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**The Kingdom in Its Fullness**  
**Series: Between a Rock and a Hard Place**  
**August 15, 2021**  
**Revelation 19-20.10**

I. **Context**

A. Prologue

1. **Revelation 1:7-8** (NASB95) — 7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

B. **Theme**

1. **Jesus Christ is coming**
  - a. Tribes of earth will mourn over Him
  - b. Eschatological triumph of Christ over the anti-Christian forces of evil in the world and in the heavenly realms
2. **Purpose – encourage the churches under great pressure**
  - a. Series: Between Rock and a Hard Place

C. How is this purpose accomplished?

1. **Four visions**
  - a. **“In the Spirit”**
2. **Revelation 1:9-10**
  - a. First vision
    - (1) The glorified Christ
    - (2) The messages to the seven churches
3. **Revelation 4:1-2**
  - a. Second vision
    - (1) The heavenly vision
    - (2) The tribulation
4. **Revelation 17:1-3**
  - a. Third vision
    - (1) The mystery of Babylon
    - (2) Judgment of Babylon
    - (3) Final triumph and consummation
5. **Revelation 21:9-10**
  - a. Fourth vision
    - (1) The New Jerusalem

D. Third and fourth visions condense the events at the end of history

1. Unfolding of the divine victory
2. Negative aspect
  - a. Revealing the nature of Babylon – Chapter 17

- b. Judgment of Babylon – Chapter 18
    - 3. Positive aspect
      - a. Coming of Christ
      - b. Victorious millennial reign
      - c. Establishing New Heavens and New Earth
- E. **Identities in Chapter 17**
  - 1. **Great Harlot**
    - a. **Babylon**
      - (1) Detestable to Israel as captor
      - (2) History predates that – Babel
    - b. **Civilization developed in opposition to God**
      - (1) Appearance of wealth and splendor
      - (2) Full of corruption
      - (3) Persecuted and martyred saints
  - 2. **Beast**
    - a. Same as **Beast of Sea – Chapter 13**
      - (1) **Governmental institution opposed to God**
        - (a) Historical and eschatological
      - (2) Cf Ch 13 – Beast of the Earth – religious institution
  - 3. **Interdependent relationship between harlot and beast**
    - a. Civilization and government
    - b. Civilization drives government
    - c. Civilization depends on government
    - d. Can't talk about one without the other
  - 4. **History of the Beast**
    - a. Series of kingdoms (7 heads)
    - b. Most evil manifestation in 2 kingdoms
      - (1) Antichrist in fullness
      - (2) **Antiochus Epiphanes** (Daniel) was previous manifestation
      - (3) Final form is yet to come
      - (4) Final form will have two stages
        - (a) 8<sup>th</sup> head out of 7
  - 5. **Nature of the end**
    - a. **Beast will destroy harlot!**
    - b. Antichrist government will destroy civilization
    - c. Self-destruction
- F. **Oracles of the Fall of Babylon – Chapter 18**
  - 1. Accompanied by oracles of woe
    - a. Kings of the earth
      - (1) Power stripped from them
    - b. Merchants
      - (1) Wealth stripped from them
    - c. Those who make living from sea
      - (1) Opportunity to earn sustenance stripped from them

II. **Hallelujah! – 19.1-10**

- A. **Revelation 19:1–10** (NASB95) —
1. 1 After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; 2 BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER.”
  2. 3 And a second time they said, “Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER.”
  3. 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!”
  4. 5 And a voice came from the throne, saying, “Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.”
  5. 6 Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.
  6. 7 “Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.”
  7. 8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.
  8. 9 Then he said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ ” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.”
  9. 10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”
- B. **Rejoicing over destruction of the great harlot**
1. **Great multitude in heaven**
    - a. Angelic host
      - (1) **Revelation 5:11** (NASB95) — 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands...
  2. **Hallelujah!**
    - a. “Praise ye Yahweh
    - b. Found numerous times in OT – Psalms
    - c. Only here in NT
      - (1) vv 1, 3, 4, 6
  3. **Salvation, glory and power belong to God**
    - a. Salvation involves the entire redemptive plan
      - (1) Includes Christ’s atonement
      - (2) Also involves election, adoption, etc.
      - (3) Only consummated when enemies are removed and the kingdom is established

- (4) Part of salvation is the destruction of the anti-God civilization
  - 4. **Judgments are said to be true and righteous**
    - a. True means faithful to the Jews
      - (1) God is true to His covenant promises
    - b. Judgments are righteous (just)
      - (1) Remember the sin of the Harlot
        - (a) Immoralities
        - (b) Martyrdom of God's servants
      - (2) However we may feel about the destruction of civilization, we know that its destruction is righteous
  - 5. **Judged the Great Harlot**
    - a. Basis for this particular Hallelujah
    - b. Again, must recognize that for Thy Kingdom to come, all enemies must be removed
      - (1) Praise God that He has done exactly that
    - c. Remember Ch 17 – civilization self-destructed at hand of political entities
      - (1) But behind it all was God's sovereign hand
  - 6. **Another Hallelujah**
    - a. This time it's for recognizing the finality of the prostitute's judgment
      - (1) There is an ultimate victory
      - (2) Many of our victories are sweet, but short-lived
        - (a) Not so with this victory
  - 7. **Elders and Living Creatures Amen the Hallelujah**
    - a. Agree with the Multitude of angels in heaven
    - b. Worship in contemplation of God's justice
  - 8. **Give praise to our God**
    - a. Call for all to worship
      - (1) Praise to our God = equivalent of Hallelujah
      - (2) Everyone included in this worship – small and great
        - (a) Angels and believers???
  - 9. **Implications**
    - a. Do you worship in the face of God's just judgment?
- C. **Anticipation of the wedding supper of the Lamb**
  - 1. **Great multitude again** – angelic host
    - a. Many waters, mighty peals of thunder
      - (1) Great, loud sound
  - 2. **Hallelujah again**
    - a. Calls attention to the reigning of the Lord God Almighty
      - (1) Inceptive aorist, not present in NASB or NIV
      - (2) "Has entered on His reign"
      - (3) Removal of enemies is necessary to fulfillment of the kingdom

- b. **Proleptic announcement** – hasn't quite happened yet
  - (1) But stated as if it has
  - (2) Anticipation is too great to resist!
- 3. **Rejoice and be glad, give glory to Him**
  - a. Calls attention to the wedding of the Lamb
  - b. Again proleptic – not quite happening
  - c. Necessary connection between wedding and removal of enemies
    - (1) Traditional wedding service: “If there is anyone present who sees any reason why these two should not be wed, let him speak now or forever hold his peace”
    - (2) Once all enemies are removed, no one would be present to prevent the wedding!
- 4. **Bride has made herself ready** (church)
  - a. Israel – wife of Yahweh
  - b. Church is the bride of Christ
    - (1) Also, in Ephesians marriage passage, church is wife
  - c. Bride has participated in her preparation
    - (1) **1 John 3:2–3** (NASB95) — 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.
    - (2) **2 Corinthians 7:1** (NASB95) — 1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- 5. **New clothing given to wear**
  - a. At the same time, our preparation comes ultimately from God Himself
  - b. Clothing was given her to wear
    - (1) **Linen = righteous acts of saints**
  - c. Even our righteous acts are given to us by Christ!
- 6. **Blessing to those invited to the wedding supper**
  - a. Fluidity of the apocalyptic images
    - (1) Blessing is to guests, not to bride
    - (2) Cf Matthew 22.1-14 – Parable of Marriage Feast – king gave wedding feast; invited didn't come; went out to byways to bring in anyone, dressed them in wedding clothes
  - b. **Church is both the bride and the guests** at the wedding!
  - c. Point is the intimacy of the relationship and the fellowship of the guests (saints)
- 7. **John attempts to worship the angel**
  - a. Human tendency
    - (1) Cf Hebrews 1 – Jesus superior to angels
    - (2) Angel worship was a cultic practice of the Essenes

- b. Fundamental equality of servanthood of angels and believers
- 8. **Testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**
  - a. All these prophetic words point to Christ
  - b. That is the nature of all prophecies, OT or NT

III. **Coming of Christ – 19.11-21**

A. **Revelation 19:11–21** (NASB95) —

1. 11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.
2. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.
3. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.
4. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.
5. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.
6. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”
7. 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.”
8. 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.
9. 20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.
10. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

B. **Rider on white horse**

1. **Heaven standing open**
  - a. **Revelation 4:1** (NASB95) — 1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”
  - b. **Revelation 11:19** (NASB95) — 19 And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of

- thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.
- c. Revelation of divine secrets
  - d. Note John sees the coming Messiah
2. **Faithful and true**
    - a. Cf **Revelation 3:14** (NASB95) — 14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:”
    - b. Two words are basically synonymous
      - (1) The One who is coming fulfills all covenant promises
  3. **Judges and wages war**
    - a. Necessary to fulfill promises
  4. **Eyes like blazing fire**
    - a. Omniscience and judgment
  5. **Many diadems** (crowns)
    - a. Coming will be visible, public manifestation of His sovereignty
  6. **Secret name**
    - a. Many names for Christ
    - b. Faithful and True, and Word of God in this paragraph
    - c. But all those names can’t capture His essence
      - (1) Still one name we can’t know
  7. **Robe dipped in blood**
    - a. Not His own blood
    - b. Blood of conqueror
      - (1) **Isaiah 63:2–6** (NASB95) — 2 Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press? 3 “I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My raiment. 4 “For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come. 5 “I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; So My own arm brought salvation to Me, And My wrath upheld Me. 6 “I trod down the peoples in My anger And made them drunk in My wrath, And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”
  8. **Armies which are in heaven**
    - a. **Angels or saints?**
      - (1) Probably angels, though possible connection with fine linen and saints – v 8
    - b. Not involved in the battle at this stage
      - (1) No weapons
      - (2) Battle is Christ’s alone!
  9. **From mouth, sharp sword to smite the nations**
    - a. **Hebrews 4:12** (NASB95) — 12 For the word of God is living and

active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- b. **Isaiah 11:4** (NASB95) — 4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.
  - c. Word of God is seen in all its power
    - (1) Cf creation when He spoke the world into existence
10. **Treads the wine press of the wrath of God**
  - a. Cf Isaiah 63.2-6 again
11. **King of kings and Lord of lords**
  - a. Another name
  - b. Again, public manifestation of His sovereignty
- C. **Destruction of political enemies**
1. **Battle of Armageddon**
  - a. Previously announced proleptically in Chapter 16
2. **Invitation to birds**
  - a. **Ezekiel 39:17-20** (NASB95) — 17 “As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, “Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. 18 “You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as though they were rams, lambs, goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. 19 “So you will eat fat until you are glutted, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. 20 “You will be glutted at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war,” declares the Lord GOD.
  - b. Viewed as sacrificial feast prepared for birds and beasts
  - c. Involves great image of destruction
3. **Beasts and kings of the earth**
  - a. Political ruler – Antichrist
  - b. Kings – those allied with him
4. **Actual battle is not described, just the outcome**
  - a. Beast and false prophet captured
    - (1) Thrown into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone
      - (a) Gehenna, not Hades or Sheol
5. **The rest killed with the sword of mouth**
  - a. Destruction of enemies of God complete
  - b. Feast image again
6. **Preparations for kingdom almost complete**
  - a. Civilization destroyed
  - b. Beast (Antichrist) and False Prophet destroyed



- c. Kings allied with them destroyed
- d. Only Satan remains to be bound – Chapter 20

IV. **Destruction of Satan – 20.1-10**

A. **Revelation 20:1–10** (NASB95) —

1. 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.
2. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.
3. 4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.
4. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.
5. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.
6. 7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.
7. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.
8. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

B. **Binding of Satan**

1. **Abyss** – origin of satanic realm
  - a. Cf 9.1-6 – locusts
  - b. Ironic appropriateness to this phase of Satan’s judgment – had to go to his own habitat; implication is that it was a prison for him
2. **Chain**
  - a. Satan bound there for the millennium
3. **Serpent of old**
  - a. Cf Genesis
4. **Purpose – Keep him from deceiving nations**
  - a. Primary work of Satan is deception
  - b. Work involved with enticing nations away from the worship of God

C. **The Millennial Reign**

1. **Must be released**
  - a. Related to purpose for the millennium
  - b. Demonstrate once and for all the true nature of fallen humanity
    - (1) Millennium will be mixed
      - (a) Believers resurrected and glorified, reigning with Christ
      - (b) Everyone else natural, fallen human beings
    - (2) During millennium, Christ will reign, bring about peace, justice, etc.
      - (a) Without enticements of Satan, Christ will keep human sin in check
      - (b) Social environment will be good
    - (3) When Satan returns to entice, immediately people's hearts will be led astray
      - (a) Nature of evil human hearts will be plain
      - (b) Can't blame it on society

D. **The judgment of Satan**

1. Release of Satan from the abyss
2. Goes out to deceive nations
3. **Gog and Magog**
  - a. Nations hostile to God
  - b. **Ezekiel 36-48** – Same basic structure as Revelation 20
    - (1) 36-37 – Salvation of Israel restored to land
    - (2) 38-39 – Messianic kingdom is not the end
      - (a) Disturbed by war by God and Magog
    - (3) 40-48 – Divine victory brings new eternal order
      - (a) Rebuilt temple in new Jerusalem
4. **Surrounded camp of saints and beloved city**
  - a. Most likely involves Jerusalem as earthly capital of Messianic Kingdom
5. **Fire came down and devoured them**
  - a. No battle after all – consumed by God
6. **Devil in lake of fire**
  - a. Joins Beast and False Prophet
7. **Tormented day and night, forever**
  - a. Eternity of punishment
  - b. No more problems with Satan

V. **Implications**

- A. Do you worship Jesus as the conquering king? Reigning king?
- B. Do you worship God in vanquishing His enemies?