

Revelation 19:11-21

"Ready Or Not Here I Come"

Revelation is the only book of the bible w/over 18 Ch's of introductory material ☺. Everything from Ch 1 forward has been building up *to* & preparing us *for* the coming again of J.C. to the earth. Let's not forget that this book is called the "Revelation" or the "unveiling" of **J.C.** The very 1st Ch gives us the teaser trailer of what it's about when John writes, *"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,' says the Lord, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'"*¹

From that point forward we're left to look *for* & wonder *about* our Lord's return. We're instructed in His heart for the church, we're brought *into* & privileged to glean *from* some heavenly happenings, we witness God's wrath poured out upon the Christ rejecting world. The A.C. is revealed, Satan's master plan is put in place, the false prophet adds to the deception, the mark of the beast is inaugurated, seal judgments, trumpet judgments, bowl judgments, the sea turns to blood, every living creature in the ocean dies. **The fresh waters of the earth are completely contaminated, hail stones between 60-100lbs pummel the earth, there's warfare, famine, pestilence, religious Babylon is destroyed, commercial Babylon is destroyed & if something doesn't happen fast every living soul will die...**

The stage is set & "ready or not" here Christ comes... returning to the earth in power & glory. Now the plea of Isaiah 64 will be finally fulfilled, *"Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence— As fire burns brushwood, As fire causes water to boil— To make Your name known to Your adversaries, That the nations may tremble at Your presence!"*² Notice...

Vs 11-13

It's hard to read this & not respond w/a "Praise God!" What a glorious, & exciting scene to enter into. The 1st time we saw heaven open in the book of Revelation it was to let the church *in*. There in Ch 4 & Vs 1 John looked, & behold, a door standing open in heaven, & he heard a voice like a trumpet speaking w/him saying, "Come up here, & I will show you the things which must take place after this." But now heaven opens, not to let John *in* but to let Jesus *out*; but before John describes the *conquest*, He describes the *Conqueror*!

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Re 1:7-8). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Is 64:1-2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

“I saw heaven opened, & behold, a white horse.” How awesome is this? No longer is Jesus on a lowly donkey, coming in meek & humble form & fashion. But rather He’s mounted on the warhorse of generals, this is General Jesus! *Back in the biblical era of ancient Israel the vast majority of soldiers were foot soldiers. To have a horse was a significant advantage; there was power, prestige, honor & expediency attached to a horse, the white horse was the horse of victory.*

“& He who sat on him was called Faithful & True.” Back in Ch 6 we saw the false Christ emerging on a white horse, the A.C. he’s the one who would break his covenant w/Israel, who would establish his throne upon lies & deceit. He was unfaithful & false, Jesus is Faithful & True...

Now before we get too far into this allow me to state the obvious; this is what we refer to as the 2nd coming of Christ. This is not us being called up to “meet the Lord in the air”, that is an event (we call the rapture of the church) that is distinguishably different than what we’re seeing here. At the rapture of the church no one will see Jesus, at His 2nd coming *every eye will see Him.* At the rapture of the church (as we just mentioned) we will be called up to the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, at His 2nd coming the bible is clear (Zech 14) that Jesus will touch down upon the Mt of olives & it will split in two and the Lord will rescue Israel from the ravishes of war that are overwhelming them clear up to the day Jesus returns (Zech goes into graphic detail concerning that day)... *In the rapture we’re called up to the Lord; at the 2nd coming we’ll follow from heaven behind the Lord (as we’ll soon see). So let’s not be confused; this is the precursor to the millennial kingdom of Christ that’s to be established upon the earth.*

And He is Faithful... thank God, our Lord is faithful... Think of it like this, if He weren’t faithful you wouldn’t be here today. Jesus is faithful, He’s faithful in every sense of the word. Man will let you down, you can’t always count on man. Solomon spoke a little bit about that, He said, *“Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.” Pr 25:19* It doesn’t do anyone any good & only results in personal pain in your life. That’s not Jesus, Jesus is Faithful.

He’s faithful to His word, He will fulfill every promise; there were over 300 prophecies that pertained to our Lord’s 1st coming. He fulfilled everyone of them, He’s faithful, He was faithful to the plan of redemption (praise God?) He didn’t have to become a Man, He didn’t have to die on a cross, didn’t have to become sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ...

He could've called legions of angels & said, "Hey, I'm out; you guys aren't worth My time, & you're certainly not worth the shedding of My blood!" But God had it in His heart to make a way where there was no way, not being willing that any should perish but desiring all men everywhere to be saved. **Jesus remained faithful to the purpose & plan of God for His Person. Jesus is faithful to never leave you, never forsake you. Having begun a good work in you He will be faithful to complete it; He will be faithful to judge the earth in righteousness, He is faithful.**

Even so if you & me (if we) are being changed from glory to greater glory into the image of the Lord than we too should be found faithful. We spoke about it last week, we're not called to be found rich or famous, but to be found faithful.

"& True", not only does He tell the truth, He is the *embodiment* of truth. He said, "I am the Way, the ... Truth & the Life, no one comes to the Father but through Me." He will never deceive you, never lead you astray, never put a slant or a spin on something to serve an alternate agenda or safeguard His own interest; He is Faithful & He is True.

Which creates a foundation for the next phrase, "in righteousness He judges & makes war." Righteousness & truth are like "hand in glove", you can't have one w/out the other. He can't act in righteousness if there isn't the foundation of truth.

But again we draw attention to the agenda in His coming. The world hasn't changed, they rejected Him at His 1st coming & they will reject Him at His 2nd coming. But as to where at His 1st coming He allowed man to "judge" Him (if you will). This time He will judge man. He's not coming to die on a cross, but to judge & make war. His righteousness will be vindicated; it's not a lust for power or control over man that dictates the necessity of His judgment. God doesn't need to prove Himself to anyone; it's His righteousness that demands vindication.

The world likes a complacent, anemic Jesus who only squeezes little baby's cheeks & helps little old ladies across the street. While Jesus is all about love & good works let's not forget that He is also the Righteous Judge, the Alpha & the Omega, the Beginning & the End, the One who was & is & is to come, the Almighty! "...in righteousness He judges & makes war."

Vs 12 doesn't show us eyes filled w/tears as though beholding the city of Jerusalem having missed the day of their visitation. He's not wearing a crown of thorns created by those who would mock Him. But He has eyes like a flame of fire that penetrate the hearts of men in judgment & many crowns upon His head manifesting His indisputable right to reign for He is the King of kings & the Lord of lords.

“Eyes like a flame of fire.” ~ The bible declares that the day will come when our works will be tested as by fire. Those things that are wood, hay & stubble will go up in flames; those things done for the glory of God motivated by the love of God will be gold, silver & precious gems. I used to envision a massive oven of sorts that all of my works would pass through or maybe be shoveled into or something. But based upon what we’re reading here it could simply be that Jesus will simply incinerate the works of our flesh & reveal the works of His Spirit through gazing upon us as we stand before Him. Every worthless thing we’ve ever done will simply ignite & evaporate in a wisp of smoke (or in my case a thick & massive plume) & only the precious working of His Spirit in our lives will remain.

I might add that these crowns are the “Diadema” not the “Stephanos”. We’re not seeing crowns of achievement, but crowns of sovereignty, of royal authority. ~

“He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.” Of course that’s the name we all wanna know! But odds are we never will, it reminds us of the infinite nature of Christ compared to the finite nature of man. His ways are above our ways, His thoughts are above our thoughts, we will spend eternity plumbing the depths of His Person & never reach the bottom. He is ineffable, indescribable, unfathomable & beyond measure.

Vs 13

If there were ever a doubt as to Whom this Rider was, this serves to remove all doubt. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”*³ *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*⁴ Both the creation & the consummation of all things comes through J.C., (& His name is called the Word of God).

We read that He was clothed w/a robe dipped in blood. The question that commentators wrestle over is, “Whose blood is it?” Is it His blood, pointing to the redemptive work of the cross & the fact that He is the sacrificial Lamb of God? Or is it the blood of His enemies pointing to the irrevocable righteous judgment of the conquering King? It seems to me that the scriptures seem to support that latter, as opposed to the former. Leave Rev 19 & turn to the prophecy found in **Isaiah 63**. (Vs 1-6)

³ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 1:1-4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 1:14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Jesus will tread the winepress of the wrath of God alone & will judge the earth in righteousness. Again I would point out that this dramatic display of judgment comes only at *the end* of an extended period of grace, & mercy & patience. There has been no “rush to judgment”. **Yet rather than repent the world has only hardened in rebellion & become completely reprobate.** The depravity of the human heart is on display in that *even when the Lord returns we won't read of anyone raising a white flag, or crying out for mercy, mankind has the audacity to try & vanquish Jesus from the earth!!!* The hearts of humanity are at this point completely callused, much like Pharaoh. Rather than repenting at the plagues there's only a further resolve to harden themselves all the more.

Vs 14-16

Does this mean Jesus has a tattoo? Maybe! However this title is on display is secondary, what we want to draw attention to specifically is His Sovereignty, King of kings, Lord of lords. **When Jesus returns to the earth, it's not like He's going to cause all the existing governments to change their policies & procedures to follow a biblical protocol. They're all getting their pink slips, they're fired, "Jesus will be in charge now, thank you very much you're free to go!"** You see, at this point Jesus demands not only our attention, but also our submission!

Now as for the “armies in heaven” certainly angelic beings are included in that #, however based upon the description of “fine linen, white and clean” we believe this army primarily to be the church having seen this description assigned to us in Vs 8 of this very same Ch.

However we note that we don't have any weapons, we're unarmed. Trust me when I tell you that the garment you wear will suffice to be better than any bullet-proof vest. Nothing is going to harm the child of God at the return of J.C. believe you me... Sort of reminds me of the precious promise of **Isaiah 54, “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me, ' Says the Lord.”**⁵

Besides, we're not part of the fight, we follow along to assume our role when it's all said & done reigning as kings & priest to our God. But as for the battle, it belongs to the Lord. **He Himself will strike the nations, He Himself will rule w/a rod of iron (Ps 2), He Himself will tread the winepress of the fierceness & wrath of Almighty God.”**

⁵ The New King James Version, 1982 [Is 54:17], Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

No longer is there the opportunity for words of grace but rather out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that w/it He should strike the nations.

Now when we speak of this sharp sword that proceeds out of His mouth don't envision Jesus like a buccaneer holding a sword in His mouth, or as though a literal sword flies out of His mouth as if it's His super hero ability! The bible is emphatically clear that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God (Eph 6:17). Of course Heb 4:12 tells us, *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*⁶ Again we state that the creation & the consummation of all things will come through the power of the Word of God. 2 Thess 2:8 *"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming."*⁷ The all-consuming power of the word of God. Isaiah underscores it again in these words, *"...with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked."*⁸

There won't be any strategizing on the best way to overcome the armies of the world, it won't be necessary to gain the element of surprise, the Lord will just speak the word & it'll all be over. God is the giver & taker of life & on this day He will *take* the life of every individual who stands to oppose Him...notice.

Vs 17-18

What a dramatic contrast between the 2 suppers seen in this Ch, yes? The marriage supper of the Lamb, or the supper of the Great God (or the great supper of God); one you don't wanna miss & the other you don't want any part of. It's joy, or it's judgment.

John sees an angel "standing in the sun", now whether or not it's literally standing in the sun, or it's in the sense that when someone throws you a ball & you look up & say, "I lost it in the sun", that's up for debate. Either way, the point is that it's so radiantly brilliant that standing either in or before the sun it's still easily visible.

& He cries out declaring the end of the battle before it ever begins (we call it the battle of Armageddon, really there's no battle at all, it's more of the judgment of Armageddon). He calls for the gathering of birds of the air that they might feast on the flesh of mankind both small & great.

⁶ The New King James Version. 1982 (Heb 4:12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁷ The New King James Version. 1982 (2 Th 2:8). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁸ The New King James Version. 1982 (Is 11:4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Although we realize that the reference is to literal flesh, we also find application in the sense that man's flesh (or sinful nature) has been a source of sin, sorrow & struggle since the fall of Adam. It's caused contention *with* God & has been condemned *by* God & can never please God. Flesh & blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Cor 15:50).

This also underscores the fact that God is no respecter of persons in judgment, kings & captains, free & slave, small & great. Some people wanna take it easy on the rich, others have a soft spot for the poor. Christ is an equal opportunity Judge, it doesn't matter what your social status may be, what station in life you're in; you are either for Christ or against Him. & If you're not *for* Him you will be destroyed *by* Him.

Vs 19-21

So... more than a climactic culmination of events it's more of an anti-climax, a "decrecendo" if you will. The kings of the earth gather w/their armies, the A.C. himself leading the masses as if they could somehow eliminate Jesus & rid Him from ruling the earth. This is what William Newell called "The incurable insanity of sin". ~ In reality (insane though it may be) it's simply the logical extension of man's constant war w/God since the fall. Is really any more unbelievable that man would try to defeat Jesus at His 2nd coming than it is that God would come to the earth & men murdered Him at Christ's 1st coming?

But as we mentioned a moment ago; there's really no "battle" at all, Jesus just speaks the word & it's all over. In the words of Donald Barnhouse, "The battle of Armageddon is the laughter of God against the climax of man's arrogance."

The A.C. & the false prophet are immediately captured & become the sole occupants of the lake of fire for 1,000 yrs. They're cast alive into the lake of fire which burns w/brimstone for at least 1,000 yrs *before* the Great White Throne Judgment when God wraps up & winds down human history on planet earth as we know (& will know it throughout the millennial kingdom) for good.

The rest (presumably including all those who've rebelled against & rejected Christ, having received the mark of the beast) were killed by the sword (or the word) which proceeded from the mouth of Jesus Himself & the birds of the air were filled w/their flesh...

Everyone who's alive at the 2nd coming of Christ will partake in some form or another in 1 of 2 suppers. The marriage supper of the Lamb, or the supper of the great God; you will either be *at* a supper, or you will *be* supper for the birds of the air...

The sense of urgency is this; make sure that your heart is in Christ's hands. God's righteousness demands vindication, but His heart is for the *salvation* of all men everywhere. God is not willing (not desirous) that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance...

Jesus also instituted another supper, we call it "The Lord's supper". It's the table to which we can come, regardless of what's going on around us & just receive of God's goodness & grace, it's where we remember our Lord's death & look forward to His soon return. As we prepare our hearts even now to partake together let's still our hearts before Him & reflect on His goodness & His mercy through the words of David, the sweet psalmist of Israel...let's bow our hearts before the Lord.

*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever."*⁹

Prayer Points:

Lord Jesus we humble our hearts before You and can only acknowledge that which is already true. You are King of kings & Lord of lords, the sovereign & Almighty God. **We thank You that You have called us Your own. You have come as a humble Servant, You will come as a conquering King. We thank You for the life changing power of Your word; that You have made us new creations & we give You praise.** We look forward to the marriage supper of the Lamb & hasten the day that we behold You w/our eyes...

If you aren't able to hasten that day because you're not ready to see Jesus face to face, you wouldn't be *at* the supper, you would *be* the supper of the birds of the air I want you to know that God loves you. **That He wants to save you, that's why He sent J.C. the One who is Faithful & True, so that you might escape the snare of sin & enter in to everlasting life. So if you need Christ to come into your heart & make you new, surrender today, turn from your sin & make your heart His home.**

⁹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ps 23:1-6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.