

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Cornerstone Church of Alexandria MN

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Message Title: The Battle of Armageddon

Today's Passage: Rev. 19:11-21

Introduction

Verse Eleven

[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.

- John is now standing on earth and looking heavenward. There is a rift in the cosmos or dimensions (however you see it) that allows him to see what is about to come. He sees Jesus seated on a white horse. (Certain of our members appreciate the fact that there are horses in heaven and perhaps by extension other animals as well!)
- The title for the white horse rider, Jesus, is Faithful and True.
 - Think of all the broken promises people are experiencing today, from the macro (stealing of American's Social Security deposits by corrupt politicians) to the micro (broken marriage vows wounding our most vulnerable children).
 - Never again. In the age to come, the ruler of this world is one who has never, will never, cannot ever, break a promise.
 - He is also called True. In a day when we cannot trust the information given to us by the media, as ideologically distorted as the MSM is, and when conspiracy theories abound, aren't you glad that there is one source you can turn to now and in the future that will always tell you the truth? It will never be exaggerated, or spun, or slanted, but will be accurate, dependable, and trustworthy.
 - If you haven't genuinely trusted Christ as Savior and Lord by now, and still haven't by the time you read this, and events have culminated in the world where you are being coerced into taking the mark of the beast because that "new Christ" is promising food, shelter, heat and safety, can you trust him or should you trust the one who is coming called Faithful and True? How will you know which is which? Answer: Look up. Only the True one comes from heaven. The false messiah comes from the pit (and if he is demanding your oath of loyalty at gunpoint, or starvation, you can be assured, this is not the real Messiah. Jesus does not coerce anyone by force to believe in Him).
- Have you heard the expression, "Might makes right"? We know better do we not. Yet the world will be so deceived by the power of the anti-Christ, they will begin to believe he really is the true Messiah. However, his might will be used for murdering and slaughtering innocent people, namely all who get in his way and most of those will be true believers in Jesus. So, he will make war in unrighteousness.
- Our Lord will make war in righteousness. His reasons for battle are pure and He is coming to take vengeance on the blood of the innocents who were killed by the very epitome of evil personified, the "new" but false messiah. (If those evil people who wanted a Lamborghini for selling baby body parts are still alive and unrepentant, then they may just be the first to be killed by a 100 pound hailstone, or

the first to get vaporized by the breath of the Lord when he annihilates the armies of the earth at the battle of Armageddon).

- Meditate on this: Not only does our Lord fight for a just cause, but He has all the power in the universe (even the power behind Satan and the anti-Christ) to win! If your faith is waning, consider these truths to bolster your faith and put an end to your doubts.

Verse Twelve

[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.

- When we see Jesus in his Second Coming, we will see Him as He really is, with eyes like a flame of fire. They will be piercing eyes seeing right through any pretense or hypocrisy. They will be furious with righteous anger towards the wicked. They will be ferocious and fearsome.
- There are multiple crowns upon His head, meaning He has authority over many kingdoms. Which kingdoms are not specified here. (This is the passage that motivated Matthew Bridges to pen the hymn, *Crown Him with Many Crowns*)¹
- Somewhere on His person is emblazoned a name that no one knows but himself. Spurgeon says this is none other than Jesus or Christ or, "the Word of God" seen in the next verse and the thinking goes that no saint can ever plumb the depths of that name. I think he may be on to something here.

Verse Thirteen

[13] He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.

- The white robe Jesus is wearing is already blood-stained, even before He commences the battle of Armageddon. This means that this is not his first foray into judgment and battle. Compare this to Isaiah 63:1-6 which describes the coming Prince dressed for battle in blood-stained garments. This image assures us that Jesus is presently active in defending His saints on earth. Not all retribution for the death of His saints is delayed until the battle of Armageddon.
- Imagine hearing someone say on that day, "The Word of God has come in the flesh!!" Jesus is the Word of God. Not just the 66 books we hold in our hand but more. He is the logos of God.

(John 1:1-2 ESV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

(Hebrews 1:3 ESV) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Verse Fourteen

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

- Not just one army, but many armies are with Jesus. Are you going to be one of them? Will you be a private, or a corporal, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, etc.?
- Notice what your armor is going to be. You will not be wearing a sword (nor

¹ <http://www.sharefaith.com/guide/Christian-Music/hymns-the-songs-and-the-stories/crown-him-with-many-crowns-the-song-and-the-story.html>

equipped with a rifle). Your only armor is fine linen, white and pure. Our weapon against Satan has always been the holiness which God provides through his Spirit. In this life we were armed with the armor of God (belt of truth, shoes to stand firm on the gospel of peace, breastplate of righteousness, helmet of salvation, shield of faith, and sword of the Spirit – Ephesians 6). At the root of each of those pieces of armor and weaponry was prayer- constant prayer and dependency upon the Holy Spirit. It will be the same in that future day as well. Our weapons and defenses will be the holiness which God provides for us.

- Notice also that the saints will be mounted on white horses as well. This indicates that what Jesus has we will have. It is His kingdom and He supplies His saints with glory and honor.
- I believe that this heavenly army is comprised of both angels (for sure, see Zechariah 14:5 and Matthew 16:27 for proof of angelic soldiers) and saints (less sure for saints since there is no other direct biblical reference implying saints will be part of this army, but indirectly the clothes do seem to indicate similar clothing as the bride/wife is wearing in verse 8 of chapter 19).

Verses Fifteen and Sixteen

[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.

- Hebrews 4:12 describes God's word as a sharp sword. Here it is used to accomplish the will of God. The only weapon Jesus needs is the Word spoken by His lips and people will be annihilated instantly. We do not know what words He will choose to use, or what particular Scripture verse He will quote (if there needs to be one) but one thing is sure, the destruction of the armies of the earth is instantaneous. This is not a prolonged battle.
- Note also that the soldiers with Christ, whether angelic only, or angelic and human, do not participate in this destruction. Only Jesus' word is necessary.
- Note also that *only* the armies that have come to the battle of Armageddon are destroyed since whatever is left over from among the nations (those scattered few who remain and who have not taken the mark of the beast and also faithful, protected Israel) are to be ruled over by Jesus with a rod of iron. Righteousness in the millennium will be harshly enforced and outward rebellion quickly punished. Only inward rebellion will be allowed to remain for Satan to inspire at the end of the millennium for one final battle against the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- That Jesus will tread the winepress of the wrath of God indicates to me that the word that comes out of his mouth which will annihilate the wicked of the earth may be instantaneous (or moderately so) but not painless. I can't imagine this being done in a painless way if the description is a winepress and blood flowing like grape juice from that human press.
- The phrase "on his robe and on his thigh" is unclear. Is the title written on both? That would be my guess and some surmised that since he is riding on a horse down from heaven his thigh will be exposed. Cool.
- King of kings and Lord of lords means exactly what it says. He has universal authority over all earthly kings and all earthly lords. There is no authority outside of His. This usually refers to God's authority but 1 Corinthians clears this dilemma up:

For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in

subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Verses Seventeen and Eighteen

[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."

- Having the dead and bloodless bodies of millions of human remains left over after the coming battle (not really a battle since a battle indicates fighting activity on both sides) of Armageddon is a health hazard, so an angel calls for all the carrion birds to gather to a great feast of dead flesh to clean up the mess left over.
- The menu is every category of humanity including kings, generals (captains) mighty (strong) men, horses and their riders, and freemen as well as slaves.
- Everyone who gathered for this battle will be destroyed by the Word of God. Those who did not come and who chose not to receive the mark of the beast will not be on this menu.

Verses Nineteen – Twenty-One

[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.

- The anti-Christ (beast) and the other kings in his coalition will come to fight against the Lord in this final battle. The only way this will not sound absurd on their part is that Jesus will be on earth as will his armies giving the impression that the armies of earth will somehow be able to overcome the armies of heaven since they are on the same plane (this despite the fact Jesus will appear in His heavenly glory).
- Before the breath of the Lord goes out to destroy the beast's armies, somehow the anti-Christ and the false prophet will be captured alive and both will be immediately judged and thrown into the lake of fire or hell. They will be the only residents there for a thousand years. And according to Revelation 20:12, it is safe to say that these two men will be in the lowest section of hell (if elevation equals degree of torture and suffering) alone, enduring the most agonizing physical and mental and emotional torment hell can provide. Remember, hell was not designed for human occupancy, it was designed only for Satan and his angel followers, (see Matthew 25:41), but it will now serve well for both human and demonic punishment.
- The armies that came with the anti-Christ were then annihilated as described above (most likely in a painful way) and their souls were sent to Hades (see Luke 16:19-21) to wait for their eternal judgment that will occur at the Great White Throne Judgment of God described in chapter 20:11-15.