

The Book Of Revelation Study 92

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.*

This passage in *Chapter 19* is divided into four sections

**The Return Of The Conqueror,
The Regiments Of The Conqueror,
The Rule Of The Conqueror,
The Victory Of The Conqueror.**

We have already studied the first one, the return of the conqueror and so we will begin with the next one

THE REGIMENTS OF THE CONQUEROR

Revelation 19:11-21 (NASB77)

¹⁴ *And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.*

The Lord Jesus Christ will not return alone, but will be accompanied by **the armies which are in heaven (17:14)**

Four divisions make up these glorified troops.

Earlier in chapter 19 the bride of the Lamb (the church) was pictured wearing **fine linen, white and clean** (*v 7-8*) those glorified believers will accompany Christ.

So will the Tribulation believers, who are also pictured in heaven wearing white robes (*7:9*)

The third group is the Old Testament saints, who are resurrected at the end of the Tribulation (*Dan 12:1-2*)

And finally, the holy angels will also accompany Christ (*Matt. 25:31*)

The **white horses** ridden by the heavenly cavalry are not literal horses, any more than those ridden by hell's cavalry in (*9:7 and 16*).

Unlike the Lord Jesus Christ, the heavenly army is unarmed; He alone will destroy His enemies.

The Saints will come not to fight with Jesus, but to reign with Him.

Revelation 20:4-6 (NASB77)

⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

⁵ *The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.*

⁶ *Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

1 Corinthians 6:2 (NASB77)

² *Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?*

These are the regiments of the coming Conqueror.

THE RULE OF THE CONQUEROR

Revelation 19:15-16 (NASB77)

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."*

The rule of the King is described in graphic, powerful imagery.

John notes first that **from His mouth comes a sharp sword.**

The Apostle had seen that **sword** in an earlier vision;

Revelation 1:16 (NASB77)

¹⁶ *And 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.*

Here it was used to defend the church against the onslaught of Satan's forces.

Now it is a **sword** of judgment, the flaming **sword** dealing death to the King's foes.

That the **sword** comes out of **His mouth** symbolizes the **deadly power of Christ's words**.

Once He spoke words of comfort, but now He speaks words of death.

As previously noted, the armies that accompany Christ when He returns carry no weapons. He alone wields the **sword** with which He will slay the wicked.

And Christ will wield that **sword** with deadly effect as He **strikes down the nations**.

His elect, both from the Gentile nations and from Israel, will be preserved;
The wicked He will slaughter instantly.

The dead will include all those gathered for battle at Armageddon;
None will escape
The rest of the world's unredeemed people will be judged and executed at the sheep and goat judgment.

Matthew 25:31-46 (NASB77)

³¹ *"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.*

³² *"And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;*

³³ *and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.*

³⁴ *"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

³⁵ *'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;*

³⁶ *naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'*

³⁷ *"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink?*

³⁸ *'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?*

³⁹ *'And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

⁴⁰ *"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'*

⁴¹ *"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;*

⁴² *for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;*

⁴³ *I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'*

⁴⁴ *"Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'*

⁴⁵ *"Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'*

⁴⁶ *"And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

This follows Christ's return.

This is the final stroke of death in the Day of the Lord (*Isa. 66:15-16; Ezek. 39:1-4, 17-20; Joel 3:12-21; Matt. 25:31-46; 2Thess. 1:6-9; 2:8*)

The stern swift judgment that marks the onset of Christ's kingdom will be the pattern of His rule throughout the Millennium.

During His thousand year reign, **He will rule the nations with a rod of iron** (*12:5; Ps. 2:8-9*); He will swiftly judge all sin and instantly put down any rebellion.

All people will be required to conform to His law or face immediate judgment.

Using the same imagery of ruling **with a rod of Iron**, Jesus promised that believers would rule under Him in the kingdom;

Revelation 2:26-27 (NASB77)

²⁶ *'And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS;*

²⁷ *AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father;*

Now returning to the judgment at the outset of Christ's rule, John writes that **He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.**

That vivid symbol of God wrath comes from the ancient practice of stomping on grapes as part of the wine making process.

The splattering of the grape juiced pictures the pouring out of the blood of Christ's enemies (*14:18-20*)

The image of a **wine press** also portrays judgment in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 63:1-3 (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."*

Joel 3:12-14 also uses the wine press image to depict Messiah's judgment of His enemies:

Joel 3:12-14 (NASB77)

¹² *Let the nations be aroused And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations.*

¹³ *Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.*

¹⁴ *Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*

In a final look at the coming conquering King, John saw in his vision that Christ wore a banner around **His robe and on His thigh** (that is across His chest and hanging down on His upper leg as He rides), on which **He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS"**

This is the third name given to the Lord Jesus Christ in this passage.

First the incomprehensible name of *verse 12* may express the mystery of His essential deity.

Verse 13 calls Him the Word Of God, expressing His incarnation as the Son of God.

And now the name "**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**" expressing His sovereign triumph over all foes and His absolute rule in His soon to be established kingdom.

THE VICTORY OF THE CONQUEROR

Revelation 19:17-21 (NASB77)

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.*

Once again an **angel** plays a key role in one of the end times scenarios described in the Apocalypse.

John saw this **angel standing in the sun;**

That is, in the proximity of the sun, possible in front of it, partially eclipsing it.

He stands in a conspicuous, prominent place to make this important announcement, Evidently the worldwide darkness associated with the fifth bowl (*16:10*) has been lifted, since the **sun** is again visible.

The lifting of that earlier darkness would also explain how the smoke from Babylon's destruction was visible at a distance.

However, darkness will soon blanket the earth again, accentuating the flashing, brilliant glory of the returning Christ (*Matt. 24:29*)

As angels have frequently done in Revelation, **the angel cried out with a loud voice.**

He addresses **all the birds which fly in midheaven** inviting them to feed on the results of the carnage that will shortly ensue.

The angel thus declares Christ's victory before the battle is ever fought.

His invitation to the **birds** is reminiscent of Jesus' words in Matthew;

Matthew 24:27-28 (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.

Luke 17:37 (NASB77)

³⁷ And answering they said to Him, "Where, Lord?" And He said to them, " Where the body is, there also will the vultures be gathered."

The angel commands the birds to come and assemble for the great supper of God.

This will not be the first time birds have feasted on human carrion in Scripture. Concerning the results of judgment on Cush (Modern Ethiopia)

Isaiah 18:6 (NASB77)

⁶ They will be left together for mountain birds of prey, And for the beasts of the earth; And the birds of prey will spend the summer feeding on them, And all the beasts of the earth will spend harvest time on them.

Jeremiah relates that after the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem;

Jeremiah 7:33 (NASB77)

³³ "And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the sky, and for the beasts of the earth; and no one will frighten them away.

Ezekiel also wrote;

Ezekiel 39:17-20 (NASB77)

¹⁷ "And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, 'Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, "Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood.

¹⁸ "You shall eat the flesh of mighty men, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as though they were rams, lambs, goats, and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan.

¹⁹ "So you will eat fat until you are gluttoned, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.

²⁰ "And you will be gluttoned at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war," declares the Lord GOD.

And yet even after the birds have gorged themselves, it will take seven months to bury the remaining corpses

Ezekiel 39:12 (NASB77)

¹² "For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land.

This battle is not a battle at all, for before the battle even begins, the beast and the false prophet will be seized and cast into the lake of fire. Note they will not go through death, but will go there alive. They will be transformed for their destiny.

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

This will be instantaneous. There will be no real battle like the wars we think about. The word will be spoken and it will be done.

Like creation a word was spoken and all came into being
Here a word is spoken and men cease to live.

These sobering words and truths serve as a warning to unbelievers to repent

But also these words were given so the believers would be stimulated to godly living

2 Peter 3:11 (NASB77)

¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

The night is almost gone, and the day is near

Romans 13:12-14 (NASB77)

¹² The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

¹³ Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.

¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.