

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

The Second Coming of Christ

Revelation 19:11-16

INTRODUCTION:

Because of the brokenness that exists in the world as a result of sin, everyone has experienced injustice in our lives. As Christians we are called to respond to injustice in a certain way. Exercising wisdom and even loving our enemies. The scriptures constantly remind us that we are not to take matters of vengeance into our own hands.

It is knowing that one day, cosmic justice will take place. If you have suffered some sort of injustice by having loved ones, mistreated, imprisoned, or even put to death as so many people around this world have experienced, you can know with assurance that ultimately, that wrong will be avenged by God. They will not get away with the crime.

Hopefully, those who have done wrong will repent and turn to the Lord. The justice for their sin will then fall upon Christ. That is why we must allow God to avenge in His timing.

As with turn to our passage of scripture this morning, this is the very thing that we see. We see that the cry that the martyrs have had “**How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?**” is now being answered.

We saw it initially in the last part of chapter 17 through first part of chapter 19 as the harlot who was corrupting the world with her immorality was judged for her wicked deeds.

In this chapter we will see Christ return and in His return He will bring judgment upon the beast from the sea and the beast from the earth who is the false prophet.

With that in mind, our passage for this morning is...

All Stand and Read Scripture

Revelation 19:11-16 (NASB)

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of

iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, we thank You for Your word that you have preserved for us. Help us to hear and understand the truths that are embedded in those pages. Allow these words to work through us and bear much fruit for You. Help me to present this message with clarity and accuracy that Your Son may be glorified.

We thank You for Your **Holy Spirit** that You have allowed to dwell within us and protect us from the deceitfulness of evil. Help us to listen for Your Spirit's guidance in our lives so that we will truly understand the difference between the temporary pleasures that are offered by Satan and the eternal truths and promises that are given by You.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Hopefully all of you, by this time, understand that the visions that we read in Revelation are not meant to be read and interpreted literally. In other words, the things that John "sees" and writes down are not actually the way they will appear. Instead the visions that he sees are meant to communicate certain truths to his audience. We have seen this all throughout the book of Revelation.

For example, at the sounding of the fifth trumpet, we saw these locust like creatures that had tails like scorpions. This does not mean that there will be a trumpet sound and then these locust like creatures will immerge and start coming after non-believers. We understand that that image is given to John in order to communicate to us the reality that these demonic forces that will torment unbelievers throughout this age is very painful. It stings like a scorpion. That is the type of anguish that is brought upon those who are not sealed with the name of God upon their foreheads.

Another key example of this is by all of the images that we see of the Lord Jesus Christ. In chapter 1, John initially sees Jesus and describes Him this way.

Revelation 1:13-16 (NASB)

¹³ and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

That vision was communicating all sorts of wonderful things to his audience about the character and nature of the risen Lord Jesus.

Then John describes Jesus again in chapter 5 as a Lamb.

Revelation 5:6 (NASB)

⁶ And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

Then in chapter 14 he describes Jesus again.

Revelation 14:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud *was* one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

We could point out many more. Every time we encounter the risen Lord we are given a different vision concerning His nature in order to meet the needs of the audience.

So it is not that Jesus is trying to trick us by disguising Himself in different ways. But He is appearing in different visionary forms in order to communicate different realities about Himself and His work.

The youth group discovered this reality when we came up with a list of names and titles for Jesus in the Bible. We ended up with 385 different names and titles. This all shows the many roles that Jesus fulfills for us. He was our Creator, the Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Word, our Cornerstone, the Light of the World, the Lamb of God, our Savior, and much, much, more.

Now in chapter 19 John sees a new vision as he sees Jesus coming as **a divine warrior on a white horse** at the end of the age.

BODY:

I. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

Revelation 19:11 (NASB)

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

John sees heaven opened and a white horse with a Man sitting on it. The Rider is called **Faithful and True**. Just in case we are confused on why He is coming He says "**in righteousness He judges and wages war**".

So the theme of war and judgment in connection with the return of Christ are stated for us right from the very beginning. The first time Jesus came, He came giving grace. A grace that can give us salvation. But this time He is coming as a Man of war bringing judgment.

He is seated on a white horse. This has a symbolic meaning. It does not mean pick a horse out of the stable and ride it. A white horse in John's time indicated military victory. When a battle was won, the leader of the victory would celebrate by riding back into his city on a white horse.

So here John sees Jesus coming to make war and bring judgment. This white horse symbolizes that the victory had already been won even before the battle began. The outcome of the war had already been decided.

The turning point of the book of Revelation takes place in chapter 12 after the seventh trumpet was sounded. In chapter 12 we were introduced to the first of our spiritual enemies as believers. That enemy was the **red dragon** which the scriptures tell us is

Satan. In that vision John sees this battle that takes place in heaven. The **red dragon and his angels** waging war against **Michael, the archangel, and his angels**. The outcome of this battle was that Satan and his angels were cast down to the earth where he went into angry pursuit of the church (the woman who fled into the wilderness and got carried away on the wings of eagles). We know from chapter 12 that the outcome of that cosmic battle was actually decided on the cross at Calvary. By virtue of that victory on Calvary, Satan and his angels were cast down from heaven. They were no longer allowed to have the access to heaven that they previously had under the old covenant.

Remember the book of Job where Satan would come before God and continuously make accusations against God's people? **No longer! He has been cast down!** Now all of Satan's energy is geared toward assaulting and attacking the church. But the outcome of the war has already been decided on Calvary.

As such what we find here is the final battle of that war. As Christ is actually coming to execute this sentence on not only the dragon which we will see in the next chapter, but also the harlot from a couple of previous chapters and the beast that came up out of the sea and the beast that came up out of the land which is the false prophet in this chapter.

So this is Christ coming to execute these judgments. It is worth noting that, in doing so, John is given two similar visions. Visions that are both depicting this last battle. One, in chapter 19 and one in chapter 20. The **first** vision on this battle is found in chapter 19. It is **focusing in on the beast and the false prophet**. Whereas in chapter 20, the focus of the battle is the **defeat of the red dragon, or Satan**.

Yet both of these battles are showing us the same battle. They are just focusing in on different characters in the battle. It all goes back to that whole theme of recapitulation. There is an event taking place and in that event there are certain characters, or certain focuses within that event that are being shown.

ILLUSTRATION:

This is no different than what we experience on TV when we watch a Royals ballgame.

- At times the camera is focused on the pitcher,
- other times on the batter,
- other times on the parents of the batter sitting in the stands,
- other times on a replay of a challenged call on the field,
- other times replaying a home run that just took place,
- other times on a person in the stands who caught a foul ball,
- other times on celebrities or former MLB baseball players.

All of these things are going on during the game sometimes even at the same time, but the camera is focused on just one thing at a time. They are looking at the game from different perspectives.

That is what is going on here. Here the vision is focused on the two beasts and in the next chapter, the vision will be focused on the red dragon. It is important that we keep this in mind as we work through these visions because there is a **whole** lot of recapitulation taking place. **It is not that Jesus comes back 4, 5, 6, or 7 times, it is a recapitulation of one event showing His coming and the different events associated with it from different perspectives.**

That being said, our focus, at this point, is on the Lord coming as a Man of war at the end of the age to avenge His people and bring judgment upon His enemies.

So what do we see concerning Christ in these visions?

II. THE NAMES OF CHRIST.

First we see the **NAMES** by which He is called.

He is called "**Faithful and True**" and "**The Word of God**" and on His robe He has the name written "**King of Kings, and Lord of Lords**". What all of these names do is they identify Him as sovereign over all of creation. He has created all things and He does all things according to God's will, which is His will as well. For His will is His Word! This is how He is being revealed!

These names highlight just how powerful and how trustworthy the Lord is! This is the VERY THING that His people need to know. The people during John's time, those of us who are alive today, and everyone else who is trying to serve Him throughout the ages.

John is writing to the "seven churches" who represent all of the churches during these last days of **tribulation** (the days between Christ's first and second coming").

Revelation 1:9 (NASB)

9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance *which are in Jesus,*

John is telling us here that the tribulation had already begun when he saw and wrote down this revelation from Jesus.

So what is it that we need to know amongst this time of tribulation? What is it that we need to know amidst all of the hardships and persecution and mocking and ridiculing?

We need to know that God is **able and faithful** to **do** all He has said He will do. So as He comes, these are the names that He is adorned with. These names **highlight** these very truths and realities for His people.

III. THE DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST.

We are told that His eyes are like a "**flame of fire**". We have seen this before in Chapters 1 and 2. It tells us that nothing escapes the piercing gaze of the Lord.

ILLUSTRATION:

It may appear to those on earth that they can sin by stealing, or lying, or murdering, or cheating and get by with it as long as no one catches them doing them. But nothing escapes the notice of God.

Then we are told that "**on His head are many diadems**". Diadems are crowns. This speaks of the vastness of His rule.

Ephesians 1:19b-21 (NASB)

19 ...*These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might* *20* *which He*

brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Then we are told that "**He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself**". Although God has revealed many things about Himself, there is so much more that is unknowable about Him. There is a significant difference between the Creator and His creation.

Romans 11:33-36a (NASB)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? ³⁵ Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

We cannot grasp or understand everything about our God. He is so much bigger and more powerful than anything that we can comprehend within our minds. So He has a name that no one knows except Himself.

Then we are told that "**He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood**". This is previewing the blood of the enemies that are going to be slaughtered when they face the Word of God. We saw this back in Chapter 14 when John was describing "**the great winepress of the wrath of God**".

Revelation 14:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered *the clusters from* the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of sixteen hundred stadia.

Lastly we are told that "**from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations**". The context to this is clearly judgment and not salvation. We see this later where this is described not as revival and salvation, but it is described as One Who "**treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God**".

When Christ comes again He will come to judge!

CONCLUSION:

The good news is that those who have believed and followed Christ will not be a part of that judgment. We will be invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. But for those who reject Christ, the entire wrath of God will be put upon them. Justice will finally be served.

Christ died for us so we can be filled with His righteousness by His grace. This restores our relationship to the one and only true God, our Creator! We give glory and honor to Him and Him only. Because anything else is just His creation.

Are you prepared to meet the Lord?

This is the Day!