

## Group Study #2 THE MESSIAH

**Read:** Revelation 17-19

**Truth:** Jesus will avenge the blood of the saints, apostles, prophets and his bondservants by pronouncing judgment against Babylon, and her smoke will rise forever and ever. Hallelujah!

One of the greatest sections of Revelation is when the prostitute, the great city which is Babylon, is ultimately judged and destroyed by Jesus. Finally, Jesus gives justice to the martyrs in White Robes, saints, apostles, prophets, and his bondservants throughout history. On that day, there will be much rejoicing in heaven, and we will be rejoicing too.

*Revelation 19:1-2 (NASB) After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation, glory, and power belong to our God, <sup>2</sup>BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great prostitute who was corrupting the earth with her sexual immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER."*

*Revelation 19:6 (NASB) Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters, and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns."*

You have staked your whole life on God. You have led your spouse, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to believe and follow the commands of God. Now, after a lifetime of following God, an evil regime takes over your land, destroys the men of your family and enslaves your wives and children. You will cry out to God, "Give me justice!" Imagine the day you receive justice for all the evil done to you and your family. This is a horrific story that has been carried out many times throughout history. Jesus returns to give justice to His people for all the evil that has been done to them since the beginning. There will be much rejoicing in heaven on that day!

Since Jesus brings justice, we can forgive everyone who has wronged us. We forgive them and give them over to Jesus to collect the debt that is owed to us. Understanding what Jesus is accomplishing when he returns helps us understand how we can actually live out Romans 12:9-21,

*Love must be free of hypocrisy. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor, <sup>11</sup> not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup> rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, <sup>13</sup> contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. <sup>17</sup> Never repay evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all people. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people. <sup>19</sup> Never take your own*

*revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written: "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM; IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS ON HIS HEAD." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Question:

1. How can you have peace knowing that Jesus will bring justice?
2. What is stopping you from forgiving people who have wronged you?