

WORSHIP SERVICE - 3.20.2022

THE RETURN OF THE KING

I. INTRODUCTION

MAIN POINT: We need to capture a vision of the glory of the returning and triumphant King that will fuel our worship, obedience, and devotion to him.

Revelation 19:11-21

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

II. THE DIVINE WARRIOR

- **Four characteristics of the Divine Warrior**

1. HIS EMBLEMS

a. Mounted on a white horse

11a Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse!

- White in Rev. is a symbol of righteousness, purity, or the reward for purity.
- First century readers would have understood the reference of a white horse as a symbol of victory and military conquest.

- Jesus is the one seated upon the white horse—he is the conquering warrior.

b. Eyes like a flame of fire

12a His eyes are like a flame of fire,

- John’s vision of the glorified Son of Man, 1:14 “his eyes were like a flame of fire.”
- 2:18 To the church in Thyatira, Jesus writes, “The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire,”
- What does that signify? His role as Divine Judge.
- He perfectly sees all things, knows all things, rightly discerns everything.
- Nothing can escape his penetrating gaze. Nothing is hidden from his eyes (Heb. 4:13).
- He is omniscient.

c. On his head are many diadems

12b and on his head are many diadems

- We saw in ch12, the red dragon wearing seven diadems. This represented his false claim of sovereignty over the earth (Rev. 12:3,9).
- In ch13 we saw the beast that rises out of the sea wearing ten diadems on its horns. (Rev. 13:1)
- It was common for kings to wear their diadems even into battle. They were more like cloth headbands than solid crowns, and each diadem would signify a place that was ruled.
- Christ has an unspecified amount of diadems.
- His kingship is eternal. His rule is universal.
- This should make us consider his supreme and universal authority. When the King issues a command, we are to respond with instant obedience.

d. Clothed in a robe dipped in blood

13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood

- Why dipped in blood? It is because of his divine role of executing judgment.
- In v15 we see that he treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God.
- This is a fulfillment of OT prophecy regarding the final battle.
- **Isaiah 63:1-3** Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” 2 Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? 3 “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel.
- This can also be taken as a reference to how he conquered his enemies at his first coming through the shedding of his blood on the cross.
- When he returns, he will shed the blood of his enemies.
- See Christ for WHO he is! He is the Divine Warrior.
- Before the final battle even takes place, victory is already assured.
- His emblems declare his universal sovereignty, absolute divinity, and guaranteed triumph over his enemies.

2. HIS NAMES

a. Faithful and True

12b The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True

- Jesus has been called in Revelation the faithful and true witness. (Rev. 1:5; 2:14)
- These words are actually synonymous. They speak to his reliability.
- He will be faithful and true to fulfill his promise to judge the wicked, and to vindicate his saints.
- In the earlier passages, he was faithful and true concerning his witness to the Father.
- In this passage, it is not concerning his witness. That word is dropped.
- At his second coming, it is not a time to witness, the time for testimony is past.
- Christ, who is Faithful and True, will execute judgment down to the very last detail.
- It is because Christ is Faithful and True that John says 'in righteousness he judges and makes war.'
- No one can refute his divine justice.

b. The Word of God

- 13b and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.
- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- Jesus is the living revelation of God. He is God's self-disclosure.
- You won't know anything about God unless you read about him here in the pages of your Bible.

- Here in Revelation, The Word of God is a revelation of God in his judicial role.
- He is the Word of God, communicating with divine authority, the judgment he has come to render.
- He will make God known to all of those who have refused to believe what God has said about himself in the person of Jesus Christ.

c. King of kings and Lord of lords

16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

- Jesus is King over all!
- This title was applied to Christ in Rev. 17:14 where it was used to speak of the Lamb being the King of kings.
- There is no mistake, the returning King is Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.
- This title is a superlative.

d. Mystery Name

12c and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.

- This is a secret name known only to Christ.
- What does this tell us? It points to the divinity of Christ.
- We could never know everything there is to know about God. God is infinite. He is transcendent.
- This name may be made known in association with his second coming.
- In one of the promises Jesus makes in the letter to Pergamum, he writes, "to the overcomer he will give a white stone, with a new name

written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.”
(Rev. 2:17)

- In ch22 we read in the new heavens and the new earth, that Christ’s name will be on the forehead of his servants who worship him.
- For some, Christ will reveal his name because they have been brought into a saving relationship with Him and will have eternal life.
- For others, Christ will reveal his name only through an experience of judgment, and Christ’s name will remain unknown until the judgment occurs.
- His names declare his universal sovereignty, absolute divinity, and guaranteed triumph over his enemies.

3. HIS MISSION

15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron.

15b He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

- These statements are all in fulfillment of OT prophecy. (Psalm 2)
- **Isaiah 11:4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- This sharp sword comes from his mouth. John saw that in the opening vision. (Rev. 1:16) and it is how Christ introduced himself in his letter to the church in Pergamum (Rev. 2:12)
- The instrument of judgment, the weapon that will strike down every single one of his foes, is his spoken word. His word of judgment.
- The Word will speak and his Word will instantaneously perform his command of judgment.
- His mission declares his universal sovereignty, absolute divinity, and guaranteed triumph over his enemies.

4. HIS ARMY

14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

- Who compromises this army of heaven that is following the King?
- Are these angels? Other passages in the NT reflect that angelic armies will accompany Christ in executing final judgment. (Matt. 13:40-42; 16:27; 24:30-31; 25:31-32)
- These armies, however, are not angels, but the saints, the followers of the Lamb.
- We saw in another parallel vision of final judgment in ch17 that at the final battle those who accompany the Lamb are ‘called and chosen and faithful’ (Rev. 17:14)
- This is the bride of the Lamb which we saw at the beginning of ch19 who was granted to clothe herself with fine linen, bright, and pure (Rev. 19:8).
- To the one who overcomes, Jesus said, they would walk with him in white and be clothed in white garments (Rev.3:4-5).
- Are they going to be part of this battle?
- Jesus will be doing all of the fighting.
- What do we contribute to the final battle? Nothing at all.
- We will watch and worship the Divine Warrior.
- Our mere presence at the final battle will be further evidence condemning all who persecuted the church and rebelled against the Lamb.
- Christ will triumph by himself but he will not be by himself—his army will follow him.

- His army declares his universal sovereignty, absolute divinity, and guaranteed triumph over his enemies.

- **Is this how you see Jesus?**

III. THE FINAL BATTLE

AN INVITATION TO THE BATTLE

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."

- There is a dinner invitation extended by an angel standing in the sun.
 - This is a graphic and gruesome picture.
 - It's a parody of the marriage supper of the Lamb where the invited were the saints of God (Rev. 19:9).
 - This one is called the great supper of God. And the invited are birds and the menu consists of the flesh of the inhabitants of the earth killed in the final battle.
- What's the point of this symbolic vision?
 - 1. The comprehensiveness of final judgment.
 - None are exempt from God's justice.
- 2. The retributive justice of God.
 - Recall the witnessing church in ch11 who is symbolized by the two witnesses.
 - The beast persecuted the people of God, mocked them, humiliated them, dishonored them, and God is avenging his people.

THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE

19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

- We have seen this already. At the sixth bowl (Rev. 16:14,16)
 - In ch17, the kings of the earth hand over their power to the beast and they make war on the Lamb (Rev. 17:13-14)
 - This is another look at the same event but from a different angle.
 - Here the camera lens is focused on the destruction of the beast and his second in command, the false prophet.
 - The beast will marshal the forces of the world for this battle to once and for all destroy the church of Jesus Christ.
- But what happens? The beast and the false prophet are captured.
 - They were seized. No battle. They were captured and thrown into the lake of fire.
 - What about all those who allied themselves with the beast and the false prophet?
 - They are killed and are feasted upon by birds.

- Is that the end for all human beings?
- No. They will have a resurrection of their own, they will have an appointment with the great white throne for judgment, and they have a reservation with the lake of fire.
- Christ is the Divine Warrior. And He is returning soon!
- Are you ready? Have you submitted yourself to his rule and reign?
- **2 Thess. 1:7-10** describes Christ's return and the final battle. "7 ... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed."
- May you and I be numbered among those who will marvel at our glorious returning King on that day!