

Revelation 19.1-10

Hallelujah!

Five Keys to Understand the Apocalypse

“The book of Revelation reveals the exalted Jesus through magnificent symbols - for the blessing of His Church of all eras - by a repeated message of hope that reinforces and interprets the ancient prophecies of Scripture.”

1. Savior

“The *revelation of Jesus Christ*”

Revelation 1.1

“The centrality of Christ is the ruling theme of Revelation. All things depend on their relationship to him.”

Michael Wilcock

- Lord in the Church - among the Lampstands
- Lamb that was Slain
- Lion who opens the Seals of History
- Leader of the Armies of God
- Lover of His Bride
- Light who illumines the City of God

2. Symbols

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

Revelation 1.1

Romans > Book to be **STUDIED** with **ACCURACY**
 Revelation > Book to be **SEEN** with **AMAZEMENT**

Bible contains **VARIOUS FORMS** of **LITERATURE**
 History, Poetry, Prophecy, Gospels, Letters, Laws > **APOCALYPTIC**

Revelation’s symbolism is very similar to Daniel’s interpretation of dreams:

“there is a God in heaven who *reveals* mysteries. He has *shown* King Nebuchadnezzar what *will happen* in days to come. Daniel 2.28

“The *revelation* of Jesus Christ, which God gave him *to show* his servants what must soon *take place*.” Revelation 1.1

“A number of authors of commentaries contend that one should interpret Revelation literally except where one is forced to interpret symbolically by clear indication of context. But the message in 1.1 teaches this rule should be turned on its head. We are told in the book’s introduction that the majority of the material in it is revelatory symbolism.” G.K. Beale

3. Saints – from First to Last Century

“Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.” Revelation 1.3

“The major symbols of Revelation represent a repeated pattern. This pattern has a realization in the first-century situation of the seven churches. It also has an embodiment in the final crisis. And it has an embodiment now.” Vern S. Poythress

4. Structure - Spiral-Staircase

“Write what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.” Revelation 1.19

Series of Pictures & Themes > Churches Struggle > 1st to 2nd Comings of X
From ‘seals’ to ‘trumpets’ to ‘bowls’ > Deeper View of Familiar Ground
‘Higher’ & ‘Wider’ Vista > like Climbing a Spiral-Staircase

Repetition: Commonly used in Scripture >
Creation story: 7 Poetic Days then Detailed View from the Garden of Eden
Pharaoh’s Dreams: 2 Different Showings > 7 Years of Feasting / 7 of Famine
Chronicler repeats Stories of Israel’s Kings first told by Samuel and Kings
Matthew, Mark, Luke, John > Four-fold panorama of our Lord and Master
Paul’s letter to the Colossians seems etched out of the template of Ephesians
People: We do Same Dumb Things Over & Over > We NEED Repetition

CONSTANT RETELLING of Big Events > Red Sox win World Series
Sept 11, 2001 / Tsunami in South Asia / Death of a Pope

“Each section of Revelation spans the entire dispensation from the first to the second coming of Christ. This period is viewed now from one aspect; then from another. In each vision we make a journey that takes us through the entire course of this era, from the first to the second coming of Christ.”

William Hendriksen

5. Scripture

“John, who testifies to everything he saw--that is, the *word of God* and the *testimony of Jesus Christ*”
Revelation 1.1,2

REFORMATION PRINCIPLE - “Interpret Scripture with Scripture”

Apostle John’s SOURCEBOOK > Not Science Fiction or TV News but OT

“It is clear that John had studied the Old Testament very thoroughly. Of the 404 verses that comprise the 22 chapters of the book of Revelation, 278 passages contain one or more allusions to an Old Testament passage. John had so thoroughly pondered the Old Testament that when it came to recording the import of his visions of God and of heaven, he expressed himself by using phrases borrowed from the prophets of Israel. Therefore, in attempting to understand John’s symbolism, we must consider not only the book itself, but also his use of the Old Testament.”
Bruce M. Metzger

* * * * *

Revelation 19.1-10

1. Great Multitude 2. God’s Majesty 3. Glorious Marriage

1. Great Multitude

a. Full

STORY of BABYLON’S FALL > Evokes FEAR and UNCERTAINTY
WIDESPREAD DEATH and DESTRUCTION > All her Citizens LOST

“the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, *never to be found again*”
Revelation 18.21

From the Scene of EARTHLY DESPAIR > to HEAVENLY DELIGHT
John sees Heaven’s Rejoicing at Consummation of God’s Victory

v. 1 “a great multitude in heaven” / v. 6 “a great multitude”
Great Multitude > Entire Company of God’s Servants > Angelic & Mankind

v. 4 “twenty-four elders and the four living creatures”
24 Elders represent Redeemed Mankind / 4 Creatures = Restored Creation

v. 5 Praise our God, *all you his servants*

They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be *his called, chosen and faithful followers.* Revelation 17.14

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that *I shall lose none* of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. John 6.38,39

b. Free > UNRESTRAINED and UNCONTAINABLE JOY

Revelation 18.20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven!” > “Hallelujah Chorus”

Fitting Climax for Fall of Babylon > Heavenly Jubilation
Contrast to WOES of Masters, Merchants, Mariners > World Sank w/ Babylon

v. 1 I heard what sounded like the *roar* of a great multitude in heaven *shouting*

Much of our LIFE is spent WORRYING what OTHERS THINK OF US!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS > “Be Cool and especially LOOK COOL!”

v. 3 they *shouted*: ‘Hallelujah!’

Sound > Majestic Beauty of Many Waters and Mighty Thunders

v. 6 a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah!’

Heaven will NOT be like a LIBRARY > Cannot Talk Above a WHISPER

And I heard a sound from heaven like the *roar of rushing waters* and like a *loud peal of thunder*. The sound I heard was like that of *harpists playing their harps*. Revelation 14.2

Singing > One of Most Complete Human Activities: Mind, Heart, Voice, Body
 Singing of Heaven and God's Faithful > Resonate deep Love of God

NOT TIME FILLER at ICF > Allow LATE COMERS to HEAR SERMON
 Chance to OFFER – Heart, Soul, Thanks, Praise to God – WORSHIP!

NEED TO COME EARLY > Quiet Heart before God > BE PREPARED!

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3.16

Paul and Silas > Full Attention of Fellow Prisoners > Beaten and Imprisoned
 SINGING HYMNS AT MIDNIGHT! (Acts 16:25)

Roman Mobs could not Comprehend > Many Christians went to Death Singing

The singing of John's vision is a powerful reminder that the faith is not an intellectual construct, a theological position, or an ecclesiastical standard; it is the living reality of life in vital relationship with God, a life of radical abandonment to God. M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

c. Found > GREATEST IDENTITY: Belong to God

Book's Familiar PATTERN > from Battlefield to the COMMAND CENTER
 EARTHLY Struggle > HEAVENLY Celebration

7 Struggling Churches Chs. 2,3 > Chs. 4,5 Throne Room of God and Lamb

7 Seals of Judgment Ch. 6 > Ch. 7 144,000 & Innumerable Multitude

7 Trumpets of Warning Chs. 8,9 > Ch. 10,11 Angel, Scroll, Faithful Witnesses

Unholy Trinity – Dragon, AntiChrist, False Prophet Ch. 12,13 >
Ch. 14,15 Lamb and 144,00

7 Bowls of Wrath & Fallen Babylon Chs 16-18 > Ch 19 Hallelujahs in Heaven

v. 5 his servants, you who fear him, *both small and great*

NO Discrimination > both Small and Great > Small BECOME Great in Him
Great MADE Small in Him > LEVEL GROUND AT FOOT OF THE CROSS

“he will bless those who fear the LORD - small and great alike” Psalm 115.13

Earthly, Fallen Distinctions > Race, Class, Culture > Now Ancient History

v. 1 a great multitude *in heaven* / NAMES KNOWN TO GOD / No Paparazzi

“In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.”
Matthew 18.14

Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Heidelberg Catechism, 1576, *Question and Answer 1*

2. God’s Majesty

a. Person

v. 2 *true* and *just* are his judgments / “true” = Valid / “just” = absolutely fair

God is by Nature Absolutely Just > Evil must be Punished in a Moral Universe
Outburst of Praise > Judgments of God against Babylon > True and Just

“You are *just in these judgments*, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged”
Revelation 16.5

v. 6 Hallelujah! For our *Lord God Almighty* reigns

The song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: ‘Great and marvelous are your deeds, *Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.*’
Revelation 15.3

Historical Context > written during Proud & Powerful Roman Empire
 Domitian > title 'Our Lord and God' > Holds all Things in His Control

9 times in Revelation > ALMIGHTY God > Only Once elsewhere in NT
 Personal God > the Lord OUR God

vs. 2,3 "He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. *He has avenged on her the blood of his servants...* The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."

FULL Blessedness of Redeemed > Harmony of Universe > Renewed Creation
 God > Judgments are True and Righteous > Judged the Great Harlot of Earth

b. Plan God has at last Established His Universal Reign on Earth

v. 1 "*Salvation and glory and power* belong to our God"

"salvation" > Restoration of the Kingdom over which God would Reign
 Salvation > More than Personal Deliverance > God's GLOBAL Redemption

"The glory of God means everything revealed about God: his name, his holiness, his mighty power, his saving love in Jesus Christ; his mercy, grace, and righteousness."
 Roger S. Greenway

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." Revelation 11.15

c. Praise

v. 1 "great multitude in heaven shouting: '*Hallelujah!* Salvation and glory and power belong to our God'"

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

The redeemed shout "Hallelujah" not because tyrants are suffering but because God has vindicated himself by bringing about the punishment they deserve.

Robert H. Mounce

“Hallelujah” > from 2 Hebrew words (hAlal and Jah) “Praise Yahweh”

Hallelujah > Hebrew = ‘Praise God!’ / Greek: ‘Alleluia’

Psalms: 24 X’s / Here: 4 Only Place in NT > SAME GOD WORSHIPPED

Judgment of God and Salvation belong Together > Meet at the CROSS

The love of God for us manifested at Calvary is inseparable from the satisfaction of his justice; for there, in infinite love, God himself endured, as the incarnate Son, the just punishment of our sins so that we might by faith be clothed with his righteousness. Philip E. Hughes

v. 4 And they cried: “*Amen, Hallelujah!*”

“Amen!” > Not God’s LAST NAME or Heavenly Punctuation Mark
SIGN of YOUR AGREEMENT > Yes! Lord! So Be It! Your Will Be Done!

v. 5 a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God”

Voice from Throne > calls ALL Redeemed > Praise their Creator & Redeemer

v. 6 a great multitude...shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns”

v. 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.”

Awed by Glorious Reality of God’s Truth > Radiance of God’s Messenger
UNIMAGINABLY GREAT > No Wonder he Worships Angel > AWESOME

Worships Messenger > Forbidden! > Fellow Servant > God Alone Worshipped

Point: Prophecy is Servanthood > Servant bears witness to Jesus, not Self
Testimony of Jesus is Spirit of Prophecy

Common Mission > Testimony of Jesus > Whether Men or Angels

Testimony of Jesus > John’s Dominant Motivation for this Book

“the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 1.2

Testimony of Jesus > Reason John was Exiled on the Isle of Patmos

“John...was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”
Revelation 1.9

Testimony of Jesus > Servants suffer Persecution and Martyrdom

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”
Revelation 12.11

Testimony of Jesus > Dragon makes War

“The dragon was enraged...and went off to make war against...those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.” Revelation 12.17

Testimony of Jesus > Hallmark of all God's True Prophets > PRAISE to God

3. Glorious Marriage

a. Counterfeit

v. 2 the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries

“Can Satan counterfeit the bride? He can and does. The counterfeit image of the bride is the prostitute in Revelation 17-18. To the purity of the bride corresponds the immorality of the prostitute. The fall of the prostitute becomes the occasion for the manifestation of God's true bride.” Vern S. Poythress

TRIUMPH of PURE BRIDE > Destruction of FALSE CHURCH / Babylon

b. Celebration

v. 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

Reason for Superabundance of Joy > Inauguration of Everlasting Kingdom
Coincides with Marriage of Lamb > Intense Love of the Lord for his Own

OT > God is Husband of His People “For your Maker is your husband- the LORD Almighty is his name- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.”
Isaiah 54.5

“I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.” Hosea 2.19

NT > Church is Bride of Christ > She eagerly Awaits Advent of Bridegroom

John the Baptizer: “The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.”
John 3.29

Reward now Pictured > Great Wedding Feast > Lamb and his Bride Celebrate

2 Major Events > Betrothal and Wedding > Separated by Time
At Betrothal > Two Considered Husband & Wife > Obligation to be Faithful

Wedding Procession > Groom to Bride's House > Promises Exchanged
When All is Ready > Bride to House of Groom for Marriage Feast

Church now Waits > Heavenly Groom will come for Bride > Return to Heaven
Marriage Feast will last throughout Eternity

c. Clothing

v. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

Contrast to Prostitute: TACKY > Purple, Scarlet, Gold, Jewels, and Pearls
Bride > Fine Linen, Bright and Clean > Righteous Acts of Saints

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2.10

Righteous Deeds: Performed by Bride, Prepared in Advance by Bridegroom

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5.21

Great Multitude of Redeemed > Washed Robes in the Blood of the Lamb
Jesus on Mt. of Transfiguration > DAZZLING WHITE GARMENT
NOT a Gown of Self-righteousness > NOT Give Themselves the Glory

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
2 Corinthians 3.18

The spotless righteousness of Christ which is graciously reckoned to us in our justification should increasingly be approached as in our daily conduct we walk in the Spirit; and the two will coincide at the Lord's appearing when believers will be brought to total conformity to his likeness, which will be their glorification.
Philip E. Hughes

d. Consummation Bride made Ready > Fine Linen, Bright and Pure

v. 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."

"These are the true words of God" > Authentication to Song of Multitude
Call to Church on Earth > Church in Heaven ALREADY Praise Him

JESUS to DISCIPLES at the LAST SUPPER on Earth -

"I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until the day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26.29

NOW EVERYTHING IS READY > NATIONS ARE INVITED TO COME

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."
Isaiah 61.10

Jesus: "I say to you that many will come from the east and the west and take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven"
Matthew 8.11

NOW WE HAVE THE TREMENDOUS PRIVILEGE OF INVITING

MAY GOD FIND US FAITHFUL IN CALLING THE NATIONS

MAY YOU BE DRESSED > In His Righteousness > For that Great Day

* * * * *

¹After 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,
²for 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.” ³And again they shouted: “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”

⁴The twentyfour elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!”

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

⁶Then 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. ⁷Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready. ⁸Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the
saints.)

⁹Then 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.”

¹⁰At 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.”