

# The Four Alleluias

## Revelation 19:1-6

The first words of this chapter show that these events (the first 6 verses) follow closely to the end of chapter 18. The message of these verses is what ushers in the millennial reign of Christ. It is called the “bridge” between the Tribulation and the Millennium. J. Vernon McGee says this about chapter 19:

It “marks a dramatic change in the tone of Revelation. The destruction of Babylon, the capital of the Beast’s kingdom, marks the end of the Great Tribulation. The somber gives way to song. The transfer is from darkness to light, from black to white, from dreary days of judgment to bright days of blessing. This chapter makes a definite [division] in Revelation, and ushers in the greatest event for this earth—the Second Coming of Christ. It is the bridge between the Great Tribulation and the Millennium.”

The Scofield Reference Bible calls these verses a “parenthetical” – I don’t believe it is these verses that are the parenthetical – I believe it is the next set of verses (vs. 7-10) that describe the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. The Marriage Supper takes place during the Tribulation, more than likely towards the end of it – that’s why it is given here, but there’s no indication that it is given in a chronological order to the other events described in chapter 19.

A couple of points need to be made regarding the word “Alleluia”:

1. The word itself is a transliterated word from the Greek – it is virtually the same word

2. It is the Greek equivalent for *hallelujah*, the similar Hebrew word in the Old Testament
3. The Hebrew word is from three different Hebrew words and is literally translated "praise ye Jehovah"
4. The point being made in these verses is that God is deserving of praise, even in the midst of all that has happened

## **I. THE FIRST AND SECOND ALLELUIAS – VS. 1-3**

### ***A. Called "The Alleluia of the Saints in Heaven"***

### ***B. The first Alleluia is seen as being introduced by "a great voice of much people"***

1. The words "much people" is the same Greek word as is used in 7:9 for "great multitude" and is referring to the martyred Tribulation saints

#### [Revelation 7:9-10](#)

(9) After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

(10) And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

2. It is most likely that the first (and second, subsequent) "alleluia" is being sounded by those that were saved out of the Tribulation
3. Vs. 2 mentions the "great whore" that was

judged – judged because of the blood of the saints that she shed during the Tribulation (ch. 17)

4. John hears their “great voice” out of heaven – 7:10 calls it a “loud voice”

**C. The substance of the alleluia, the reason for it, is given in vs. 1 – “Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God”**

There is a point to make here concerning the original Greek – one thing not seen in the translation of these words is the article *the* – this article precedes each of these words

1. The “Salvation” – as coming from God – signifies deliverance, both spiritually for all, and for the Tribulation saints, speaks of literal deliverance from the persecution

[Psalms 3:8](#)

(8) Salvation *belongeth* unto the LORD: thy blessing *is* upon thy people. Selah.

[Jonah 2:9](#)

(9) But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD.

2. The “Glory” – as being the only One worthy of praise – speaks of His moral glory in judgment, specifically of the harlot
3. The “Honour” – as being the One deserving of praise
4. The “Power” – His power being the reason

for the others – speaks of His might displayed in the execution of the judgment upon the harlot

***D. Those that are heard crying this first and second Alleluia refer to God's "true and righteous" judgments that are put upon the "great whore" – and speaks of the avenging of the saints from the Tribulation – vs. 2-3***

## **II. THE THIRD ALLELUIA – VS. 4**

***A. Called "The Alleluia of the Twenty-four Elders"***

***B. The second group that is seen and heard giving praise to our God is the "four and twenty elders" and "the four beasts"***

1. The 24 elders is the group that was introduced in chapter 4 as representative of all the saints before the Tribulation began – there is 24 because it represents both OT (12 tribes of Israel) and NT (12 Apostles – represents the church) saints
2. We cannot be absolutely certain what these beasts represent for it does not say but we can compare this with other passages in the Bible and see that they are more than likely a part of the angelic body – either the cherubim or the seraphim – or both

***C. They are seen here as falling down and worshipping (the falling down was the worship) and they responded to the first group with the word "Amen" – or, so be***

*it, we are in agreement*

***D. This second group was witness to the first group as they praised God and sang their Alleluias***

***E. Verse 4 is used by some to show that it is possible, if not probable, that the saints represented by the 24 elders are witnesses to the events that take place on earth during the Tribulation. It's a stretch to read that into this verse (in the word "amen") but some do.***

### **III. THE FOURTH ALLELUIA – VS. 5-6**

***A. Called "The Final Alleluia of the Great Multitude"***

***B. This alleluia is introduced by a "voice [from] out of the throne" – it doesn't say whether this is an angel or the Lord Himself, but it is more probable that it is an angel because part of the ministry of angels down through time has been to bring praise to God***

Isaiah 6:1-3

(1) In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

(2) Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

(3) And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.

## Psalms 103:20-22

(20) Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

(21) Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

(22) Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.

***C. The call is to "Praise our God" – the tense of this verb is present, which means the command is to "keep on praising" the Lord***

***D. The call is to "all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great"***

1. That is, all his servants – saints of all ages, of all places, of all times; along with all the created angelic beings
2. It is these that are referred to as fearing Him – the phrase "and ye that fear him" isn't referring to a separate group but rather is descriptive of His servants
3. "Both small and great" – no matter who they were (man or angel), no matter who they will be in the Millennium, reigning with Christ, all are to give God the praise

***E. They all join together – more than likely, all the Tribulation saints from the first alleluia, the 24 elders and the 4 beasts from the third alleluia, all combine together to form one great voice crying "Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth"***

1. This is pointing to what is about to happen with Jesus coming back as King of kings and Lord of lords to rule the earth – He is the Lord God and He is omnipotent (all-powerful)

2. This will be the greatest song ever heard

Interestingly, of all the songs in the Book of Revelation, not one is a solo. The twenty-four elders sing and cast their crowns before His feet, the united voices of countless angels resound, every living creature in heaven and earth and under the earth and all that is in them are joined in one song. Those who are victorious over the beast are given harps and a song to sing. In every case multitudes of people or angels unite in the same song with absolute unity.

Graham Kendrick. Leadership, Vol. 15, no. 2.

**Conclusion:** Although these praises are given by the saints and created beings in heaven, why not praise Him now? Why not sing those Alleluias for who Jesus is today? We would be far less likely to be depressed with circumstances of life if we took more time to praise Him.

#### [Psalms 150:1-6](#)

(1) Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

(2) Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

(3) Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

(4) Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

(5) Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

(6) Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.