

Rejoicing in heaven

Revelation 19

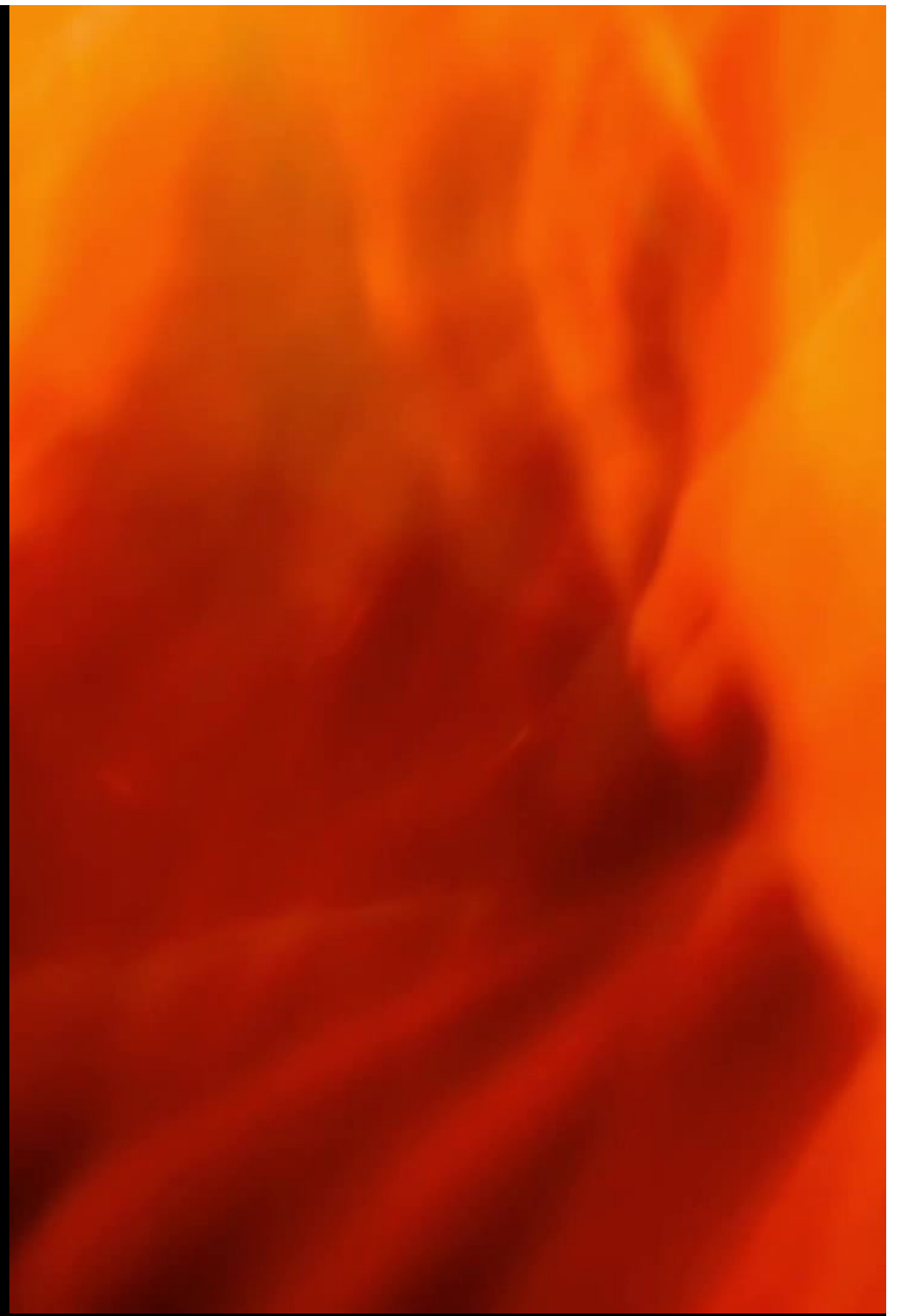


People are made for worship

- But who or what do you worship?
- Worshipping material things—
idolatry
- Worshipping yourself—expressive
individualism

Revelation 19

- Worship in heaven vv 1-10
- The one we worship vv 11-16
- The outcome of wrong worship vv 17-21





Worship in heaven vv 1-10

- Worship is
 - Loud! vv 1, 3, 6
 - Joyful v 7
 - Offering praise v 5
 - Giving glory to God alone v 7

‘Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters’

Colossians 3:23

Worship in heaven vv 1-10

- Worship is focused on God and the Lamb v 7
 - Powerful and glorious v 1
 - Saves his people v 1
 - Just and true, and judges evil vv 2, 3
 - Reigns v 6
 - Adopts the church vv 7-8
 - Invites v 9

Worship in heaven vv 1-10

- Mistaken worship v 10
 - Mistaking the messenger for the sender
 - ‘the testimony of Jesus’—he is the centre of God’s purposes



The one we worship vv 11-16

- Echoes of Jesus in Revelation 1
 - Eyes v 12; note 1:14
 - Robe v 13; note 1:13
 - Sword from mouth v 15; note 1:16

The one we worship vv 11-16

- New things too
 - Many crowns v 12; note v 16
 - Makes war with his sword/word vv 11, 15
 - Roman *ius gladii* = 'right of the sword'
 - But no physical battle here vv 15, 21; note Isaiah 55
 - Response to the word is decisive v 15; note Psalm 2:9



The outcome of false worship

vv 17-21

- Bird of the air called to pick meat of bodies vv 17-18

Son of man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says:
'**Call out to every kind of bird** and all the wild animals: "Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There **you will eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls**—all of them fattened animals from Bashan. At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, **you will eat fat till you are glutted and drink blood till you are drunk. At my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,**" declares the Sovereign LORD.'

Ezekiel 39:17-20

The outcome of false worship

vv 17-21

- Bird of the air called to pick meat of bodies vv 17-18; note Ezekiel 39:17-20
- The defeat of the beast and his false prophet v 20; Rev 13; 16:13
- The defeat of those who follow the beast vv 20, 21
- Victory through Jesus' suffering on the cross v 13

We are made for worship

- Let's be wholehearted worshippers
- Let's focus on the one we worship
- Let's enable others to become worshippers

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