**THE PRAISEWORTHINESS OF OUR GOD**

Revelation 19:1-10

Over the last few weeks, we have seen the world honor and adore Babylon. They have lifted up their voices in praise saying, “Who is like this great city?” Their souls have longed for the fruit of Babylon, money, prestige, sexual gratification, every fleshly pleasure. But now the smoke rises, and we see that this city was not worthy of praise.

It was not worthy of exaltation. It was a false hope, a rain cloud without water. It failed to deliver on all of it’s promises. It could not satisfy, protect, nor overcome. It’s gods were worthless and it’s power, weak.

Is there anyone worthy of praise? This question was penned in a song by Andrew Peterson, made popular by Chris Tomlin. And it asks this question. Is He worthy? In reference to Christ. This One who conquered the grave, who is able to break the seal and open the scroll, and ransomed the slave. Is He? And the response is always, “He is.” In Chapter 19, we are given facts that solidify the answer. Why is Jesus worthy of praise?

**I. Praise Him for His judgments are true and just**

After the visions and message about the fall of Babylon and the cry of her citizens, we hear the cry of Jerusalem’s citizens from heaven. Revelation 18:20 told heaven to rejoice over Babylon for God judged her, and chapter 19 begins with that rejoicing.

We so often use Hallelujah in conversation and song, and the four uses of this word in Scripture is found in Revelation 19. Hallel means praise, and yah is God’s name, Yahweh. So when we sing Hallelujah, we are saying Praise the Lord, or Praise God.

The first reason that God is receiving praise from the great multitude is found in verse 2. Because his judgments are pure and just, judging the great prostitute and avenging the blood of his servants. So this is their praise in light of judgment, salvation, glory and power belong to God.

Why salvation if he didn’t save Babylon? It’s best seen again in Exodus 14.

In this context, Israel has left Egypt but Egypt is still a threat. They are bearing down on the children of Israel, coming after them to bring them back into slavery. Standing between Israel and escape is the sea. So God supernaturally saves Israel by parting the sea for them, and then drowning Egypt who was behind them.

Listen to what Moses said to the people who stood in fear of Pharaoh’s pursuit.

Exodus 14:13-14

Salvation belongs to the Lord. And he saves his people from sin, from death, and yes, even their enemies. Our salvation cannot be made complete until God’s enemies are under the feet of Christ. So justice in putting them to death leads to our victory of salvation.

And their defeat also exalts God’s glory which Babylon attempted to steal and also shows that God is all-powerful, unlike Babylon which boasted in might, and yet could not defend itself.

Jeremiah 51:47-49

So the destruction of God’s enemies, summed up as the great city Babylon results in heaven and earth declaring the greatness and praise of our Creator and Savior Jesus Christ. Babylon must fall because of the bloodshed it caused against the children of God. Verse 2 shows us that Babylon was eternally destroyed because of her immorality and her murder of the martyrs. These capital crimes will be paid by their blood for they rejected the perfect blood of the Lamb.

Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever. The followers of the beast were described this way in their eternal punishment, and the prostitute of Babylon is now shown as burning forever. Ungodly nations were prophesied over as being destroyed and their smoke would rise continually. John the Baptist in Matthew 3 described Christ’s judgment as burning with unquenchable fire. Jesus when speaking of hell used the word Gehenna, a valley, when at the time of Christ, was where the garbage was thrown. And it has been described as burning continually. A place where smoke was always found.

And God’s victory over his enemies, his great salvation and glory and power again bring the hosts of heaven to their faces in deep adoration and worship. These heavenly beings are understood to best of our ability as the highest created order of power. And yet, even these mighty beings prostrate themselves before the Lord in submission, exaltation, and praise.

Praise our God all his servants. The small and great, meaning all of you. A servant of God in this passage is described as those who fear God. Those who refuse to defy God, blaspheme God, but instead see God as sovereign and priority in their lives. These are true servants.

**II. Praise Him for the marriage of the Lamb has come**

Then a roar comes from heaven, such a mighty sound like peals of thunder far greater than we’ve ever heard, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.” And we will come back to that.

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come. This is the second reason that God is all-deserving of worship. This long awaited consummation has arrived.

These ancient people would sign a covenant between the man and woman, but the marriage was not finalized until at least another year. The groom would have to go and prepare a place for his bride. And while he was away, the woman was preparing herself to be his wife. And his bride has made herself ready.

In the Old Testament, Israel was referred to as God’s bride. Under the New Covenant, or the New Testament, this was transferred to the church. We understand this marriage supper, or banquet, to be the completion of our salvation.

But it’s also the inauguration of the Kingdom of Christ. That is why the voices of heaven proclaim that God is Almighty and reigns. God has always been sovereign, and all world powers answered to him, but now finally, the Kingdom is here. It is now a visible reality and it begins with this celebration meal.

God had kept his Word. And every Christian is there, wearing the fine linens of white representing her righteous, obedient acts.

Remember in Philippians 2:12-13.

Do does Christ’s bride prepare herself for this day? Yes. But isn’t it God who does this work in her? Yes. They are both equally true. God’s righteousness and power conforms us to His image, and we are responsible for living in obedience.

We have a blessing here. Remember in the beginning of the book. Blessed are those who read and do what is written. Here is that great blessing! Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

I’ve seen many try to explain the guests as somebody other than the bride, because to them, the bride isn’t invited, but guests are. So this must be somebody else. This is the bride of Christ, the blessed. In fact, this word invited in the Greek is defined as called. This is the word used about our holy calling, God calling us from the kingdom of darkness into the light. Jesus used this word, in his parables of the royal feasts, as many are called, but few are chosen.

Matthew 22:1-14

Those are called and will join the Lamb in the holy celebration of the inauguration of this kingdom, are those who properly dressed in righteousness. The Jews were the first to be invited, but the majority chased idolatry. God would also invite the Gentiles, and for all who believe on Christ, they will find blessing and not the curse that comes by living in Babylon.

These words are the truth, the true words of God. This is not man’s doing, ideas, or imagination. This is the preplanned work of Almighty God who reigns forever and ever. John, so overwhelmed, falls before the angel. He is rebuked and reminded that like the angels, we are servants of God alone and He alone is worthy of praise.

Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. All we can hang our hats on is the Word of God, not man. For it is God alone who is truth and can be trusted.

**Application**

Notice that Jesus is still called the Lamb. The grave is defeated, sin is defeated, Babylon is no more. And yet we are still fixed on the cross, and Lamb of God who was killed for the sake of the world. Why is this necessary at this point in the book?

Because the cross will always be necessary. For us to be invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb, it required his blood. For us to live obedient, righteous lives and be clothed in pure linen, it required his blood. For us to blessed, it required his blood. For God to receive our praise, it required his blood. The Lamb will always be the Lamb for we are eternally dependent on Him.

Our invite was purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. He alone is worthy of all our praise and thanksgiving. He is worthy of praise for his judgments are true and just. He is worthy of praise for the marriage of the Lamb has come.