Lesson 8

THE LORD ALMIGHTY REIGNS

THE FOURFOLD HALLELUJAH (19:1-6)

The reader has encountered many praise passages in Revelation, but in chapter 19, the praise of God reaches its climax.

- 1. What does the word "hallelujah" mean, and where else is it found in the Bible?
- 2. Since God's people rejoiced over those the Lord had destroyed, does the Book of Revelation promote the idea of revenge? Explain.
- 3. How do verses 1 through 4 fulfill the two purposes of praise?
- 4. What is significant about the word "reigns" in verse 6, and why is it in the past tense in the original text?

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB (19:7-10)

Revelation 19:7–10 combines three lines of Old Testament thought. First is the symbolism of marriage to illustrate the relationship between God and mankind. The second is a meal, or feast, used as a figure of fellowship and rejoicing. The third is the imagery of putting on clothing to represent a change in behavior.

- 5. Where in the Old Testament was the symbolism of marriage used?
- 6. Where did the Old Testament use the figure of a feast or meal?
- 7. What were Jewish marriage customs like in the first century?
- 8. How is the imagery of the Jewish marriage custom used in the New Testament?

- 9. Where else are the verbs translated "rejoice" and "be glad" (19:7) found together in the New Testament?
- 10. How does verse 8 highlight God's part and our part in our salvation?
- 11. How do we prepare for the coming of our spiritual Bridegroom?
- 12. Why has confusion arisen over who was "invited to the marriage supper" (19:9)?
- 13. What is the message of Revelation 19:10?

THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE ON A WHITE HORSE (19:11–16)

Verses 7 through 10 revolved around the wedding of the Lamb. The reader is thus prepared mentally and emotionally for the appearance of Christ in dazzling wedding garb. Jesus *does* appear, but, as is often the case in Revelation, not as we expect. It is not a bridegroom who bursts on the scene, but a warrior king. Verses 11 through 21 are about *victory*: victory over the enemies of Christ and His church—specifically, victory over the beast and the false prophet (vv. 19, 20), along with their allies (v. 21).

- 14. Who was "called Faithful and True" (19:11)?
- 15. Does this section of Scripture refer to the Second Coming or to the Lord coming to punish Rome? Why?
- 16. Whose blood was on the robe of the rider (19:13)?
- 17. Who composed the army led by Jesus in verse 14?

THE BIRDS CALLED TO EAT FLESH (19:17, 18)

The focus shifts momentarily from Jesus to an angel. The messenger "cried out with a loud voice" so that "all the birds which fly in midheaven" might hear.

18. What contrast is intended between verse 9 and verse 17?

THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET DOOMED (19:19–21)

At last, we come to the primary purpose of chapter 19: the portrayal of the downfall of two of the Lord's enemies.

- 19. For what war were the enemies assembled (19:19)?
- 20. What two purposes does verse 21 accomplish?