

Bible Study # 29

5/3/22

Administrative Information

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 will end our overview of the Book of Revelation and be **the last Bible Study class for this spring**

The Bible Study classes **will resume** on **Tuesday, September 13, 2022** when we will begin a detailed study of the Synoptic Gospels

Have a great summer

Revelation 18

From Father Sebastian's Parish Presentation

Revelation 18 (Cont)

- **Revelation 18**

- Father said that **Revelation 18** is a long conclusion to what we just saw in **Revelation 17** concerning the destruction of the great harlot (the city of Rome or Jerusalem)
- For the sake of time, Father only highlighted a few verses

- **Revelation 18:2** *“And he called out with a mighty voice, fallen, fallen, is Babylon the great! It has become a dwelling place of demons”*

- This is very similar to the language describing the destruction of Babylon (**Isaiah 13** ¹⁰) including a description of fire and plagues
- Again, this can be seen as *Jerusalem*

Revelation 18 (Cont)

- **Revelation 18:20** *“Rejoice over her, O heaven, O saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her”*
 - Within the historical context the saints, apostles, and prophets were rejoicing at that point in time
 - This should bring us back to 1st century Christianity, and should tell us again that the Book of **Revelation** was written for that 1st century Christian audience in Asia Minor

Revelation 18 (Cont)

- **Revelation 18:24** *“And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth”*
 - This was about the blood found in the harlot
 - Father pointed out how this sounds similar to what Jesus said about *Jerusalem* in **Matthew 23:34-39** just before He predicted its destruction in **Matthew 24** s

Revelation 19

From Father Sebastian's Parish Presentation

Revelation 19

- **Revelation 19** describes a big wedding party which will be the victory of God over the enemies of God's people
- Look at the joyful praise of "alleluia, alleluia" *
- The **bride** can be understood as the **new *Jerusalem*** filled with God's people, and the **groom** is **Jesus**

Revelation 19 (Cont)

- **Revelation 19:7-8** *“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come...is the righteous deeds of the saints”*
 - The new *Jerusalem* (the Church, God’s people in the New Covenant) is described in the same language as discussed by all of the prophets
 - Within the restoration of the kingdom, there is a new *Jerusalem*, housing God’s new people, who can be understood as this beautiful bride (as opposed to the old *Jerusalem* that had become the “harlot”) yoked to the nations around her

Revelation 19 (Cont)

- **Revelation 19:11-18** *“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse!...The Word of God”*
 - Jesus is identified here as the “Lamb of God”
 - The “rod of iron” is right out of **Psalm 2**,¹² where we see Jesus with the ancient of days
 - The King of Kings, Lord of Lords is understood as *Jesus*
 - Eating of the flesh is a reference to the vultures who, as when the armies gathered (for battle), knew that they would soon be fed
 - Throughout the Old Testament, we hear of the association of the birds of the sky with a coming battle

Revelation 19 (Cont)

- **Revelation 19:19** *“And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who sits upon the horse and against his army. And the beast was captured”*
 - Once again, this beast is the Roman Empire
 - In John’s vision, somehow the Roman Empire will be captured and taken over by the Army of God’s people (**Daniel 2**)

Revelation 19 (Cont)

- **Revelation 19:20-21** *“And with it the false prophet,...and all the birds were gorged with their flesh”*
 - As we have discussed, the “beast from the sea” is the Roman Empire and the “beast from the land” are the religious authorities of Asia Minor (or perhaps the religious authorities in Jerusalem)
 - We also discussed (**Revelation 15**) that these were also the “false prophets” who were leading the people to worship false gods to include Caesar and the gods of Rome

Revelation 19 (Cont)

- Here, we see the Roman Empire being captured
- So, in some way, the Book of *Revelation* is talking about a time when there will be victory of God's people, not just in *Jerusalem*, but also against the persecutors at that time led by *Domitian*