

**Introduction:**

- It is easy to read the book of Revelation and view it like social media seeing only the bad and glossing over the good. I want to encourage you not to do that but to read it for what it is: The Revelation of Jesus Christ! Lets read this passage. Rev 19:1-9
- In such paintings and prints as "The Raising of the Cross" and "The Three Crosses," Rembrandt, the renown artist, painted himself into the scenes of the crowd. John Durham, art historian, suggests that this was because the Bible was for Rembrandt, "a kind of diary, an account of moments in his own life." Could it be that he was indeed acknowledging his own sinfulness and thereby acknowledging his own role in Christ's death? **Application:** As we look at this passage today, which crowd are you painted in?
- A phrase used twice in our passage stands out to me is this, '*a vast crowd...*' It really makes a difference which crowd you are connected to. Students, with school starting in a few weeks it makes a big difference which crowd you choose run with.
  - In life, there is a wrong crowd and right crowd to be connected to.
  - In the Book of Revelation, we see that there is a wrong crowd and a right crowd to be connected to. Which crowd, are you linked too?

**I. The Wrong Crowd**

- A. Revelation chapters 17 and 18 paint the picture of the wrong crowd. You can see this crowd at the crucifixion. They are in control, administering the pain in all the earth.
1. In chapter 17, you have the great prostitute who is unclean, unfaithful, and unfit to be in the place of leadership that she is in, in the world.
  2. In chapter 18, you have the great city that immoral, selfish, deceptive and wicked.
  3. 17:15-ff the waters upon which the prostitute and the city sit upon are the masses of people from every nation and every language. Notice: it is not anything 'vast' or 'great' but it is a lot of people in that picture.
- B. The wrong system holds in its grip the wrong crowd.
1. Both the great prostitute and the city of Babylon represent an evil anti-Christ system. When Jesus comes in 17 and 18 He comes to destroy the anti-christ system which is everything that opposes love.
  2. A system - a group of interacting bodies under the influence of related forces. Parts that work together, an orderly way of doing something. Ie. Solar system - planets, stars, comets, orbits etc. Ie. You have a digestive system - teeth, tongue, stomach, small intestine, large intestine etc. They work together to digest food for the body. ie. gangs - are a system. They are group of people within society that have a system of how they relate to each other and how they relate to the community they are in. ie. prison system- with in that you have a system that the guards use and a system that prisoners use. ie. a computer has an operating system.
  3. When we speak of being a part of the wrong system we are talking about the belief system that is anti-christian. It is evil, bad, morally wrong, and it propagates or creates more disfunction in the lives of those who use it.
- C. How does the angel describe to John the wrong operating system. He calls it (Windows)! No, he opens a window in the spirit for John to see in. Here is what it looks like:
1. The nature of the system: immorality (define), if you want to know what immorality is? Here are some synonyms: *black, dark, evil, bad, rotten, sinful, unethical, unlawful, unrighteous, vicious, vile, villainous, wicked, wrong*. When Holy Spirit convicts you of doing wrong He is being merciful and warning you that you are now operating in an anti-christ way, an immoral/evil way. He is not trying to condemn you but save you with a warning.

2. When you talk about this crowd you are talking about 'Where not to go.' i.e., stay out of that part of town. ie. "we do not go out at night when we are here." Here is the spiritual atmosphere of the wrong crowd: Rev 18:2 Babylon (which is a system of operation in the earth):
  - a) dwelling place of demons,
  - b) hang out for every foul spirit (not talking about chickens.),
  - c) fornication (every kind of sexual sin you can think of). "I am taking from you for my gratification." [with every nation].
  - d) extravagant luxuries.
  - e) Sins as high as heaven,
  - f) terrorized others while glorifying herself in luxury.
  - g) She was boastful, proud.
  - h) 18:13 She traded in the bodies and souls of men. (NKJV)
  - i) Sorcery to deceive nations,
  - j) Killed prophets, and God's holy people.
3. When we sin, we start operating in the system of that crowd. It is anti-Christ. You keep sinning you continue to go deeper into that system and it only leads to death and destruction. \*\*Are you in that crowd? Are you on its fringes.

**II. The Right Crowd** is the right crowd because it is the crowd not opposed by Jesus but welcomed by Him.

- A. The clean crowd! After you read chapters 17 and 18 of Revelation and then you begin chapter 19 your heart goes "Ahhhhhhh! Thank you!!!!" You go from screams, and groans, and loss, and darkness, and destruction and death to a VAST CROWD IN HEAVEN, SHOUTING, 'PRAISE THE LORD!'
  1. John says it is a vast crowd! It is One crowd together as far as he can see. It is a beautiful sight. It is not a prostitute or city that sits upon masses of people from every nation and language (that speaks of division). It is a vast crowd! A vast crowd singing the same song! Praise the Lord!
  2. The Hebrew word Hallelujah is as an expression of praise to God as a superlative expression of thanksgiving, joy, and triumph. "Hallel yah." This is the only place it is used in the NT, vs. 1,3,4,6. At the most literal, Alleluia means "All hail to Him Who is!" it introduces or merges into victory hymns and forms with *amén*.
  3. They rejoice over two things: 1. the system of this world (the anti-Christ system that opposes love) has been judged. 2. that the marriage feast of the Lamb has come. Let's look at this crowd.
- B. The Crowd
  1. Is healthy - there is no terror, pain, groaning. It is a crowd that is at rest in total satisfaction.
  2. Is happy - all that has opposed Jesus and his followers is now destroyed.
  3. Is grateful - grateful for the work of Christ in their own hearts and they are grateful that they are now free from all that has opposed Jesus. They are filled with thanksgiving, not regret!
  4. Is glad - they cannot keep quiet as joy floods their hearts.
  5. Is the Bride of Christ vss. 6-8
    - a) is prepared - washed, righteous, holy
    - b) is dressed - covered with good deeds done in faith.
- C. When did the bride prepare?
  1. The simple answer is this: she prepared in advance. How?
  2. She was washed with the Word of God. Eh 5:26. She turned away from her sin, (that which opposes Christ) and she turned to Jesus and took on His life. "*Don't you realize that those who*

*do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed* (NKJV “washed”); *you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”* (1 Corinthians 6:9–11, NLT)

3. In doing so she was no longer clothed in grave clothes of death and destruction but clothed in beautiful garments of righteousness that shine like the sun. *“All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.”* (Revelation 3:5, NLT) That will make you shout “Praise the Lord!”
- D. \*\*\*Which Crowd are you in? Many of you will be going back to school—you will be choosing which crowd to be in. Dads, Moms, which crowd are you in? Do your children see enough evidence to rightly paint you into a crowd?

### III. Choose Your Crowd Wisely

- A. Fact: You must choose your crowd wisely. There are two crowds and you will be in one or the other. The right crowd: that is for Christ, desires Christ, and lives for Christ. Or the wrong crowd: that is against Christ, despises His ways and rebels against Him.
- B. Fact: The anti-christ system already stands judged.
  1. *“Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.”* (John 16:11, NLT)
  2. Do you remember Jesus saying, *““Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning!”* (Luke 10:18, NLT)
- C. Fact: Even at the end of the age Jesus is still mercifully urging His followers, Rev. 18:4 we read: *“come away from her, don't take part in her sins, or you will be punished with her.”*
- D. Fact: The end is glorious for those who believe and choose to live for Christ. The Wedding Crowd
  1. *““Look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! Blessed are all who are watching for me, who keep their clothing ready so they will not have to walk around naked and ashamed.””* (Revelation 16:15, NLT)
  2. Mt 25:1 Five wise virgins. They lived prepared. The Wise servant lived ready for masters return.

### Conclusion:

- I read an article of a man traveling. He came to Kennebunkport, Maine. Just prior to sunset, he found the home of one of our former presidents of the United States of America. It was a beautiful home overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, with a rocky coastline and waves pounding. He parked and walked over to the guard's station. “Is this were the President lives?” he asked////“Yes, sir, it is,” the guard replied.////He then asked, “Is the President here now?”////The guard answered, “No, he is not.”////“Do you know when he will be back?”////“I never know when the President is coming home,” the guard replied. “I am only notified a few moments before when he is returning.”////In thinking about that many times. The guard has to stay on constant alert. He never knows just when the President is coming back.
- Jesus told us that He was going away to prepare a place for us. We do not know exactly when He will return. He did say, however, that we should be ready and watching for His return. There will be not time to get ready after He returns.
- What crowd are you in? Would you like to change crowds today?