

The Second Coming of Christ

Revelation 19:11-21 – August 22, 2021

Although man believes the world will get better, the Bible tells us it will get unimaginable worse. In today's world, we see economic and social unrest, civil and national wars, increased terrorism and violence, moral decay, spiritual compromise, and the breakdown of the family, etc. There will be no peace until the Prince of Peace comes to the earth – the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only solution to the world's problems. When He comes, the entire world [both redeemed and unredeemed] will witness His magnificent return to earth.

This portion of Scripture can be divided into four sections – the Christ's return, the Christ's army, the Christ's rule and the Christ's victory.

CHRIST'S RETURN

Heaven Open's [v.11]

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”

1. Riding a White Horse

John sees the heaven open before his eyes. Probably with amazement, he beholds this regal scene as the Lord Jesus Christ bursts on the scene riding a white horse – a symbol of victory. It represents His victory over His enemies and the white also represents the spotless, holy character of the Rider. This is the moment that all believers have been waiting for – Christ's return to the earth in all His glory and power the receive the kingdom that God the Father promised Him.

Matthew 24:27-31

“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ²⁸ For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. ²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: ³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

2. Called Faithful and True

Earlier in Revelation [3:14], Christ was called “the Faithful and True Witness.” This name is very appropriate for He is faithful to His promises of wrath and judgment as well as His promise of grace and salvation. He is true to the Word for God's

righteousness demands justice for all sin [John 5:22, 27; Acts 17:31; 2 Tim. 4:1]. At His first coming Jesus came as the Lamb; this time He comes as the Judge and King.

Unlike other conquerors the world has seen, covetousness, ambition, pride, or power will not motivate this Conqueror. He will come in utter righteousness, in perfect holiness, and in strict accord with every holy interest.

Heaven cannot be at peace with sin, for God's eyes are too pure to approve evil, and [He] cannot look on wickedness with favor" [Hab. 1:13]. There is a limit to God's patience. Justice cannot always tolerate injustice; truth cannot forever tolerate lies; rebellion cannot be permitted to go on forever.

Incorrigible, incurable, hardened sinners will face destruction; mercy abused and grace rejected will ultimately bring judgment. - John MacArthur, Jr., The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Revelation 12-22, "The Glorious Return of Jesus Christ," pp. 216-217 comments on Jesus the Conqueror.

3. His Appearance [vs. 12-13]

a. His Eyes as a Flame of Fire [v. 12a] *"His eyes were as a flame of fire"*

Nothing will escape Christ's notice. Everything will lay bare before him – thoughts, motives, deeds, etc. [Heb. 4:13] Christ is coming to earth for the specific purpose of bringing divine judgment on the unredeemed. His judgments will be just for He has knowledge of all things.

b. He Wears Many Crowns [v. 12b] *"... and on his head were many crowns"*

The diadems on His head refer to His royal rank and authority. The fact that He wears many crowns signified He alone is the sovereign ruler of the earth. [Antichrist wore only one crown 4:1].

It was customary in the ancient world for the conquering king to collect all the crowns of those he conquered [2 Samuel 12:30]. The kings of the earth will stand powerless in Christ's presence, and all will bow their knees and confess Him as Lord [Phil 2:10-11]. He truly is the LORD of lords and KING of kings [19:16; 11:15].

c. A Name Written [v. 12c] *"... and he had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself."*

This is the second of three names given to Christ in this chapter. It is pointless to speculate about this name since the text states that no one knows this name except Christ. This name may be the one He will give to the overcomers [2:17; 3:12].

d. His Robe Dipped in Blood [v. 13a] *"And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood ..."*

The blood here is not talking of redemption [the blood that was shed at the cross], but it pictures the blood of judgment – the blood of His slaughtered enemies [Isaiah 63:2-3].

The reason His garments are already bloodstained depicts that this is not the first battle He has fought for His people, but this battle will be the last. In this last Day of Judgment, there will be no mercy for those who have rejected God' Lamb.

4. His Name – The Word of God [v. 13b] “. . . and his name is called *The Word of God.*”

This is the third name associated with the Rider in this portion of Scripture [vs. 11, 12, 13]. He is called the Word of God which unmistakably identifies His as Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father [John 1:1, 14; 3:16; 1 John 1:1]. He is the second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God who became flesh and dwelt among men [Heb. 1:2-4].

CHRIST'S ARMIES [V. 14]

“And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”

As the Lord Jesus appears on the scene, He will come with the armies of heaven. They will be clothed in fine white linens. This Rider, like a commanding victorious general, is following by an innumerable multitude – a glorious procession depicting the unprecedented majesty and glory of the Lord when He returns to earth.

This army from heaven is different for they go to battle unarmed. This battle [better slaughter] will be won through the Word that proceeds out of Christ's mouth.

Henry M. Morris, The Revelation Record, “The King Triumphant,” pp. 393-394 talks about the second coming of Christ.

This glorious coming of the Lord with His saints has been prophesied since the dawn of history.

“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints [or “myriads of saints”], to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him” [Jude 14, 15]. Also see - Zech. 14:3-9; Psalm 149:5-9.

Likewise, had it been prophesied by the Apostles:

“To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints” [1 Thess. 3:13].

What a magnificent procession that will be, when all the angelic host of heaven and all the multitudes of redeemed and purified saints of God accompany their victorious Redeemer back to earth again! After long ages of rule by the old serpent, the god of this world, with

his powers of darkness and his legions of Christ-rejecting human dupes, the disease and fevered earth will finally be scoured and purified, and Christ will reign supreme.

CHRIST'S RULE

Powerful images are used to describe Christ as He confronts the armies of the earth and brings divine judgment upon them.

1. A Sharp Sword [v. 15a] *"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword . . ."*

The sword, a sharp weapon often associated with intense battle, is a picture of the piercing, lethal words of Christ bringing death to His enemies. The fiery words of judgment will destroy the unredeemed Gentile nations [Isa. 11:4], and with the same mouth, Christ will destroy the Wicked One [2 Thess. 2:8]. God's Word is powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword [Heb. 4:12].

2. Strikes the Nations [v. 15b] *" . . .that with it he should smite the nations . . ."*

This sword is deadly, and it will instantly slaughter all the wicked. God will preserve His elect out of the Gentile nations and the nation of Israel. The dead will include those gathered for battle at Armageddon as well as the rest of the unredeemed people who will be judged and executed at the sheep and goat judgment [Matthew 25:31-46].

3. Rules with a Rod of Iron [v. 15c] *" . . . and he shall rule them with a rod of iron . . ."*

This same pattern of swift judgment will be carried out in the Millennium for Christ will rule with a rod of iron [Ps. 2:8-9]. Any rebellion will not be tolerated and will be judged swiftly. Christ will demand absolute rule. It is an absolute Monarchical rule that demands one's complete obedience.

4. Treads the Winepress [v. 15d] *"and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."*

Returning to God's wrath, **the winepress** symbolizes the fierceness and **wrath of the Almighty God** [14:14-20].

These two terms are synonymous and depict the double intensity of God's wrath on wicked and rebellious people who He loved and desired to redeem. In spite of His many pleas for salvation, they stubbornly refuse to come to Him [Prov. 1:24-27]. Now He shows them no mercy [Joel 3:13].

5. A Name Written on His Vesture and Thigh [v. 16] *" . . . and he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

In John's vision of the returning King, he sees that Christ is wearing a banner on His robe and thigh. On this banner is the third name given to Him in this Chapter. He is sovereign over the universe and ruler of all.

H. A. Ironside, Lectures on Revelation, pp. 326-27, points out the significance of the three names of Christ:

First “A name written that no man knew but He Himself, speaks of His essential glory as the Eternal Son, concerning which He declared that “no man knoweth the Son but the Father” . . .

The second name is “The word of God.”

The third title is “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

In these three names we have set forth,

- **First**, our Lord’s dignity as the Eternal Son.
- **Second**, His incarnation – the Word became flesh;
- **Third**, His second advent to reign as KING of kings and LORD of lords.

CHRIST’S VICTORY [19:17-21]

The Angel’s Call [v. 17-18] *“And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.”*

1. Once again, an angel has an important role in end-time events. As he stands in close proximity of the sun, the angel cries out in a loud voice.

This time he commands the birds to feed on the dead bodies at Armageddon, declaring Christ’s victory before the battle is even fought [Luke 17:37; Isa. 18:6; Jer. 7:33].

The flesh of millions of dead bodies [both small and great] along with the flesh of horses will be their supper [Ezek. 39:12]. The ultimate indignity is for unburied bodies to be left for food for the birds. John MacArthur, Jr., The MacArthur New Testament Commentary Revelation 12-22, “The Glorious Return of Jesus Christ,” p. 222 discusses the migrating birds that fly over Israel:

2. The brief but catastrophic Day of the Lord destruction will result in an unprecedented slaughter, with uncounted millions of dead bodies strewn throughout its entire two-hundred-mile length [14:20]. . . .
3. It is important fact to consider that every year millions of birds of many species migrate south from Europe to Africa. They fly over the land of Israel on the journey. The number of these birds and migrating patterns has been the special study of the Israeli government because of the threat they pose to aircraft. This can certainly answer the question as to where such vast numbers of birds will come from. The geographical setting of Israel, situated between the Mediterranean Sea on the west and the vast expanse of barren desert to the east, forms the natural corridor for these migrating birds.

The Armies of the Earth [v. 19] *“And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.”*

John now sees Antichrist and the armies of the world [17:12-14a] gathering together to make war with Christ and His army. This “invincible” army with the latest technology that Antichrist’s kingdom can produce is no match for the KING of kings. This battle is over before it begins.

1. The Beast and False Prophet [v. 20]

“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

These two demonically inspired leaders were immediately cast into the lake of fire – the first two occupants to inhabit this eternal place of torment – a just place for this deceptive duo [Matt. 25:41; 13:42; Mark 9:48].

2. The Armies of the Earth [v. 21]

“And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”

With their leaders taken away and their hopes dashed to pieces, the armies of the earth are destroyed by the sword of Christ’ mouth. The rest of the unsaved will be judged at the sheep and goat judgment, which takes place at this time [Matt. 25:31-46].

Conclusion:

The second coming of Christ is bittersweet. For the redeemed, it is a time of rejoicing for Christ will reward the believers with eternal life in the glory of His Presence. For the unredeemed, it is a time of horror and judgment for rejecting God’s provision of salvation, His Son.

Jesus Christ will show no mercy and the unregenerated will be separated from God forever – to suffer the pain and torment of the eternal lake of fire, along with their master, Satan. Christ has made the payment for everyone’s sin. What you do with Christ in this lifetime will determine your destiny for all eternity.

The Word of God says in Psalm 2:12, “Kiss [pay homage to] the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way.”