



YES, NO AND MAYBE

1. Someone sitting near me tries to sing...But it's more of a joyful noise!
2. I sing aloud when I'm home alone.
3. It will be a joyful time when sin is destroyed.
4. We make ourselves ready for the "marriage of the Lamb" with our righteous acts.
5. The Spirit of prophecy has passed away.

THE FOUR HALLELUJAHS OF REVELATION

► READ Revelation 19:1-10 (NIV)

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, 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."

3 And again they shouted:

"Hallelujah!"

The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."

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!"

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

"Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!"

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.

7 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. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

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

10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus."

« Why do you think God wanted us to see this right after the previous woes?

» **Vs. 1: After this** - (meta tauta). Literally this phrase means "after these things," and refers to the events of chapter 18. Accordingly John heard what sounded like the roar of many people in heaven praising God, obviously because of the judgment on Babylon. Interpreters have shown much confusion in understanding the order of the events in chapters 19-20; thus it is important to note that this praise in 19:1 follows Babylon's destruction in chapter 18.

» **Vs. 1-5: A great multitude** - Although the great multitude may be an angelic host (5:11-12; 7:11-12; 12:10; see also Heb. 12:22), the reference to salvation and the blood of God's servants makes it more likely that these are the faithful in heaven who have come out of the great tribulation (7:9-10; 13:17; 15:2-5).

• **Hallelujah!** - (ἁλληλούϊα). Hebrew. Praise ye the Lord. Only time used in the New Testament and only four times in this chapter. Fifteen of the Psalms either begin or end with this word. The Jewish anthem of praise (Ps. 104-109), sung chiefly at the feasts of the Passover and of Tabernacles. This represents the command in Hebrew "Praise Yah"; Yah is a shortened form of Yahweh.

« How might this song connected with the Passover?

DIG DEEPER



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DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

» **Vs. 2: He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth** - (ἐφθίρεν). Written in the imperfect tense denoting she had made it a habit.). The word corrupted carries the sense of “seducing to bring ruin,” appropriate for the great prostitute.

• **He has avenged** - The word avenged (ekdikēō), meaning to procure justice (Deut. 32:43; 2 Kings 9:7; see also Rev. 2:20–22; 16:5–7), also occurs in connection with the martyrs’ prayer (6:10). Because idolatry is viewed as equivalent to murder (9:20–21; 13:13–15), the punishment of death is a just response to the prayers of the martyrs for such retribution (6:9–11).

« How is God just and true in the way he will destroy all of the wicked?

• **Vs. 5: A voice came from the throne**- This is not God speaking, as the words our God indicate. Perhaps the speaker is one of the four living creatures, who were nearest the throne. Other instances of an unidentified voice speaking are: 6:6, from among the four living creatures; 9:13, from among the four horns of the altar; 16:1, 7, from the temple. In 21:3 there is once more a voice coming from God’s throne.

» **Vs. 6: For our Lord God Almighty reigns** - Almighty (pantokrator), literally means, in this context, that God controls all (see Notes on 1:8). There is here a clear allusion to the titles of Emperor Domitian—“Lord,” “Lord and God” (Suet., Domitian 13; Martial, Epigrams 5.8; 10.72). Hence, the suggestion is that God, not Rome, has all power, and that all earthly power will be defeated and Christ’s reign established.

« When we arrive in heaven, what attributes of God will you sing about with the most gusto?

» **Vs. 7: His bride** - The word translated bride here is literally “woman” (gynē), rather than the normal word for bride (nymphē) (18:23; 21:2, 9; 22:17). This symbol makes a significant contribution to the symmetry of Revelation’s imagery. On the one hand, the bride is an equivalent image to the New Jerusalem and stands for the saints (Matt. 23:37; Rev. 14:4); on the other hand, the harlot is Babylon, composed of the unfaithful “inhabitants of earth” (17:1–6).

» **Vs. 7: The wedding of the Lamb** - In Scripture, marriage is often used to describe the relationship of saints to God. In the Old Testament Israel is pictured, as in Hosea, as the unfaithful wife of Yahweh who is destined to be restored in the future kingdom. In the New Testament, marriage is also used to describe the relationship between Christ and the church, but the illustration contrasts with the Old Testament, for the church is regarded as a virgin bride waiting the coming of her heavenly bridegroom (2 Cor. 11:2).

« What does it say about God that He consistently uses the “bride” metaphor referring to us?

» **Vs. 8: Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear** - “What did the bride wear?” is the usual question asked after a wedding. The Lamb’s bride is dressed “in the righteous acts of the saints” (literal translation). When the bride arrived in heaven at the Judgment Seat of Christ, she was not at all beautiful (in fact, she was covered with spots, wrinkles, and blemishes according to Paul in Eph. 5:27); but now she is radiant in her glory. She has “made herself ready” for the public ceremony.

« Why is it important to remember that this robe was given, not earned?

» **Vs. 9: Invited** - The word invited (eklēmenoi) echoes the “called” (klētoi) and “chosen” (eklektōi) who follow the Lamb (17:14) and is a perfect participle, emphasizing the permanence of the invitation to the Lamb’s marriage supper. The point of the beatitude is: “you are invited!” The wedding feast was an integral part of the wedding. This was a time when the bride and groom shared their own joy and happiness with their friends. To be invited to a wedding feast was a great honor for a most important occasion. Then, to contemplate the wedding of Christ—the Lamb—with the community of all His believers—the bride—is momentous in itself. But to receive a personal invitation to the wedding supper is overwhelming.

« What does it say about God that his invitation is permanent? What does it mean to you?

» **Vs. 10: For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus** - The very nature or purpose of prophecy is to testify of Jesus Christ and to bring glory to Him. In the present Age one of the special functions of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ and to inform believers of “what is yet to come” (John 16:13).

« How is the Spirit of prophecy still active today?

MY PRAYER...

1. What words about God’s character will I sing the loudest at the Second Coming?
2. How am I acting like a bride, instead of a harlot?
3. What new aspect of God’s character does He want me to know?



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