastating to the worldlings, the kings of the earth and ship captains, and merchants and tradesmen who made merchandise that no one will ever use again... they WAIL IN AGONY over the Fall of Babylon

BUT the fall of Babylon the Great is precisely what the inhabitants of heaven are celebrating with FOUR HALLELUJAHS in this section of Revelation 19!!!

- 1) Overall message: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! For in his sovereign Kingly rule, he has destroyed the great whore of Babylon, and has rescued his bride from her filthy clutches... he has made her ready for her eternal marriage to Christ!
- 2) Four times the word “Hallelujah” resounds in this chapter; in the middle of the chapter, God himself commands the people to praise him
- 3) The praise is overpowering and jubilant... it cascades and flows in a mighty, overpowering ROAR... yet the topic seems difficult to grasp as what is being celebrated is the eternal torment of the people of the world system
- 4) Any reticence on our part shows how “hung over” we still are by Babylon’s cup of immorality... we would be soft on her, want God to “go easy” on her, hesitant to see too much suffering on her part
- 5) By the time we get to heaven, we will see Babylon for the deadly foe she really was... the world’s system, how it ALLURED God’s people, and ATTACKED God’s people

## I. Hallelujah! For Babylon is Destroyed (vs. 1-2)

***Revelation 19:1-2 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, <sup>2</sup> for true and 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."***

### A. Who Does the Celebrating?

1. “A great multitude in heaven”
2. These are the redeemed from every nation on earth...
3. They were protected by God’s power in this present evil age and they are now in heaven celebrating Babylon’s fall
4. Babylon is like a witch with an intoxicating spell she can cast on people

***Revelation 18:23 By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.***

5. The word “magic spell” comes from the Greek *pharmakeia*...
6. It’s like we were drugged... or like we were stung by a massive spider, like Shelob in the Lord of the Rings, who stung Frodo and paralyzed him and wrapped him up in her sticky web so she could devour him later

7. So it is with us in this world... we get stung and drugged by THE WORLD, with all its allures and temptations and lusts and pleasures... and though we are justified and made new creations, we still have a hankering after the illicit things of the world...
8. It's like we're still in a drug-induced HAZE or HUNG OVER from being drunk
9. BUT IN HEAVEN, our heads and hearts will be CLEAR AT LAST! We will breathe the heavenly air of the glorious realm of heaven, and we will see the Great Whore of Babylon for the alluring witch that she is

#### B. How Do They Celebrate?

1. With MIGHTY VOICES!! With a roar, like we can hardly imagine for its loudness
2. Heaven's inhabitants are SHOUTING

***“May your kingdom come, may your will be done ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!”***

This is HEAVENLY WORSHIP!!

We are called on to imitate it on earth!

#### C. What Do They Say? HALLELUJAH!

1. Praise the Lord
2. Everyone join me in praising our God, who has destroyed this wicked world system at last!
3. It will never trouble us again!
4. We will never think another lust thought again! We will never be covetous, or prideful, or sinfully angry, or sleepily lazy, or indifferent to the glory of God again
5. Those days are over FOREVER!
6. The great enemy that was the world system is thrown down like a millstone to the bottom of the sea of God's wrath

#### D. “Salvation and Power Belong to our God!”

1. The redeemed feel and know that they were rescued from the City of Destruction only by the grace of God

2. They used to love her sexual immorality and merchandise and power and pleasures...
3. But God took out the heart of stone and gave them a heart of flesh
4. They could not have saved themselves from her alluring spells

***Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.***

***Romans 8:5-8 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup> the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.***

***Romans 8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit***

SALVATION belongs to our God!

***Ephesians 2:1-9 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.***

POWER belong to our God!

It took POWER to save you from this system

Illus. The Saturn V rocket... the most powerful flying thing the human race has ever made; it could deliver 7.5 million pounds of thrust and put 300,000 pounds of payload into outer space...

This thrust was needed to escape the power of Earth's gravitational pull...

That's a picture of our salvation from the clutches of Babylon... the evil, alluring, enticing Great Whore of Babylon had her clutches in our hearts, and God



by GREAT POWER broke us free and delivered a multitude of FORMER BABYLONIANS to heaven forever

***“Salvation and power belong to our God!”***

E. Power Also Displayed in Babylon’s Judgment

1. Babylon was a very powerful system...
2. Antichrist’s reign will be over a very powerful empire
3. Lesser Antichrists have come and made our Christian lives incredibly difficult by their alluring enticements or their persecutions
4. Babylon was DRUNK with the blood of the saints
5. And God by his power will THROW HER DOWN

F. So Also JUSTICE and RIGHTEOUSNESS Displayed in Babylon’s Judgment

***Revelation 19:2 for true and 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.”***

1. She either enticed and allured Christians to sin, or she pounded their bodies, confiscated their goods, imprisoned them, tortured them, and even slaughtered them
2. It is TRUE that she deserved to die, and it was JUST for her to be crushed as God will do

Most remarkable that these saints have NO PITY AT ALL for Babylon!

II. Hallelujah! For Babylon’s Torment is Eternal (vs. 3)

***Revelation 19:3 And again they shouted: “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”***

A. They Have No Hesitation About Celebrating Her ETERNAL TORMENT

- Obviously this is troubling to many of us... why would the saints in heaven celebrate the eternal torment of human beings?
- Imagine if you heard someone say “Such and such a person or group of people are going to suffer eternal torment in the lake of fire forever and ever!” and the other person responded, “Praise the Lord!!!” you might think something was wrong

- Our reticence to celebrate shows how much we underestimate the damage the whore has done to the people of God... and we underestimate both the JUSTICE and the POWER of God
- There need not be any smugness whatsoever... as we will see, all of the redeemed were won out of the great alluring intoxicating world system of Babylon... we deserved her punishment... we were saved by GRACE ALONE!!
- We are still "hung over" a bit by her intoxicating drink
- But we are SOBER-MINDED and aware now of her poisons

B. Like the Angel that Poured Out His Bowl on the Fresh Water Turning it to Blood

***Revelation 16:5-6 Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; <sup>6</sup> for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."***

C. Just as We Saw Earlier... Eternal Torment

***Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name."***

D. In Heaven, the Saints Will Be VERY AWARE of the Damned, and Will Not Shrink Back from Celebrating God's Justice in their Damnation

***Revelation 19:3 And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."***

***Isaiah 66:24 "And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."***

E. The Vessels of Wrath Were Created for OUR BENEFIT

***Romans 9:22-24 What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath-- prepared for destruction? <sup>23</sup> What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory-- <sup>24</sup> even us***

Put it simply... the saints in heaven will not MISS BABYLON AT ALL!!

We will NOT BE LIKE LOT'S WIFE:

***Luke 17:32-33 Remember Lot's wife! <sup>33</sup> Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.***

***Genesis 19:26 But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.***

The more we detach our hearts NOW from Babylon, the better:

***Revelation 18:4 "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues***

III. Hallelujah! All Heaven is Agreed (vs. 4)

***Revelation 19:4 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!"***

- A. The Multitude in Heaven are Joined by the Elders and Living Creatures
- B. They Fall Down and Worship God for Destroying Babylon!!
- C. They Say, "Amen!" to the fact that the smoke of her torment rises forever and ever
- D. They are not squeamish about this, no hesitation!!

IV. Jesus Commands His Servants to Praise God (vs. 5)

***Revelation 19:5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"***

- A. This Voice from the Throne is Probably that our Lord Jesus Christ
- B. He wants all the servants of God to praise Him and celebrate his judgments and his power in throwing down Babylon the Great
- C. This is not an option for us! This is a COMMAND from Christ!
- D. Understand: this is an eschatological thing... it is for the END OF THE WORLD
- E. NOW... it is right for us to labor to rescue other citizen of Babylon from this world system and to grieve over her as Jesus wept over Jerusalem

***Luke 19:41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it***

***Romans 9:2-3 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race***

F. But ALL CHRISTIANS who fear God and worship him, both SMALL AND GREAT should anticipate with great joy the day when this Satanic world system will be gone forever

## V. Hallelujah! God Omnipotent Reigns (vs. 6)

***Revelation 19:6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.***

***KJV: Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.***

Cascading tumultuous praise from heaven... like the sound of a MIGHTY WATERFALL

Obviously I cannot fail to mention that this was the exact text that Handel chose for his famous "Hallelujah chorus"...

What some people call the greatest piece of choral music ever written

I considered having Wes and his team play it, but it would sound much better with a heavenly choir!

The story is often told of the overpowering vision that Handel had of heavenly glory when he wrote this piece

In March of 1741, the composer George Frederick Handel locked himself in his study for twenty-four days, laboring to give birth to one of the greatest pieces of music ever written... Handel's *Messiah*. As he was working, his assistant knocked on his chamber door, and hearing no answer, came inside. There he found Handel surrounded with sheets of music, with tears streaming down his face. He said

"Whether I was in the body or out of the body as I wrote it, I know not. God knows. But I think I did see all Heaven opened before me and the Great God Himself."

### A. The Theology: The Omnipotence of God

1. All power in heaven and on earth is his
2. No one can hold back his hand
3. No one can resist his will

4. God raises up potentates like Pharaoh and then crushes them as a display of his power

***Romans 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."***

B. Antichrist and his Babylonian System were RAISED UP for a purpose

1. For God to display his power
2. For all of us for all eternity to admire it!!

C. What is Celebrated Here: God's KINGLY REIGN

## VI. Hallelujah! The Lamb's Bride is Ready (vs. 7-8)

***Revelation 19:7-8 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup> Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)***

A. The Tone is One of Overpowering JOY... CELEBRATION at what God Has Don

1. The destruction of Babylon was to make ready for the Bride of Christ to descend from heaven and be married to the Bridegroom, Christ
2. There is a wise and beautiful purpose in all of this

Great joy comes in this triumph of power and military conquest by the judgments of God... JOY results... for God has destroyed the bitter enemy of his people

Also, he deserves the GLORY for this victory

The wedding banquet: strong metaphor for the union of Christ with his people

The bride has MADE HERSELF ready... by doing righteous acts... these are the evidences that she has come out from Babylon and washed and made herself clean in the blood of Christ

These are the FINE LINEN, white and clean refer to her PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS... imputed by faith in Christ

ALSO: The righteous acts of the saints = good deeds, mortification, faithful courageous service to Christ

It was GRANTED to her to wear white... though she is defiled and sinful, in need of forgiveness

She makes herself ready... and Christ washes her with water through the word to get her cleaned up and ready (Ephesians 5)

***Ephesians 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.***

VII. Praise God that John Wrote It Down! (vs. 9-10)

***Revelation 19:9 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."***

A. God Willed that This Be Written

1. He wants us to know NOW what joy will be ours when at last we are free from Babylon
2. He wants us NOW to celebrate that deliverance and taste it in advance

B. "Blessed are those..."

1. He wants us to know how BLESSED we will be to be invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb
2. This is exactly like the parable Jesus told about this

***Matthew 22:2-5 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. <sup>4</sup> "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup> "But they paid no attention and went off-- one to his field, another to his business.***

***Matthew 8:11-12 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."***

The written word of God is the basis of our JOY in the feast NOW, so that we don't desire any of Babylon's "delicacies"

We can smell the heavenly cooking now and save our appetite for that heavenly feast

C. John's Shame... Covered by Grace

***Revelation 19:10 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."***

- Humbling moment for John!
- The angel does not desire to take God's place and be worshiped, like Satan desired so long ago
- Also it shows the imperfection in John himself! Scripture is SO HONEST about its heroes!
- It proves the deity of Christ, however... he accepts worship from Thomas and from others
- "Fellow servant": Hebrews 1... angels serve! So do we! Slavery is eternal!
- Again, the exhortation is to WORSHIP GOD

All prophecy has the testimony of Jesus at its center!

## VIII. Applications

A. Come to Christ

1. The alluring potions of Babylon will only lead to spiritual poisoning and eternal damnation
2. Let me speak plainly: if you are living for the world's pleasures, lusts, luxuries, power, money, sex, entertainment... you will fall with Babylon
3. Someday this alluring world system will be cast down forever
4. Flee to Christ now!!
5. Trust in him for the forgiveness of your sins

B. Come Out from Her and Be Separate

***Revelation 18:4-5 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of***

*her plagues; <sup>5</sup> for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.*

**2 Corinthians 6:17-18** *"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." <sup>18</sup> "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."*

1. Someday, if you are a Christian, you will join this heavenly celebration of the destruction of the evil Satanic world system
2. Don't masquerade now as a worldling!
3. How has the Spider stung you? How has Shelob the massive clever spider stung you and paralyzed you and made your mind HAZY?
4. Ask him to reveal your idols to you!

C. Warn People that they Live in the City of Destruction

1. 1672, John Bunyan wrote a parable of the Christian life called "Pilgrim's Progress"
2. In it a man, reading in a book, comes to the shocked realization that he lives in a city called "Destruction" that will soon be consumed by the fiery wrath of God
3. He doesn't know how to escape
4. An evangelist finds him and points the way out...
5. That is our calling!! We are surrounded by people living for the world; we are called on to live holy and separated lives ourselves and to rescue the perishing around us