

"THE A. B. C.'s OF THE END TIME"

Rev. 19

INTRODUCTION:

These are school days - boys and girls have gone back to school. And some in the kindergarten grades will be dealing with A. B. C.'s. And we are very conscious of their importance. Now it is very important for us today to understand the A. B. C.'s of Chapter 19. We have just concluded Chapter 18 with the total destruction of Babylon. And judgement upon the great harlot. In V. 22 - All amusement life will come to an end. No more the harp, no more the player, the trumpeter, etc. All business life will come to an end. No more craftsmen of any kind. V. 23 - All home life will cease. There shall be no light - no voice of the bride or the bridegroom. With the destruction of these, we find that the vision moves on in Chapter 19. And what I am going to organize this as the A. B. C.'s. V. 1-6 - Alleluia and praise. V. 7-10 - the Beatitude of marriage. And V. 11-21 - the Conquering Christ. So these three words - alleluia, beatitude, and conquerer.

I. ALLELUIA AND PRAISE - V. 1-6.

The total destruction of Babylon and that of Rome - there was rejoicing at the beginning of this chapter. And the rejoicing begins with a show and thanksgiving.

V. 1 - He tells us that he heard a great voice saying, alleluia - salvation and glory, and honor, and power, unto the Lord our God. The word here is a word meaning Hallelujah. Now that is a common religious word in our vocabulary. It is interesting to notice that the only time when it actually appears in the Scripture is on the four occasions in this chapter. Did you ever think about that. That when she is destroyed - all Heaven seems to say, Hallelujah. And this word is like the word

Hosannah. It is one of the very few Hebrew words that is used in religious worship and speech.

The word literally means - praise God. And it is derived from two Hebrew words. Which mean the praise of the name of God. And it only occurs here in the whole Bible.

Now it is translated often in the Old Testament in the Psalms 106, 111, 112, 113, 117, 135, 146 through 150. And the series of Psalms 113-118, it is called praise God. It so happens that when hallelujah occurs in the Old Testament it is translated by the phrase - praise God.

Now God is praised because of his salvation. Glory, and power which belong to him. The human heart responds to these great attributes of God. This - V. 2 - for he hath judged the great harlot.

Here God is being praised because of his true judgement against the inescapable consequences of sin. The moral law can no more be broken than the law of gravity. The judgement of God is true and sure for three reasons. First, God alone can see the innermost thoughts and desires of any man. They are open. Our actions, our thoughts, our intentions. Second, God alone has that righteous purity which can judge without prejudice or partiality. And third, only God has the wisdom to find the right judgement and the power to apply it. The great harlot was judged because of her corruption of the world. And the worst of all sins is to teach others to sin. Or to make it easier for others to sin. That is one of the reasons why there is such

rejoicing here. The judgement on Babylon and Rome is the proof and the guarantee that God is going to vindicate those who torment his people.

V. 3 - He says, again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. Over the destruction of the city and the iniquity of Babylon lies ruin. And these Christ-rejecting men have been destroyed. And again they say - Hallelujah - as the smoke rises up, things are final. They are complete. The smoke goes up it says forever and forever. And for generation to generation - it shall lie a waste. Isa. 39:34, 9 and 10.

V. 4 - We've just seen the complete destruction of false religion. And the burning of the city goes up forever and forever. Now in V. 4 - we come to the next Hallelujah. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen: Alleluia. This is the second time there is a burst of praise. It is the praise of these twenty-four elders. And the living creatures. And here stands the totality of the church. As they lift their voices.

And I want you to notice the word Amen comes in here. Now we first meet the word Amen in Numbers 5:22. It is a special word. It continues the sealing word of the Gospel - it is a Heavenly word of commitment to truth. It seals, it affirms, it binds. It is a high word - praise, in human speech. In Psalm 72 we read - He - talking about Jesus shall have dominion from sea to sea, unto the ends of the earth, and his name shall endureth forever. Blessed be his glorious name - and let the whole earth be filled with his glory. The prayers of David - son of Jesse - are envy. Psalm 72:8. 17, 19, 20. And the word Amen.

That means so be it.

*Pracher had horse - Taught him Religious Commends -
Praise God - Time Band sold horse to man, told him - P. 44 - River Boat -
Amen stop - + riding hills, cliff, 1400' drop off ahead - finally thought a word stop Amen - Bros
edge cliff - man sitting there looking right preparation from his face, thankful for sub - shouted
Praise God - The horse leaped over the cliff -*

In V. 5 - There is an identified voice from God's throne. And this throne

- this voice speaks, and it says, praise our God, says the voice. And he challenges that there are two sets of people who are called on to do this. First, all that are servants - servants of God. Prophets, martyrs, all of these people who praise God with their lives.

Second, the great and the small are invited. Those who have embraced Christianity. This takes in all social grades, all progress in the life of Christ. Here is a universal science - a mighty act in history. It is as if to say - your time of triumph has come. You have suffered now - you are now going to be vindicated. Why not praise God.

In V. 6 - We read that he heard as it were the voice of a great multitude. The voice of many waters, many thunderings, it says here. Came forth. He describes the sound of it. And the redeemed as they shout the praise of the Lord. And first, he is reminded that the whole earth and creation shall rejoice in this and send up a shout to Heaven. It is kind of a call from the throne itself. Now this Hallelujah in V. 6 - is a joyous occasion. They are and have considered that the marriage of the lamb and the bride has come.

Notice how this flows in the vision. Here is this Alleluia, praise, unto God. And the next thing we move into is the beautiful marriage and the attitude of marriage. Then on to the great conquering Christ. And these things flow one into the other.

II. BEATITUDE OF MARRIAGE. V. 7-10

In V. 7 - Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife had made herself ready. Here is a picture of a marriage of a man and his bride. The picture stands - as a final union between Christ Jesus and his church. The marriage symbolism here denotes an indissoluble communion with Christ. As purchased with his own blood. The relationship between God and his people. As a marriage goes way back to the Old Testament. The prophets thought of Israel as the chosen bride of God. Betrothed thee unto me forever. Hosea hears God say. 2:19-20. Thy maker is thy husband, the Lord of hosts, is his name. Isa. 54:5. Jeremiah 3:14. Turn, old backsliding children - for I am married unto you. Ez. 16. also gives this symbol. Matt. 22:2 talks about it.

Here is a great model of relationship of husband and wife as set forth in Eph. 5:21-33.

Now this may seem as strange picture for us today. But it is a picture that conserves great truth.

Now if you are serious - any marriage must have at least four things in it. To be the real thing.

First, there is love. And that is based on the fact for each other.

Second, there is intimate communion. A man and a wife become one flesh. The relationship of Christian and Christ. Is the closest relationship in all life.

✓ Third, there is joy. It is like the joy of loving and being loved. Christianity is like that.

✓ Fourth, there is fidelity. No marriage is real, and no marriage can last without this. And the Christian must be faithful to Jesus Christ. As Jesus Christ is to him.

Now this is something to be glad and to rejoice, in the marriage. What a day. What a prospect. For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and the wife, the bride, hath made herself ready. She is dressed in white, fine linen.

Now at the marriage of the Lamb, we are first introduced to the bridegroom. The bridegroom is Christ. And that refers to the Lamb. And his blood bought redemption relationship. Many times, we will read from his own blessed lips - for example in Matt. 9:15, when the Pharisees were finding fault with him. How could the Disciples fast when the Bridgroom is with them. Matt. 22:1-13 - he tells a story about a wedding. And then in Matt. 25 about the ten maids. And John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the bridegroom.

Who is the bride - the bride is a church of our Christ. The bride is not the Old Testament of Isreal - but she is described there as his wife - Jehovah. The bride here is the bride of Christ. I speak concerning Christ and his church, Paul said. The bride married to our Lord.

V. 8 - Tells how the bride prepared herself by deeds to glorify his name. She

made herself ready. And that is a beautiful thing to stand before Christ and to be tried. And all the good things they have done, and the works they have dedicated to the holy life of the Saviour, will make up our garments and they will sparkle like jewels in Heaven. These rewards will be precious. Some of our people are going to be naked. Saved as if fire. All of their works will be burned up. Some of the things our people do will amount to nothing but loss. Their deeds are going to be burnt up. Souls may be saved, but what a day. What an awesome day when our Lord comes. And what a strange vision here when he talks about the wedding and the marriage. The attitude here. He talks like that it just happens. It doesn't take a lot of preparation from that Alleluia, to come right on into this.

Now what kind of ceremony could it be. Now there are some people that have speculated about this. If you remember, the beautiful ceremony, how God came down and worshipped and blessed in some wedding. Some people take this, and I think they do it injustice by saying this is going to be - one man was talking about this as being a real marriage. Paul, with the ceremony. He would perform it because he had so much to do with things of this nature. Now such an idea as that is just fantasy. But here was a great application and a beautiful symbol how Christ as his church are going to be put together.

V. 9 - He said, write, blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper. Now here is the Beatitude - blessed are they which are called to the marriage. Blessed are they which are going to be the honored guests. Blessed are they who will receive this wonderful invitation.

You know this Beatitude here on the wedding and the marriage - I thought about

the Beatitudes in Revelation. Do you know there are several of them. Chapter 1:3 - Blessed is he that readeth and hearth the word of this prophesy. Chapter 14:13 - Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors. For their works do follow them. Chapter 16:15. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments. Chapter 19:9 - Blessed are those that are called to the supper.

Chapter 20:6 - Blessed and holy is he that hath a part in the first resurrection.

Chapter 22:7 - Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of this prophecy.

Chapter 22:14 - Blessed are they that do his commandments. They may have a right to the tree of life. And may enter the gates into the city.

So these Beatitudes are very, very important. And this Beatitude of marriage is very vital because it says these are the true sayings of God. The true sayings of God. So we have said, that the Alleluia takes place and then the wedding is described here for us. Then he moves on into - from just a simple picture - he moves on in his testimony about what is taken place. To a victorious triumph.

III. CONQUORING CHRIST - V. 11-21

V. 11 - John says I saw Heaven open and behold a white horse.

V. 10 - Let me first, say a word about this - I fell down at his feet to worship HIM.

John was so carried away with this wedding and the music - that he fell down at the feet of the angel and said, let me worship you but the angel said to him - now, you are not supposed to do this. Don't you worship me.

III Conquering Christ

V. 11 - I saw Heaven open and behold a white horse. And he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True. And in righteousness he doth judge and make war. Now this is a series of triumphs - of Christ the conqueror. Up to this point, he has been called a lion, a lamb, a judge. Now he is victorious captain - one riding on a white horse. Faithful and true. As his garments - he has written on them, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And these names identify him as Christ.

There are three things about this closing section of this chapter. One, the mighty captain and his victorious army. V. 11-16. The birds of prey feeding upon the slain. V. 17-18. And third, the complete overthrow of the army that opposes and casts the leaders in the lake of fire. V. 19-21.

The whole book is full of Heavenly action. Heaven is open and we see that here is a white horse - the symbol of victorious power. It comes forth faithfully to perform. He comes to settle the destinies of the world.

Really there is no way for us to imagine what death and what tragedy is here in the Battle of Armageddon. Christ appears as in the marriage - and then the gates of Heaven burst open, and we see this great final battle. The details of which we have sketchie accounts of it. The end of the world comes in a vast in a mighty and describeable conflict. And world history ends in war and desolation.

The great battle called Armageddon has been described by some in these words.

First, Rev. 11:15 - of the seventh trumpet sounding. And the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ. And he shall reign forever and ever.

Second, another time he is mentioned in Rev. 14:7-20. And another angel came out of the temple and one from the altar, which had power over fire, and cried in a loud voice to him that had the sickle - saying thrust in thy sharp sickle. And gather the clusters of vine of the earth for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust it in. And was cast into the winepress, you remember, and the blood came out. You notice the grapes were cast into the winepress - those that are trodden down by the wrath and the judgement of God. But blood pours out. And even unto the horses bridles in a space of 200 miles. Blood up to the horses bridles. Now that is something that is hard to imagine. The world does not really know about this. How can we conceive of it or compare anything with it.

Another reference, a third reference, is Rev. 16:12-16. When the six angels poured his viles out on the River Euphrates. The water there was dried up that the kings of the East might be prepared. They are coming from the North, South, East, and West by the millions. And they look like three unclean spirits - like frogs coming out of the mouth of a dragon. Here was a false prophet. The spirit of the Devil at work gathering these for a great battle.

Rev. 9:16 - Describes the army of one of the kings. And the number of the army of the horsemen, were 200,000 thousand. 200 million. It is unbelievable.

And it is hard for us to take this in. Now he gathers these and the details of the account of the battle, described here in Chapter 19, of the final conflict. And he is going to dissolve all human history. Christ comes from Heaven in glory and in his great power. And is referred to Isa. 63:1. Notice that he is stained with blood. As this takes place at Megiddo - the battlefield of the world - Barak, Deborah, Gideon, Saul was slain here. King Josiah was killed here. When the whole earth here is plunged here into this judgement.

Now that is why a man who reads the Bible, and who looks out over the world today, and he sees the immeasurable preparation - for war, he should not be taken by surprise. Do you know that it has been speeded up in the past year. Preparation for war. It is a development of history according to the prophets. America is into this thing up to its neck. We are now spending billions of dollars to get a man on the moon - not just for a joy ride. We are spending that money - that we can pray on those out there that are able to explore space. And we can send any new craft over our nation to any land with a bomb. And we call this self-defense. We call this a matter of survival.

Russia - 100,000 Polar Bombers -

Now did you ever think how instruments of war are built and they are not going to be used. Whenever you build a plane, tank, or these things - some people say we are going to use them someday. When you invent these radar missiles and things - and atomic bombs - we are not manufacturing those things for a big 4th of July fireworks celebration. It is to be used in war.

And V. 12 - His eyes were as a flame of fire and his head had many crowns. Here is one burst from Heaven - the son of God, the conquering captain.

It is like flaming fire - he can look into the darkest recesses of the human heart. And know what is there.

And, in V. 12, we find - there is a name that no man knew but himself. It refers to deity - it is an unknowable name of God. No man can know God - as fine eyed as we are. As restricted as we are. We are not able to see three Gods in Heaven. You'll never persuade yourself that in glory we are going to look at one God. God number two. God number three. No. There is one great Lord God. And we know him as father, saviour, and holy spirit. In V. 13 - it says, his vestures dipped in blood and his name is called The Word of God.

And these favorite terms identify Christ - faithful and true witness. And word of God. And his eyes are as a flame of fire, we read.

And of course, the word of God, is not merely a sound. But it is a word that did things. A book that is alive. Fearfully alive. It is power in this world. And he spoke and it was done. And this has meaning for us.

V. 13 - and the Armies which were in Heaven followed him. Upon the white horses, clothed in fine linen.

We notice that from the beginning they are following him. V. 15 - and out of his mouth moves a sharp sword. With which to smite the nations. He does not need

13, 15 to strike. He speaks and the thing is done. There is power in his voice. The Lord asked, whom do you seek. And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. And they said, I am He. And what happened to those men that came to arrest him there in the Garden. The Bible says that they fell down to the ground. Armed guards and the Romans could not stand in his presence - even at his word. Think what it will be like when he comes in glory with the hosts of Heaven, and what power and what strength there will be when he speaks to you.

V. 14 - Tells us that he is followed by Heavenly Armies. All of the riders on white horses wearing white linen. Symbolic of victory. And of course, out of his mouth proceeds his sword. This is a spiritual weapon that resists - he is going to win the battle.

V. 16 - And he hath on his vesture on his side, written King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. When the wisemen came from the East - they said, where is he that is born king of the Jews. When Pilate crucified him and nailed him to a tree, they put this inscription above him. This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King. Whether he was born in a manger, nailed on a cross, whether he comes in the clouds of Heaven, He is King. He is King.

And the Bible says that the saints are going to come with him. With the white robes, and they are going to be with him as he comes.

V. 17 - And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried with a loud voice saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of Heaven, Come and gather yourselves together for a great supper.

V. 18. - That ye may eat the flesh of Kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horse, and of them that sit on them and the flesh of all men, both those that are free and those that are bond, those that are small and those that are great.

The victory is announced before the battle begins. The angel and the sun giving directions from which light for a dark world comes. He invites the birds of the Heaven to come and gather for a feast. Upon these enemies. They are invited to eat the flesh of Kings, mighty men, horses small and great.

Now the great battle here in the vision closes with the birds of prey flocking to the battlefield.

Now this is the most unbelievable development in the earth. That these who oppose God, oppose Christ, oppose the church, and oppose the truth - who are they. And I saw the beasts and the Kings of the earth. And the false prophet. Think of it.

Think about people today looking up to a murderer as a leader.

Whoever thought people would follow Hitler. Now some of you young people just know Hitler's name in a history book. But some of you people, who are older, you remember how that thousands of people shouted his name, followed him, and listened to him.

Mussolini - some of you people remember him in your lifetime. A reprobate.
Think of the blood thirsty Stalin.

And all that you have to do is to think about Iran and Komani today - here are things that are happening. And here is a picture of an awful ultimate tyrant. To come and say, I can deliver the world. Look at me. And a world follows him. He leads them. He is infallible - he says. And his government - and its Godless religions - there they stand - murdering people. They turn to slavery and oppression, and all sorts of damming thing. Look at today - anywhere you find a government that denies God - you find people. Who say "no" to our Lord and they live in misery.

Now how these armies are going to be gathered in Palestine and how they are going to be brought together. Rev. 16:13, 14, 16 - I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon. Well, the Devil is going to arrange all of this. He is going to take care of these ordinary happenings that are going to happen.

But I want you to focus your eyes on the warrior Christ - and the triumphant victory. The war is over instantly. Now is that a strange thing. What power these men have. These nations - they have power. But against God, they have no might at all. Listen, one angel of the Lord defeated the Assyrian camp. And brought death to Sennacherib and his people, just over night. Hezzekiah went down on his face calling for help. Lord listened to him, and saw his tears falling to the temple pavement, and God sent just one angel. And when the great leader woke up the next morning, he did not believe his eyes - thousands, and thousands of dead bodies of his proud army were stretched out. One angel. Now, what I am saying to you - not one of you should ever persuade yourself that God who looks down in Heaven - and who looks down upon this

earth, who is above all of this. He is able to over come because he that sitteth
in the Heavens shall laugh. When Napoleon, Hitler, and these other crack-pot people
come along. Psalms 2:4. And the Lord took him, it says, in V. 20 - he grabbed the
false prophet and those that have been deceived, and he cast alive in the lake burning
with brimstone. V. 20. God's work in judgement is quick, it is certain. You remember
the Garden of Eden. The woman fell and God talked to her. He turned to the man and
talked to him. But you will notice that God never said anything to the serpent. He
said, you are going to be cursed. I think it is always this way. Those who hate God
and reject God. That judgement is going to come just like that.

Now John really does not see the battle here in all of these details that we
have been talking about. But he did see the marriage of the lamb. And, he just sees
an angel in the sun, stationed up there, calling the fowl and the birds of the air
to come. The war and its way. And the awful, awesome announcement - the vulchers of
the earth. They are going to come. And these fowl of the air, the angel causes them
to come and eat up the men who think they are bigger than God. The men who think
they are wiser. And know more than God. They are going to be food for the buzzards.
Which is the end of those who refuse the great Lord. Psalm 2 - says why do the people
rage and the people imagine vain things. The word, as people council against the
anoointed, here - it is against Christ. Let's do away with Christ, they say.

Did you know, there was a cartoon cut out of one of the newspapers in Russia.
It was a picture of a church being broken up. It was just in ruin. There were
several churches. There was a ladder leaning against the clouds and there was a
workman with a big hammer, he was climbing that ladder to Heaven. In Heaven was
pictured God, the Father. God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Russian workmen
was taking that hammer and getting ready to knock their brains out. And the writing
below the cartoon, said - having destroyed this God - his business down here on earth.

we are now going to destroy it in Heaven.

What does the Psalm say - the kings of the earth, the rulers that take council against the anointed saying, let us cast them out. He that sitteth in the Heavens shall laugh. The Lord shall have them in division. There is humor in what God says here.

Rebellion against God ends in death, of the deepest kind. There is no rebellion against the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, that can prevail. And the victory is going to be complete. Blessed are all they that commit their soul's destiny to the Lord Christ. These simple A. B. C.'s - will you be found in the group singing Alleluia. Do you know your A. B. C.'s. Will you be in that group when the Beatitude of marriage takes place. Will you be able - as this closing scene brings the close of the present order. Millions upon millions of flesh eating birds clearing away those who rebelled against God and against Christ. That is a very bad sight to our eyes. 200 miles - we need to reflect - if that is a symbol - if that is a type - if that is just symbolic. We ought to reflect anew on sin and what it brings. This thing will come to pass.

Salvation Can Be Yours Today - Repeat Your A B C's -

- A - Admit you have sinned - Need A Saviour
- B - Believe in Christ as Lord - Died on Cross -
- C - Confess publicly your sins & Desire to Be a Christian -