

God Returns With Clouds (taught by Greg Majewski)

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Revelation: How It All Ends

By Various Speakers

Bible Text: Revelation 19:11-15

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Berean Baptist Church

517 Glensford Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28314

Website: www.bereanbaptistchurch.org

Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/bereanbaptistch

In chapter 19, verse 11, we have what's called a bookend, for lack of a better word. We kind of find these in different books of the Bible that we have these bookends, you have a left and right bookend of distinguishing where a topic kind of begins and then where a topic ends and in 19:11, we're at the right side of this bookend where this event here is culminating. That being said, 19:11 is the right end of the bookend and we have a left end of our bookend and we find that in chapter 4:1. This is the beginning of where this culminating event is finishing. In chapter 4, you see in verse 1 it says, "After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter." That's God talking to John saying, "Hey, you're done writing the seven letters that I told you to write to the seven churches. Come up here and let me show you what's going to happen hereafter. That's the first bookend here at the beginning of all this information.

What we have in the middle, culminating in verse 19:11 is everything that we've studied here for the last I don't know how long it's been now, almost a year, probably a little over a year. So we have John telling John, "Come up here, I'm going to show you what has to happen hereafter," all this stuff in the middle that we've already talked about and we've been learning and then you have 19:11 which is the end of that. 19:11 says,

"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."

You see this culminating event here in 19:11 of all this, that we've been talking about the Second Coming of Christ and this is the actual no kidding Second Coming of Christ. From there, we're in 11-16 and let's read that right quick so that we can get into the text for today and then we'll just kind of drill down into those verses and I have some questions that I asked during the study that I'd like to go over and just kind of give us an idea of what's going on in these verses. So, our text for today is 11-16,

“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. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Immediately I looked at that and I saw a lot of description going on here of who this rider is that's coming out of the heavens, this rider on this white horse. There is a lot of description going on that John is going kind of out of his way to make sure that we know exactly who this person is and we'll see that that person is Jesus.

With that said, the first question I had when I was going over this and studying this this week was in verse 11, I had: is there any significance to the white horse that Christ is sitting on? Right off the bat, I didn't really see too much significance placed on the actual white horse that Christ is sitting on when he comes during the Second Coming. The only other time that a white horse was mentioned in Revelation was back in chapter 6:2 and if you guys remember that, that was the first seal being opened by the Lamb and it said, “And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.” Then you see the white horse here in verse 11 it says that “he that sitteth on a white horse, he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True,” so you could kind of draw a comparison there of the first time the white horse is mentioned in Revelation, it's a false Christ riding on that horse and you could kind of compare that with the second time it's mentioned in verse 11 with the actual Christ on the white horse coming at his Second Coming. So, as far as the actual white horse that he's sitting on, I didn't find too much significance to place on that.

Does anybody have anything to add there? I'm going to ask that a lot because... (...donkey...beast...horse....) Good, thanks. Everybody hear that? That sounds good.

Next two topics that I wanted to discuss were in verse 11, the name Faithful and True. I wanted to ask the question or answer the question: why his eyes were as a flame of fire? With that, we see this name Faithful and True, this is a name that Christ has used and we saw it again before in the book of Revelation in chapter 3:14 when John is addressing the church at Laodicea. We see this name Faithful and True used. Chapter 3:14, it says, “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.” So, we kind of see John describing, again, Christ as the Faithful and True and taking the time to identify who this is.

Then I asked the question: why were his eyes like flames? I didn't really get into answering it but I did find that this is another way that Christ is described in Revelation and we saw that in chapter 1:14 where right before he writes the letters to the seven churches, he describes him. We can start at verse 12, "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man," again, he's describing Jesus here, "clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire." So, instead of actually answering the question, why were his eyes a flame of fire, it's more like just a description that John is using to describe Christ.

Does anybody have anything else to add on that? (It is representative of his being able to pierce the flame of fire of burning, piercing vision. There isn't going to be anything that's hid from God's knowing presence or his knowing about anything that he puts his eyes upon in a figurative sense. He will know everything. He's going to reveal anything about everybody and every instance.) I did see that in some of the commentaries that I was reading this week to study that but I just didn't want to get too far into the figurative but I did notice that it was another description of Christ that John was making here in 11-16.

That moves me into verse 12. There were two things there in verse 12 that I'd like to go over. It was the crowns that Christ was wearing and then the second thing was and this kind of was a little bit difficult for me this week, John says he had a name written that no man knew but he himself so we're going to cover both of those. I want to discuss those two things right there: the crowns first. I just thought as I was reading this, I was just thinking to myself and thought I'd share it with everybody was, does anybody remember the last crown that Christ wore? The crown of thorns. I just thought it was really, it kind of spoke to me about the crown that he's wearing today or how we're going to see him when he comes at the Second Coming where he'll have these many crowns.

Let's talk about those crowns. We need to first distinguish what type of crown this is because there are two types of crowns or words used for crowns in Revelation. We see that and Blue Letter Bible is great with this if you want to do word searches. You see the word crown used six times in Revelation: three times it's used in one sense and then three times it's used in the sense that it is here in verse 12. The word "crown," the first one that is used in Revelation is in chapter 4, verse 4 and again in verse 10 are to describe the crowns that the 24 elders are wearing. The Greek word for that crown is stephanos and that's a type of crown that's described as a wreath or a garland. Sometimes you see the Greeks wearing those, the vegetation that they wore on top of it and sometimes it was maybe in gold to represent but it was more like this stephanos is a crown that describes something given to you for an achievement. You see that in verse 4 and verse 10 of chapter 4 and then you see it again in chapter 9, verse 7, describing the crowns that the locusts were wearing or John described the type of crown that the locusts were wearing once the the fifth trumpet was blow, when you saw those locusts coming out of the pit and he described that crown as being golden, I think it was, but he used the word stephanos there.

The second type of crown and the one that we're really concerned about in verse 12 is this word in Greek called diadema. We see this three times as well in Revelation: once in 12:3. Does anybody remember what is being described there in chapter 12? Those were the crowns that were being described on the red dragon or Satan. We see it again in chapter 13 describing the ten crowns on the antichrist, the same word, diadema. That word diadema describes the actual crown of a king or the kingly ornament of the head is how it's defined so it's the actual crown that is fit for a king. That's the word here that's being used in verse 12 to describe the many crowns on Christ's head. I kind of thought it was fitting that they would use this diadema in very particular, a word used for the actual crown of a king. It's very fitting because if you look further down into verse 16, it's fitting that you would have the crowns of kings on the head of the one that's called King of kings and Lord of lords. I thought that was very fitting.

It's about seven minutes after, I've probably expended all my material. This is the dream that I had last night so I keep looking at this clock. (Take it slow.) That's a good idea. (...James...regarding Gethsemane, Christ says don't you know I could call down a legion of angels right now and here's the return where he says....) Yes, exactly. (...) On a white horse, yup. (What an incredible change.) Amazing.

Yes, Florence. (I'm going to go back for a minute...because in chapter 11, when you think of white you think of purity and something untainted that...person is sitting upon it...black horse, you'd have to think about it in a totally different way and white throughout the Bible always...even in 14 when it talks about white and clean...get married and have white as such a symbol of purity so I think that that all goes together...what he said, then you come up with red that is pretty much reflects that he...can pierce anything he looks at...so I think colors throughout the Bible....) Yeah, I kind of wanted to mention that, too, a little bit about the color white there. As I was reading through my commentaries and everything, the color of white was a symbol for victory so that's fitting too here as he's coming in victory at his Second Coming. Yeah, it is important.

Verse 12, there was this thing right here at the end that John wrote: he had a name written on him and it doesn't really exactly say where that is written. I'd imagine it was probably on one of the crowns. He had a name written that no man knew but he himself and I started to think that the question here was: why does John write this reference to the name that no one knew here in verse 12 but then more specifically I thought, why does he mention it here at this specific event but I'm not sure I did a good job in answering that specific question but I'm going to go through this and maybe we'll see where I'm kind of going with this. The only other time that this reference was made to this name that no one knows but he himself is way back right around chapter 2. In chapter 2, if you remember, John is writing to, do you remember which church he's writing to in chapter 2? The one I'm concerned about is the church of Pergamos. He's writing to the church at Pergamos and, again, we keep going back to these descriptions and things in the seven churches and in verse 17, as he's writing to the church at Pergamos, he says, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." To those that overcome, they

are given this white stone. As I read that, what's written on this white stone is that name that no one knows so when we discussed this way back last year and I had to go way back into the transcripts of last year to kind of figure out what this white stone is, Pastor Bill was saying that this white stone was a figurative imitation. I don't know if anyone remembers that.

(I do remember it was an invitation to something.) Yeah, back then it would be an invitation to worship at a temple and so here in chapter 2, he mentioned that it's a figurative invitation to this figurative temple who is God and the Lamb and that this figure of the temple – remember, there's not an actual temple in the New Jerusalem is what we're getting ready to talk about because the figurative temple there is just going to be God and the Lamb or Jesus.

So, we have this invitation and this will be to come into fellowship with this person, whoever we're describing here and I think it's fitting that John put this here in verse 12, chapter 19, because we're getting ready to come and talk about the New Jerusalem and if you fast-forward two chapters into verse 21, we're talking there about the New Jerusalem that's coming down from heaven. I kind of said that the church of Pergamos and all the churches would read this and understand and think back to, well, they wouldn't think back to chapter 2 but they would know in their letter that this white stone, on that white stone or that figurative invitation, was this name that no one knew but he himself knew. Whoever this person is, is that name written inside the stone and that is the person identified here coming in verse 12 so that invitation, I think and I might be wrong here that this is kind of that figurative way of receiving that white stone. That's when you're going to get that white stone to come at this point when Christ comes again at his Second Coming, you get that invitation of fellowship with him in the New Jerusalem. I might have to do a little bit of work on that but that's kind of where I see that.

Do you have anything else to add? (You're doing fine.) Alright.

That was the tough part of where I was going with my study this morning so let's move forward into verse 13 and here the question I had was about the blood that's on the vesture of his garment. “And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.” My question was: whose blood is that that's dipped on his vesture there? As I was studying through it, there's kind of two thoughts here about whose blood that might be: one commentary that I was reading said that that blood could be the blood of the martyrs for Christ and others think that, the second thought was that the blood on his vesture would be the blood of the enemies of Christ. In reference to the blood of the martyrs and what I read in that commentary, I couldn't find an actual biblical reference to that and so if anybody saw that or could reference a biblical...

Go ahead. (There are a couple of things...don't say dipped, they say sprinkled.) Sprinkled? Okay. (So when you think about the temple and the sacrifices and the priest would take the blood and dip the hyssop and sprinkle it on the altar.) Right. (I think that's probably where they're going with this where he's tying in worship and the payment for sin being done...altar...) With that, I went in a different direction and I found a biblical

reference that was kind of close to this passage, kind of explaining that this is the blood of Christ's enemies and I saw that in chapter 63 of Isaiah and I kind of wanted to read that. Again, this is a chapter in Isaiah where Isaiah is prophesying about the day of vengeance or the day of the Lord and I saw it in verses 1-6. It says, "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?" So he's kind of asking a question why are your garments red? "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth."

That's where I was kind of led into answering this question of whose blood that was.

Yes. (In my Bible it says the blood of Christ and....John 1:1 and...I looked at it and it says that...called the Word of God and so I went and read it....It doesn't tell us it's his blood but it gives...to the word of God...That would John 1...)

Yes. (Looking at the same passage, I think I tend to go with the winepresses of his enemies from what you just said from Isaiah and then in the same passage, if you go down to "he himself will rule them with an iron rod and he himself treads the winepress of the fierceness....) So, you could see where I was led to think of it. Isaiah 63:1-6. Again, we can get more clarification when Pastor Bill gets here but that's where that led me and that's where I....(....)

(I agree with what you said. It's pretty clear that...) Yup. Did I see a hand?

They're prophesying that the day of vengeance there in Isaiah.

Moving forward into verse 14. This study of verse 14 was really good for me to see. I got a pretty good answer here to this question. It says here, "And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." My question was: who makes up the armies which were in heaven? When I asked that question to myself and in my study, I thought well, I can answer this question by asking another question and that question was: who according to the book of Revelation is in heaven wearing fine white linen that's clean already? If you want to look at chapter 4, verse 4. I'm just going to answer who I think are in the armies of heaven and I can pretty much, after we go through these verses, say that at least these groups of individuals are part of the armies of heaven. Chapter 4, verse 4, "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold." So you have the 24 elders there and they are clothed in white raiment and then I looked in chapter 6, verse 11 and this was

after the fifth seal was opened, “And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.” Who are we talking about there in verse 11? Those under the altar, the souls under the altar so those as a group are clothed in white linen and then again in chapter 7, verses 9-14, “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.” Again, who are we talking about there in chapter 7?

(Those which have been washed in the blood of Christ and are part of the kingdom of God that are already in heaven.) Right, the saints. (The saints.) The saints that came out of the great tribulation? (Out of tribulation, even before that.)

Those references I would say and in answer to the question that who are part of the armies of heaven are at least those three groups of individuals: the 24 elders, the souls under the altar and the saints that came out of great tribulation and even before that.

Does anybody have anything else for that? Okay.

Verse 15: what happens here? (...all nations...) So, here I thought I saw 14 and I just described who could be possibly in the armies of heaven and then they're all gathered here, they're following behind Christ as he's coming at his Second Coming and I thought, okay, there's going to be a fight here but do the armies of heaven actually fight? No. (...) Yeah, it's great to be a part of God's army because you're not even... (...) In verse 15, you see here that out of the mouth goeth a sharp sword and Christ smites all the nations there assembled. Where are we talking about physically? Armageddon, near the Mount of Olives in that great valley, I think it's Megiddo. All these armies are there ready to get it on but Christ smites them with just a word of his mouth.

I don't know and maybe you can help me, Brother Dick, is he just uttering a word? It wasn't clear. (...the power that he has by just speaking. At the beginning of the world God spoke and the worlds came into being and now he's speaking and putting an end to the enemies of his kingdom.) Right, I thought that was... (Whether it's one word or multiple words, it's...) It's by the word of his mouth. (Right.) (Again, regarding Gethsemane...knocked down...) That's right. Good reference.

Yes. (First, out of his mouth goes a sharp sword and with it he strikes all the nations. I wrote this down and I was furiously searching through chapters 2 and 3 for these, what John is drawing back from when he's describing Christ here at his return and I find, I wrote this one in chapter 2:16, once again that church you mentioned earlier with the stone...2:16, “Repent or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them,” and he's talking about sexual immorality, idolatry and “I will come to you quickly and I will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.”) Yup. That's a good reference point too.

(...have here. The last part there of verse 15, it talks about he treads the winepress of his fierceness and wrath of Almighty God, if you go back to chapter 14, starting at verse 9, “And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.” Then when we get to chapter 16 and we talked of the vials...the wrath of God being poured out and that's kind of like a partial fulfillment of the prophecy in 14 but then you're moving again here in chapter 19 you see more of the wrath of God. It's like a continuing thing that you see in chapter 16...is fulfilled...fulfilled here in 19 as well.)

Another thing with verse 15 and I had a bunch of stuff about exactly that, but then I see again if you read that, “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” Again, I kind of see descriptions there of John describing who Christ is during his Second Coming. It just seems that he's going, “Okay, yes, Christ is going to smite the nations,” there's action there but there's also, I don't know I might be off on this, but there's actually description there as well because he's described as the one who will rule with a rod of iron in I think it was chapter 2, verse 27 and chapter 12, verse 5, he's described there again. It's a description of how he will rule and reign but it's also a description of Christ himself that has been used previously in Revelation.

Finally, I've got to get through 16 here. In 16 Jesus is again identified. This is a good verse, “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Again, this is another description of Christ and I think the importance here was where it was on his body, it's on his upper garment, on his vesture and down on his thigh so as he's riding a horse, there is no mistaking the title that he has and you will see who that is as he's riding a horse.

We have seen this name used before in Revelation and it was only once before in Revelation and that was in chapter 17, verse 14 and that says, “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.” There is only once before that this is seen in Revelation and it's in that reference in chapter 17.

We have time for one question. (I have a comment.) Go ahead. (In going through these verses...Christ...I'm going to say that I don't think Jesus was a community organizer.) Yup, you're probably right. You're absolutely right. (It doesn't seem...this is not the guy that I saw in Jesus Christ Superstar.) Exactly. It's not. He's coming as a warrior. Righteously. To judge and make war.

That's all I have for today so I'm not sure what happens after this. I'm usually going to the service so have a good week this week and thanks for everything.