

# Revelation 19:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

## Analysis

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**And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These...** This verse from Revelation's vision of hallelujah chorus, marriage supper, christ's return - final victory, word of god rides forth employs apocalyptic imagery rich with Old Testament allusions and symbolic meaning. The Greek text uses vivid apocalyptic language characteristic of Jewish prophetic literature, drawing heavily from Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Zechariah.

The symbolism must be interpreted within its first-century context while recognizing timeless spiritual realities. The imagery would resonate powerfully with persecuted believers facing Roman imperial cult worship, providing hope that despite present suffering, Christ reigns sovereign and will consummate His kingdom. The apocalyptic genre uses symbolic numbers (seven, twelve, 144,000), colors, beasts, and cosmic imagery to convey theological truth rather than photographic descriptions.

Christologically, Revelation consistently exalts Jesus as the victorious Lamb, the faithful witness, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Every vision ultimately points

to Christ's supremacy, His finished redemptive work, and His certain return to judge the living and dead and establish the new creation.

## Historical Context

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John received this revelation circa AD 95 during Domitian's persecution, exiled on Patmos for his testimony. The seven churches of Asia Minor faced increasing pressure to participate in emperor worship and pagan religious practices. Refusal meant economic hardship, social ostracism, and potential martyrdom. Understanding this context illuminates Revelation's encouragement to faithful endurance.

The apocalyptic genre was familiar to first-century Jewish and Christian readers. Rather than newspaper-style predictions, apocalyptic literature uses symbolic imagery to reveal spiritual realities behind earthly events, encourage the faithful, warn the unfaithful, and assert God's ultimate sovereignty over history. Parallels with Daniel, Ezekiel, and intertestamental apocalyptic writings would help original readers decode the symbols.

Rome's imperial cult demanded worship of Caesar as divine, placing Christians in impossible situations—compromise their faith or face persecution. Revelation identifies Rome as "Babylon" and assures believers that despite appearances, the Lamb conquered through His death and resurrection, and all earthly kingdoms will submit to His reign.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does Revelation 19:20 reveal God's character, particularly His sovereignty, holiness, and justice?

2. What specific encouragement or warning does this verse offer for maintaining faithful Christian witness amid cultural pressure?
3. How does this passage point to Christ's victory and the hope of new creation, and how should that shape your present priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἐπιάσθη	τὸ	θηρίου	καὶ	μετὰ	τούτου	ὁ
<b>And</b>	<b>was taken</b>	G3588	<b>of the beast</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>with</b>	<b>him</b>	G3588
G2532	G4084		G2342	G2532	G3326	G5127	
ψευδοπροφήτης	ὁ	ποιήσας	τὰ	σημεῖα	ἐνώπιον	αὐτοῦ	
<b>the false prophet</b>	G3588	<b>that wrought</b>	G3588	<b>miracles</b>	<b>before</b>	<b>him</b>	
G5578		G4160		G4592	G1799	G846	
ἐν	οἷς	ἐπλάνησεν	τοὺς	λαβόντας	τὸ	χάραγμα	
<b>with</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>he deceived</b>	G3588	<b>them that had received</b>	G3588	<b>the mark</b>	
G1722	G3739	G4105		G2983		G5480	
τοῦ	θηρίου	καὶ	τοὺς	προσκυνοῦντας	τῇ	εἰκόνι	αὐτοῦ
G3588	<b>of the beast</b>	<b>And</b>	G3588	<b>them that worshipped</b>	G3588	<b>image</b>	<b>him</b>
	G2342	G2532		G4352		G1504	G846
ζῶντες	ἐβλήθησαν	οἱ	δύο	εἰς	τὴν	λίμνην	τοῦ
<b>alive</b>	<b>were cast</b>	G3588	<b>These both</b>	<b>into</b>	G3588	<b>a lake</b>	G3588
G2198	G906		G1417	G1519		G3041	
πυρὸς	τὴν	καιομένην	ἐν	τῷ	θείῳ		
<b>of fire</b>	G3588	<b>burning</b>	<b>with</b>	G3588	<b>brimstone</b>		
G4442		G2545	G1722		G2303		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 20:10** (Prophecy): And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

**Revelation 21:8** (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

**Revelation 14:10** (Parallel theme): The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

**Isaiah 30:33** (Parallel theme): For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

**Revelation 17:12** (Parallel theme): And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

**Genesis 19:24** (Parallel theme): Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

**Deuteronomy 29:23** (Parallel theme): And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath:

**Revelation 22:15** (Parallel theme): For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

**Isaiah 34:9** (Parallel theme): And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch.

**Psalms 11:6** (Parallel theme): Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.