

Revelation 19:1-10 - The Hallelujah Chorus

The Hallelujah chorus in Handel's "Messiah" is a triumphant piece of music loved by many. It is usually associated with Christmas time and has as its theme Christ's birth, death and resurrection. A tradition of standing is associated with the Hallelujah chorus because it is said that at its premier in 1740's, King George stood at end - so audiences stand. Rev. 19 contains the only Hallelujah chorus in the NT. The context for this chorus is different than Handel's as well as the posture of the participants. These hallelujahs come because God judgments have come. And the singers don't stand...they fall down. The focus for Handel's was the 1st coming. But these hallelujah's in Rev. 19 are precursor to 2nd coming

- HALLELUJAH comes from the Hebrew - *hallel* = praise and *YAH* = YAHWEH "praise God"
 - o *hallel* = "to give a clear sound" - give light, shine or boast (hallelujah psalms- 111-118)
 - o there are 4 hallelujah's in Rev. 19 that give a clear sound about God
- Praise = lifting up our voices and boasting about God Worship= bowing down our bodies
 - o Both of these are present in the Hallelujah chorus of Rev. 19

The Hallelujah's of the great multitude 19:1-3

1. 19:1 heaven is not a quiet place roar of great multitude in heaven shouting
 - a. Don't know if this is singing (shouting) but it is loud - clear sound boasting about God
2. 3 things to "give light to" that grow out of the main item motivating the hallelujah's
 - a. SALVATION - a clear sound about salvation it belongs to God
 - i. Ps. 51:12 "Thy salvation" Jonah 2:9 - Salvation is of the Lord
 - b. GLORY - *doxa* (doxology) come from word "to think", thought or opinion
 - i. We cannot give glory to God without thinking about His perfections
 1. What we think about all the time is what we are glorifying
 - ii. Praise is the result of meditation 1 Cor. 14:15 - "sing with my understanding"
 - c. POWER *dunamis* (dynamite) ability, capable
 - i. God is almighty and all powerful. God does not lack ability or capability
 - ii. We praise God when we give a clear sound about His power
3. 19:2-3 GODS JUDGMENTS this is the main cause of the great multitudes Hallelujah chorus
 - a. In Rev. 18 God judged the great prostitute (aka Mystery Babylon)
 - b. Many on earth mourned that judgment but the hosts of heaven praised it - Rev. 18:20
 - i. Do we praise God when He judges or do we pout? (that's not fair)
 - c. True and just are His judgments Rev. 19:11 (Gen. 18:25) 2 reasons given
 - i. Corrupted earth (enticed to sin) better a millstone - Matt. 18:6
 - ii. Avenged His servants Rev. 6:10-11 Rom. 12:19 2 Thess. 1:6
 1. Ps. 116:15 (hallelujah psalm) precious....death of His saints
 - d. 19:3 the multitude doubles down on the Hallelujahs
 - i. They praise God for the eternal nature of the judgment- smoke...(Rev. 14:10-11)
 - ii. It may seem strange for eternal judgment to engender Hallelujahs

1. Tickertape parade after a war is won
- iii. These praises are in heaven (difficult on earth – sinful minds)
 1. Hindsight is 20/20. Heaven sight is better than 20/20 (1Cor. 13:12)
4. All of Gods perfections should bring our praise including eternal judgment – a clear sound
 - a. The 1st hallelujah in recorded in the OT (Ps. 104:35- may sinners vanish...hallel)and only ones in NT are about judgment (MacArthur) Ps. 96:11-13

19:4 - the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures join the chorus

- They agree with what has been said/shouted/sung “Amen, Hallelujah!”
- They fall down. praise (hallel) and worship (falling down) he must increase we must decrease
 - o a clear sound and falling down before the ONE on the throne

19:5 - a Voice from the throne encourages this praise (probably Jesus' voice)

- The Son calls the Father “God” (Jn. 20:17) and the Father calls the Son “God” (Heb. 1:8)
- All stations in Christian life are included - (small and great)
 - o All stations in Christian life are “servants “ servants = those who fear God

19:6 – another great multitude joins the celebration (heaven is a big loud place with a lot of inhabitants)

1. When your team wins you praise (loud) God always wins (reigns)
 - a. This phrase is in Handel's Hallelujah chorus - the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth
2. Another element of praise is introduced A WEDDING 19:7
 - a. Marriage of the Lamb is a celebration (the judgment of world brings wedding of Lamb)
 - b. The Bride is dressed appropriately. She is graciously given fine linen
 - i. What was given resulted in righteous living 19:8
 - ii. Parable of wedding banquet – guy kicked out for wrong clothes (Matt. 22)
3. 19:9 an angel gives a blessing
 - a. A wedding invitation is a special blessing...especially if you are the Bride - “Hallelujah!”
 - b. We have been invited. Matt. 11:28 Matt. 22:8-10 Rev. 22:17
 - i. RSVP to the gospel invitation don't decline this blessing
 - c. These are the true words of God (it is not too good to be true...it is true – Hallelujah!

19:10 – John goes overboard as he is overwhelmed with emotion in these Hallelujah chorus'

- John falls down to worship the angel.
 - o Maybe he was so excited about the message that he worshiped the messenger
 - o Angels are magnificent but are not to be worshiped
 - o The angel rebukes/corrects him WORSHIP GOD!
- We have to be on guard about our Hallelujahs.
 - o A sinners we are prone to idolatry - praise and worship wrong thing or person
 - o John was tempted and so will we be. YAH is only ONE to receive the hallel's