

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD STUFF, Part One Studies in the Revelation

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God."
Revelation 19:1

WHY THE HALLELUJAH?

Salvation and Glory and Power belong to our God:

"Yours, O LORD, is the (1) greatness and the (2) power and the (3) glory and the (4) victory and the (5) majesty, indeed (6) everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the (7) dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all."
1 Chronicles 29:11

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, (what) reigns."
Revelation 19:6

HOW DID JESUS DESCRIBE ALL OF THIS?

Three Stories, One Message: The Lost Sheep

"What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, (doing what) rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, (why) for I have found my sheep which was lost!'"
"I tell you that in the same way, there will be more (what) joy (where) in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."
Luke 15:4-7

Three Stories, One Message: The Lost Coin

Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, (why) for I have found the coin which I had lost! In the same way, I tell you, there is (what) joy (where) in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."
Luke 15:8-10

Primary Point One

The Father (Jesus) does all the work to reconcile Himself with what was lost. Then, when the reconciliation is complete and that "which was lost is found," there is great rejoicing on the part of the Father over what has been accomplished.

Three Stories, One Message: The Prodigal Son

Act One: The Prodigal Son

And He said, "A man had two sons.

"The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them.

"And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.

"Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished.

"So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

"And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.

"But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, (1) I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; (2) I am no longer worthy to be called your son; (3) make me as one of your hired men."'
Luke 15:11-19

Act Two: The Father

"So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father (1) saw him and (2) felt compassion for him, and (3) ran and embraced him and (4) kissed him.

"And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to (who) his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the (1) best robe and put it on him, and put a (2) ring on his hand and (3) sandals on his feet; and bring the (4) fattened calf, kill it, and let us (5) eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate
Luke 15:20-24

"best robe" _____

"ring" _____

"sandals" _____

"fattened calf" _____

The Prodigal Son Suite

By Keith Green

Primary Point Two

The Father (Jesus) is the One who bears the sinner's reproach. He invites repentant sinners to come to Him for rest, and He embraces all who do come. He has an endless supply of mercy and is eager to forgive. He replaces the rags of our sin with His perfect robe of righteousness. He offers forgiveness, honor, authority, and full access to all His riches, and the full right to pray in His name, to those who come to Him.

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." John 6:37

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, (why) so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; (why) for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Isaiah 61:10

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Act Three: The Elder Brother

"Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

"And he summoned (who) one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.'

"But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

"And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, (why) for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'" Luke 15:25-32

I was done hoeing, out in the fields for the day,
I was thinking of going, I had to leave right away,
My life is just fading, and oh I felt so alone,
The nearest young maiden was, a full days ride from home.

My father was reading, the holy books in his room,
My heart was just bleeding, I knew I had to go soon,
He smiled and pointed to an old wooden chair,
I wanted to hold him, but then I just wouldn't dare.

I said, "Father, there's so much to know,
There's a world of things to see,
And I'm ready to go and make a life for myself.
If you give me what is mine,
I will go, if I can have your blessing,
But if you won't bless my journey, I'm gonna leave anyway."

"Son, I've always tried my best for you,
And if you must be leaving home, then go with the blessing of God."

Not too many days later, I was well on my way,
I met a travelling stranger, who seemed to have much to say,
He told me tales of the city, and all the women he'd had,
I asked him, "Wasn't that sinful?"
He said, "No, it isn't that bad."
And then a few days later, on an old city road,
We were drowning in laughter, and we had women to hold,
And this went on for a long time, my father gave me a lot,
But when my pockets were empty, my friends all left me to rot.

Then a famine hit and drained the land,
Everywhere I looked I saw starvation, and a job was nowhere to find,
I wandered through the city streets,
Competing for the food of common beggars,
Until then I'd never known hunger, but now I wasn't too proud.

I finally found some employment, feeding pigs on a farm,
I wasn't treated to kindly, I had to sleep in the barn,
I had to eat with the swine,
The bread I ate was like stone,
It didn't take too much time until, I was dreaming of home.

Oh, the servants there are better fed,
If I could only have what my father gives them,
I would truly need nothing more.

Oh, I will go and say to him,
"I'm no longer worthy to be in your family,
Will you take me as your servant, and let me live with them."

It didn't take too long to pack my things,
I left with only what I wore,
And I prayed that I still had a home.

I was near home, in sight of the house,
My father just stared, dropped open his mouth,
He ran up the road, and fell to my feet, and cried, and cried.

"Father I've sinned, heaven's ashamed,
I'm no longer worthy to wear your name,
I've learned that my home is right where you are,
Oh father, take me in."

"Bring the best robe, put it on my son,
Shoes for his feet, hurry put them on,
This is my son who I thought had died,
Prepare a feast for my son's alive,
I've prayed and prayed, never heard a sound,
My son was lost, oh thank you God he's found,
My son was dead and is now alive,
Prepare a feast for my son's alive,

My son was dead,
My son was lost,
My son returned in the hands of God."