

January 30, 2021

## 9. In Awe in Worship — **Revelation 19:1-10, NRSV**

I love to go to parties. Parties symbolize a good time and celebration. We have birthday parties because we are celebrating another year of life. We have graduation parties to celebrate those who have completed a certain level of education. Parties are a sign of celebration. I have recently found myself thinking of worship in this same way.

In Revelation 19:1–10, we have the great hymn of praise that glorifies God. Look at the reasons for praising God: the deliverance of those who are oppressed, God's goodness and power, the defeat of their enemies. Michael Pahl makes an important point that the book of Revelation contains visions of the "ultimate ending" (S&L, p. 50). The ultimate ending was not yet a reality for the original audience of the passage. It is not yet the reality for us today. We continue to live in a world filled with violence, oppression, and injustice, seemingly in the very air we breathe. Why then does this passage from Revelation gush with praise for God? Why does celebration come to mind when we read this text?

When we worship, remember that we are entering into a posture of celebration. Though the vision in Revelation has yet to be realized, the worship described in this passage is still one of celebration because of the deliverance *that will come one day*. When we worship as faith communities, we celebrate both what God has done *and* what God will do. Our worship of God is an act of celebration.

Right now, it seems that we do not have much to celebrate. We are still in a global pandemic. The sins that plague our society are even more prevalent as the pandemic rages on. We have had to change the way we worship to keep each other safe. Though we are living in difficult days with difficult circumstances, when we enter worship we enter a time of celebration. Worship helps us remember the promise that God has made to God's people. These promises extend to us as we have been grafted into this community through Jesus Christ.

Consider these questions as you study Revelation 19 this week:

- What reasons do you have to celebrate right now?
- How has worship helped you get through this difficult time?

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## Resources for this session

Looking for participant guide page numbers in the leader guide? The page numbers in the leader guide work for both guides.

An **S&L Reproducible** is available for this session at [www.MennoMedia.org/salt-light-supplements](http://www.MennoMedia.org/salt-light-supplements)

**Salt & Light Videos** are great for leader preparation or introducing each weekly session. Pastor Jennifer Davis Sensenig of Harrisonburg, Virginia, is the presenter for unit 2. The videos are now closed captioned, free, and available on [MennoMedia's YouTube channel](#).