

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“Behold, a white horse! And its rider is called Faithful and True  
(Revelation 19.11-21)



### Review of Revelation 18.20-19.10

1. Revelation 17.1-19.10 is an expansion of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> bowls (Rev 16.12-21)
2. “Rejoice over her!” (18.20-24)
  - a. *lex talionis* (“found no more ...” because blood of saints was “found in her”;  
economic reversal; no music or weddings)
  - b. reason for judgment: economic injustice, idolatry, and persecution of the saints
3. “Hallelujah!” (All heaven breaks loose!) (19.1-5)
  - a. Prayer of the martyrs (6.9-11) is answered
  - b. “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”
4. The marriage supper of the Lamb (19.6-10; cf. Is 54.4-7; 61.10-62.5; Ezek 16; Hosea 2; John’s Gospel)
  - a. Wedding dress: “fine linen, bright and pure” (the fruit of righteousness)
 

**Ephesians 2.8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
  - b. “Worship God!”
  - c. “For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Rev 19.10b)

## Revelation 19.11-21

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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

<sup>17</sup> 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, <sup>18</sup> 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.”

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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 Second Coming of Christ (19.11-16)

*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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*

1. “white horse” (19.11; cf. Rev 14.14; 20.11)
2. “Faithful and True” (19.11)

**Revelation 21:5** And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**Revelation 22:6** (After vision of New Creation in 22.1-5) And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

3. “in righteousness he judges and makes war” (19.11; cf. Ps 9.8; 72.2; 96.13; 98.9)

**Psalms 9:7-8** But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, <sup>8</sup> and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.

**Psalm 96:11-13** Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; <sup>12</sup> let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy <sup>13</sup> before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

4. “His eyes are like a flame of fire” (19.12; cf. 1.14; 2.18, 23)

**Revelation 2:22-23** Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, <sup>23</sup> and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

5. “He has a name written that no one knows but himself” (19.12; cf. 2.17)

- a. Name = character; knowledge of name = authority and sovereignty

**Revelation 2:17** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.

- b. Various names are given to Christ in Rev 19.11-16, which reveal his identity and character: “Faithful and True” (v.11), “The Word of God” (v.13), and “King of kings and Lord of Lords” (v.16)

6. “robe dipped in blood” (19.13): execution of divine justice

**Isaiah 63:1-4** Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” <sup>2</sup> Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? <sup>3</sup> “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. <sup>4</sup> For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come.

7. “the name by which he is called is The Word of God” (9.13): final judgment in faithfulness, truth, and righteousness is part of “the testimony of Jesus”

**Revelation 1:2** [John] bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

**Revelation 1:9** I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

**Revelation 6:9** When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.

**Revelation 20:4** Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.

**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. (cf. Rev 19.21)

8. “the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses” (9.14): the saints give their testimony on the last day, which confirms their vindication and the condemnation of the wicked

**Revelation 17:14** They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

**Revelation 2:17** “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.”

**Matthew 12:41** The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup> The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

**Revelation 2:26** The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, <sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. (cf. Ps 2.9; Rev 19.15)

9. “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” (19.15)

**Isaiah 49:1-5** Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” <sup>4</sup> But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.” <sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him – for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength.

**Isaiah 11:1-4** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

**Psalms 2:8-13** Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” <sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

**Isaiah 63:1-6** Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” <sup>2</sup> Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? <sup>3</sup> “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. <sup>4</sup> For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. <sup>5</sup> I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. <sup>6</sup> I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”

10. “On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords” (19.16)
  - a. The Sword: **Psalm 45:3** Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one, in your splendor and majesty!
  - b. The Oath: **Genesis 47:29-30** And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, “If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt, <sup>30</sup> but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place.” He answered, “I will do as you have said.”
  - c. King of kings and Lord of lords

## The Great Supper of God (19.17-18)

*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, <sup>18</sup> 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.”*

1. “an angel standing in the sun” (19.17): angelic announcement of the destruction of demonic forces at work beneath Babylon

**Revelation 18:1-2** After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. <sup>2</sup> And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.”

2. “gather for the great supper of God” (19.17): grotesque parody of the marriage supper of the Lamb (fulfillment of Ezekiel 39 re: Gog and Magog)

**Ezekiel 39:4, 17-20** You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you. I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured ... <sup>17</sup> “As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of the field, ‘Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood. <sup>18</sup> You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth-- of rams, of lambs, and of he-goats, of bulls, all of them fat beasts of Bashan. <sup>19</sup> And you shall eat fat till you are filled, and drink blood till you are drunk, at the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you. <sup>20</sup> And you shall be filled at my table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all kinds of warriors,’ declares the Lord GOD.

**Ezekiel 39:7** “And my holy name I will make known in the midst of my people Israel, and I will not let my holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. (cf. Ezek 39.21-29)

## The Last Battle (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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.*

1. “gathered to make war” (19.19; cf. Rev 16.4; 20.8; Ps 2.1-3)

**Psalm 2:1-3** Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”

2. “[The beast and the false prophet] were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur” (19.20)

3. “the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse ...” (19.21; cf. Rev 20.15)

**Matthew 25:41** “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

**Matthew 13:40** Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.