

The Book Of Revelation Study 91

Revelation 19:11-21 (NASB77)

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

¹² *And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself.*

¹³ *And 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 *And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite 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."*

¹⁷ *And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, " Come, assemble for the great supper of God;*

¹⁸ *in order that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."*

¹⁹ *And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army.*

²⁰ *And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.*

²¹ *And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat upon the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

A century ago most people believed that history was progressing quickly and unquestionably toward a manmade utopia.

The industrial Revolution, the march of scientific discovery, and the increasing pace of social reform seemed to present nothing but brighter days ahead.

Today, however, two world wars, innumerable regional, civil, and national wars; countless acts of terrorism and senseless violence; and the nearly complete collapse of moral values make such rosy optimism seem quaintly naïve.

The Bible teaches that things will be wonderfully better, but only after they become unimaginably worse.

There is only one solution for the world's problems; the return of its true King, The Lord Jesus Christ, to establish absolute monarchy and unilateral authority in His earthly kingdom.

Only under His rule will there be peace instead of war, justice instead of inequity, and righteousness instead of wickedness.

But that glorious event will not occur without fierce opposition from Satan, his demon hordes, and the world of wicked sinners.

The Tribulation, the seven year period immediately before Christ's return, will see the greatest of all human world empires headed by the evil genius known as the Antichrist.

The earth will be infested with demons, those who have been here all along, those cast from heaven with Satan (12:9), and those released from imprisonment during the Tribulation (9:1-10, 14-20).

The Tribulation will also be a time of escalating human wickedness, despite the unprecedented outpouring of God's wrath in the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments.

Stubbornly hardening their hearts against the truth of the gospel, people even then will obstinately refuse to repent (9:20-21; 16:9, 11).

Even the destruction of Antichrist's magnificent capital city of Babylon (chpts. 17-18) will provoke loud laments, but no repentance.

But while chaos and turmoil reigns on earth during the Tribulation, the raptured church will be presented in heaven.

The church, the bride of the Lamb, will be eagerly awaiting the marriage supper of the Lamb in the millennial earth (19:7)

But before that wonderful celebration can take place, the warrior King must win the final battle.

The forces of heaven and hell will meet in climactic slaughter of human history, the Battle of Armageddon.

At that final holocaust, man's day will end, all of Christ's foes will be vanquished, and His kingdom will be established.

God's people throughout redemptive history have eagerly anticipated the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to defeat His foes and set up His kingdom.

That will be the time when the destruction of Satan is completed. (Gen 3:15; Rom 16:20), when the true King receives the ruling scepter (Gen 49:10, when God will establish the throne of David's greater Son (2 Sam. 7:13; Isa 9:7), when the Son will rule the earth with a rod of iron (Ps. 2:6-9), when the armies of God and Magog will be shattered (Ezek. 38-39), when the nations will be judged (Joel 3:1-2, 12-14), after their defeat in battle by the returning King (Zech. 14:3-4, when Jerusalem will be the center of Messiah's kingdom (Zech. 12:3-9), when the angels will gather the wicked for judgment (Matt 13:41-42; 25:41), when the wicked will face God's wrath and indignation (Rom. 2:5-9), When the Lord Jesus Christ will descend visibly (Rev. 1:7) from heaven in flaming fire, bringing retribution on the persecutors of His people (2Thess. 1:6-9, Rev. 6:9-11).

The second coming of Jesus Christ is thus the culmination of redemptive history.

Believers of all ages have eagerly anticipated that glorious event.

Isaiah 64:1-2 (NASB77)

¹ Oh, that Thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down, That the mountains might quake at Thy presence--

² As fire kindles the brushwood, as fire causes water to boil-- To make Thy name known to Thine adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Thy presence!

In fact the Apostle Paul defined Christians;

2 Timothy 4:8 (NASB77)

⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Many believers, however are enamored by the things of the world and do not love Christ's appearing's as they should. Certainly the Tribulation believers will have no such problem. They will be persecuted, hunted outcasts, living constantly under the sentence of death in an unspeakably vile, demon infested world.

Christ's coming will be what they long for and what they pray for.

The second coming of Christ is so important that it makes us aware of several reasons why Jesus must return to earth.

The numerous promises of God in Scripture demand Christ's return

Likewise the promises of Jesus Himself also demand His return

The guarantee of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth is another reason that Jesus must return, since He inspired the New Testament writer to write of Christ's return

God's plan for the Church also necessitates Christ's return. He must take her to heaven to present her in preparation for the marriage supper of the Lamb

Jesus must also return because of God's plan for the nations, their judgment, and for Israel, the salvation of the remnant of believing Jews.

Christ's humiliation at His first coming, when He was scorned, hated, and despised, demands His return to display His glory.

Satan's exaltation is another reason Jesus must return to earth. The god of this world will not be permitted to keep his usurped throne forever.

The rightful Heir to earth's throne must return, defeat the usurper, and take what is rightfully His.

Finally, the hope and expectation of God's people demands that Christ return.

This monumental passage in Chapter 19, may be divided into four sections:

The return of the Conqueror,

The regiments of the Conqueror,

The rule of the Conqueror,

The victory of the Conqueror.

THE RETURN OF THE CONQUEROR

Revelation 19:11-13 (NASB77)

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

¹² And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself.

¹³ And He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.

Here we see **heaven opened** before John's wondering eyes. Heaven opens this time, not to let John in, but to let Jesus out.

The time has come at last for the full, glorious revelation of the sovereign Lord.

This is the time to which all of Revelation (as well as all of redemptive history) has been pointing, the time of which Jesus Himself spoke

Matthew 24:27-31 (NASB77)

²⁷ " *For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.*

²⁸ " *Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.*

²⁹ " *But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken,*

³⁰ *and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.*

³¹ " *And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*

As the dramatic scene unfolds, John stands transfixed, his attention riveted on the majestic, regal, mighty Rider.

Jesus, the One who ascended to heaven, where He has been seated at the Father's right hand, is about to receive the kingdom that he father promised Him.

In an earlier vision, John saw Jesus receive the title deed to the earth:

Revelation 5:1-7 (NASB77)

¹ *And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.*

² *And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?"*

³ *And no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look into it.*

⁴ *And I began to weep greatly, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look into it;*

⁵ *and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."*

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.*

⁷ *And He came, and He took it out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

The Lamb of that vision has become the conquering King.

No longer is Jesus portrayed as He was in His humiliation, "*humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey*" Zech. 9:9

Instead He rides the traditional **white horse** ridden by victorious Roman generals in their triumphal processions through the streets of Rome.

White also symbolizes the spotless, unblemished, absolutely holy character of the Rider.

The **horse** like the crowns, the sharp sword, the rod of iron, and the wine press, is symbolic;

Christ's coming is a reality.

The symbolic language represents various aspects of that reality, Christ's victory over His enemies, His sovereign rule, and His judgment of sinners.

Continuing his description of the astonishing scene before him, John notes that **He who sat on the white horse is called Faithful and True.**

there is no more appropriate name for the Lord Jesus Christ, who earlier in Revelation was called **"the faithful and true Witness (3:14)**

He is faithful to His promises and what He speaks is always true

John 8:45-46 (NASB77)

⁴⁵ *"But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.*

⁴⁶ *"Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?"*

Titus 1:1-2 (NASB77)

¹ *Paul, a bond-servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,*

² *in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,*

Though some would like to pick and choose which teachings of Jesus they wish to accept, He is just as faithful to His promises of wrath and judgment as He is to His promises of grace and salvation.

The description of Jesus is **Faithful and True** and stands in marked contrast with the unfaithfulness and lies of Satan, Antichrist's evil empire, and the wicked people of the world.

Revelation 12:9 (NASB77)

⁹ *And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

Revelation 18:23 (NASB77)

²³ *and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.*

2 Timothy 3:13 (NASB77)

¹³ *But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

The very fact that He is coming again as He promised confirms that Jesus is **Faithful and True.**

Because Jesus is faithful to His word and righteous character, it follows that **in righteousness He judges.**

His holy nature demands a holy, righteous reaction to sin.

And because He always does what He says, He must judge the wicked. (Matt. 16:27; 25:31-46; John 5:22, 27; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Rom. 2:16; 2Thess. 1:7-9; 2Tim. 4:1)

Jesus came the first time as Savior; He will return as Judge.

When He came the first time, wicked people, including Pilate, Herod, Annas, and Caiaphas judged Him; when He returns, He will judge all wicked people;

Acts 17:31 (NASB77)

³¹ because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

He will not only be their Judge but also their executioner. Angels may gather the wicked to judgment, but the Lord Jesus will pass sentence on them.

No longer the Suffering Servant of His incarnation, the Lord Jesus Christ is seen in this vision as the warrior King who **wages war** against His foes.

Jesus adversaries this time will be the hardened sinners who have defied His judgments and scorned the gospel message during the Tribulation.

Jesus will come to these unrepentant wicked people and will destroy them and send them to hell.

Unlike other conquerors the world has seen, covetousness, ambition, pride, or power will not motivate this Conqueror. He will come in utter righteousness, in perfect holiness, and in strict accord with every holy interest.

Heaven cannot be at peace with sin, for God's eyes are too pure to approve evil, and He cannot look on wickedness with favor; (**Heb. 1:13**)

There is a limit to God's patience.

Justice cannot always tolerate injustice; truth cannot forever tolerate lies; rebellion cannot be permitted to go on forever. Incurable, incurable, hardened sinners will face destruction; mercy abused and grace rejected will ultimately bring judgment.

Describing the personal appearance of the majestic, awe-inspiring Rider, John writes that **His eyes are a flame of fire. Nothing** escapes the notice of His penetrating, piercing vision.

He can see into the deepest recesses of the human heart, because **"all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do"** (**Heb. 4:13**)

Those **eyes** that had reflected tenderness and joy as He gathered little children to Himself.

That had reflected compassion when He observed distressed and dispirited people, wandering aimlessly through life like sheep without a shepherd.

That had reflected forgiveness when He restored Peter, who had been crushed by guilt over his shocking denial of his Master.

These eyes that had wept over the fate of unrepentant Jerusalem and over the sorrow suffering and death in this sin-cursed world

These eyes John sees now, flashing with the fire of Judgment.

John noted that on His head He wore **many diadems**, a transliteration of the Greek word *diadema*, which refers to a ruler's crown.

In this case they are worn by Jesus to signify His royal rank and regal authority.

Many indicates His collecting of all the rulers crowns, signifying that He alone is the sovereign ruler of the earth.

Collecting the crown of a vanquished King was customary in the ancient world.

After defeating the Ammonites, David **"took the crown of their king from his head and it was placed on David's head.**

2 Samuel 12:30 (NASB77)

³⁰ Then he took the crown of their king from his head; and its weight was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone; and it was placed on David's head. And he brought out the spoil of the city in great amounts.

Further John notes that Jesus had a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

All speculation as to the meaning of that name is obvious pointless, since the text plainly states that no one knows it except Jesus Himself.

Even the inspired Apostle John could not comprehend it.

Describing the final element of Christ's appearance, John writes that **He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood.**

The blood here is not representative of that which He shed on the cross; this is a picture of judgment, not redemption. The blood is the blood of His slaughtered enemies. The imagery of this passage is similar to that of Isaiah.

Isaiah 63:1-6 (NASB77)

¹ Who is this who comes from Edom, With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

² Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?

³ " I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger, And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My raiment.

⁴ "For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come.

⁵ "And I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; So My own arm brought salvation to Me; And My wrath upheld Me.

⁶ "And I trod down the peoples in My anger, And made them drunk in My wrath, And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth."

The question arises as to why His garments are blood spattered before the battle has begun?. But this is not His first battle but His last.

He has fought for His people throughout redemptive history, and His war clothes bear the stains of many previous slaughters.

At that day, they will be stained as never before when He **"treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty" (v 15)**

That the Rider's name is called **The Word of God** identifies Him unmistakably as the Lord Jesus Christ;

John 1:1 (NASB77)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 (NASB77)

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 John 1:1 (NASB77)

¹What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life--