

The King is Coming

Revelation 19:7-21

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 19:7-21 NKJV] 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head [were] many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 "that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his

presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

APPLICATION

Mystery Babylon, the great city of the world with all of its spiritual harlotries and physical pleasures, has received judgment from God's hand.

- While the world mourns over its loss, heaven rejoices for the blood of the martyred saints has been avenged, and with Babylon's destruction, the coming kingdom of Jesus on the earth is that much closer to becoming reality.

1 The Wedding

APPLICATION

In the remainder of this chapter, there are two suppers that the Lord holds.

- **The marriage supper of the Lamb**
- **The supper of the great God.**

One is for those who have obtained righteousness through faith in Christ and the other is for those who have rejected the messiah and have rebelled against God.

- The marriage supper involves rejoicing, gladness, and communion with God.
- The supper of the great God involves torment, judgment, and eternal separation from God.

The Wedding Feast:

- During biblical times a wedding consisted of two major events, the betrothal and the wedding. During the period of betrothal, the man and woman were obligated to each other as husband and wife in their commitment, but there was no consummation of the marriage sexually until after the wedding.
- At the end of the betrothal period, the groom would come with a procession to the bride's house, take her, and return back to his house, where they would begin the wedding feast. The wedding feast would last seven days and would end with the wedding and the two becoming one.

So now, we the church are betrothed to Christ:

2 Corinthians 11:2 – For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

- In Ephesians 5, Paul expresses that the marriage relationship between a man and woman is really a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church.
- One day, Jesus will come for us and take us to heaven, where we will enjoy the festivities of our union for the rest of eternity... and I can't wait!

[Mat 8:11-12 KJV] 11 And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

BIBLE PASSAGE

and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'

ILLUSTRATION

The beauty of weddings and the work it takes to prepare.

- We are both made ready for the wedding, and we make ourselves ready for the wedding.
- The fact that we are even invited to the wedding is not a result of anything we've done. His righteousness has made us fit for the feast.
- But as those going to the feast, we also prepare ourselves by clothing ourselves with righteousness.

There is imputed righteousness that God clothes us with.

There is practical righteousness that we clothe ourselves with.

The first is what we receive from Him; the second is how we live it out.

A. IMPUTED RIGHTEOUSNESS

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 3:18 NKJV] 18 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see."

[Phi 3:9 NKJV] 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

[1Pe 1:18-19 NKJV] 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

[Rev 7:14 NKJV] 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

B. PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Eph 4:22-24 NKJV] 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

[Col 1:10 NKJV] 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

[2Co 5:9-10 NKJV] 9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

BIBLE PASSAGE

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

APPLICATION

Whether this is an angel speaking to John or a glorified Saint, we don't know. The one speaking makes the statement that He is "of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus." If this truly is a believer who is appearing to John in his glorified body, what does it tell you about what kind of people we would be one day if Johns's response was to fall

down and worship this being? This being is quick to correct John's natural tendency to worship him.

- It is still the tendency of people today to bow down and worship saints and angels and icons and relics, but this is idolatry.
- No one apart from God deserves worship... period!
- I like the NLT: "Worship God. For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus."(NLT)

In the end, it's all about Jesus. Everything we read. Everything that has been revealed. All of it was to cause us to honor, love, and worship Jesus Christ!

- The purpose of prophecy isn't to get us focused on weird stuff. It's not to get us distracted by the insanity going on in the world.

2 The Wrath

BIBLE PASSAGE

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head [were] many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.



- The Bible speaks of the reality that one day, one very REAL day, Jesus is coming back, cleaning house, and changing everything back to the way he always intended it to be. Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ on earth, Easter celebrates His resurrection and ascension into heaven. I think we should have another holiday that celebrates in advance his return to the world! Maybe we will call it, **“RESTORATION DAY!”**

You see Bethlehem 2000 years ago was only the first of two times that the feet of Christ will touch the earth.

APPLICATION

In Revelation 19, we get a whole new Nativity scene. No mangers, no wise-men, no shepherds, no stable, and no silent night... the only two elements these events have in common are Jesus and maybe a horse.

- This is no Santa riding behind Rudolph the red nose reindeer! This is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords Riding in battle array upon a valiant war horse!
- Wow! Now there is a sight! Not baby Jesus, not helpless infant in a manger, not Jesus the meek and humble servant, but King Jesus in all of his glory, splendor, and might. The angels will not be singing gloria but will be arrayed for battle declaring the great and mighty day of the Lord’s reign.
- We often forget the glory of Jesus!
 - At His name, demons tremble and flee, and in His presence, angels tremble and worship.
 - The very sight of His return will be so fierce that men will run and hide themselves in caves to try and escape the brightness of His glory.
 - His glory is so vast that every eye of every human left on the earth will see Him at one moment in time. King Jesus leads his heavenly army comprised of all his saints in full battle array to victory overall
 - There is no power that can match Him, there is no glory that can compare to Him. The mightiest that man has to offer will melt away like wax before Jesus' unrighteousness.
 - This is the King whom the grave could not contain and death could not hold. **AND HE IS COMING BACK AGAIN.**
 - This is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, and this is my savior!

ILLUSTRATION

I've read to you an old forgotten Christmas carol. It was written in the 17th century and put to music to be sung on Christmas in the early 19th century. The title is foreboding. "Awful thought of endless doom!" The first verse begins,

"Awful thought of endless doom! Skies are rent; the Judge is come: Clouds his throne; around him stand. Angel guards, a countless band."

We might understand why it is no longer a popular favorite among carolers, and while the title is blunt and a little brash, that song holds some sobering truth.

"The same Jesus that was humbled to become mankind's savior, is the same Jesus who will be exalted to become mankind's king."

NOTICE THE DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS MIGHTY KING COMING TO JUDGE

Riding a white horse:

- Remember the vision of the antichrist in chapter 6. He two came on a white horse with a crown, but he was only an imitation messiah.
- Jesus comes with crowns, not the victor's crown (stephanos), but the royal crown (diadem).

His robes are drenched in blood:

- Whether this is the blood that reminds us of His sacrifice on the cross, or the blood of his enemies, I'm not sure. But either way, he comes prepared for war.

Faithful and true:

- Faithful – you can count on His word and promises
- True – He is genuine... the real thing.

His mouth has a sword:

- His word is the double-edged sword that will judge the nations.
- **8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;**

His eyes are like the flame of fire:

- *“Why are they like flames of fire? Why, first, to discern the secrets of all hearts? There are no secrets here that Christ does not see. There is no lewd thought; there is no unbelieving skepticism that Christ does not read. There is no hypocrisy, no formalism, and no deceit that he does not scan as easily as a man reads a page in a book. His eyes are like a flame of fire to read us through and through and know us to our inmost soul.” (Spurgeon)*
- Just as Adam and Eve could not hide themselves from God (though they tried) in the beginning, those left on the earth will not be able to hide themselves from Christ’s site here at the end.
- He wars in righteousness and justice.

“The only ones who need to fear the justice of Jesus are those who have not been justified by the blood of Jesus.”

He has a name:

- Jesus comes with his own brand of clothing and a tattoo up His thigh that is visible to everyone.
- **Philippians 2:9 – Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.**
- His name: King of Kings and Lord of Lords. His authority is established, and no one can come against Him.

APPLICATION

This is where people really have a difficult time. How can this be the same Jesus as the "Sermon on the Mount" Jesus? How can Jesus tell His followers to turn the other cheek, love their enemies, and forgive, then come and make war to destroy people?

- For many, there seems to be an inconsistency between the two images of Christ. So, they use their human logic and try to allegorize Revelation 19. They can't seem to

reconcile the humble and meek Jesus, riding on a donkey, to the fierce and mighty Jesus, riding on a horse. They can't put together Jesus who was nailed to the cross, shedding His own blood for His enemies, and Jesus wielding a sword, shedding the blood of His enemies.

- **Interestingly, many of the zealots of Jesus' time rejected Christ because they wanted him to be a great military hero to decimate the Romans. When Jesus came as a humble, Sacrificial servant, they saw him as weak and ineffective. Today it's the opposite! People want Jesus to stay the meek, humble, gentle giant in the sky, and they don't want to imagine Him as a fierce king who makes war and spills blood. But the reality is that He is prophesied to be both.**

But is there inconsistency, or are we minimizing Jesus by trying to fit him into our image, comparing His to our understanding of humanity? What people seem to be forgetting is the uniqueness of Jesus as the glorious King, perfect Savior, and rightful judge.

BIBLE PASSAGE

John 5:22-27 (NKJV) 22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. 24 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

APPLICATION

There you have it: Jesus is merciful and meek. Jesus did "live what he preached," or should I say, "died what He preached," when he gave his own life on the cross for the sake of His enemies. But the nature of Jesus is twofold. He is the same God in the New Testament and the Old Testament. He is still the rightful and final judge of humanity. He is a mighty King, mighty to save and mighty to judge.

- If God were like us, there would be good reason to be concerned. If I think Jesus is just like me, then the thought of him coming to slay his enemies is one that is perturbing, to say the least. If Jesus had fallen human anger, grief, pride, lust for power, manipulation, or deceit, then we would be right to be up in arms about this final picture and question the love of God.
- But Jesus isn't like us. His anger is perfect. His justice is perfect. His righteousness is perfect. His judgments are perfect. This is why they can be celebrated and valued by His people.

Consider one of our favorite Christmas prophecies. Many people like to quote Isaih 9:6, but 9:7 is just and essential!

APPLICATION

Jesus is a King. Don't forget that. He is a king who won't force people who want to be his enemy into His kingdom. At this battle, those who die are those who have consistently hardened their hearts and refused to submit to Christ.

- With the current conflict in Israel, we have seen this faulty attitude, "If Israel would just be nice to Hamas everyone could live in peace." That's not true because when there are people who are set on evil and have already determined in their hearts to wipe an entire race off the earth, you don't enter into concessions and negotiations; you enter into war, and you root out the evil that is the source of all the pain.
- Jesus will root evil out of his kingdom. There won't be any more room for rebellion and human wars. Jesus will reign over 1000 straight years of human peace, but he accomplishes that by first going to war against the wicked.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Isa 9:6-7 NKJV] 6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

APPLICATION

Look who is with Him (verse 14)!

- This is the church! The saints and the angels join forces and ride behind Christ and take out the armies of the antichrist.
- *Jude 1:14-15 - "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*
- You might be here today and say, "I don't believe in war." I don't want to disrespect your beliefs but trust me, one day, you will!

PRETERIST

There are some preterists (meaning that either most or all of Revelation was completely fulfilled in 70 AD with the destruction of Jerusalem) who try to argue that this is a figurative description of the church age and the fight of the gospel in the world. Jesus and his army are figurative and spiritual. They allegorize all of the imagery to mean something different from what it says. Some full preterists even believe that the second coming of Jesus happened already. But you have to jump through some serious hermeneutical hoops to get there. I agree that some of the imagery is compelling to the spiritual realities and battles we face today, but I think there can be a spiritual application for us today without having to change the literal, futuristic implications of the passage.

I think what we are seeing in chapter 19 is a fulfillment of the words John opened with back in chapter 1:

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 1:7 NKJV] 7 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.

[Mat 24:26-28 NKJV] 26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; [or] 'Look, [He is] in the inner rooms!' do not believe [it]. 27 "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 28 "For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

Here, we even have the language of the birds gathering to the carcasses of the enemies of Christ, just as described in Revelation.

3 The War

BIBLE PASSAGE

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 "that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

APPLICATION

Another invitation goes out to another feast. But this time it's not a blessing to be invited!

- **It's the all-you-can-eat buzzard's buffet! What's on the menu? Everyone who has gathered themselves to make war against the coming king.**
- These people have lived according to the flesh, so now Jesus is going to destroy their flesh.
- The armies of the antichrist and his kingdom gather together at Armageddon, like grapes that are gathered into a winepress to be stomped on. It is the great winepress of the wrath of God.

[Rev 16:14 NKJV] 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

- The antichrist and the false prophet (the two beasts from chapter 12) are captured, probably by the armies of heaven, and are thrown into this lake of fire.
- The Lake of Fire will ultimately be the eternal place of judgment for all those who have rejected Christ, but we will look at that more in depth next week.
- We will also address very important questions next week like:
 - Where do unbelievers go when they die right now?
 - Who is part of Christ's 1000-year reign?
 - What happens at the final great white throne judgment?
- But here in this chapter we find a very clear and very simple message... Jesus wins! There is not even a battle, Jesus just shows up, and everyone is destroyed.