

**Lesson 23**  
**Revelation 19**  
**The Glorious Return of Jesus Christ**

**Memory verse:** “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:28-29 NIV)

“How will it all end?” has been mankind’s major question for centuries. Historians have studied the past, hoping to find a clue to understanding the future. Philosophers have tried to penetrate the meaning of things, but they have yet to find the key. No wonder perplexed people have turned in desperation to astrology and spiritism!

The prophetic Word of God shines like a “light...in a dark place” (2 Peter 1:19), and on that we can depend.

We have been through now the day of the Lord, the judgment of God in a final explosion of fury on the world of sinners. We have seen when it all started the Lord Jesus Christ, the worthy Lamb, take from the hand of God in heaven the title deed to the universe. And being the rightful heir to the universe begin to take it back from the usurper Satan and out of the control of fallen angels and rebellious sinners. Seal by seal the worthy Lamb has broken the scroll and unrolled it for us to see the seven phases of judgment which then led to seven trumpets of doom that pealed forth their divine announcement of wrath, followed by seven angels in rapid succession pouring out seven bowls of wrath, deluging the world with the last plagues.

All through these seven years of seals and trumpets and bowls the gospel of grace and the gospel of redemption will be preached by men and angels. Many will believe and be saved. The nation of Israel will be converted. People from every tongue and tribe and people and nation will bow their knee to Christ. Many of them will be slaughtered as martyrs by Satan and the forces of Satan in the Antichrist kingdom.

So, through it all we have seen the judgment of God and the salvation of God. Following the last of the seven plagues, Christ is ready to take full possession and establish His sovereign rule over the devastated earth and sky, to take the earth and now restore it and renew it to the glorious standard of His Kingdom which He will establish and over which He will reign for a thousand years. His Kingdom will begin soon. His coming is presented in this chapter. In fact, He comes down in verse 11.

But before that greatest of all moments in history, the moment when redemptive history reaches its culmination, the moment Jesus Christ returns in all His glory to the earth, before that moment actually happens in verse 11, we are taken to heaven for the first ten verse. This is the last of the seven visions of heaven in the book of Revelation. And we are ushered into heaven to hear the hallelujahs of celestial joy. And what are they rejoicing about? They’re rejoicing about the final destruction of the world’s evil and the glorious victory of the returning Messiah. This, in fact, is the moment that all heaven was anticipating before this period of Tribulation even began. Remember the description of the Tribulation began in chapter 6.

Heaven bursts out in hallelujahs. And we might think it strange and somebody might think it loveless, insensitive and uncaring to rejoice over this unbelievable and eternal calamity. But it is not. The people on the earth have had the greatest opportunity of any people who have ever lived. They have had enough judgment to awaken anyone, and they have had enough gospel preaching to cause anyone to understand who is willing to understand. People have had their opportunity to repent. They’ve had their opportunity to believe. But they are now hardened into absolute and irreversible unbelief. They are hardened into the hatred of God and the hatred of Jesus Christ.

And so heaven’s joy is not because of their damnation but because of the righteous glory of Jesus Christ who will remove these obstinate hard-hearted sinners from the world and restore it to its lost glory. Heaven rejoices not because of damnation. God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. But heaven rejoices over the coming righteous glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Heaven

rejoices because God will be properly honoured and Christ will be exalted and the earth will be filled with righteousness and wisdom and truth.

Things to learn: 1) The Rejoicing in Heaven 2) The Conquering King 3) The Impact of the Conquest

**Discussion questions:**

1) When Babylon fell, the command was given in heaven, “Rejoice over her!” (Rev. 18:20). What do you think are the reasons for Heaven to rejoice as seen in verses 1 to 10?

Q2. Jesus Christ will return as a conqueror to claim His kingdom. How would you react as you read verses 11 to 16 which describe Jesus in His return to earth?

Q3 Discuss the impact of Christ’s conquest found in verses 17 to 21 and what makes you think that Jesus will return?