

UNDERSTANDING THAT WEIRD BOOK OF REVELATION - Part twenty-five

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE SECOND COMING (continued)

Revelation 19:1-21 - "After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,[2] for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants." [3] Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever." [4] And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" [5] And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great." [6] Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. [7] Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; [8] it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. [9] And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." [10] Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. [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.

Today we continue with two more truths regarding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ from Revelation chapter 19. They are points three and four in the sequence.

3) **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND THE SUPPER OF GOD**

Revelation 19:11-19 - "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."

Immediately John forces our imaginations to compare the marriage supper of the Lamb with another cataclysmic end-time supper. Remember, the kingdom can't come until all God's enemies are defeated. This end-time confrontation is an absolute necessity. If you believe in the resurrection of Jesus then you must believe in the Second Coming of Jesus. And if you believe that Jesus will come to rule, He must judge all that is opposed to His

reign.

John tells us several important things in very rapid succession:

- a) ***Jesus comes in fulfillment of divine promise - Revelation 19:11 - "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 has already introduced Jesus with these same words in Revelation 3:14 - "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: **The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.**" Here again is highlighted the **rock solid reliability** of our covenant God. Remember John's audience. They were poor and desolate and feeling the heat of Roman persecution along with their beloved John. ***Nothing in their lives looked like it was working right!***

You've been there too. There are elderly saints who have waited a long time for Jesus to come and make things right in this fallen world. We're still waiting. That's the reason John's vision comes across with this majestic returning Christ, and blazoned across the identity of the Rider of the white horse first and up front are the words ***"Faithful and True!"***

- b) ***"His eyes are a flame of fire"(19:12) - This too is a repeat of an earlier vision of Christ - Revelation 1:14 - "The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire...."***

Nothing will escape His knowing. There will be no bluff or excuse that will stand. All of the sham of this fallen world will be laid bare. There will be no argument or pretense.

- c) ***"He has a name written that no one knows but himself"(19:12).*** These are difficult words. I think the best explanation is perhaps the simplest. While there are many names and titles given to Christ in the Revelation, none can fully or accurately convey the power and majesty of our Lord. No name we could read or hear can fully describe the office Christ holds. Perhaps that's why Paul simply says, ***"Pick any name you would like, any name on earth or in heaven - Jesus has been given a name that is far above any of them!" - Philippians 2:9 - "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name...."***

- d) ***The judgment supper of God is initiated by the Word of God administered by Jesus Christ.*** John makes this point repeatedly, in different ways, for emphasis:

Revelation 19:13 - "He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God."

Revelation 19:15 - "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."

Revelation 19:21 - "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."

John has already introduced this concept of the sharp sword of the Word coming out of the mouth of Jesus Christ: **Revelation 1:16 - "In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength."**

Now, unless you're a circus act, swords aren't usually kept in the mouth. And John isn't talking about a **literal** sword in these pictures. He's talking about judgment being administered ***justly and righteously, according to the Word of Almighty God***.

In other words, we're to remember that this judgment was ***repeatedly warned about*** in God's Word. Perhaps even more importantly, we're to remember that this judgment was the result of ***rejecting*** God's Word made flesh. Jesus made this point so clearly in His own teaching:

John 12:46-48 - "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. [47] If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not

come to judge the world but to save the world. [48] The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; *the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.*"

How much does the Word of Christ - that record we have in the gospels and their explanation in the rest of the New testament - how much does it *matter*? There is an apparent *weakness* to the Word of God in our day. People ignore it. Brush it aside. Even Christian for the most part don't pour over it in focused study and memorization. And in almost every detail of our lives it makes virtually no difference.

We need this reminder of heaven's perspective on this same word. This is such an important point. *The word of grace they have rejected becomes the word of judgment by which they are condemned.*

4) THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET JUDGED

Revelation 19:19-21 - "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."

John focuses his attention now on the protagonists in the great end time battle. While all who follow the beast suffer judgment, particular attention is given to the alliance of the *beast*, the *false prophet*, and the *kings of the earth* who have aligned themselves against Christ.

John has already described this alliance in **Revelation 16:13-14** - "And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. [14] For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty."

Because of their role as *initiators* in this rebellion *against* Christ they are singled out with special attention in John's vision. We will see more of their final punishment in the next few chapters.