

Revelation 19:1-7 – Hallelujahs

TSK, Chilton, HebrewLexicon, GreekLexicon, Robertson,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: With the old Bride divorced and destroyed, you see the full appearance of the new Bride dressed and ready for marriage with the Bridegroom. And what a marriage it is going to be! It is a covenant marriage filled with pomp 壮丽 and ceremony. And no celebration matches a marriage celebration! So this call to rejoice should not be a surprise, considering that Revelation is a book of prophecies – prophecies that God said would soon come to pass (Revelation 1:3). And why does God give prophecies to his faithful people? To encourage them.

1Corinthians 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks edification 启迪 and exhortation 劝告 and comfort to men.

So today we will begin to flesh out more fully this call to rejoice.

Our headings are: The **Cry of the Saints**, the **Cry of the Elders**, and **The Cry of the Saints in Total**.

Our goals are: That you will see how the **destruction of unfaithful Israel opened up the way for the Gentiles to come into God's kingdom in earnest and be part of the Bride of Christ – a bride that must remain faithful to her calling.**

The Cry of the Saints

1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

1. The **saints in heaven rejoiced and proclaimed "alleluia"** (praise the Lord) for his judgment on Israel and for his marriage to the new Bride. It is important to note that "alleluia" and other Hebrew words like "hosanna" and "amen" are not translated into the Greek language – the language of this book. The words are simply transliterated 音译 from Hebrew. This is to show distinctly the Jewish character of the book.

2. The use of the word "alleluia" is important because the 1st time it is used in the Psalms it was in the context of **praising God for judgment and for the freeing his people from persecution.**

Psalms 104:35 May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

It was also used when David had complete preparations for building the temple so it was preparation for a significant change from the tabernacle worship to temple worship.

1Chronicles 29: "Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name.

2 "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"

3. John also alludes 提到 to David's prayer where David describes God's true laws and justice.
Psalm 19:9...The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Chilton wrote: "Israel's destruction is the showcase of God's righteousness." So you have a reason to rejoice. Wasn't Israel the cause that God's name was blasphemed among the Gentiles. And wasn't it Israel that murdered the prophets of God? And wasn't it Israel who imitated the old Jezebel with her painted prostitute type face and whose entire life seemed dedicated to the destruction of the church of God and its leaders? (2Ki 9:30-37) Ezek 23.40. Read about Jezebel. Like Jezebel they will meet their end with dogs. And see how Jeremiah described Israel's way of dress.

Jeremiah 4:30 "And when you are plundered, What will you do? Though you clothe yourself with crimson深红色, Though you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, Though you enlarge your eyes with paint, In vain you will make yourself fair; Your lovers will despise you; They will seek your life.

And remember the threats of the Lord Jesus against the Jews!

Luke 21: 22 "For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. 23 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. 24 "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Moses also taught this judgment for spiritual prostitution. It was a logical step from apostasy.

Deuteronomy 32: 15 ... Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation. 16 They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. **22** For a fire is kindled by my anger, And shall burn to the lowest hell; It shall consume the earth with her increase, And set on fire the foundations of the mountains. 23 'I will heap disasters on them; I will spend My arrows on them. 24 They shall be wasted with hunger, Devoured by pestilence 瘟疫 and bitter destruction...

4. And isn't it right to sound out praises to God for his continual burning of Israel and repeat it again?
And what a picture...the smoke always rises...in her burning...God's judgment was not mild.

The Cry of the Elders

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

1. Not only does the cry of "Alleluia" go up from the church, but the leaders of the church worshipped also- the 24 elders. These 24, you might remember, represented the church on earth. (Rev. 4:4-11)

2. In their worship, the leaders of the church bow down, showing humility.

There is a good lesson here about your attitude in worship. You must not be flippant轻浮的, but serious in your approach...not serious in face, but in approach. Do you take the time to think about the one whom you are worshipping...and what it is like to be in his holy presence? I pray that you will continually reflect on how you offer up your praises to God. Don't give God what you think is best, but what he expects from you.

3. And why do they say “amen” – one of those Hebrew transliterations? First, “Amen” means you have a **desire for God to fulfill** what he has said.

1Corinthians 14:16 Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say?

Second, “amen” means you **have an assurance** that God will fulfill what he has said. This is why only a Christian can effectively say “Amen.” The non-Christian does not have this freedom to pray this way. So say a good healthy “Amen” when the preacher says so...or at the end of a prayer. So your desire for God to give the things for which you pray, and pray with assurance, that God will do what he has promised.

Isaiah 65: 24 "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

The Cry of the Saints – In Total

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

1. A messenger who is on or near the throne cry out aloud urging all the saints – small and great- to praise God. He wanted the whole congregation of the saints – members and rulers – to say “alleluia.”

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent 全能的 reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

2. First of all, the voice of the great multitude and the sound of many waters are parallel. “Many waters” simply means a large number of people are in God’s kingdom...people called to praise God.

3. The “sound of might thunderings” is a reminder of Mt. Sinai when God formally identified his Bride, Israel, as his own and gave her his law. Israel pledged 发誓 allegiance 忠贞 to God and praised him. And remember that prior to this wedding, God had to destroy his Bride’s enemy.

Exodus 19:16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

You can also see similar picture and language used for Judah – promising that she would be restored to a right relationship with Jehovah in large numbers after Babylonian captivity...and that would be the ground for praising God and shouting “alleluia.”

Ezekiel 1:24 When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty, a tumult like the noise of an army; and when they stood still, they let down their wings.

Psalms 137: 1 By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion. **4** How shall we sing the LORD’S song In a foreign land? **8** O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed, Happy the one who repays you

as you have served us! 9 Happy the one who takes and dashes Your little ones against the rock!

4. So while there was “alleluia’s” for the divorce, destruction, and death of the old Bride there are “alleluia’s” for the new Bride – a Bride getting ready for full union with Christ. This was a new beginning...of a new affection. This was not just bringing in a few converts, like Rahab, Jethro, Ruth, etc. in the Old Testament, but wholesale 大规模的 change by an omnipotent God. The Bride was now made up of faithful Jews and those from all over the world.

5. And you see something notable with the new Bride-she is prepared to marry the Lamb of God – Christ. Ephesians 5: 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Look at similar language how God had described his old Bride when he married her.

Ezekiel 16:6 "And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ Yes, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ 7 "I made you thrive 茁壮成长 like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare. 8 "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD. 9 "Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. 10 "I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk..."

And the Apostles (Paul, Jude, etc) worked hard to make sure that the church did not run back into its adultery as Israel had done. Consider how Paul described his work.

2Corinthians 11: 2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Jude also warned the Bride not to allow herself to fall back into sin and follow the dragon. You will see next week how the new Bride is covered with fine linen, and the significance of that.

Conclusion:

“Alleluia” comes from the mouth of the saints – all the saints – for the divorce, destruction, and death of the old Bride, and for the choosing of a new Bride, the consummation of that marriage, and the caring that continues forever.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Let me paraphrase from a 3rd century Christian, St. Cyprian for application today: “The spouse of Christ is not adulterous; she is uncorrupted and pure. She knows one home; she guards with chaste modesty the sanctity of one couch. She keeps us for God. She appoints the sons whom she has born for the kingdom. Whoever is separated from the Church and is joined to an adulteress, is separated from the

promises of the Church; nor can he who forsakes the Church of Christ get the rewards of Christ...” Simply put, stay pure, and stay in the presence of your husband. There are only animals of prey, like the sneaky snake that wish to destroy and kill. Be warned. And praise your Bridegroom for all he has done for you.

Finally, outside of Christ there is no hope for eternal salvation. You will die in your sins and go to hell unless you ask the Bridegroom to clean you, give you a new heart, a new record, and a new life. This will make you part of the New Bride.