
DAY ONE

1. What was your favorite thought from last week's questions, talks or commentary? Share it with your group.

NOTE: Chapter 19 begins with a victory celebration over the judgment of the great harlot, Babylon. This celebration is not about the destruction of a rebellious people but is more about the structure that opposed God and ultimately brought about its own destruction. *Williamson*

Read Revelation 19:1-4

2a. Our lesson begins today as John heard the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven. Record the words of praise and the qualities attributed to God (verse 1).

b. The three attributes belonging to God express the triumph of victory. Choose one below and comment on how it leads to praise.

salvation

glory

might

NOTE: The first and only time the word "Alleluia," which means "praise the Lord," is used in the New Testament is in Revelation 19:1,3,4,6. In the Old Testament, it is only found in the Psalms.

3a. The multitude continued to praise God for his true and just judgments. Complete what these were according to verse 2.

He has condemned

who corrupted the earth

He has avenged on her

b. How does this answer connect to the prayers of the martyred souls who sought justice in Revelation 6:9-11?

THINK: We rejoice when God judges evil, not when people suffer. We are not called to applaud the tragedy of human lives subjected to judgment, but to praise the God who does all things well.

4a. The multitude said “Alleluia” a second time according to verse 3. What was the reason for their praise?

b. What do you think it means for the smoke to rise eternally? (see Isaiah 34:9-10)

5a. The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down in worship. Who were they worshiping and what did they say (verse 4)?

b. The great multitude exclaimed a word of pure praise twice in this passage. Praising God is the heartfelt response of those who love him. Prayers of praise are not the same as prayers of thanksgiving. How would you explain the difference?

NOTE: The twenty-four elders and four living creatures have been prominent in earlier visions. The elders represent the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles, and stand for the entire church. The four living creatures embody all of nature. Thus, all of creation worships and praises God. *Ignatius Bible Study*

6. CONNECTION: John saw a great multitude celebrate and praise God. He witnessed an expression of worship when the elders and creatures fell down before God’s heavenly throne in adoration and praise. We are encouraged throughout Scripture to bow in humility, raise hands in joyful worship, clap our hands, shout, sing and even dance before God. Our bodies naturally respond to the way our hearts feel. Do you feel it is important to express yourself outwardly when praying? What has been your experience in using outward expression in worship and prayer? Share some thoughts with your group.

Read and record Isaiah 55:12 and in your prayer today be mindful of the many ways to worship and praise God.

DAY TWO

Read Revelation 19:5-8

7a. After the great multitude, the elders and the creatures praised God's just judgments. Record the words that were heard coming from the throne (verse 5).

b. What do you think it means to revere God, to be reverent in our actions?

8a. Then John heard another sound (first part of verse 6). To what three things did he compare the sound?

b. For the fourth time an "Alleluia" was proclaimed. Record the reason according to the remainder of verse 6.

9a. What three things did the multitude suggest they do in their praise of God according to the first phrase of verse 7?

b. What great event was the reason for this rejoicing and gladness according to the second sentence of verse 7? (Good memory verse)

NOTE: The wedding day of the Lamb symbolizes the commencement of God's reign. The bride represents the church. Marriage is used as a metaphor for the covenant relationship between God and his people. *NABRE*

10. What was the bride allowed to wear and what did it represent according to verse 8?

NOTE: The bride is a metaphor for the church and the holy ones represent the members of the church. They waited for a long time under God's altar demanding vengeance on those who killed them (6:9-11). Now they rejoice because God's vindication has finally come. *New Collegeville Commentary*

11. Marriage was a familiar image for God's relationship with Israel. Look up one of the following verses and briefly record a phrase that is an example of this relationship.

Isaiah 54:5

Isaiah 61:10

Hosea 2:18-22

12. CONNECTION: In today's passage, a tremendous prayer of praise erupts from the hearts of the multitude. "Alleluia! The Lord has established his reign, our God, the almighty." It is a song of victory, salvation, glory and joy in God's kingdom. Throughout the world, on a daily basis, songs of praise are heard in morning prayer, at Mass, in the Liturgy of the Hours and in devotional prayer. Songs and hymns of praise and adoration are abundant in the Psalms as well as in Revelation. Do you have a particular hymn of praise or special psalm you pray when your life needs a lift or when you are expressing joy and gratitude? Share some details with your group.

Spend some time today reflecting on the many ways God works in your life. Write a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for these blessings.

DAY THREE

Read Revelation 19:9-10

13a. Our passage begins today with the angel speaking a fourth beatitude to John. What did he command John to write (first sentence of verse 9)? (Good memory verse)

NOTE: This beatitude is about the establishment of God's kingdom through God's divine authority. The imagery of the marriage feast associated with the coming of God's kingdom is also found in Matthew 8:11; 22:1-14; 25:1-13. *New Collegeville Commentary*

b. The liturgy applies these words to the Eucharist, a foretaste of the messianic banquet. "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." How does this metaphor awaken us to the Eucharist as central in our lives?

14a. In verse 9 John refers to the wedding feast of the Lamb. Read the following and record a phrase from one that refers to this great feast.

Isaiah 25:6

Matthew 8:11-12

Matthew 26:26-29

b. Why do you think a wedding banquet is used as an image for heaven? What was special about a recent wedding you attended? Share some thoughts with your group.

15. The angel made a statement affirming the authenticity of his command. Record his words from the second sentence of verse 9.

16a. John fell at his feet to worship the angel when he heard his words (beginning of verse 10). What did the angel say in response to John's action (second sentence of verse 10)?

b. What message do you think the angel meant to convey in verse 10 about whom to worship?

17. What did the angel mean when he said that witness to Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (verse 10)? (see Matthew 10:20)

18. CONNECTION: Prophecy is a gift. It is given to us, God's people, to build the body of Christ. It is insight much more than it is foresight. A prophecy is simply God's word spoken to his people. Prophecy can come to us through the ordinary circumstances of life: the words of scripture, the words of a friend, the words of a song or even the words of a stranger. Recall a time when you heard something and recognized it as a "word of God." Share with your group some details and what made you realize God was speaking to you through that person or presence.

Pray today in awareness that God speaks to us in many ways. Be on the lookout and listen for God's messages in the most ordinary moments of your day.

DAY FOUR

Read Revelation 19:11-14

NOTE: The second part of the conclusion of Revelation begins here with the first of God's final three judgment scenes, the judgment of the two beasts and their allies. *Williamson*

19a. We begin today with John's vision of heaven opened. Describe what he saw according to the first sentence of verse 11.

b. Share with your group a story about someone you know whom you would describe as faithful and true?

20a. The rider came to judge and wage war in righteousness. Complete the following descriptions of the rider (verse 12).

His eyes were like

on his head were

He had a name inscribed that

b. How was the rider described according to verse 13?

21. The rider was given a name, the Word of God, which is frequently referenced in both the Old and New Testaments. Look up one of the following and record something that describes the Word of God.

Wisdom 18:15-16

Isaiah 55:10-11

1 John 2:14

22. This passage fulfills Isaiah's prophecy of a divine warrior coming to rescue and vindicate his people (Isaiah 63:1-6). Why do you think Christ is pictured as a fierce warrior rather than the prince of peace?

23a. In his vision, John saw the armies of heaven following the rider. How did they appear (verse 14)?

b. The armies of heaven followed the horse and rider. Who do you think the armies of heaven might include?

24. **CONNECTION:** In today's lesson heaven opened to John, revealing a white horse and rider. The rider was called "Faithful and True" and the "Word of God." These words were meant to reveal something about the rider, attributes leading to an identity. God placed incredible importance on the selection and meaning of names as illustrated throughout scripture. Does your name carry a special story? Do you know someone whose name holds great significance or identifies certain character traits? Share with your group what makes the name unique or special to you.

Read and record Proverbs 22:1. As you pray today, lift the names of your loved ones to God, the Father and Creator of all, and let your hearts rejoice at the blessings they bring to your life.

DAY FIVE

Read Revelation 19:15-18

25a. As John's heavenly vision continues, we learn more about the rider on the white horse. Record what John saw and its purpose (first sentence of verse 15).

b. Why are the rider's words symbolized as a sharp sword? (see Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)

26. Complete below the words that describe how the rider will rule (remainder of verse 15).

He will rule them with

he himself will tread out

the wine

and wrath

27. According to verse 16, two names were written on the rider. What are the names and where were they written?

28a. Then John saw an angel standing on the sun. To whom did the angel cry out and what did he command (verse 17)?

b. We have previously read of this overhead place, sometimes referred to as midheaven. Complete below who was seen there and what was announced.

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Who was seen</u>	<u>Announced</u>
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Revelation 8:13

Revelation 14:6

29. The birds were called to gather for the great feast of God. Record what they were to feast upon (verse 18).

NOTE: The gruesome imagery of the great feast comes from apocalyptic battle scenes in Ezekiel 39:17-20. After the enemy was destroyed, birds were invited to gorge on the flesh and blood of the fallen strewn across the battlefield. *Ignatius Study Bible*

30. CONNECTION: The final image in today's lesson is a graphic presentation of birds of prey devouring the waste of defeat. In stark contrast to the Lamb's feast for his faithful, this gruesome feast shows what will happen after the victory over Satan. We continue to face battles every day in our lives through trials, suffering and the unexpected. God remains our conquering hero. Have you recently had occasion to call upon the armies of God to help you in a battle? Share some details with your group.

Read Romans 8:37-39 and record a phrase that brings hope. Pray today for wisdom to acknowledge the presence of God, our conquering hero, as he lovingly guides us through our battles to victory.

DAY SIX

Read Revelation 19:19-21

31. As John continued to receive visions, he then saw the beast, the kings of the earth and their armies. Why were they gathered (verse 19)?

NOTE: The apocalyptic genre does not presuppose a sustained story line that extends from the beginning to the end of the book chronologically. The author will introduce an idea in a vision and then return to it in a later vision. This gathering of enemies has been referred to twice before in Revelation 16:13-16 and 17:12-14. The final recap of this battle will appear in Revelation 20:7-10. *New Collegeville Commentary*

32. The beast was caught along with the false prophet who had performed in its sight signs of deception. Who was led astray by this deception (verse 20)?

33. How were the beast and false prophet punished (end of verse 20)?

34. Record what happened to “the rest” according to verse 21.

35. The means by which this victory was accomplished was through the power of God’s word. Record how St. Paul described this battle in 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

NOTE: The ultimate fate of the humans on earth who followed the beast will also be the lake of fire, but not until after their final judgment. (Revelation 20:12-15) *Williamson*

36. CONNECTION: Again we see the great power of “the sword,” God’s Word that struck down his enemies. The power of words is a mighty weapon. Words can be uplifting, joyful, and loving, or they can be threatening, hateful, and terrifying. Through the technology of our world, words can reach millions of hearts and minds. Gandhi’s non-violent acts and remarkable words gave a country its independence, and the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. still ring in the minds of American people. Think of some powerful words that you have heard or read recently. Share with your group the effect these words had on you.

Read James 3:8-10 and in your prayer today, take time to search your heart and reflect on the power you wield as you use your words.

Read pages 80-84 in the *New Collegeville Commentary, The Book of Revelation* by Catherine A. Cory, Ph.D. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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