

Revelation 19:11-21 (New International Version)

The Rider on the White Horse

11I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. **12**His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. **13**He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. **14**The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. **15**Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. **16**On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

17And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God, **18**so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

19Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. **20**But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. **21**The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

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This passage is about the tremendous return of Jesus the Christ. There are also numerous passages in the scripture that speak of the return of Christ. Here we see a victorious and fierce Christ. He has not come to love the world but to judge it. Contrary to the soft paintings of Jesus we often see with blue eyes, blond smooth hair, with a compassionate and humble expression, we see a war lord. His eyes are set ablaze with the fury of the wrath of God. He hardly looks humble with his head full of multiple crowns, and He has a bloody robe.

Important question to ask is do you know this Christ, have you thought of Him in this way?

In this passage John sees a vision of the Return of Christ. Christ has come back to judge the world with the host of heaven which includes saints and angels. On His return we see a hardened and rebellious people on earth who have gathered together their armies in order to fight Jesus and His people on his return. Christ is victorious in this battle and He overthrows the beast and the false prophet who had lead and deceived the people.

11I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

This passage opens with I saw heaven open, this means we are about to get to see a new revelation or revealing of Christ. The opening reminds me of acts when the first new testament martyr Steven was being stoned to death. *Acts 7:55-56* **55**But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, **56**And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Did you notice that Christ was standing and not sitting as He witnessed the persecution. Christ has never been passive about human evils, he has only been patiently holding back.

The Rider on the white horse is called 'Faithful' and 'True'. There are so many descriptions that can be given to Christ, why faithful and true. 'faithful and true are used repetitively all over Revelations. In this context I believe we are being shown that Christ is and always has been faithful to his Saints, He is honoring the cry of the martyrs echoed in Revelation 7:10. He is 'True' because He is true, He is visiting a world that calls him a lie, and a liar. Don't forget what Jesus says in Mathew 24v24 when referring to the last days

"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to **deceive**, if possible, even **the elect**." Matthew 24:24

Christ is returning to an atmosphere of lies. Already we are in a system of lies and unreality.

Our **education system** is inclined towards making things of God seem as though its for the unlearned. e.g. "What! you mean you believe Jesus walked on water-literally". It tells us our sole purpose on life is to acquire skills to work in a job to keep the economy running.

The media bombards us with lies. I cant begin to count them. Tel, lie, vision as they say. The media helps to shape a distorted reality for us, it helps to maintain an atmosphere of false hood and unrighteousness. It is actually the biggest educator I think. From

Mtv to CNN. Don't you think the anti Christ isn't web and media savvy? Many anti Christ are already in the media, feeding us a daily dose of lies.

Our **philosophers**. Have you heard of Richard Dawkins author of the best selling book 'the God delusion'. Here we have a seemingly intelligent man who hasn't worked out what children instinctively know. He says God does not exist.

An atheist Group is spending \$40,000 dollars this Christmas to run ads on buses that feature Santa saying, "*why believe in God, just be good for goodness sake*". And in the uk our city buses could very soon have this slogan "*There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life.*"



scientist invent new facts in their ever changing science books of how the earth was formed in an effort to undermine the creator. "It was probably some sort of big bang" they say.

Did you see how much money was spent on that experiment (CERN collider) in Switzerland to attempt to create the conditions of the big bang. Look at what extent we are willing to go to reassure ourselves that a lie is true.

1. How can you recreate a uncreated atmosphere?
2. And how can you spend so much money on something so stupid, plus there was a risk they could blow the world up, I heard.

He will return as 'True' and what a shock it will be to a world that is living a lie. Today I'd like to encourage us to believe in Him again like children.

With Justice He judges and makes war. That means the judgment he is bringing is exactly proportionate to what His victims deserve. A just judge in a human court does not sentence you to life if all you did was forget to pay for an apple. Mankind is not guilty of some petty crime, His eyes are not blazing with fire for no reason.

Eyes of blazing fire speak of sharp discernment, seeing into what is hidden, penetrating. It speaks of intimidation, wrath and judgment.

12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. In the book of Genesis again we see a God who has had enough, Genesis" 6:5-7

5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. **6** The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. **7** So the LORD said, I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth— men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air— for I am grieved that I have made them. Jesus also says as in the days of Noah so it will be when He returns. This means Christ has come to bring his judgment again like in the days of Noah but this time not with a flood. After Noah and His family were saved, hidden in the ark, Noah offers a sacrifice which pleases God, Gen 8v20-21. But hear what God says verse 21 **21** *The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood...* " This lets you know that the same level of wickedness that warranted flooding was alive after the flood. Man's imagination is still inclined towards evil, the Lord again has been grieved.

We may feel “well we’re not exactly as bad as those guys in Noah’s days or Sodom and Gomorrah”. Thank God for His laws. His laws help us to gauge how far we’ve fallen, we think everything is ok because we haven’t taken time to meditate on His laws. How much of our culture have we accepted as normal, its when you are coming from another culture that you most blatantly see the errors in a foreign culture. If we are kingdom minded we also begin to see and agree with God seeing things as he sees, breaking free from the tinted glasses of our fallen culture.

On his Head are many Crowns. This again is typical Revelation imagery, its hard to picture. But lets remember these are things John saw in the Spirit realm. We are not told how many crowns which leads me to conclude that all we need to know is that there were many on his head. Crowns speak of His Kingship, His “many” echo his title KING OF KINGS. This is not Jesus the helpless babe in the modest manger, This is Jesus in pomp and glory. Do you know this Jesus?

There is also a name written on him that no body knows. In the Old Testament when God revealed a new aspect of himself he would also reveal a new name. e.g. On the mountain where Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son God made a provision and revealed himself as Jehovah Jireh. This is how God wanted to be known in that passage. The fact that there is a name that nobody knows tells us of the depth of God as SM Lockridge said “no man can explain him and the universe cannot contain him”. So when you think you know God, remember this verse. Thinking we know God in his entirety is foolish, it is idolatry because the god you can box is certainly a god of your imagination. Surly you’ve heard people say “my god wouldn’t do that”, or “he couldn’t have been behind this”. What do you know of God and His mysterious ways?

13He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

The opening verses in John 1 clearly personifies the ‘Word of God’ as Christ. Here we see a picture of Jesus who’s robe is dipped in blood because He has been trampling the winepress of the wrath of God. The vision of Isaiah also gives us an insight into what the bloody robe is about.

Isaiah 63 1-6

1 Who is this coming from Edom,
from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson?
Who is this, robed in splendor,
striding forward in the greatness of his strength?
"It is I, speaking in righteousness,

mighty to save."

2 Why are your garments red,
like those of one treading the winepress?

3 "I have trodden the winepress alone;
from the nations no one was with me.
I trampled them in my anger
and trod them down in my wrath;
their blood spattered my garments,
and I stained all my clothing.

4 For the day of vengeance was in my heart,
and the year of my redemption has come.

5 I looked, but there was no one to help,
I was appalled that no one gave support;
so my own arm worked salvation for me,
and my own wrath sustained me.

6 I trampled the nations in my anger;
in my wrath I made them drunk
and poured their blood on the ground."

This is a vivid description of God's judgment and wrath. It's as though this has been on his heart and He must get it off His chest.

I believe the manifestation of this trampling has already been unfolded in the form of the bowls of Gods wrath mentioned earlier in Revelation 15v1.

*Revelation **16v12** – sore on the people with the mark of the beast, **16v3-4** - the sea turns to blood meaning the living creatures in the sea die-. Also the rivers are turned blood, imagine the domino effect*

***16v8-** the sun will scorch men with fire. The suffering of the fierce heat still doesn't lead to repentance but to blaspheming of God.*

***16v12-16-** The euphrates river dries up and unclean spirits lead the kings of the earth to make war against God. (Armageddon)*

***16v12-21-** Lightning thunder and earthquakes mark the end of his trampling of the winepress, this is combined with a hailstones falling on men.*

14The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Who are the armies of Heaven? The saints and the angels
What does the Fine linen represents? Righteousness and righteous acts. It is a type of Christ our Righteousness.

Can we wear this garment now? Christ is the Garment and is available now.

Remember the parable of the man who came to the banquet with the wrong clothes on. Without the putting on of Christ you cannot be numbered in the assembly of the Righteous.

15Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

This speaks of the Millennial Reign of Christ on Earth which is a whole new study in itself.

It's also interesting to note that it's not just God's wrath in action here but the fury of his wrath, can you imagine that? NOW IS THE TIME OF GRACE, NOW IS THE TIME HE'S CALLING TO SINNERS, NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO OFFER THE INVITATION.

16On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Deuteronomy 10v17 Daniel 2v4. Here we see picture of Christ's forceful rule. Every knee must bow and confess and acknowledge who He is.

17And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the **great supper of God,**

18so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

Rev 18v2- unclean and detestable birds. (represents demons and unclean spirits)

The birds are in mid air, who else is in mid air in this passage? From my studies I have concluded that these birds represent the saints and angels that are with the Lord as they also are in mid air. Remember the picture painted in this passage is one of the heavenly host coming with the King of kings.

19Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

The great supper of God. Isaiah [25:6-9], Ezekiel 39 v 17-21. (Luke 14v15-23).

I'd always imagined the great supper of God to be a huge meal on a

long table of saints in heaven. The great supper here refers to the climax of God's Judgments.

Now the time for the great banquet has come. The great banquet of God is more like a spectators event in which we are invited to come and watch Christ deal the final blows to His enemies in a final showdown. We the saints and angels will be with Him, in the splendor of His coming to witness this event.

Man's heart is completely hardened, despite the bowls of wrath God has already poured out on them. This time man will have a united army ready and gathered to fight against God. We have already seen a snippet of this event in Chapter 17v12-14.

Rev 17 v 12-14

12"The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. 13They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. 14They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

Man fighting against God is the ultimate act of defiance, **Psalm 2** also speaks of this event and how God reacts to this.

Verse 18 lets us know that it does not matter what your social status is in this day. Weather your free or a slave, small or great. The only question is what side are you on? Are you standing with the King of Kings or are you still in and of the world? This is a relevant question we can ask ourselves today. On that day what side are you standing on. In Luke 14 Christ tells a parable about inviting people to His banquet. Some were to busy, saying they had just bought some land and property, some were like ' I've just bought five new cars and I need to go and test them out, another was like I just got married, and, you know how it is. Are we to busy for God? Are we so entrenched in the system of this world? We must make a choice to partake in His banquet, because the only alternative eventually will be to become the food of the banquet (verse 21).

NOW IS THE TIME OF GRACE. NOW HE IS OFFERING MERCY.

20But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

It is important to see that men were deceived by the signs and miracles of the false prophet. There are many "Christians" who thirst after signs and wonders. It's important to thirst after God's heart and not just his hand like David. When we set our eyes on miracles and supernatural manifestations as our hope of faith, we can be very easily deceived in the last days, Matt 24v24.

21The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

What can we learn from all this?

- Let us allow the knowledge of this reality to shape our present reality. May we live in expectation of His coming? May we preach the gospel in word and in deed knowing a time of judgement will be coming for the lost.
- May we seek to know him all the more and to be all the more filled with His Spirit putting on the garment of fine linen even now.
- May we be on His side on His return. And invite as many as we can to join our team. This is the time and season of grace. Let us fully exploit this season for the King and for the Kingdom.