

Revealing The Soon-Coming All-Powerful Sovereign World Ruler

[Part 12]

Thankfully the revelation given to the apostle John ends on a high and happy note.

I feel that we have learnt all we need as active Christians from the book of Revelation as a warning to be stirred to action in our lives.

I would like to end this series of studies with very positive motivation that the revelation of Jesus Christ brings to us through John.

Everyone looks forward to a marriage, and sees it as a time of rejoicing and of plans for a happy and productive future.

Revelation 19:4-9 [NIV] *“The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!” Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!” Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. **Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.**” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”*

The most wonderful marriage that will ever take place.

The marriage between Jesus Christ and His bride the resurrected faithful Christians.

Will you be invited to this wedding?

We have already read Jesus Christ’s prophetic words that tell us about the circumstances surrounding His second coming. [see **Matthew 24:3-51**]

The next chapter in Matthew follows directly with the subject of a marriage and the conditions of attending that marriage.

Matthew 25:1-13 [NIV] *“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. **The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.** “Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ “**But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’** “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”*

This parable is about the wedding of Jesus and His bride.

The ten virgins were waiting to join the procession to the groom's house where the wedding ceremony would take place.

They all expected to be part of the wedding ceremony.

But the groom didn't come at a time He was expected, and half of them ran out of oil for their lamps to illuminate the procession and the ceremony.

By the time they had purchased extra oil it was too late to join in the ceremony.

When Jesus returns from heaven to marry His bride, the bride must be ready as we have already read in the vision John was given by Jesus of His future wedding.

Spiritual preparation is something that cannot be borrowed at the last minute.

Our relationship with Jesus Christ must be our own and we experience this through the work of the Holy Spirit [the oil that burns to illuminate the Word of God] in our lives.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

As we allow the Holy Spirit to direct our lives, keeping in step with the Spirit, these very characteristics of God will “rub off” on us.

As a child takes on the characteristics of its parents by spending time with them and listening to their words, so we will prepare ourselves to be the bride of Jesus Christ.

Luke 14:15-23 [NIV] *“When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ “Still another said, ‘I have just got married, so I can’t come.’ “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.”*

Another parable about the future wedding of Jesus Christ and His bride.

These professing Christians were far from dedicated to their future husband.

When you examine their very weak excuses they seem ridiculous.

Who buys a plot of land without first examining if it is fertile land that will grow good crops?

Who buys working oxen without first seeing if they are diseased or lame?

What about the excuse of having just got married?

Luke 14:26 [NIV] *“If anyone comes to me and does not hate [loveless by comparison] his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.”*

Jesus gives us the answer to this directly after this parable.

Whatever possessions or whatever relationship we have with other human beings must take second place to our loyalty to our future husband Jesus Christ.

Luke 14:33 [NIV] *“In the same way, any of you who does not **give up everything** he has cannot be my disciple.”*

Jesus reaffirms exactly what He has just stated. We have to totally surrender our will, our lives to Jesus Christ to have a place at His wedding banquet.

Matthew 22:2, 11-14 [NIV] *“**The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.**” ... “**But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.** ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. “**Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’** “**For many are invited, but few are chosen.**”*

It was customary for wedding guests to be given garments to wear to the banquet by the host of the banquet.

To refuse to wear these garments was an insult to the host, who could only assume that the guest was arrogant and thought he didn't need these garments.

These wedding clothes picture the righteousness needed to enter into a relationship with God, the host of this wedding feast of His son.

Isaiah 64:6 [NIV] *“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and **all our righteous acts are like filthy rags**; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.”*

Our righteousness, the garments we wear as an unrepentant sinner and non-believer, are **not** acceptable to God the Father.

Romans 4:18-25 [NIV] *“**Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”** Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead, since he was about a hundred years old, and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, **being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.** This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness, for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”*

Faith in what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, allows God the Father to credit us with the very righteousness of His Son, Jesus Christ.

This comes as a gift, it is nothing we can earn, just as the wedding garments were a gift from the host of the wedding banquet.

There are two slightly different words in the Greek language, both translated “*righteousness*” but with different meanings.

“*Dikaiōsis*” – a righteousness that is the result of being acquitted by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, this is the credited righteousness of **Romans 4:18-25**.

“*Dikaiōma*” – a righteousness that is the end result of a judgement made by God, justification of **Revelation 19:8**.

I like to visualise these two different types of righteousness as follows.

“*Dikaiōsis*” – a righteousness that is “*worked in*” us by God.

“*Dikaiōma*” – a righteousness that is “*worked out*” by our acts of love and service to other human beings, and God.

Ephesians 2:8-10 [NIV] *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

God’s grace makes us righteous in His eyes to enable us, by the Holy Spirit in us, to perform in our lives “*good works*”, that is works of the love of God that is in us.

This “*dikaiōma*” righteousness is what the wedding garment we are to wear at Christ’s wedding banquet, given by God the host but worn by us, His wedding guest.

The triumphant return of Jesus Christ the all-powerful Sovereign world ruler

Revelation 19:11-16 [NIV] *“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no-one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron sceptre.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**”*

John’s vision shifts again from the marriage of Jesus Christ to the triumphant return of Jesus Christ to the earth.

This time **not** as a lamb to be sacrificed, but as a warrior on a white horse, symbolic of victory.

Jesus’ first coming brought forgiveness, His second coming as we have seen brings judgement.

The name given to the victorious Jesus Christ is “*King of Kings and Lord of Lords*” implying that **no** name can do Him justice.

Jesus Christ is greater than any description or expression the human mind can devise.

The blood on the robe of Jesus Christ is symbolic of the blood He shed so that we can be freed from the grip of sin, and His victory over death.

What is the first action of Jesus the returning victorious world ruler?

Revelation 20:1-3 [NIV] *“And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.”*

Bring to an end the deception of Satan.

Before any government can be set up on earth by its new ruler, the old mis-government of planet earth has to be eradicated.

Revelation 20:4 [NIV] *“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”*

New governing judiciary are set in place.

If we read carefully the account of what has happened before this event we will find that inspite of all the terrifying events, there are still humans left alive on planet earth.

Matthew 24:21-22 [NIV] *“For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be equalled again. If those days had not been cut short, no-one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”*

This indicates that for the benefit of those who have just been given rulership in the new world government, some humans have survived.

Try to imagine the mental and physical state such surviving humans will be in!

They will need all the love, compassion and patient kindness that only humans will have who are guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Next is the most encouraging verse for all Christians who have seen their non-Christian relatives and friends die.

Wonderful news for all Christians resurrected by Jesus Christ at His coming who are awaiting in the clouds, observing what is happening on earth.

Wonderful news for all who have never had the chance to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour, belonging to religions who do not accept Jesus as the Son of God or their Saviour.

Revelation 20:5 [NIV] *“(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection”*

If the first resurrection has happened there has to be other resurrections!

At least one more that will involve all the above people.

John does **not** say why God once again sets Satan free, all we know is that it is part of God’s plan for the reconciliation of humanity to Him.

I’m sure that God will reveal the reason when the time comes for us to know why.

Let us now look at the new society that the presence of the new world ruler will bring

Revelation 21:1-7 [NIV] *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am*

*making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. **He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.**”*

What a manifesto, this is a world ruler who will get my vote.

The thing is though, Jesus Christ is and never will be ruling as a result of any human vote.

Democracy is **not** God’s kind of government!

Revelation 22:1-6 [NIV] *“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood **the tree of life**, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. **And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”***

Reconciliation has been accomplished.

Note humanity is back in the Garden of Eden where the tree of life is available to all God’s people.

The curse that was placed on humanity because of their rebellious sins will be lifted [**Genesis 3:17-19**].

“Leaves for the healing of the nations” This is a quote from **Ezekiel 47:12** which is talking about health giving, as they are part of the available food.

“The river of water” is a quote from **Zechariah 14:4, 8**.

What happens when the thousand years of the rule of Jesus Christ and resurrected Christians ends?

Revelation 20:7-10 [NIV] *“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. **They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**”*

There is no doubt as to the outcome of these battles between Satan and God and all humans whom Satan had again deceived and the victorious Jesus Christ.

This is the final end of all evil and evil influence on planet earth.

Jesus Christ and those Christians who have now experienced a thousand years of ruling are ready for the greatest event in the history of humanity.

Revelation 20:11-13 [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the **book of life**. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The*

sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”

The resurrection of billions of human beings back to physical life, to have their first chance to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and understanding of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, will be opened to them.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 [NIV] *“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ I said, ‘O Sovereign LORD, you alone know.’ Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’” So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet, a vast army. Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”*

Israel is symbolic of all of God’s people, that is all humanity.

All humans are the eventual product of the union of the first two human beings Adam and Eve, made by God in His image.

This is the prophecy of the great resurrection mentioned in Revelation.

Romans 14:11 [NIV] *“It is written: ‘‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’”*

Every human being will submit to the judgement of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:9-11 [NIV] *“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, **that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Again we are reminded of this event none of us can avoid.

Revelation 20:12 [NIV] *“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and **books were opened**. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. **The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.**”*

“Books were opened,” the Greek word translated books is “*bibliōn*” meaning little books or scrolls, indicating that the books of the Christian Bible were opened to these people for the first time.

These resurrected people will be taught by all who have been preparing for the great event for a thousand years.

Their response will be judged according to whether they accept God's Word or not, now freed from Satan's deception.

Revelation 20:14 [NIV] *"Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death."*

This is the end of all physical life, on planet earth the only future will be on the spiritual level in the spiritual realm.

Revelation 20:15 [NIV] *"If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."*

Judgement will **not** be delayed for any who reject God's Word and His rule, they will be burnt up with **no** future resurrection, for this is the second and final eternal death.

The pictures of hell or the lake of fire, depicting continual physical torture are false.

Revelation 22:12-17 [NIV] *"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. **Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practise magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practises falsehood.** "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."*

The Holy Spirit of God says come to Jesus Christ.

He bride [the Christian church] should also be saying *"come today without delay"* to Jesus Christ your only Saviour.

Revelation 22:20-21 [NIV] *"He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen."*